

Unpaid care work and wellbeing

Harnessing the LFS for modular time-use measurement

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Summary

Overview

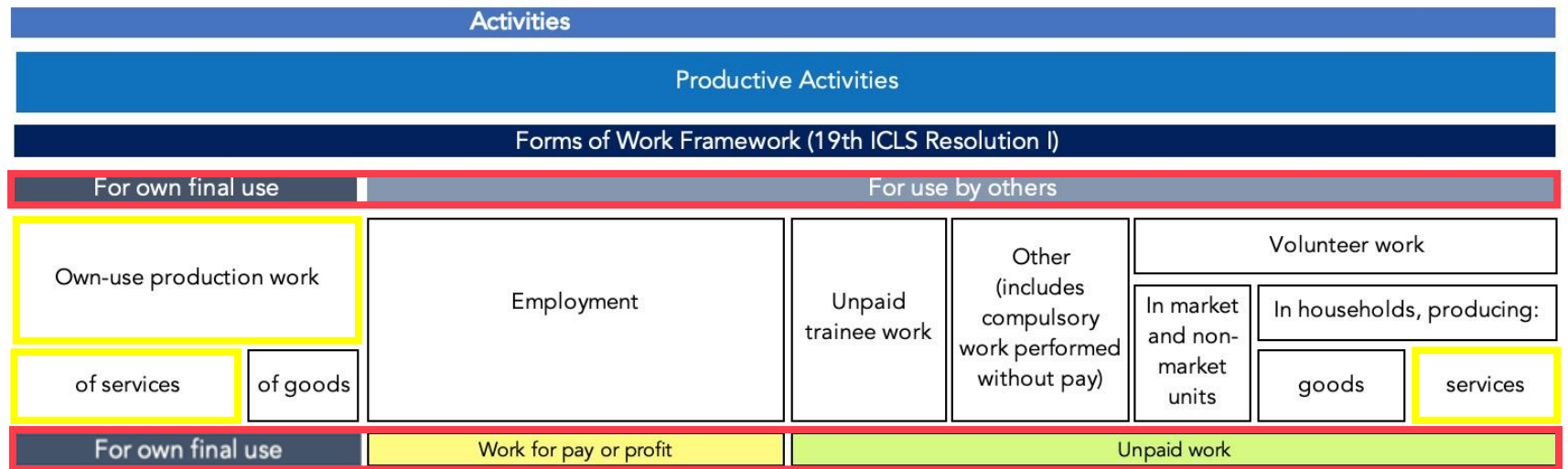
- ▶ Conceptual and methodological developments guiding measurement of OPS work in labour force surveys
- ▶ Features of the new LFS add-on time-use modules
- ▶ Wellbeing and time-use
- ▶ Scope to directly integrate wellbeing measurement

► Measurement of own-use provision of services work in national LFS

- **Resolution I of the 19th ICLS** signified a major change in the measurement of productive activities in official statistics
- Among other important changes, **own-use provision of service work**, also termed “**unpaid domestic and care work**”, was brought within the reference scope of activities for labour force statistics - for the first time
- The 19th ICLS standards set out **a comprehensive conceptual framework and attendant reference definitions** to underpin the production of statistics on OPS in national labour force surveys
- Operationalisation of the standards for OPS measurement lagged, however – in large part due to the cost and complexity of the default measurement approach – **the independent time use survey**
- At the request of constituents, the ILO developed “light time-use” modules for attachment to national LFS – designed to reduce the cost and complexity of OPS measurement

Measurement of own-use provision of services work in national LFS

“Work comprises any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use”

