



# Unpaid Household Production Satellite Account of Bangladesh

Based on Time Use Survey 2021

September 2025



BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
Statistics and Informatics Division  
Ministry of Planning  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh





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**Household**  
**Production**  
**Satellite Account**  
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UN Women/Monon Muntaka

**Citation:**

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), UN Women and Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2025. *Unpaid Household Production Satellite Account of Bangladesh: Based on Time Use Survey 2021*.

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**ISBN:** 978-984-475-380-8

**Price:** BDT 450.00, USD 50.00

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# FOREWORD

The future of equitable and resilient economies depends on our ability to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid domestic and care work—a cornerstone of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5. In Bangladesh, as in many parts of the world, women carry a disproportionate share of this essential yet invisible labour, limiting their access to paid employment, education, leisure, and decision-making. The persistent undervaluation of care work reflects deep-rooted gender inequalities and entrenched social norms, leaving women's contributions largely uncounted in traditional economic measures.

It gives us great pleasure to present the report Unpaid Household Production Satellite Account of Bangladesh: Based on Time Use Survey 2021, a landmark initiative that marks the country's first official Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA). This report, developed under UN Women's global Women Count Phase II programme, is a joint initiative of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), UN Women, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). We extend our sincere appreciation to the Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division of the Ministry of Planning, the dedicated members of the HPSA Thematic Working Group under the leadership of the Demography and Health Wing, and the BBS Women Count team for their steadfast commitment to this work. We also convey our gratitude to the professionals and subject matter experts of the Technical and Steering Committees for their support and constructive suggestions. Last but not least, we acknowledge the invaluable statistical and capacity-strengthening support provided by ADB, whose guidance and expertise were instrumental in ensuring the quality and rigour of this report. The ADB team provided inputs on methodology design, data processing, and estimation techniques, working closely with BBS and UN Women to ensure the analytical robustness of the estimates and alignment with international recommendations on valuing unpaid domestic and care work.

In a landmark policy commitment, the Government of Bangladesh has pledged to include the economic value of women's unpaid work in national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) calculations. This pioneering step, bolstered by the HPSA, quantifies women's unpaid contributions and generates critical evidence to enable gender-responsive policymaking, planning, and budgeting. Using data from the Time Use Survey 2021 and the Labour Force Survey 2022, the HPSA estimates that women's unpaid work represents between 12.04 and 18.65 per cent of GDP in 2020-2021 far exceeding men's share and underscoring the structural imbalance in care responsibilities.

Recognizing the scale and value of this work is more than a statistical exercise; it is a call to action. By investing in care infrastructure, expanding affordable and quality childcare and eldercare services, addressing gender wage gaps, and challenging discriminatory norms, we can create a society where care is shared and valued equally. Such measures advance women's economic empowerment and strengthen the foundations of inclusive and sustainable development.

We hope that the HPSA estimates will inform the country's next national development plan, and the insights from this report will provide a roadmap for transformative change. This report depicts how robust measurement tools like the HPSA can guide policy, influence resource allocation, and catalyze a societal shift that sees care not as a private burden, but as a public good—integral to economic growth and well-being. We welcome feedback and suggestions from readers to continue improving our work in advancing gender statistics in Bangladesh.

In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in the spirit of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), let us reaffirm our commitment to a future where women's work—paid or unpaid—is fully recognized, valued, and supported. By ensuring that no woman's contribution remains invisible, we take a decisive step toward a more just, equitable, and prosperous Bangladesh for all.



**Gitanjali Singh**

Representative  
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**Mohammed Mizanur Rahman**

Director General  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics  
(BBS)

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

In 2021, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), in partnership with UN Women, successfully conducted the Time Use Survey (TUS) in Bangladesh. This significant initiative generated and analyzed high-quality, sex-disaggregated data that highlights the time use patterns of both women and men throughout the country. The findings of the TUS serve as a crucial resource for monitoring national progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 5.4, which aims to “Recognize and value unpaid domestic and care work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.”

The successful implementation of TUS 2021 has not only contributed to the development of this report but has also opened the door for Bangladesh's first official Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA). This significant initiative, spearheaded by BBS with valuable technical support from UN Women and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), aims to effectively measure the economic value of women's unpaid domestic and caregiving services. By doing so, it highlights the vital contributions of women to the economy and fosters a greater understanding of family and community support systems.

I express my sincere gratitude to the respected Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), Ministry of Planning, for her kind support and guidance. I am especially grateful to the respected Director General, BBS, for his invaluable insights and suggestions. My heartfelt thanks also go to the esteemed members of the Working Committee, Editors Forum, Technical Committee, Report Review Committee, and Steering Committee for their constructive comments and valuable guidance, which greatly contributed to the successful completion of this initiative.

I would like to thank the Governments of Australia, France, Ireland, Italy and Sweden, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their generous contributions to the [Women Count](#) programme, which provided support in the preparation of the Unpaid Household Production Satellite Account of Bangladesh: Based on Time Use Survey 2021 report.

The development of this report and the HPSA exercise was made possible by the dedication and expertise of many individuals. I extend my deepest appreciation to the entire HPSA team, who worked tirelessly despite limitations and challenges to create this vital statistical tool, which will continue to be refined as more data and resources become available. I am especially grateful for the rigorous technical guidance and statistical capacity support provided by ADB and the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, particularly Mahinthan Joseph Mariasingham (ADB); Loubill Dayne Aceron (ADB); Lora Kryz Baje (ADB); Julieta Magallanes (ADB); Ana Francesca Rosales (ADB / United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific); Christian Marvin Zamora (ADB); and Cecilia Tinonin (UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific).

