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TECHNICAL NOTE:

For Estimating the Economic Value of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work in Kenya – 2025

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Technical Note for Estimating the Economic Value of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work in Kenya

2025







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Chapter 01.

1.0 Introduction to the Household Satellite Account

A satellite account is an extension of the conventional System of National Accounts (SNA) that focuses on measuring and analyzing specific areas of economic activity, such as household production or own-use production of services, which are typically excluded from core national accounts. A satellite account is, therefore, an extension to the System of National Accounts (SNA) that allows for flexibility, such as expansion of the production boundary or rearrangement of classification. Further, a satellite account operates outside the central framework of the SNA but is designed to align closely with its principles, definitions, and classifications. This alignment ensures that the satellite account maintains consistency with the core national accounts, facilitating comparability and integration if needed in the future. By staying conceptually close to the SNA, a satellite account allows for the possibility of incorporating its results into the central framework, should the boundaries of production or other definitions be expanded in subsequent revisions of the SNA. This approach ensures flexibility while maintaining methodological soundness and coherence with official economic statistics.

While the SNA does not inherently include household production, it allows for the development of satellite accounts to quantify its economic contribution; specifically, a Household Satellite Account (HSA). The Household Satellite Account provides a more comprehensive view of unpaid domestic and care work (UDCW), enabling policymakers and researchers to better understand their socioeconomic significance. The concept of "unpaid domestic and care work" encompasses various services offered without payment at household level by household members for their own consumption.

> The SNA production boundary includes all goods and services produced for market transactions or intended for consumption, as well as all goods or services provided free to individual households or collectively to the community by government units or Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH)

Chapter 02.

2.0 Purpose and Scope:

2.1 Purpose:

Kenya's Household Satellite Account (HSA) aims to complement the national accounts statistics by overcoming the limitations of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measurement, which does not account for most of the unpaid domestic and care work. The 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey Report highlighted the significant role that unpaid domestic and care work plays in shaping the national economic landscape. The survey results underscored the need to address the gaps in economic measurements to allow estimation of the economic value of non-market service activities through the establishment of an HSA.



Below are some of the fundamental reasons why HSA is necessary:

01. **Support for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The development of HSA aligns with the global commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Notably, SDG target 5.4 emphasizes recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work. By implementing a HSA, Kenya contributes to the global effort by recognizing the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work carried by women and men.

02. **Recognition of Unpaid Household Service Work:** The HSA allows for a more comprehensive economic measurement by extending the SNA production boundary, providing a comparison between GDP and the value of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work.

03. **Contribution to Gender Equality and Women Empowerment:** Women are likely to bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid domestic and care work compared to their male counterpart. The HSA recognizes and quantifies these contributions, highlighting the economic value of women's work. This can help achieve gender equality by paying attention to the often invisible and undervalued roles played by women in households.

04. **Economic Diversification and Informal Sector Integration:** Informal sectors in many African economies are often excluded from traditional economic measurements. The HSA captures most of such activities, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the overall economic structure.

05. **Data for Evidence-Based Decision-Making:** Reliable data from the HSA can serve as a foundation for evidence-based policymaking. It offers robust statistical information that policymakers, researchers, and analysts can use to understand the dynamics of household production, enabling more effective planning and resource allocation.

06. **International Comparisons and Benchmarking:** The HSA will allow Kenya to compare the contribution of UDCW with other economies in the world. This facilitates comparative analyses and provides insights into areas where improvement or alignment with global best practices may be necessary.

2.2 Scope of Household Production Boundary:

The System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) defines a specific scope for economic activities, including their associated goods and services, creating a domain of measurement. It distinguishes between the general production boundary and the restricted/SNA production boundary. The SNA production boundary includes all goods and services produced for market transactions or intended for consumption, as well as all goods or services provided free to individual households or collectively to the community by government units or Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH). These activities are measured in GDP and are represented by the dark blue colour in Figure 1.1 below.

