MEASURING TIME USE: WHY AND HOW?

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Women’s time use: The zero-sum game

- Agricultural production
- Child care
- Maternal health and care
- Income-earning activities

Why measure time use in agriculture and nutrition programs?

• Understanding gender division of roles and responsibilities
• As a measure of women’s empowerment e.g. WEAI
• Analyses impact of technologies, practices, interventions on women’s time use
• Linking time use /time poverty with other development outcomes such as women’s nutrition, child care practices
• Targeting labour saving technologies and interventions

Our objectives for measuring time use should define how we measure it
Participatory time allocation calendars

Gender analytical frameworks
- Who does what in the household?
The total time spent includes primary and secondary activities:
\[
\text{Total workload} = \text{sum of primary} + 0.5(\text{sum of secondary})
\]

**Inadequacy cut-off:** Inadequate if worked more than 10.5 hours in the previous day.
Adaptations of the WEAI time use module

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>NIGHT</th>
<th>MORNING</th>
<th>DAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENING</th>
<th>NIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Activity Log:** Each cell above represents 15 minutes of time for the woman within a 24-hour period, from 4am yesterday until 3:59am this morning. Use the activity codes listed below to fill in the chart.

**Primary Activity:** Ensure that every 15 minute time period (i.e., every cell) for the two primary activity rows have been accounted for.

**Secondary Activity:** Only those 15 minute periods when the woman was engaged in a second activity will there be an entry.

**Activity Codes:**
- A Sleeping and resting
- B Eating and drinking
- C Personal care
- D School (including homework)
- E Work as employed
- F Own business work
- G Farming/Livestock/fishing
- H Shopping/getting service (including health service)
- I Weaving, sewing, textile care
- J Cooking
- K Domestic work (including fetching wood and water)
- L Care for children/adults/elderly
- M Travel and commuting
- N Watching TV/listening to radio/reading
- O Exercising
- P Social activities and hobbies
- Q Religious activities
- R No activity code found (primary activity only)
- X Other (specify)
Uganda: How to increase empowerment?

Figure 9.3: Contribution of each indicator to disempowerment in Uganda sample

- Leisure time
- Work burden
- Speaking in public
- Group member
- Control over use of income
- Access to and decisions on credit
- Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets
- Ownership of assets
- Autonomy in production
- Input in productive decisions
**Measuring the impact of technology/practices**

**Average Time Spent on Daily Activities (in minutes)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childcare Activities</td>
<td>201.0</td>
<td>227.5</td>
<td>219.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Generating Activities</td>
<td>281.9</td>
<td>283.9</td>
<td>275.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle Activities</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>112.1</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Proportion of children who were ever left with a sibling under 13 years old during cattle activities (%) | 25  | 30.7 | 20  | 26.7 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average amount of milk given to children per day (in cups)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 6-12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 12-18 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children 18-24 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 24-60 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Informing strategies for labour saving and labour distribution

- Understanding where men and women’s and girls’ and boys’ labour being allocated
- Equitable household distribution of labour by

- Where do we focus interventions?
- Targeting labour saving technologies across the agricultural cycle
Some key takeaways

• The objective of measuring time use
• Seasonal variation of women and girls time use /time poverty
• Combining qualitative and quantitative measures and perceptions of time use
• The concept of leisure in measuring time use
• Approaches to tipping point for equitable gender division of labour