

Appendix

TECHNICAL NOTES

The statistical information used to produce this document is from: household surveys, time-use surveys, census projections, the database of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and replies to the questionnaire on unpaid work and political participation that the ECLAC Women and Development Unit sent out to Latin American and Caribbean countries in September 2006.

Household surveys

National household surveys were mainly used for the comparative analysis of women's domestic activities, both for those who undertake paid domestic work and those who carry out unpaid housework in their own homes (homemakers).

These surveys make it possible to identify those women who spend most of their day carrying out (paid and unpaid) domestic activities and to compare their situation with that of the rest of the female population. The following four categories were identified:

- (i) "Domestic service", those who carry out domestic tasks outside their own home in exchange for payment, either in the households of others or in businesses and institutions;
- (ii) "Homemakers", women who carry out unpaid housework in their own homes;
- (iii) "Other occupations", those in paid employment, other than domestic service;
- (iv) "Rest of the female population", women who do not come under any of the other categories.

"Activity status" and "occupational category" are used to distinguish between female domestic workers and homemakers. Domestic service workers are part of the economically active population (EAP), while homemakers are part of the economically inactive population (EIP).

This document includes information only from those countries that identify both domestic service and homemakers in surveys carried out around 2005. For the purposes of comparison, the population consists of those aged 15 and above, although the reference population in some countries may have included younger people. The following table shows the different ways in which the countries with information available categorize female domestic workers.

CLASSIFICATION OF DOMESTIC SERVICE

	Occupational category
Argentina (2005) ^a	Private households with domestic service
Bolivia (2003)	Household employee
Brazil (2005) ^b	Domestic workers
Chile (2003)	Domestic service (“live-in” and “live-out”)
Colombia (2005)	Domestic employee
Costa Rica (2005)	Domestic servant
Ecuador (2005)	Domestic employee
El Salvador (2004)	Domestic service
Guatemala (2004)	Domestic employee
Honduras (2003)	Domestic service
Nicaragua (2003)	<i>No such occupational category</i>
Panama (2005)	Domestic service employee
Paraguay (2005)	Domestic employee
Peru (2003)	Household worker
Dominican Rep. (2005)	Domestic service
Mexico (2004) ^c	Domestic service workers
Uruguay (2005) ^d	Private households with domestic service

^a Code 95 of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC Rev.3.1).

^b In Brazil (2005), there is no category for housework or homemakers.

^c Main group 82 of the Mexican Classification of Occupations (2000).

^d Code 95 of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC Rev.3.1).

The information provided by household surveys reveals the age, schooling, marital status, ethnic group, household type and characteristics, and level of poverty of women who carry out a certain activity. In the case of female domestic service workers, their working hours and wages can be compared with other working women. Having said that, surveys do not yet provide information on the characteristics of the households that employ female domestic workers, except for those of “live-in” domestic employees.

Data from the household surveys carried out by 14 countries in around 2005 show that, on average, about 1.4% of homes have “live-in” domestic workers, with figures ranging from 0.2% in Costa Rica and Uruguay to over 3% in Paraguay and Peru. To increase the sample capacity and achieve regional representativeness, this document uses the sum total of all countries (see tables 22 to 36 of the statistical annex).

Although the information on “live-in” female domestic employees in household surveys refers to a limited number of workers, it is nonetheless helpful in assessing the characteristics of the employers’ households and estimating the significance of the contribution of such workers, both in financial and qualitative terms. The data show that domestic workers are often taken on by households with care requirements and in which the woman in the employer family has paid employment and long working hours (see figure II.12 and table 29 of the statistical annex). Also, the households that hire domestic workers are those with the highest incomes. Indirectly, this shows that when there is no one within the household to carry out domestic work, it becomes necessary to use economic resources to pay for them in the market place (see table 30 of the statistical annex).

Household survey information also made it possible to devise an initial classification for certain groups requiring care, such as children, older adults and the sick or disabled. Children aged between 0 and 6 were defined as those needing care, while those aged over 75 were classed as older adults. These are used as proxies for being less likely to be able to look after themselves.

Although the situation differs across countries, household surveys often include disabled people as part of the economically inactive population. Some surveys have no question about disability, while others only refer to inability to work or fail to distinguish between disabled people and extremely older adults. Indeed, the usual questions on why the person did not work in the week preceding the survey only reveal why a person is unable to carry out paid employment, and reveal nothing about that person's care requirements. However, not all such people can be directly identified as potentially in need of care. It is vital for the statistical instruments used by countries to include specific questions on who actually needs care and which people or institutions are responsible for providing such care.

IDENTIFYING THE SICK OR DISABLED ON THE BASIS OF "ACTIVITY STATUS"

Country	Variable identified
Argentina (2005)	8: Disabled
Chile (2003)	6: Chronic illness or disability
Colombia (2005)	7: Permanently unable to work
Costa Rica (2005)	8: Permanently unable to work
Ecuador (2005)	8: Disabled
El Salvador (2004)	6: Illness or accident 9: Unable to work (disabled, older adult)
Guatemala (2004)	6: Disabled for life 9: Illness/convalescence
Honduras (2003)	9: Disabled
Mexico (2004)	8: Permanently disabled
Nicaragua (2003)	8: Disabled individuals
Panama (2005)	7: Permanently unable to work 8: Old age
Paraguay (2005)	5: Illness 7: Old age or disability
Dominican Rep. (2005)	6: Disabled 9: Old age
Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) (2005)	7: Disabled

In terms of the need for disaggregated information by ethnic group and race, censuses usually include questions about belonging to a particular ethnic or racial group. It is less common for national surveys to include such questions (given the low representativeness of samples), and this may affect the reliability of estimates. The present document therefore features no disaggregated analysis of domestic work by ethnic group, except in the case of the five countries that included questions on indigenous population in the household surveys carried out in or around 2005: Bolivia (2003), Chile (2003), Guatemala (2004), Panama (2005) and Paraguay (2005).