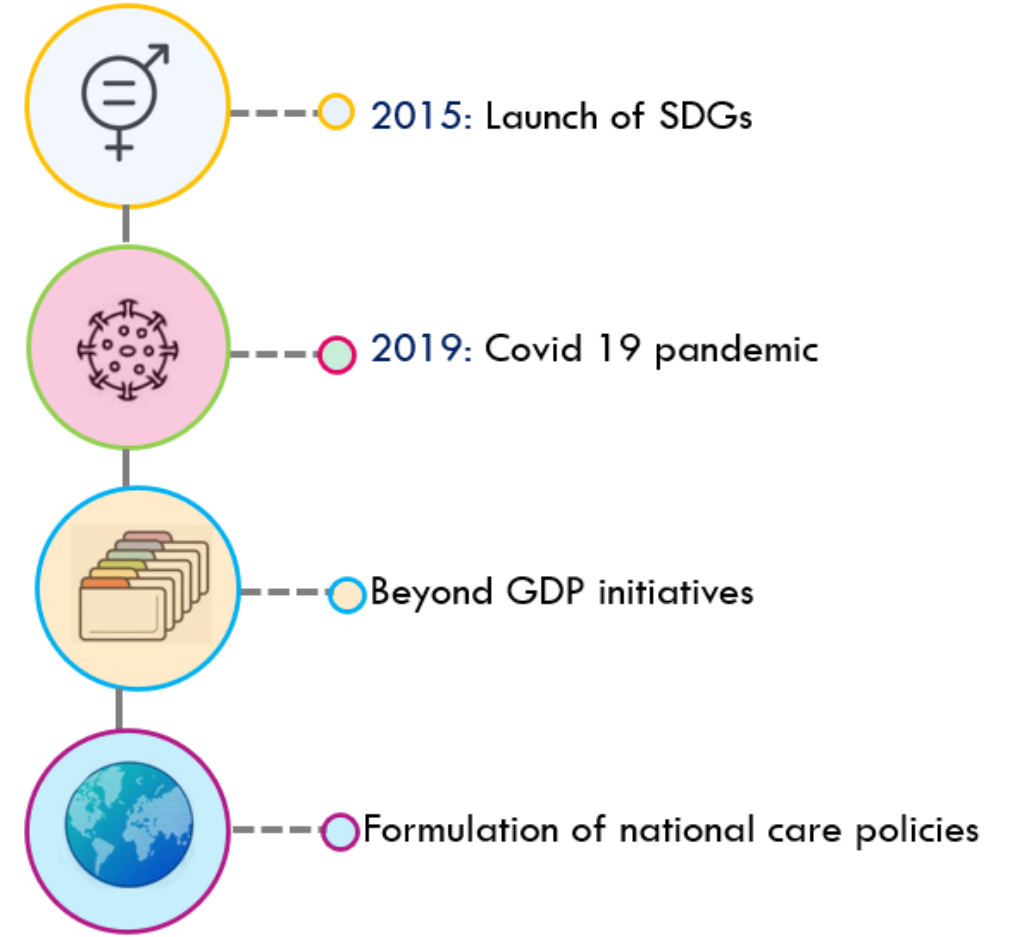


Scope of time-use surveys

▶ Measurement of own-use provision of services work in national LFS

▶ Parallel measurement developments

In recent years, a number of parallel developments have led to a **resurgence of demand** at country, regional, and international levels for statistics on **own use provision of services / unpaid domestic and care work** to inform international initiatives and national policy planning and monitoring



► Recommended topics for data collection (model add-on module content)

- The LFS add-on modules measure OPS **within a full accounting of daily time-use**, to guard against known measurement issues encountered when data collection is restricted by domain(s) – **amplifying utility for wellbeing measurement**
- Recommended topics for data collection using the LFS add-on module include:
 - ❖ Time use activities (comprehensive domain coverage, 41 pre-coded activities, aligned to ICATUS-16)
 - *Recommended, but optional for countries: Simultaneous activities (comprehensive domain coverage)*
 - ❖ Timing, sequencing, and duration of activities in minutes and hours
 - ❖ Contextual information (conditioned by activity)
 - ✓ Location / travel purpose
 - ✓ Co-presence
 - ✓ Beneficiary type
 - ✓ Market orientation
 - *Guidance includes recommendations for additional context items: ICT use, affect / wellbeing, mode of transport (for reported travel episodes) with direct and indirect relevance to wellbeing measurement*
 - ❖ Direct questions on passive/supervisory care for household and family members

