



United Nations

DESA
Statistics Division

It's Time for More Time-Use Surveys: Advancing the Field for Gender Equality

Co-hosted by Data2X, Open Data Watch, UN Statistics Division and UN Women

Monday 3 March 2025 | 1:15-2:30PM with 1PM arrival for lunch
UN Women 19th Floor Conference Room
220 East 42nd Street, New York

Time-use data is fundamental to understanding how individuals allocate their time across paid and unpaid activities, particularly regarding care and domestic work. While time-use data is often framed as a gender equality issue, its implications extend far beyond—shaping macro-economic policies, labor force participation, social protection, and economic productivity. By capturing the full spectrum of work, including unpaid labor, time-use data provides a clearer picture of economic contributions and societal well-being, informing policies that drive inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Despite its importance, gaps remain in the collection, harmonization, and use of time-use data. Many national statistical offices (NSOs) and policymakers struggle with integrating time-use surveys into their data ecosystems due to funding constraints, methodological challenges, and lack of institutional buy-in. However, recent advances in data collection methodologies, international guidelines, and case studies on policy impact offer a renewed opportunity to scale up time-use data initiatives globally.

Objectives

This side event at the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) will bring together experts and stakeholders working across different aspects of time-use data to explore how these efforts align along the data value chain. The session will highlight new research, methodologies, and policy applications, fostering dialogue on how NSOs and other stakeholders can strengthen the collection, analysis, and use of time-use data for better decision-making.

Format and Agenda

The 75-minute panel discussion and Q&A session will provide a platform for key actors to share insights and showcase new research, initiatives, and practical applications of time-use data.



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Time	Action
1:00-1:30 PM (30 mins)	Arrival; lunch and networking
1:30 PM (2 mins)	Ceremonial welcome: Papa Seck, Chief of Research and Data, UN Women
1:32 PM (4 mins)	Welcoming remarks: Krista Baptista Jones, Executive Director, Data2X
1:36 PM (35 mins)	<p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francesca Grum, Chief of the Social and Gender Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division • Mayra Buvinic, Senior Fellow, Data2X • Dr. Macdonald George Obudho, Director General of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics • Rafael Diez de Medina, Director and Chief Statistician of Department of Statistics at the ILO • Papa Seck, Chief of Research and Data, UN Women <p>Moderated by Shaida Badiee, Managing Director, ODW</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>Round 1: What is your organization currently doing to advance time-use surveys and their effective use? (4 minutes each)</p> <p>Round 2: After hearing about the other panelists' work, how can we connect our efforts to create an impact greater than the sum of its parts? (2 minutes each)</p>
2:12 PM (10 mins)	Q&A
2:22 PM (5 mins)	Final question to panelists (1 minute each): Following Q&A, all panelists will be asked: What is one priority you believe we should focus on and secure funding to scale up?
2:27PM (3 mins)	Closing and next steps