I also thank and recognize the members of the BBS HPSA Thematic Working Group for their dedication and expertise. Last but not least, I sincerely express my gratitude to Nubayra Jeheen (UN Women Bangladesh), whose leadership as Lead Coordinator was vital to the successful completion of this work.

I hope the economic valuation of unpaid domestic and care work will assist policymakers, planners, researchers, development partners, and other stakeholders. I firmly believe that the report's findings will be valuable for better designing and implementing gender-responsive policies and programmes to promote women's empowerment and gender equality in Bangladesh.



**Asma Akhter**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Unpaid domestic and care work are vital tasks that support families, communities, and economies, contributing to individual and collective well-being as well as economic growth. Labelled as ‘housework’ and mostly performed by women, these tasks remain largely invisible, undervalued, and unrecognized due to deep-rooted gender inequalities and the widespread gendered division of labour in the global economy. The Government of Bangladesh recognises women’s economic empowerment as one of the key engines of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in a [landmark policy pronouncement](#) within the national budget for FY2025-26, committed to including the economic value of women’s unpaid labour in the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) calculations.

In line with this commitment, the economic valuation of unpaid domestic and care work using the Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA) for Bangladesh is a pioneering effort to include women’s unpaid contributions in the country’s GDP. It offers a comprehensive framework for estimating the economic value of household production activities—primarily carried out by women—that lie outside the traditional System of National Accounts (SNA) production boundary. The HPSA is not simply a valuation of unpaid work, but a strategic tool to transform how domestic and care work is recognized, valued, and supported in Bangladesh. By measuring, reporting, and accounting for the value of unpaid work, the HPSA helps ensure that gender statistics are integrated and that women’s contributions are recognized in evidence-based, gender-responsive policymaking, programming, and budgeting.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) conducted a [Time Use Survey](#) (TUS) in 2021 to collect data on the time individuals spent on daily activities. The survey applied an intersectional lens to capture patterns across sex, geographic location, age (15 years and above), marital status, educational attainment and employment. The TUS shows that women spend roughly seven times as many hours on unpaid domestic and care work as men do. The survey also revealed that women, on average, engage in employment-related activities for 1.2 hours per day and household and care activities for 5.9 hours per day.

Furthermore, women primarily spend time on food preparation, followed by childcare, while men’s contributions are concentrated in shopping, childcare and transportation. On an annual basis, women spend an estimated 1,208 hours on food preparation, 418 hours on childcare, and 237 hours on cleaning, whereas men, by comparison, spend 63 hours on shopping, 57 hours on childcare, and 44 hours on transportation for household members. The unbalanced engagement of women in such activities is a result of the cultural norms and practices prevailing in society, which largely see care work as women’s work and of low value.

The HPSA has been estimated using data from the TUS 2021 and the [Labour Force Survey](#) (LFS) 2022, and is aligned with the [SNA 2025](#). Guided by the global statistical methodology recommended in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) ‘[Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work](#)’ (2017) manual, the report adopts the input approach (i.e. the valuation of labour inputs) over the output approach (i.e. the valuation of all services produced and consumed by households), which requires a large amount of statistical data.

Valuation in monetary terms was assigned through the replacement cost method using the wages of those specialists or generalists who should be hired to perform the unpaid domestic and care tasks—known as the hybrid approach. Since using only a specialist or a generalist approach has limitations (the former might overestimate some activities due to Bangladesh's wage context, while the latter might underestimate work that needs substantial skills), a hybrid approach is recommended for future discussions on the HPSA.

The value of women's unpaid work in Bangladesh was estimated at approximately 12.04 to 18.65 per cent of GDP in 2020-2021 (current prices), significantly higher than the 2.00 to 3.24 per cent estimated for men. The non-disaggregated value of all people's unpaid work was 14.03 to 21.88 per cent of GDP. The close range between this figure and the women-specific estimate indicates that women perform most of the unpaid work. Women's unpaid work largely involved food preparation, childcare and cleaning, totalling between BDT 3.7 trillion and 5.9 trillion. Men's contributions, primarily in shopping, transportation and childcare, amounted to BDT 401 billion and 758 billion in the same year. Women's total unpaid work amounted to between BDT 4.3 trillion and 6.6 trillion, compared to men's BDT 705 billion and 1.1 trillion in 2021.

A full HPSA could not be developed due to data limitations and other contextual constraints. Firstly, although planned prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the TUS was implemented during the pandemic period when restrictions and a public health crisis disrupted normal routines. As a result, there were challenges not only in collecting data but also in ensuring its accuracy and reliability. For example, the analysis may have yielded

unexpected results due to the possible effect of the pandemic on the time spent on various activities. Secondly, the wage data used to calculate replacement values, sourced from the LFS, also had limitations, including small sample sizes and limited availability of wage data for women in some occupations. The analysis reflected underlying gender wage gaps, with men generally earning higher wages than women across most activities. Under the generalist approach, for example, men's replacement hourly wages were estimated at about BDT 43, compared to BDT 33 for women. Nonetheless, in a few areas, such as household management for one's own final use, women's wages aligned more closely with men's. Thus, the HPSA estimates should be interpreted with caution, as both the TUS and LFS were subject to contextual constraints, and the exercise relied on value judgments that may have influenced results. However, the resulting HPSA is designed to accommodate additional information over time. The process also revealed both opportunities and requirements for future improvement.