Broadly, the general production boundary is a broader concept and encompasses all economic activities that involve the use of labor, capital, and goods or services to generate outputs, all managed by a clearly defined institutional unit. Activities that are not considered economically productive are excluded from the general production boundary. These activities include personal tasks that cannot be delegated such as eating, drinking, sleeping, and exercising. It could include any productive activity, even those that do not directly contribute to market transactions and can be performed by other individuals or entities. These tasks include washing, meal preparation, and caregiving services like caring for children, the sick, or the elderly. The tasks

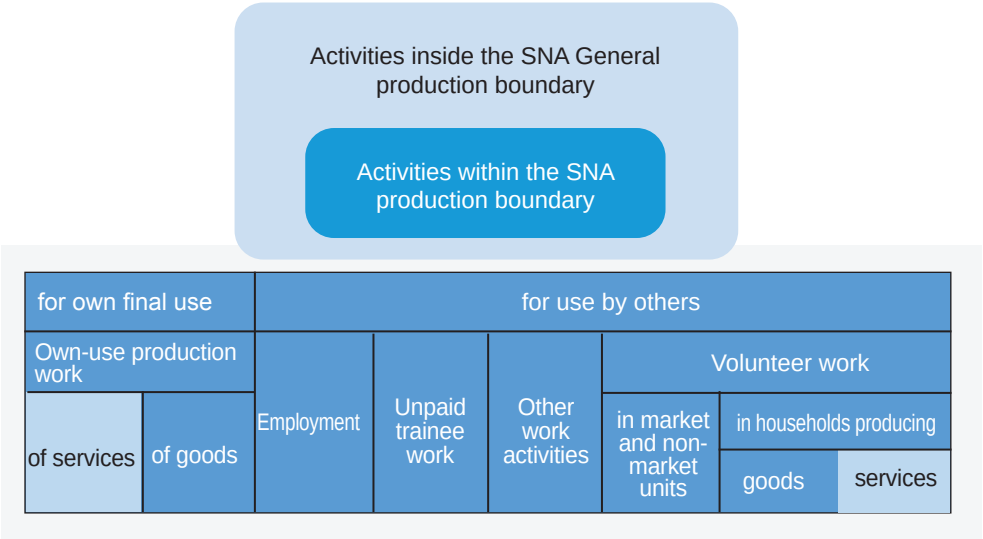
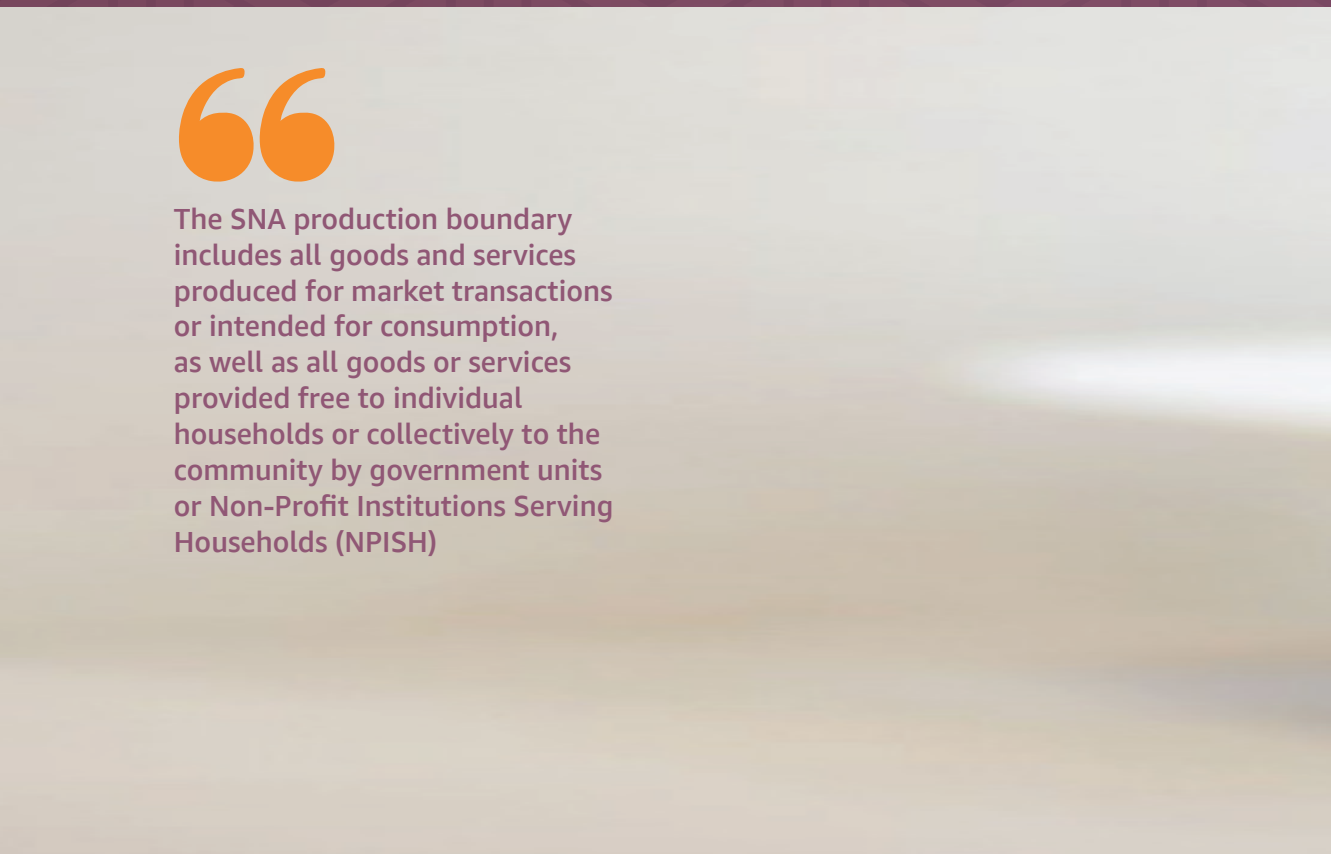