LFS add-on modules: Key features

Feature	Summary details	
Format	Hybrid light diary	
Target population	Identical with population for labour force survey (working age population, 15 years old and above), no limitations imposed on labour force status or other characteristics	
Mode	Face-to-face interviewer administered	
Administrative	Activity timing	Fixed episodes (96 x 15-minute episodes)
Reference	Activity coding	Respondent narrates diary day verbatim. Interviewer selects from 41 pre-coded activities + "other, specify". Codes aligned to the UN International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics 2016 (ICATUS-16) coding scheme.
Reference		
Pending re (recommen	Contextual items	Four <i>conditionally activated</i> contextual items (location, co-presence, beneficiary, market orientation) to support assignment to forms of work / ICATUS-16 major divisions
Responde	Treatment of supervisory / passive care	Dedicated recovery series activated on completion of the diary day. Separate items target supervision / passive care of children and adults
	Treatment of simultaneity / multi-tasking	Optional fields to record multiple activities as occurring simultaneously (i.e., during one or more of the same 15-minute episodes).

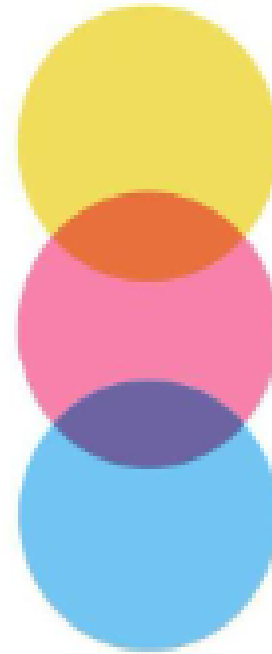
Wellbeing and time-use

Time-use analysis can support analysis underpinned by a range of different theories of wellbeing

Analysis may or not refer to a single unifying theory of wellbeing, integrating different – often diverse – elements with a position on how they are to be valued and compared.

From a statistical perspective, the tendency is to distinguish between “objective” and “subjective” approaches to wellbeing, merging a variety of normative and ethical perspectives

Theories of wellbeing imply a perspective on what is non-instrumentally good for a person – or what it is to live well



Hedonistic
(psychological vs evaluative/prudential)

Desire-based
(present vs comprehensive vs informed)

Objective list / Eudaimonist
(invariabilist vs variabilist)

Wellbeing and time-use: Extending national accounting frameworks

- The “Beyond GDP” framework has engaged with longstanding arguments that GDP and national income / consumption are weak (or at best partial) indicators of wellbeing / standard of living – problematising their outsized role in public policy design / evaluation
- ❖ One response has been to extend national accounting principles to assign monetary value (**satellite or extended accounts**) to economically productive but non-market-oriented activity (“unpaid household services”)
- ❖ Similar arguments have been made in support of the valuation of non-productive (in the economic sense) activities, including leisure time and social participation
- ❖ Following a similar logic, there is growing interest in the production of **national time accounts**, which directly measure the way people spend their time, across countries, over historical time, or between groups of people within a country at a given time
- ❖ **National time transfer accounts** go a step further – explicitly incorporating gender and other sites of inequalities in the production of the indicators
- Time-use data on own-use provision of services work, and time-use across activity domains is essential for such attempts to expand the scope of wellbeing measurement using national accounting frameworks
- These expanded frameworks go some way to refocusing attention from a means of wellbeing (national income) to the end (the type of lives that people are living and how well they are doing)