The HPSA and TUS are more than just powerful tools that measure women's unpaid and invisible domestic and care work- they uncover the entrenched gender norms and cultural expectations that limit women's choices, agency and well-being.

Care work within households consumes women's time without compensation, limiting their opportunities for and right to paid work, leisure and self-care, social security, education and health. Due to the disproportionate burden of care work, women have less time than men to dedicate to paid employment. Careers requiring extended time commitments are, therefore, more difficult for women to pursue. In addition to shaping labour market engagement, the intensity and

often physically demanding nature of unpaid care work can affect women's overall well-being, contributing to persistent gender-based inequalities within households and society at large.

By developing a statistical tool like the HPSA, Bangladesh has taken a decisive step towards ensuring that unpaid domestic and care work is counted and valued. The HPSA provides valuable evidence to inform and shape gender-responsive budgets, policies and programmes to accelerate progress on gender equality and inclusive economic development.

A critical first step for systemic change is the establishment of national-level coordination on the care economy, guided by the 5Rs (recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward and represent) framework. This mechanism should harmonize existing legislation and introduce new measures to reduce and redistribute unpaid work across households, markets, and the state. Second, economic and social policies, particularly fiscal, labour market, and social protection measures, should embed clear commitments to universal care systems and ensure care-responsiveness in all programmes. Third, the private sector has a pivotal role in advancing the care economy by creating decent care jobs, adopting family-friendly workplace policies (such as paid maternity, paternity, and parental leave), and investing in care infrastructure. Alignment with public standards on labour rights and care-related regulations is essential for systemic progress. Fourth, government investments in climate-responsive care infrastructure and quality, low-carbon care services are critical to reducing women's care burden and building resilience. These measures will help redistribute care responsibilities and support women's

economic empowerment. Fifth, persistent wage gaps and informality in care work undermine women's economic contributions. Regulation of care work, combined with skills development programmes, can create pathways for women—especially those in informal sectors and migrant workers—to access decent jobs. Legal reforms to eliminate wage discrimination across all sectors must be prioritized, with civil society and women's rights organizations playing a key role in advocacy and accountability. Sixth, behavioural change initiatives and education reforms are essential to challenge gender stereotypes and promote shared responsibility for care. Engaging men and boys is critical to making caregiving a collective responsibility across households, the state, and the private sector. Finally, sustained financing and robust data systems are vital for tracking progress. Regular collection of quantitative and qualitative data on paid and unpaid care work, as well as policy impacts on time poverty, wages, and working conditions, will drive evidence-based decision-making.

The HPSA also provides a robust evidence base for gender-responsive planning and budgeting. By integrating and budgeting for the measurement of women's unpaid labour using the HPSA estimates in the upcoming national development plan and implementation of the Smooth Transition Strategy for Least Developed Country (LDC) graduation, Bangladesh can make significant strides in the medium term and contribute meaningfully to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The HPSA remains open to refinement, and its further development can inspire more regular, robust data collection and encourage the broader use of gender statistics, ultimately transforming the lives of all women and girls in Bangladesh.

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BSCO	Bangladesh Standard Classification of Occupations
BSIC	Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HPSA	Household Production Satellite Account
ICATUS	International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
LDC	Least Developed Country
LFS	Labour Force Survey
RC-G	Replacement Cost Generalist
RC-H	Replacement Cost Hybrid
RC-S	Replacement Cost Specialist
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SNA	System of National Accounts
SUT	Supply and Use Tables
TUS	Time Use Survey
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

# GLOSSARY

- **5R Framework:** A policy framework to promote decent care work (Recognizing, Reducing, Redistributing, Rewarding and Representing).
- **Care:** A species activity that includes everything we do to maintain, continue and repair our world.
- **Care Work:** Paid and unpaid care work encompasses direct care for people (physical, emotional, psychological and developmental) taking place within and outside the home.
- **Care Economy:** A commonly used term to refer to the paid and unpaid labour and services that support caregiving in all its forms, including across health, employment and education.
- **Court-ordered Work:** A legal requirement to complete a task or activity as ordered by a court of law.
- **Decent Work:** Defined by the ILO as “productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity”. In general, work is considered “decent” when it: pays a fair income; guarantees a secure form of employment and safe working conditions; ensures equal opportunities and treatment for all; includes social protection for workers and their families; offers prospects for personal development and encourages social integration; and when workers are free to express their concerns and to organize.
- **Direct Volunteering:** Unpaid, non-compulsory work carried out directly for other households.
- **Domestic Work:** Paid and unpaid indirect care work or household tasks performed within and outside the home, such as cooking, cleaning, including collecting water and firewood, travelling and transporting.
- **Extended Accounts:** Also known as a satellite account, shows the effects of expanding the standard national accounts boundary of production, consumption, income, and/or wealth.
- **GDP:** A basic measure of the overall size of a country's economy.
- **GDP in Current Price:** GDP measured at current market prices.
- **GDP in Constant Price:** Volume level of GDP expressed in terms of a base period.
- **Generalist Method:** A valuation approach that uses the wages of general occupation workers for specific household activities.
- **Household Production:** Production of goods and services by the members of a household, for their own consumption, using their own capital and their own unpaid labour. Goods and services produced by households for their own use include accommodation, meals, clean clothes, and childcare.
- **Household Production Satellite Account:** An accounting framework for measuring own-use production work of services that is consistent with national accounts, allowing robust comparisons with traditional market-based activity.
- **Hybrid Approach:** A valuation approach that involves using generalist wages for some household activities and specialist wages for more complex work.

