

# Invisible no more? Time Use Surveys and the measurement of paid and unpaid work

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Improving the Availability and Quality of Individual-level Data on Women and Youth in Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) surveys

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# Data2X report: Invisible No More?

## Country Case Studies

Albania	Kazakhstan
Cambodia	Mexico
Chile	Moldova
Colombia	Mongolia
Egypt	South Africa
Ethiopia	South Korea
Finland	Thailand
Ghana	Tanzania
India	Uruguay

## Volume I: A Methodology and Policy Review of How Time Use Surveys Measure Unpaid Work

Written by Mayra Buvinic and Elizabeth M. King

- Featuring an inventory of **257** time use surveys across **88** countries

## Volume II: Country Case Studies

- Includes **18** country case studies on the data-to-policy link of time use surveys

Read the report and case studies at [www.data2x.org/time-use-report](http://www.data2x.org/time-use-report)



# Relevance of time use data to rural women and youth employment measurement

Major Division	Activity
1	Employment and related activities
2	Production of goods for own final use
3	Unpaid domestic services for household and family members
4	Unpaid caregiving services for household and family members
5	Unpaid volunteer, trainee and other unpaid work
6	Learning
7	Socializing, communications, community participation and religious practice
8	Culture, leisure, mass media and sports practices
9	Self-care and maintenance



# Relevance of time use data to rural women and youth employment measurement

**Unpaid domestic and care work**

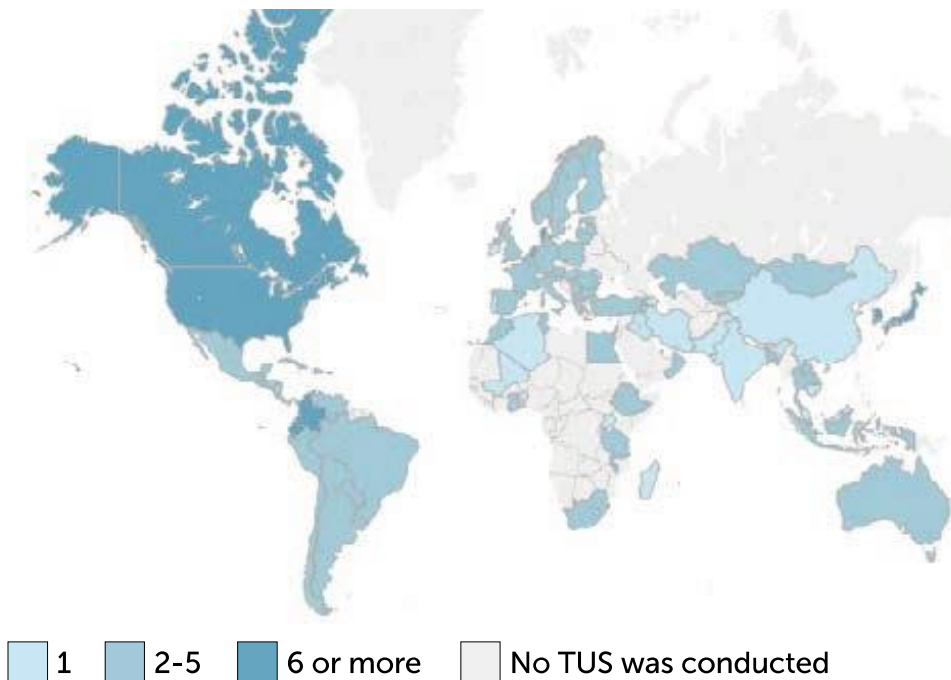
**Unpaid/ poorly captured market work**

**Simultaneous paid and unpaid activities are important to capture**

- Time use surveys are currently the most appropriate way to measure unpaid work activities
- Unpaid family workers
- Casual, temporary, seasonal labor in agriculture and small informal enterprises
- Women often perform paid and unpaid activities simultaneously