▶ Wellbeing and time-use: Objective wellbeing assessments

- Analysis of time-use patterns to assess patterns, and differences / inequalities, in key dimensions of wellbeing
 - ❖ Gender-based differences in time-use (time spent in paid and unpaid work (and total work time)) vs leisure (discretionary time) provide a proxy for wider gender-based inequalities (e.g., SDG indicator 5.4.1 which monitors the gap in the proportion of time men and women spend on unpaid domestic and care work in a 24-hour day as an indicator of gender equality – goal 5)
 - ❖ Sub-group variations and changes over time in (paid and unpaid) work patterns, including the duration, sequencing, and timing of work – e.g., variations / changes in employment activities undertaken as over-time, shift work, and extended hours (combined with location data for where employment activities are taking place), see, e.g., ILO (2008), Kan and Lesnard (2010)
 - ❖ Changes over time in unpaid care provision for children and elderly household and family members (related to analysis of a “crisis of care” in many settings).

Wellbeing and time-use: Subjective reports

- Analysis of daily activity patterns and subjective (reported) evaluations of wellbeing / life satisfaction:
 - ❖ Inclusion of overall life satisfaction item (minimal approach)
 - ❖ Inclusion of individual evaluation items for broad activity domains, e.g., paid work, unpaid domestic work, unpaid care work, leisure activities, rest and self-care, socialising...analysed against reported time-use durations for each broad domain (approach introduced by Juster and Stafford 1985)
 - ❖ Addition of context item to record affect / wellbeing score for each reported activity (recorded chronologically) (e.g., Michelson 2010)
 - ❖ Addition of context item(s) to record affect / wellbeing score for random sample of diary activity entries (e.g., Krueger *et al* 2009)
 - ❖ Affect / wellbeing scores may be complemented with / or substituted for other, related items (e.g., harriedness / time-crunch) which assess different concerns (e.g., Robinson and Godbey 1997, Michelson 2010)

ILO resources for OPS measurement in national LFS



Own-use provision of services: Measurement guide

Guidance on implementing the ILO add-on module for own-use provision of services in national labour force surveys.

ILO Department of Statistics
November 2023

Introducing the ILO light time-use module: a new tool to measure UDCW

- ▶ **Save time. Reduce costs. Report better.**
- ▶ **Deployment ready**
Meets current standards and guidance on time-use statistics:
ICLS | SNA | UN ICATUS | UNSD
- ▶ **Tried and tested**
Subjected to extensive field piloting
- ▶ **Improved accuracy**
24-hour 'yesterday recall' with 15-minute time slots
- ▶ **Comprehensive domain coverage**
Pre-coded activity listings, records multi-tasking
- ▶ **Flexible reporting**
Easily adapts to new contexts and diverse subjects
- ▶ **Better data capture**
Embedded quality controls, recall aids and recovery sections for hard-to-capture domains

Measurement guide - Guidance on implementing the ILO light time-use module

Based on our pilot project [Learn more](#)

The LFS light time-use module

Discover a simple, cost-effective, and comprehensive approach to measuring unpaid domestic and care work (UDCW).

Developed by ILO's Statistical Standards and Methods Unit (SSMU), the LFS light time-use module is an innovative tool for UDCW data collection.

- FLEXIBLE REPORTING**
Easily adapts to new contexts
- IMPROVED ACCURACY**
24-hour 'yesterday recall' with 15-minute time slots
- COMPREHENSIVE DOMAIN COVERAGE**
Pre-coded activity listings and multi-tasking
- BETTER DATA CAPTURE**
Embedded quality controls, recall aids and recovery sections for hard-to-capture domains
- DEPLOYMENT READY**
Meets current standards and guidance on time-use statistics ICLS - SNA - ICATUS - I6
- TRIED AND TESTED**
Subjected to extensive field piloting

SAVE TIME. REDUCE COSTS. REPORT BETTER.

Every day, up to 16 billion hours are spent on unpaid domestic and care work activities, like cooking, cleaning, and caring for children and adults. Tracking hours spent on UDCW is imperative for countries to reduce inequalities, boost economies, and achieve global SDGs.

16 BILLION HOURS

We're here to help!
Contact SSMU at statistics@ilo.org for more information about our support services for statisticians and implementation guidance on new labour standards.