- **Intermediate Consumption:** The value of goods and services consumed as inputs in production.
- **Labour Force:** Persons 15 years or older who contribute or are available to contribute to the production of goods and services in the country; and consists of employed and unemployed.
- **Organization-based Volunteering:** Unpaid work performed through or for organizations.
- **Own-use Production Work:** Production of goods and services for personal or household consumption (for detailed definition see Labour Force Survey 2022, Annexure i).
- **Production Boundary:** The delimitation in national accounts between activities considered economic production and those that are not.
- **Replacement Cost Approach:** A valuation method using market wage rates from similar occupations to value unpaid work.
- **Replacement Wages:** The market-equivalent wages used to estimate the monetary value of unpaid work, based on what it would cost to hire someone to perform the same task. Used in the replacement cost approach to value household production.
- **Satellite Account:** A framework for organizing data about specific aspects of the economy that are not fully captured in traditional national accounts.
- **Specialist Method:** A valuation approach that uses the wages of specialized workers for specific household activities.
- **System of National Accounts:** A statistical framework that provides a comprehensive, consistent and flexible set of macroeconomic accounts.
- **Time Poverty:** The condition in which individuals, especially women, lack sufficient time for rest, leisure, personal activities or participation in public life, due to their load of responsibilities, particularly unpaid domestic and care work.
- **Time Use Survey:** A statistical survey that collects data on how people allocate their time.
- **Unpaid Work:** Various critical services performed within a household or community- such as domestic work (cooking, cleaning, washing, collecting water and fuel, and household management, including tending to animals and livestock and agricultural work for own consumption, as well as transportation and travel)- and care for people (children, family and community members, older persons or persons with mental or physical conditions, persons with disabilities)- for the well-being of individuals that are uncompensated and disproportionately fall on women.
- **Volunteer Work of Services:** Unpaid, non-compulsory activities to provide services for others.
- **Wage Rate Index:** An indicator that tracks changes in the price of labour over time.

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# 1

# CHAPTER

**Background and  
Relevance**

## 1.1 Background

Unpaid household and care work (including childcare and eldercare) are essential to daily life. These activities are essential for enabling people to pursue employment, participate in their communities and maintain personal and family well-being. The fact that this work is provided for free does not mean it comes without costs. In the light of limited public support, women bear the bulk of these costs in the form of lower employment rates, wage penalties and time poverty, all of which have ripple effects on their health and well-being and participation in public life (United Nations, 2024).

Globally, women perform more than three-quarters of unpaid household and care work due to longstanding gender norms, inequalities, cultural expectations and structural barriers (Addati et.al., 2018). This disproportionate share of unpaid work limits their economic opportunities and participation in public life as well as their right to rest, leisure and self-care.

Furthermore, the heavy and unremitting pressure of this invisible labour and the sheer drudgery can have adverse effects on physical and mental health; increase financial dependence; and heighten the risk of falling into poverty in old age, especially in the absence of social security and property rights (McKinsey Global Institute, 2016).

A foundational step in advancing the recognition of unpaid work is to clearly define what it encompasses. Unpaid work refers to a range of activities performed without monetary compensation, typically within households and for their own use. While many of these services remain outside traditional economic measurement, some forms of unpaid work, particularly the production of

goods for personal consumption, have already been integrated into national accounting systems and are included in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) calculations.

This includes household production such as subsistence agriculture, animal husbandry, the processing of agricultural and food and non-food products, the construction of dwellings, and the collection of water and firewood. These are considered part of the production boundary of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and are, to varying extents, captured in GDP.

Beyond this, unpaid work also includes household services that are not part of the SNA production boundary (but fall within the general production boundary) and therefore are excluded from GDP. These can be grouped into two broad categories:

1. **Unpaid domestic work**, such as cooking, cleaning, and other household chores—often referred to as indirect care.
2. **Unpaid caregiving** involves direct care for children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities within the household.

The Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), as part of the ongoing SNA revision, broadly defines unpaid household and care work as activities that could be contracted out to a market service provider under normal conditions. The [SNA 2025](#) revision adopts the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) definition as:

“Those economic services produced in the household and outside the market, but which could be produced by a third person hired on the market without changing their utility to the members of the household” (SNA 2025: 34.88).

Additionally, the International Labour Organization (ILO) recently established a Technical Working Group (TWG) on International Statistical Standards for Care Work, which will support the statistical standard-setting process through the exchange of national experiences of developing concepts and definitions for statistics on care work and care work providers. As per ILO Statistics (2025)<sup>1</sup>, the objectives of the TWG are to:

- a) Establish an internationally agreed statistical definition of care work to support the regular collection of policy-relevant data on the topic, harmonized across countries, ensuring that a wide range of data and policy needs are identified and taken into account in the process.
- b) Develop a conceptual framework of care work, together with a meaningful typology of categories of unpaid and paid care work performed as different forms of work, in line with existing international standards. Define appropriate terminology for care work performed within different forms of work.
- c) Define measurement criteria for the concept of care work performed within different forms of work and develop indicator frameworks and recommended sub-groups for disaggregation.
- d) Formulate recommendations and guidelines for data collection, analysis, and dissemination, referring to relevant data sources.

