

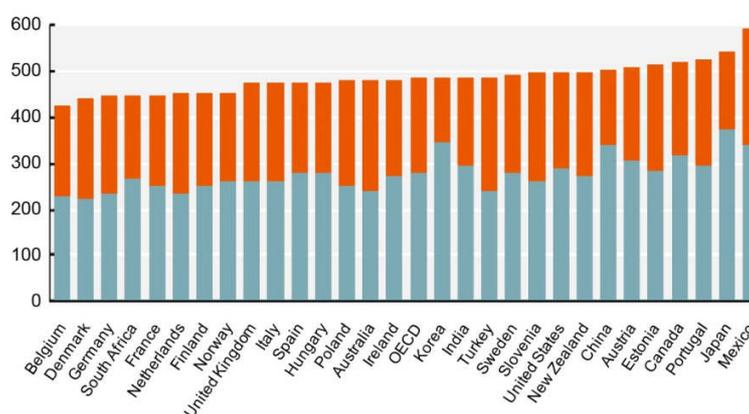
Mentioning the Family in the Sustainable Development Goals

5. Unpaid Domestic Work and Care

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Working time, paid and unpaid

Total minutes worked per day for the population aged 15-64



SOURCE: OECD, Unpaid Work around the World.

■ Paid work ■ Unpaid work

Household production constitutes an important aspect of economic activity and ignoring it may lead to incorrect inferences about levels and changes in well-being. The calculations suggest that between one-third and half of all valuable economic activity in the countries under consideration is not accounted for in the traditional measures of well-being, such as GDP per capita.

Unpaid work matters a great deal. Largely dominated by cooking, cleaning and caring – is an important contributor to societal well-being in ways that differ both between countries and between men and women. It contributes not only to current household consumption (e.g. cooking) but also to future well-being (e.g. parental investments in raising children) and to community well-being (e.g. voluntary work).

While unpaid work – and especially the gender division of unpaid work – is to some extent related to a country’s development level, country cross-sectional data suggest that demographic factors and public policies tend to exercise a much larger impact. The regular collection of time-use data can thus be of tremendous value for government agencies to monitor and design public policies, and give a more bal-

anced view of well-being across different societies. In particular, learning about people's time allocation ensures a better understanding of a society for policymakers concerned with efficiency and equity of social policies. The consideration of unpaid work for relative inequality and for inequality over time is not directly addressed in this paper, but such work may be part of a future agenda for the OECD as new time use surveys become available for many countries in the next few years.

In all countries, women do more of such work than men, although to some degree balanced – by an amount varying across countries – by the fact that they do less market work. (Veerle Miranda, *Unpaid Work around the World*, OECD 2011).

While there is a growing body of evidence about the role of fathers in children's lives, there are also knowledge gaps, and the quality of evidence varies. Although a concerted effort has been made to capture evidence about the positive influences of fathers on child development and wellbeing, it is pertinent to note that studies to date have more often focused on the negative impacts of poor or absent fathering on children. (Lisa Wood and Estée Lambin, 'How fathers and father figures can shape child health and wellbeing', The University of Western Australia, 2013).

Most of the fathers in our study aspire to share equally in caregiving with their spouse/partner, but often are unable to bring this desire to reality. Fathers need time to develop parenting skills, but they don't have it. The fact that men don't bear children is obviously an unchangeable biological fact. The fact that men don't rear children is not. People are not born with the gene that teaches them all they need to know to be effective parents – neither women nor men. From the first days and weeks after childbirth, many (we hope most) women have the opportunity to spend time with their children, which facilitates both bonding with their newborn and developing competencies as new parents. In contrast, few men are provided with an opportunity to spend significant time with their young children. (Brad Harrington, Fred Van Deusen and Beth Humberd, 'The New Dad: Caring, Committed and Conflicted', Boston College Center for Work & Family, 2011).