# But, data production is not keeping pace with demand

**Figure 4. Number of time use surveys completed by country as of 2017.**





# Methodological and practical hurdles: harmonization within and between countries

- Consistency of measurement across instruments
- Comparability of activity lists across countries and regions is limited despite harmonization guidelines
- Different time use methods may be more appropriate in low-income countries than in higher-income countries
  - Direct observation method
  - Time diary method
  - Interview method
  - Stylized questions method



# Methodological and practical hurdles: instrument design

- Standalone versus “light” survey approaches: data is more useful for research and policy when linked to contextual information
  - Location
  - Education levels and school enrolment status
  - Employment status, type of employment and occupation
  - Ethnicity
  - Household structure, size and composition
  - Marital status
- New technology may improve reliability and reduce cost
- Repeated surveys and panel time use surveys can be used to identify and measure significant changes in people’s activities over time and thus the impact of policies



# Methodological and practical hurdles: approaches to fieldwork

- Timing of data collection
- The selection of household respondents may underestimate the contributions of all household members
- Different approaches are required for young and old respondents
- Take account of social norms and household structure



# Time use surveys' role in policymaking – country studies

Direct Policy Influence	Indirect Policy Influence	No or Unclear Policy Influence
Albania	Mongolia	Chile
Cambodia	South Korea	Egypt
Colombia	Tanzania	Ethiopia
Finland		Ghana
Mexico		India
Moldova		Kazakhstan
Uruguay		Thailand
		South Africa

