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Economic Value of the **Unpaid Care Work** in the Republic of Serbia

GENDER ANALYSIS

Abbreviations

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSG	Local Self-Government
PP	Percentage Point
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PWD	People with Disabilities
SORS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations

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Summary

Gender analysis of the economic value of unpaid care work was conducted within the Project "Gender Responsive Governance", implemented by the **UN Women Programme Office** in Serbia and funded by the UK Good Governance Fund. The aim of the Project is strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for development of policies and measures that should lead to a change in patterns of parenting obligations and unpaid care work in the Republic of Serbia, by combining economic, employment and social policies.

Introduction

The main objective of this analysis was to estimate the data and evidence on the costs of unpaid care work and calculate its contribution to Serbia's GDP and growth, through the systematic and comprehensive gender analysis of the economic value of unpaid work. The analysis has thoroughly reviewed the gender patterns of time allocation to paid and unpaid work and nonwork activities and has assigned a monetary value to various reproductive labour activities in the society and households.

Unpaid domestic work comprises the labour involved in maintaining living spaces, buying and transforming the commodities used in the family, supplementing the services provided to family members by the public and private sectors (e.g. health, education, transport, administration), and managing social and personal relationships. To this, which represents the great bulk of unpaid work, the care for people has to be added.¹

By revealing the quantity of unpaid work, we are bringing out the extent and persistence of major inequalities between men and women in the distribution of time, activities, economic resources and social responsibilities. Data show that differences between men and women in the distribution of unpaid care work are highly significant and that they spill over into the labour market and the

distribution of income, affecting both the level and type of income.

While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.²



That is the reason why, within its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations still recognize that there is a space for improvement. SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and

¹ Antonella Picchio, Unpaid Work and the Economy, A gender analysis of the standards of living, Routledge, New York, 2017

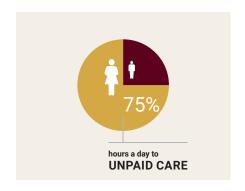
² United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, https://www.un.org/ sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/

empower all women and girls advocates providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes, which will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. Implementing new legal frameworks regarding female equality in the workplace and the eradication of harmful practices targeted at women is crucial to ending the gender-based discrimination prevalent in many countries around the world.³

Target 5.4 is fully devoted to recognition and valuation of unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family, as nationally appropriate.⁴

While some indicators of gender equality are progressing, such as a significant decline in the prevalence of female genital mutilation and early marriage, the overall numbers continue to be high. Moreover, insufficient progress on structural issues at the root of gender inequality, such as legal discrimination, unfair social norms and attitudes, decision-making on gender and reproductive issues and low levels of political participation, are undermining the ability to achieve SDG 5.





According to recent data from some 90 countries, women devote on average roughly three times more hours a day to unpaid care and domestic work than men, limiting their time available for paid work, education and leisure and further reinforcing gender-based socio-economic disadvantages.⁵ This result has remained the same since the adoption of SDGs in 2015 and no measurable progress has been made.

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