Another dimension of unpaid work involves volunteer work of services defined as “any unpaid, non-compulsory activity to provide services for others,” and more precisely,

“for other economic units.” Recipients may include organizations or households other than the volunteer’s own.

Women predominantly carry out the majority of these tasks, both in number and in total time spent. This gendered division of labour is one of the primary reasons why it is critical to measure and account for unpaid work. Doing so would help make women’s economic contributions visible and support gender-responsive policies, budgets and programmes.

## 1.2 Relevance

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of tracking progress towards shared responsibility for unpaid domestic and care work. The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action laid the foundation for advancing women’s empowerment and gender equality over the past three decades. In 2015, United Nations Member States acknowledged the structural barriers imposed by the unequal distribution of unpaid care work and established a dedicated target, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.4, which calls on Member States to:

“Recognize and value unpaid domestic and care work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.”

Progress on this commitment is monitored through SDG Indicator 5.4.1, which measures the time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, disaggregated by sex, age and location. The primary data source for this indicator is

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<sup>1</sup>See: [Data needs for measuring the care economy](#)

specialized household surveys that quantify time use, most notably, Time Use Surveys (TUS). The [Beijing Platform for Action](#) recognized that gender equality needs to be integrated into economic policies and decision-making to ensure women's equal access to economic opportunities and a fairer distribution of paid and unpaid work.

### Defining Unpaid Work Valuation

"Measure, in quantitative terms, unremunerated work that is outside national accounts and work to improve methods to assess its value, and accurately reflect its value in satellite or other accounts that are separate from but consistent with core national accounts."

*1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*

Data collected by National Statistical Offices are primarily designed to measure economic output and productivity through tools such as national accounts and employment surveys. In most countries, this excludes the contribution of unpaid productive activities, such as household and care work, which are predominantly performed by women.

In Bangladesh, the first comprehensive [TUS](#) in 2021 provided a snapshot of how individuals allocate their time across daily activities. The data confirmed a pronounced gendered division of unpaid domestic and care work in Bangladeshi households, which continues to impede progress towards gender equality. This unequal distribution limits women's opportunities for paid employment, contributes to time poverty, and adversely affects their well-being. Failure to incorporate these factors into planning and policy development can result in ineffective economic, social and environmental

interventions, and may hinder achievement of the SDGs.

The internationally agreed framework for measuring economic activity, the SNA 2008, defines economic production as "activity carried out under the control and responsibility of an institutional unit that uses inputs of labour, capital, and goods and services to produce outputs of goods or services." This includes the following categories of goods, products and services:

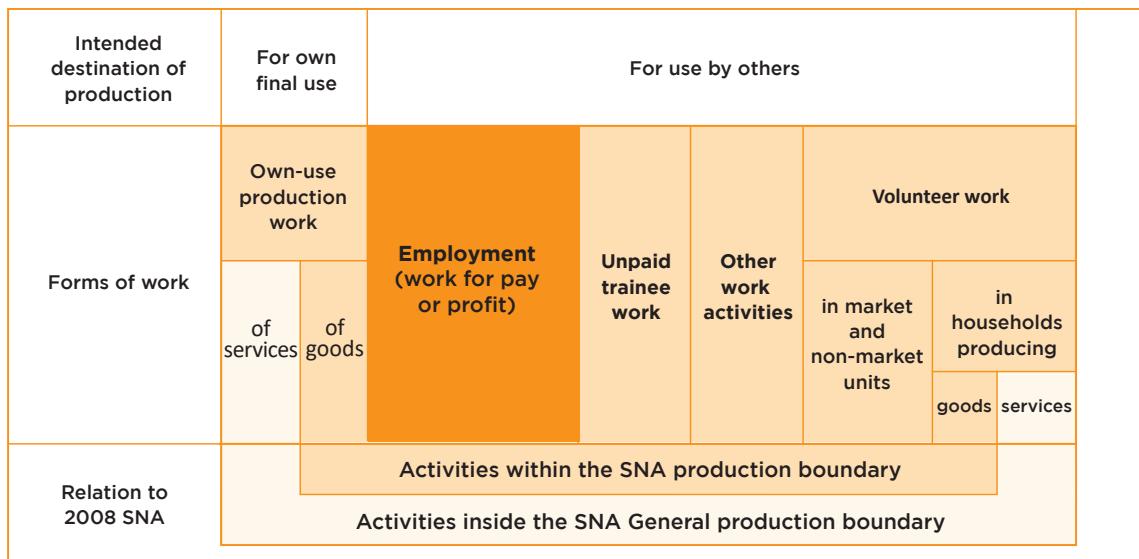
- "The production of all goods or services that are supplied to units other than their producers, or intended to be so supplied, including the production of goods or services used up in the process of producing such goods or services;
- The own-account production of all goods that are retained by their producers for their own final consumption or gross capital formation;
- The own-account production of knowledge-capturing products that are retained by their producers for their own final consumption or gross capital formation, but excluding (by convention) such products produced by households for their own use;
- The own-account production of housing services by owner-occupiers; and
- The production of domestic and personal services by employing paid domestic staff."