Figure 1: SNA Production Boundary VS General Production Boundary



> The SNA production boundary includes all goods and services produced for market transactions or intended for consumption, as well as all goods or services provided free to individual households or collectively to the community by government units or Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH)

under the general production which are not measured by GDP (except for owner-occupied housing and services produced by paid domestic staff) are represented by the light blue color and consist of two main elements: unpaid household production of services and volunteer service work. The UNECE guideline suggests that the unpaid volunteer activities be covered under the Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH) satellite account. The Kenyan HSA was therefore limited to the unpaid domestic work and care services which is consistent with the guide on valuing unpaid household service work.

Subsequently, activities within the production boundary, as outlined in the System of National Accounts (SNA 6.18), encompass the production of goods and services intended for supply to other units, as well as those consumed during the production process itself. Additionally, the boundary covers the production of goods retained by their producers for personal final consumption or capital formation. Furthermore, volunteer activities that yield goods are considered within this boundary. These activities collectively contribute to the measurement of economic output and are integral to national accounting frameworks. Hence, the exclusion of most non-market services generated within households is primarily due to challenges in measurement and valuation.



Table 1: SNA Production VS General Production

General Production	SNA Production	
Non-market production Own account production of services (produced and consumed in the same household). Informal help to other households and volunteer work (services)	**Non-market production** **- Own-account production** Production of goods for own use Gross capital formation Own account production of housing services for owner occupiers **- Volunteer work resulting in Goods**	**Market Production** Recorded Hidden
Note: *Domestic and personal services by paid domestic staff belong to the market production.*		

Chapter 03.