Information on people employed to provide care is important for raising awareness about how they are segmented, as well as for defining the various forms their work takes. Data on their working hours, contract arrangements, social security coverage and the households or institutions that employ them should provide a picture of one of the most common forms of work among women. Those details, along with information on level of income, will help to determine the market value of the equivalent unpaid services.

Although many household surveys collect data on the specific occupation of those surveyed, a lack of record standardization means that the information cannot always be put to good use. The categories vary wildly, and some even make it impossible to determine the nature or skill level of the tasks involved. At the conceptual level, there is a need for an operational definition of those who carry out care work, especially in the areas of education and health services.

There are certainly boys and girls who spend hours a day carrying out domestic and caretaking activities in their own homes. There is also known to be a high percentage of children (especially girls) who work in domestic service (as maids) in other households. However, it is difficult to obtain statistics on such population groups, due to the hidden nature of their work. As a result, the quality of information provided by mass, multipurpose collection instruments (such as household surveys and censuses) may be questionable. To overcome this shortfall, specific research into child labour must be used. Some countries, in conjunction with the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), have carried out surveys on child labour in the region.¹

Time-use surveys

At present, many countries in the region have or are in the process of carrying out time-use surveys, either independently from household surveys or as modules therein. Divergence in terms of definitions and compilation methodologies makes it difficult to compare countries and to estimate time spent on various domestic activities and identify the people involved in said activities. Developing a standardized classification of activities remains an ongoing challenge. A classification developed by the United Nations Statistics Division (ICATUS) is currently in its experimental phase, and must be reviewed prior to implementation.

Figures 15, 16 and 17 contain information from five countries (Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua) and show the time spent by men and women on housework and their involvement in domestic tasks, as the relevant databases were available for the processing of some basic indicators. The criteria for “housework” varies among countries: in Bolivia, the variable used referred to total time spent on housework the previous day; for Ecuador, the database contained the variable “hours spent on housework”; in Guatemala and Nicaragua, time was calculated by adding together the variables in the

¹ As a result of ILO interest in determining the worldwide scale of child labour, research was carried out in over 220 countries in the early 1990s. The study showed that the main reason for a lack of statistics on the number of boy and girl workers was the absence of an appropriate survey methodology. Since 2000, thanks to an initiative of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), the labour ministries and statistical offices of most Latin American and Caribbean countries have signed agreements to ensure the availability of reliable, up-to-date and comparable figures and data on the reality of economic exploitation in Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Panama. ILO is also promoting the inclusion of special modules to measure child exploitation in Paraguay and Uruguay, and is concluding agreements for the carrying out of surveys in Bolivia and Peru (see the IPEC website [online] <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Regionsandcountries/LatinAmericaandCaribbean/lang--en/index.htm>).

sub-module “home maintenance”; and in Mexico, the weekly time spent on activities within domestic work was added together.

Monetary value of unpaid domestic work

Some countries or academic institutions have attempted to establish the economic value of unpaid domestic work, but the practice has not become widespread to date.

Various methodologies have been put forward to measure the monetary contribution of unpaid domestic work to countries’ economies. Nonetheless, the basic requirement is to have time-use surveys that identify the number of people involved and the number of weekly hours spent on each domestic activity, which must have a counterpart in each country’s System of National Accounts. Information is also required on the income and working hours of people employed in domestic activities, so as to calculate the cost per hour.

Information on political participation

Timely and complete data to ensure high-quality information are essential for the follow-up of political participation in the executive branch and local politics. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) regularly updates its online database using official information from national parliaments. The database provides information on the percentage of women in parliament, as well as their situation and role (chairperson, committee member, etc.). The database also contains information on electoral systems and mandates of member countries, as well as their most recent election results. This report uses information updated up to November 2006.

Generally speaking, countries do not have systematized and regularly updated databases on the presence of women in the executive branch. To gain access to national data, in September 2006 ECLAC sent out a questionnaire to the authorities of national gender machineries of all Latin American and Caribbean countries, requesting information on the last three presidential terms.² The information obtained (see the statistical annex) was used to create a database, which led to an analysis of the presence of women in ministerial posts, the very subject of this document. This database is expected to be constantly updated, with a view to calculating the following indicators:

- (i) Duration of ministerial post, by sex;
- (ii) Cabinet composition by sex, according to ministerial area;
- (iii) Percentage of female ministers in a given month and year;
- (iv) Percentage of ministers at the beginning and end of the presidency.

Despite progress made, more information is still required on the participation and position of women in ministerial cabinets, political parties, regional parliaments, the judiciary, agencies monitoring State powers, various levels of power, the armed forces, social and business organizations and trade unions. To advance in this direction, ECLAC is considering setting up a gender parity observatory. The statistical annex shows the information currently available for each country.

² Questionnaire on unpaid work and political participation, sent out to Latin American and Caribbean countries on 15 September 2006.

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