Despite these inclusions, the SNA production boundary excludes other essential types of work that are not part of the market economy. While the SNA includes some forms of non-market labour, such as unpaid trainee work, volunteer work in market and non-market settings, and unpaid work to produce goods (including court-ordered work), it excludes own-use production of services

for household final use and volunteer work to produce services. These omissions leave much of women's unpaid labour invisible in

economic data. Figure 1 illustrates the various types of work included within the general SNA production boundary.

**FIGURE 1:**  
**Forms of work framework and relationship to SNA 2008**



Source: ILO (2013), cited in UNECE (2017); [amended](#) in 2023

GDP calculations do not currently include unpaid domestic and care work, largely due to the absence of market mechanisms, wage proxies and dedicated statistical data. The seminal paper by Stiglitz, Sen, and Fitoussi (2009) highlighted this glaring limitation, emphasizing that not including women's contributions to societal well-being in GDP calculations can distort the interpretation of economic growth or decline. As a result, this intrinsically valuable work is also excluded from national budgets and policy frameworks related to employment, social protection and labour market participation. Furthermore, this omission creates a substantial gap in how economic output is understood and weakens the policy basis for achieving the SDGs. If unpaid work was valued using market-based methods (e.g., replacement wages), it would open the door to compensation, institutional support and greater recognition for the

women who predominantly carry out these responsibilities. This, in turn, would ensure that women are afforded the same opportunities as men.

Since 1993, SNA has encouraged countries to develop satellite accounts to capture aspects of economic activity that fall outside the traditional production boundary. The term "satellite" reflects the fact that these accounts are built using alternative concepts that complement but do not alter the core SNA framework. While separate, they are designed to closely align with the said framework and allow for eventual integration. Over the past three decades, there has been significant progress in aligning satellite accounts with the main framework, and the upcoming SNA revision in 2025 is expected to formally incorporate their use, drawing on the growing number of national applications and experiences.

### 1.3 Women's unpaid domestic and care work in Bangladesh

As an emerging economy, Bangladesh is set to graduate from its United Nations classification as a Least Developed Country in 2026. According to the [Global Gender Gap Report 2025](#) by the World Economic Forum, Bangladesh achieved the highest gender parity in South Asia with a score of 77.5 per cent, ranking 24<sup>th</sup> globally.

Women's labour force participation increased from 36 per cent in 2017 to 42.8 per cent in 2022.<sup>2</sup> Yet, as the country's official TUS reveals, women also carry out the vast majority of unpaid work. In Bangladesh, the availability of gender data remains uneven across sectors and topics and in terms of frequency and timeliness. While the country has adopted numerous laws, policies and plans to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, the data required to monitor and report on these commitments is often incomplete or outdated.

The TUS 2021 marked a turning point in recognizing unpaid domestic and care work within policy discourse and aligning it with national development priorities. The findings enabled Bangladesh to monitor progress against SDG Indicator 5.4.1 for the first time. The data highlighted how gender roles, alongside geographic location, age, marital status, education level and employment status, shape the division of labour between women and men. The survey revealed that women spend seven times as many hours on unpaid work as men, an imbalance that reflects persistent gender norms.

Based on the TUS 2021 findings, Bangladesh's Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Ministry of Planning requested the creation of a Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA) in 2023 to quantify the economic value of unpaid work within national statistics. In a [landmark policy](#) pronounced in the context of the national budget for FY2025-26, the Government has committed to including the economic value of women's unpaid labour in the country's GDP calculations. Thus, for Bangladesh, the construction of the HPSA comes at a critical juncture. The HPSA not only formally recognizes women's unpaid contributions to the economy but will also enable policymakers to design and assess gender-responsive care policies and infrastructure, including supporting efforts to expand women's access to decent work opportunities. Additionally, this statistical tool contributes to the development and promotion of gender statistics aligned with the SDGs. Bangladesh joins around 35 countries that have compiled household satellite accounts, a practice that, under the upcoming SNA revision, will fall under the category of "extended accounts."<sup>3</sup>

Unpaid domestic and care work, which holds economic value, remains excluded from GDP calculations due to the absence of a market price, even though it could be outsourced to the market or provided by the public sector. An HPSA seeks to address this gap by assigning a shadow wage to time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, which is then included in input-output tables used to estimate GDP.

<sup>2</sup>It should be noted that part of this progress originates in changes in definitions. BBS now applies the concepts of labour and employment delineated by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2013 (and revised by the 21<sup>st</sup> in 2023), according to which, the female labour force participation rate is much lower in 2022.

<sup>3</sup>Refer to Chapter 5 for HPSA estimates across various regions of the world (Figure 11).

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has conducted the Labour Force Survey (LFS) since 1980, and it is conducted every 4 to 5 years (from 2022-2024, has been conducted quarterly). The LFS provides official data on employment and unemployment across the country. Bangladesh has also been benefiting from a demographic dividend for over a decade, an increase in the working-age population relative to dependents (youth and elderly), which has contributed to economic growth. The LFS 2022 provided quarterly data on key labour market variables, including employment status, occupation, job type, informal employment, youth participation, long-term unemployment, literacy, vocational training, average working hours, earnings, migration costs and functional limitations related to employment.