3.0 The process of developing a Satellite Account for Household Production in Kenya is outlined in a 9-step framework, summarized as follows:

3.1 STEP 1: Defined the scope of the concept of household production:

Unpaid work encompasses services performed without payment within households for own consumption, which are excluded from Gross Domestic Product (GDP) compilation. However, some unpaid activities, such as subsistence farming, processing of agricultural and food products, construction of own dwelling, and collecting water or firewood, are included in GDP. Unpaid work also extends to services for other households or the community, including volunteer work. It is categorized into three components: unpaid production of goods for own final use (measured in GDP); unpaid household services (excluded from GDP but within the general production boundary); and unpaid volunteer work.

Women predominantly engage in these activities, underscoring the need to measure them based on the 2008 SNA framework and 2017 UNECE guidelines[1] (United Nations, 2017). The satellite account for household production included unpaid domestic and care services (direct and indirect) and excluded goods produced for own use (already within the SNA boundary). Additionally, the HSA does not cover unpaid volunteer work and 2017 UNECE guide suggests that the unpaid volunteer

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1 *UNECE Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work, 2017*



activities be covered under the NPISH satellite account. The scope therefore focused on unpaid household services. Given that goods produced for own use are included in GDP calculations, they were excluded from compilation of the household satellite account. The 2021 Kenya Time-use survey provided data on unpaid work, enabling the computation of annual hours, full-time equivalents, and value added of unpaid work. It is important to note that the satellite account, recommended by the 2008 SNA, complements the core framework by detailing household sector accounts as well as other tools such as the Supply Use Tables.

The 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey collected information for individuals aged 15 years and above excluding time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by children under 15. It is important to note that the updated Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use (UN 2024) also recommends 15 as the minimum age (United Nations, 2024).

3.2 STEP 2: Co-construct time-use data provided by the time-use survey with population data and employment data

The 2021 Kenya Time-use Survey served as the primary source of sex-disaggregated data on the time spent on unpaid work, reported in minutes per day.

The time spent was quantified to provide the volume by categories of unpaid work, whereas the goal of a satellite account for household production was to assign an economic value to this work and its components at the national level. Since the time-use survey was conducted in 2021, the results are therefore considered to reflect the year (2021). In addition, secondary data sources were used in the development of the HSA including data from the 2005/06 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS), 2015/16 KIHBS, national accounts statistics data and 2021 Kenya Continuous Household Survey (KCHS).

Further, total hours spent on unpaid work activities were estimated by multiplying the average daily hours (based on 2021 KTUS) devoted to such activities by 365 days. This estimate was then multiplied by the total population aged 15 and above (29,964,635,) to derive the aggregate number of hours dedicated to unpaid work activities in 2021. This method provided a straightforward way to quantify the significant contribution of unpaid labour to the economy.

It is important to highlight that travel and commuting activities unrelated to unpaid household work were excluded from this analysis, as they pertain to paid work, education, personal care, and leisure or socializing. In the context of time-use surveys, commuting time is typically associated with the primary activity it supports. The next steps entailed monetization of the time spent (hours) by imputing appropriate wage rates to the various categories of unpaid work.

3.3 STEP 3: Matching of the Time-Use Classification (ICATUS) with the classification of occupations (ISCO) and the classification of economic activities to determine the corresponding wage rates to impute to time-use activities.

This process involved the imputation of wages required for valuing of time spent in time use activities. The time use activities based on ICATUS classification were matched with occupations in ISCO 88 , which was informed by KNOCs. For example, the time use activity on Childcare and instruction was valued by imputing the earnings of the Child-care workers from KNOCS based on ISCO-88. However, it was difficult to establish an equivalent occupation to shopping. Hence, the generalist wage rate was used instead, which correspond to the elementary occupations in major group 9 category in ISCO.