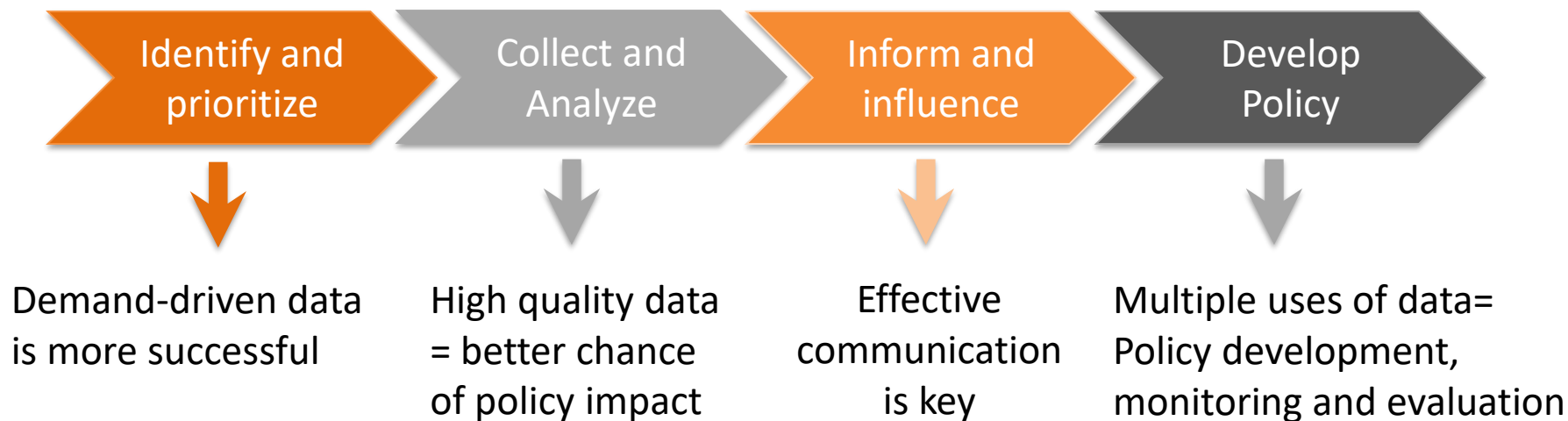


# Data to policy: chronological stages

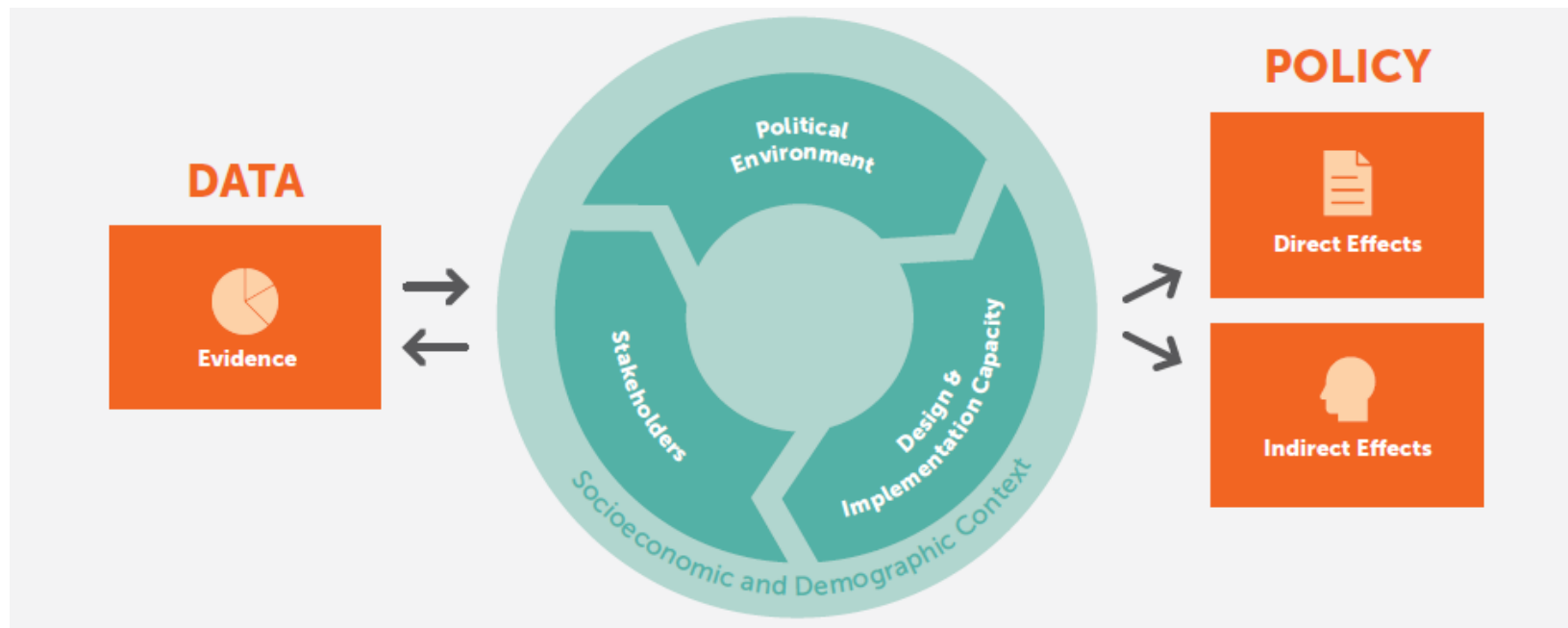
**Across 18 country case studies:**



# What has helped foster the data-to-policy link?



# What are the steps to link data to policy?





# Time use surveys' role in policymaking – country studies

## Direct policy effects:

**Albania, Mexico**

- Used to define, monitor, or evaluate gender equality policies

**Cambodia , Colombia, Uruguay**

- Care policies; employment policies for women

**Moldova**

- Employment policies for women, child care centers

**Finland**

- Employment projects for rural women, early retirement policies, child/family policies, media and cultural programs



# Conclusions

- Unravelling the relationship between paid and unpaid work is crucial for economies: Time Use Data provides the missing link
- Time Use Data has directly and indirectly impacted policy
- But, TU data remains underproduced and underutilized and a number of practical and methodological hurdles remain to be cleared
- There are a number of factors that mediate data uptake
- Policy-makers and data producers must work together to produce relevant and useful information in their context