Together, the TUS and LFS offer valuable insight into women's unpaid domestic and care work and help assign a monetary value to these activities to inform national decision-making. The HPSA is essential for measuring

unpaid labour beyond the boundaries of the conventional SNA. Both the TUS and LFS serve as foundational inputs in its development. The HPSA provides an estimate of the economic value of unpaid work that can be factored into GDP calculations and incorporated into national budgets and cross-cutting policies that support gender equality.

Activities such as cooking, cleaning and caring for dependent family members have clear economic value. When paid, these tasks are performed by domestic or care workers; when unpaid, they are largely carried out by women and girls, both within their own households and for relatives in other households. In Bangladesh, the unequal burden of domestic responsibilities, coupled with limited access to high-quality, affordable care services, creates persistent barriers to women's economic empowerment. These constraints not only affect income and employment opportunities but also undermine broader aspects of women's well-being, including health, education, autonomy and long-term security.



# 2

# CHAPTER

**Global Methodological  
Approaches of HPSA**

## 2.1 Scope and classification of household services and the need for accounting non-market services

Currently, there is no global consensus on a standardized approach for measuring the economic value of time dedicated to own-use production of services, and not all countries carry out such measurements. In 2017, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) issued the [Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work](#), offering a methodology and guidance to address measurement challenges. The estimation methodology is structured around four key pillars:

- Primary source data and target population;
- Classification of activities;
- Imputation of the value of own-use production of services using the replacement cost approach; and
- Imputation of non-labour components (e.g., taxes less subsidies, intermediate consumption, consumption of fixed capital, return to capital).

Resolution I of the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians defined the scope of activities considered part of own-use provision of services, including:

- Household accounting and management, purchasing and/or transporting goods;
- Preparing and/or serving meals, household waste disposal and recycling;
- Cleaning, decorating and maintaining one's own dwelling or premises, durables and other goods and gardening;
- Childcare and instruction, transporting and caring for elderly, dependent or other household members and domestic animals or pets, etc.

The International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS) 2016 provides an international standard for classifying activities that aligns with both data collection needs and availability. The United Nations endorsed the standards in March 2017. Two types of instruments can be used to collect time-use data:

- A full diary: a comprehensive record of every activity throughout the day. This format has no predefined activity list, so ICATUS is needed to classify the recorded activities using specific activity codes.
- A light time use diary: a pre-coded list of specific activity categories that respondents can select by time segments. Although less detailed than the full diary, it still captures activities over a full day (ideally no more than 30 categories), using short or stylized questions to reduce respondent burden.

**TABLE 1:**  
**Major divisions of time use activities in ICATUS**

<b>1.</b> Employment and related activities
<b>2.</b> Production of goods for final use
<b>3.</b> Unpaid domestic services for household and family members
<b>4.</b> Unpaid caregiving services for household and family members
<b>5.</b> Unpaid volunteer, training and other unpaid work
<b>6.</b> Learning
<b>7.</b> Socializing and communication, community, participation and religious practice
<b>8.</b> Culture, leisure, mass media and sports practices
<b>9.</b> Self-care and maintenance

Estimating the value of non-market services produced within households addresses a longstanding exclusion within the SNA, where such activities are omitted due to their limited integration into the market economy. Tools such as ICATUS and the HPSA help overcome the challenges of economically valuing this work, and time use surveys are key instruments for understanding intra-household labour allocation, categorizing unpaid work and estimating its contribution to economic and social well-being.

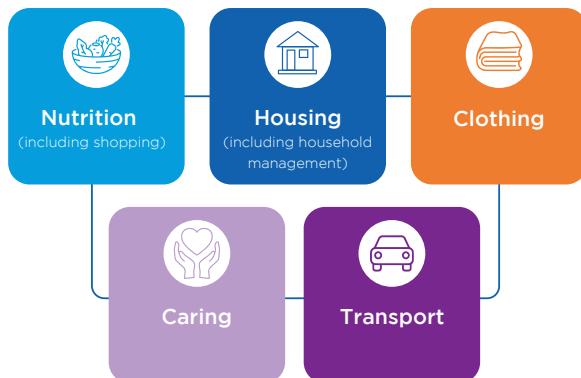
The rationale for accounting for non-market services stems from persistent critiques of the SNA's production boundary, which excludes unpaid household services. The exclusion reflects: the challenges faced by national accountants to impute values for non-market outputs and inputs due to their relative isolation from market systems; the difficulty of producing meaningful and comparable valuations; and concerns that inclusion could compromise the utility of national accounts for market and policy analysis (UNECE, 2017).

**TABLE 2:**  
**Household activities included in estimates of unpaid non-market services**

<b>1.</b> Childcare for own household or family
<b>2.</b> Adult care for own household or family
<b>3.</b> Nutrition for own household or family
<b>4.</b> Transport for own household or family
<b>5.</b> Household management for own household or family
<b>6.</b> Laundry and clothing for own household or family
<b>7.</b> Shopping for own household or family
<b>8.</b> Information services for own household or family

- 9.** Other unpaid household production not elsewhere classified for own household or family
- 10.** Organization-based volunteering
- 11.** Direct volunteering

For the purposes of this report, a simplified grouping is used based on five main functional categories (details in chapter 3):



## 2.2 Valuation methods

There are two primary methods used to estimate the value of services produced through own-use household production: the **output approach** and the **input approach**.