Further, the choice from several categories posed a challenge because it required a review of activities at a 3-digit level of ICATUS. For example, care and maintenance of textiles and footwear would correspond to group 73 on precision, handicraft, craft printing and related trades workers in ISCO-88, while in ISIC Rev 4, the same corresponded to: groups[1]131, 139, 141, 142, 143, 151 and 152. However, it is important to note that some of these examples fall outside the scope of unpaid household work of services. Moreover, in reference to the use of ISIC Rev. 4, it is challenging to go beyond the first digit level in compiling the wage statistics compared to use of the ISCO, where the wage statistics can be compiled at lower levels, which fits better with time use activities as per ICATUS. In view of the above, the ISCO categorization was preferred to the ISIC Rev 4 categorization due to the latter being more heterogenous. Therefore, to improve the quality of the imputations, more detailed groups of classifications were considered as shown in Table 2, which highlights the average monthly earnings by selected occupational classification (KNOCS). When analyzed by occupations, workers in occupations requiring lower skill earn significantly lower wages than their counterparts in the professional categories where high skills are needed. It can also be observed that Occupations requiring a higher level of specialization attract higher salaries compared to Agricultural workers and those in elementary occupations. Unpaid domestic and care work is closely linked to occupations of domestic workers. As shown in Table 2 persistent wage inequalities in occupations such as weaving and sewing machine operation (KSh 5,000), street vending (KSh 7,500), and domestic work (KSh 11,196). These low-paid roles, largely occupied by women, reflect the broader undervaluation of informal and low-skilled work. Despite their critical contribution, they remain among the

1 131: spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles, 139: manufacture of other textiles; 141: Manufacture of wearing apparel, except fur apparel; 142: Manufacture of articles of fur; 143: Manufacture of knitted and crocheted apparel; 151: Tanning and dressing of leather; manufacture of luggage, handbags, saddlery and harness; dressing and dyeing of fur; and 152: Manufacture of footwear.

least remunerated. Interestingly, in domestic work, women earn slightly more (KSh 11,526) than men (KSh 8,333), indicating a reversed gender pay gap in this sector.

Table 2:Average Wages and Salaries by selected Occupational Groups

KSh

Occupation	Female	Male	Total
532 - cooks and other catering service workers	13,804	13,804	13,804
712 - building trades workers	15,561	15,561	15,561
773 - tailors dressmakers and related workers	6,473	6,473	6,473
832 - wood products machine operators	12,000	12,000	12,000
868 - brewers wine and other beverage machine operators	8,000	8,000	8,000
882 - motor vehicle drivers	15,000	16,441	16,331
893 - weaving knitting and sewing machine operators	5,000	5,000	5,000
913 - cleaners launders and domestic workers	11,526	8,333	11,196
914 - building caretakers	10,908	10,908	10,908
915 - messengers porters watchmen and related workers	8,500	8,570	8,567
921 - farm- hand and related labourers	9,376	9,376	9,376
931 - mining and quarrying labourers	7,200	12,528	11,456
932 - construction and maintenance labourers	12,689	12,689	12,689

3.4 STEP 4: Determination of the Imputed Labour Input values

The TUSs measure the volume and quantity of time spent on various unpaid work activities, while the HSA on the other hand values the volume of time spent on the UDCW at national level. Estimation of the total number of hours spent by the population per year for each of the activities of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work by sex was based on the 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey data.

The initial step involved the identification of an appropriate wage rate to value time spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work. The HSA for Kenya adopted the Replacement Cost Method (Input Approach) and valued the hours spent using the generalist wage variant. According to 2017 UNECE , this approach is the most appropriate as the general domestic worker (housekeeper) is likely to perform most of the tasks that are typically carried out at household level, which are considered under the Unpaid Domestic and Care Work (UDCW).

Having settled on the wage variant to be used in the estimation, the next step was to decide on whether to use the gross or net wage of the domestic worker. Given the Kenyan context, it was found prudent to utilize the gross wage, which required that the reported wage rate for domestic workers be adjusted upwards to cover a part of the remuneration for these workers excluded from their wage. For example, most domestic workers in Kenya live with their employers and therefore they don't incur costs such as rent, transport,consumables etc, which they would ideally have to pay for were they living as distinct households. The upward adjustment was informed by the proportion of household expenditure on the items perceived to be missing in the wages paid to domestic workers to total household expenditure (a proxy for household income) for household members in similar or related occupations but lived in their own household environment. To ascertain the veracity of the adjusted wage rate, data from the gazetted minimum wage for comparable category of workers for 2021 was used and found to be reasonably close to the adjusted gross wage rate of KSh 73.1 per hour.

Subsequently, the time use activities (based on the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS) were matched to corresponding occupations (using the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) and industries (using the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) to determine the appropriate wage rate for each activity. The imputed labour input was therefore obtained by multiplying the hours spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work activities by the wage rate. The results were estimated by activity and sex.



3.5 STEP 5: Valuation of annual time for total population and detailed time-use activities by imputing the corresponding wage rate.

The value of the annual time for the total population for the corresponding detailed time use activities was computed by multiplying the total number of hours for a given time use activity by the hourly minimum wage earnings for the activity. Further, the average earnings of domestic workers and cleaners or personal care workers in categories 53 or 91 of the ISCO were compared to the generalist wage variant. Subsequently, the replacement cost generalist wage variant was utilized, which relied on the minimum wage rate to estimate the value of unpaid domestic and care work. Hence, the value of the imputed labour input for men and women was computed by multiplying the annual total number of hours spent in various UDCW activities by KSh 73.1, which was the hourly earnings in 2021.

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3.6 STEP 6: Mapping the ICATUS activities to Broad UDCW categories: nutrition, housing, clothing, care work, travel, management and pet care

To facilitate analysis, the ICATUS activities were then mapped into seven broad functional categories of UDCW. A comprehensive mapping of the ICATUS Divisions to the UDCW broader functional categories is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Mapping the ICATUS activities to broad UDCW categories

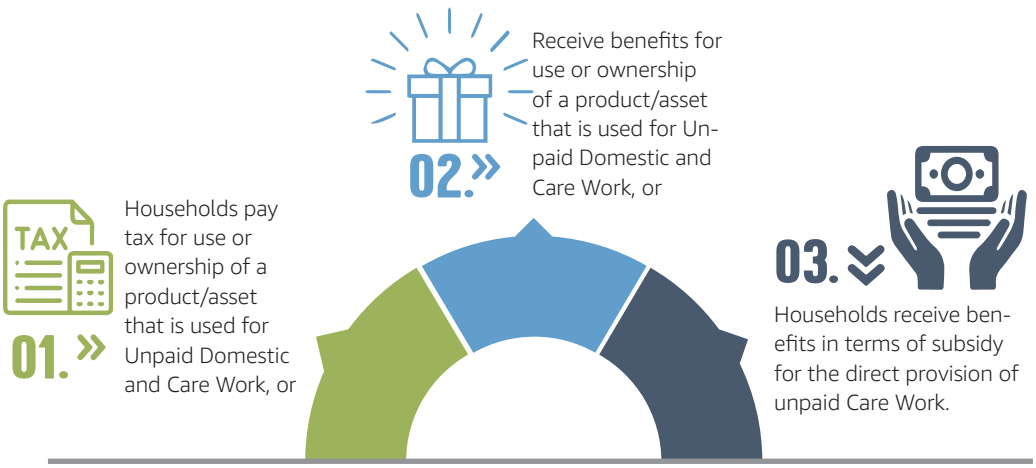
Unpaid Domestic and Care Work Activities as per ICATUS Classification				Classification as per Broad UDCW Category
	Major Division	Division		
UNPAID DOMESTIC WORK	**3**	**UNPAID DOMESTIC SERVICES FOR HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY MEMBERS**		
		31	Food and meals management and preparation	*Nutrition Services*
		32	Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	*Housing Services*
		33	Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	*Housing Services*
		34	Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	*Clothing Services*
		35	Household management for own final use	*Management Services*
		36	Pet care	*Pet Care*
		37	Shopping for own household and family members	*Management Services*
		38	Travelling, moving, transporting or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	*Travel Services*
		39	Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	*Housing Services*
UNPAID CARE WORK	**4**	**UNPAID CAREGIVING SERVICES FOR HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY MEMBERS**		
		41	Childcare and instruction	*Care Work*
		42	Care for dependent adults	*Care Work*
		43	Help to non-dependent adult household and family members	*Care Work*
		44	Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	*Travel Services*
		49	Other activities related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	Care Work

3.7 STEP 7: Estimation of the Non-Labour Input Components

3.7.1 Taxes and Subsidies

The UNECE guideline recommends estimation of Taxes and Subsidies involved in direct provision of own-use production work of services. Taxes and subsidies were excluded in the calculation of the Value of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work in HSA for Kenya.

The reason being that Taxes and subsidies would only have been considered if:



Currently, there is no tax on repair of own - occupier dwellings or on vehicles used in own production work of services in Kenya. Similarly, no allowances are received by households for taking care of a child, a disabled household member or an elderly person.

3.7.2 Consumption of Fixed Capital Component

Consumption of fixed capital (CFC) is the decline in the current value of the stock of fixed assets owned or used by a producer as a result of physical deterioration, normal obsolescence or normal accidental damage (2008 SNA). The data for the CFC component was obtained from 2021 KCHS, 2005/6 and 2015/16 KIHBS. For the years in between, values were estimated using the linear interpolation formula. The household expenditure data was reclassified by the three transaction categories as outlined in the national accounts' framework: Intermediate Consumption, Final Consumption and Household Capital in line with the UNECE guideline. To facilitate the presentation of the national accounts' central framework, the household capital items were further grouped according to the broad categories of UDCW activities, nutrition, housing, clothing, care services, pet care, management, travel and other services. The Household Capital items under each activity were assigned an appropriate asset life length as guided in the UNECE guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work. The CFC was then estimated using the perpetual inventory method (PIM).



3.7.3 Return on Capital

Return on Capital is estimated using a specific interest rate, the UN guidelines suggest using interest rate for government bonds. Being the baseline HSA, the return on capital was omitted in the estimation to facilitate further refinement of its computation and comprehensiveness of the source data for the stock of capital utilized in UDCW.

3.8 STEP 8: Final calculations for the Gross Value Added (GVA) of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work in the Kenyan Context

In HSA for Kenya, the Imputed Labour Input value translated to the Net Value Added by Unpaid Domestic and Care Work. The Gross Value Added (GVA) for Unpaid Domestic and Care Work was obtained by summing the Imputed Labour Input (Net Value Added) and Consumption of Fixed Capital. The return on capital and taxes and subsidies components were omitted in Unpaid Domestic and Care Work calculations for Kenya due to issues of data limitations previously discussed.

Value of Work =Value Added, net

+ Consumption of Fixed Capital

= *Gross Value Added*

3.9 STEP 9: Valuation of Output for the Unpaid Domestic and Care Work (Kenya)

The Value of Output was then obtained by adding the estimated Intermediate Consumption to the Gross Value Added.

Gross Value Added

+ Intermediate Consumption

= Value of Output

Chapter 04.

4.0 Assumptions

The input approach assumes equal productivity for both men and women when performing similar activities, this may not always be accurate.

The asset life lengths assigned to certain household capital goods in the UNECE guidelines had to be adjusted to better align with the Kenyan context.

Household capital items under Travel were further assigned a share of 10 per cent to Unpaid Domestic and Care Work; the assets are used for varied functions outside UDCW.

Chapter 05.

5.0 Limitations

The Value of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work was calculated using the Input Approach (Replacement Cost Method, Generalist Wage Variant). However, some non-labour components in the Input Approach were left out in calculation of the Gross Value Added. These include Taxes and subsidies and Return on Capital. The exclusion was due to data unavailability and complexities in getting appropriate estimates for the components.

The Time Use Survey was done as a module in the 2021 Kenya Continuous Household Survey. The best recommendation would have been to have a stand-alone time use survey as it will provide more comprehensive and detailed data on the time spent by household members in unpaid household work.

Chapter 06.

6.0 References

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