### 2.2.1 The output approach

The output approach assigns value to household service activities by equating them to the prices of comparable market services. Output is calculated by multiplying the number of service units by their respective market prices. Intermediate consumption is then subtracted from gross output to derive gross value added.

To estimate the imputed value of unpaid household labour, one must also subtract net indirect taxes and consumption of fixed capital.

## **Output-based method (UNECE, 2017)**

*Value of outputs (quantity x price) at market equivalent prices*

- *intermediate consumption*
- = *gross value added*
- *consumption of fixed capital - other taxes on production*
- + *other subsidies on production - return to capital*
- = *imputed compensation for labour input*

The first step in the output approach is to determine the volume of units produced. For own-use production of services, this may include, for example, the number of hours children are cared for, the number of miles driven for household transport or the number of meals prepared. To illustrate, consider childcare: the process begins by identifying the number of children cared for and then estimating the number of hours each child receives care. One method is to sum the hours spent in formal care, based on administrative data, and assume that the remaining time constitutes own-use childcare services. However, the time when children are unsupervised—neither in formal care nor receiving unpaid care—must also be estimated and included in the calculation.

This contrasts with the input approach, which measures the number of hours caregivers provide childcare, rather than the hours children receive care. Once the total hours of own-use childcare are established, a suitable market price is applied. For example, if a nanny is contracted, the charge per child per hour is multiplied by the total hours of care. Indirect costs must also be considered. A nanny typically cares for fewer children, making their wage a higher proportion of total costs compared to a nursery assistant.

Because unpaid childcare most often occurs in the home, the wage of a live-in nanny is considered the closest market equivalent.

While conceptually consistent with market production valuation, the output approach is more difficult to implement due to limited data on household outputs and market prices for similar goods and services, making the input approach more feasible in many contexts.

### **2.2.2 The input approach**

The input approach assigns monetary value directly to labour input. It begins with estimating the labour component and then adds gross operating surplus, fixed capital consumption, net indirect taxes and intermediate consumption to approximate the market value of household production. This cost-based method values household services using equivalent market prices. The [UNECE Guide](#) recommends the input approach, particularly in contexts where reliable data on labour, capital and material inputs are available.

## **Input-based method (UNECE, 2017)**

*Imputed compensation for labour inputs (units of time valued at suitable wages)*

- + *other taxes on production - other subsidies on production*
- + *consumption of fixed capital + return to capital*
- + *gross value added*
- + *intermediate consumption*
- = *value of output (sum of costs)*

Implementing this approach requires detailed information on respondents' time use, household equipment and capital flows, and the intermediate consumption of goods and

services used during production. TUS, LFS and Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) provide essential data for this valuation method.

The [UNECE Guide](#) further recommends the replacement cost approach and, depending on the availability of wage statistics, the generalist (RC-G), specialist (RC-S) or hybrid (RC-H) method. This approach involves applying market wage rates from paid occupations that are comparable in skill and function to unpaid household work, aligning wage assumptions with actual task content. The method values time spent on own-use production work by using gross hourly wages before tax, including employer-paid benefits such as sick leave, paid holidays and social security contributions. These additions reflect what households would pay for such services if purchased on the market. Since market substitutes may be provided by either sex, the average wage across both sexes is recommended.

In addition to labour inputs, own-use household production often involves capital goods such as kitchen appliances or vehicles. It is therefore preferable to estimate the value of such assets over their full-service life, rather than relying on the cost of annual purchases, to more accurately reflect their contribution to production.

A key component of the input approach is determining the appropriate market-equivalent wage for each service. Two main wage estimation methods are used: the **opportunity cost approach** and the **replacement cost approach**.

### **2.2.2.1 Opportunity cost approach**

The opportunity cost approach, which values household work based on the market income foregone due to time spent on unpaid

household activities, is based on the economic theory of opportunity cost. It assigns a value to housework using an individual's wage rate in the labour market, assuming that time spent on unpaid work comes at the expense of time that could have been used for paid employment. It also assumes that individuals can freely choose whether to allocate an additional hour to paid work or to another activity.

The objective of this approach is to measure actual household production rather than hypothetical market output. However, using an opportunity cost wage implies that the estimated value of own-use production work may vary in depending on who performs the task. For instance, preparing a meal may require similar effort regardless of whether the individual is a labourer or a doctor, yet the wage rate- and thus the valuation- differs significantly. Additional complexity arises when individuals are not formally employed and have no market wage equivalent. Another key limitation of this method is its reliance on the assumption that people have full flexibility in how they allocate their time. This approach is often preferred because it focuses on measuring actual household production and not what they might have earned had they chosen paid work instead.

### **2.2.2.2 Replacement cost approach**

The replacement cost approach is the preferred input method for valuing unpaid household and care work. It applies market-equivalent wage rates from comparable occupations, either generalist or specialist. This approach assumes that households save money by performing domestic tasks themselves, with the savings equivalent to the cost of hiring someone from the market to perform the same services (UNECE, 2017).

There are multiple ways to implement the replacement cost approach. A generalist wage reflects occupations requiring limited skills or training, while a specialist wage commands a premium to account for more advanced or technical skills needed to perform certain tasks. Lastly, a hybrid replacement cost approach combines both, applying the generalist method to most household tasks and reserving the specialist method for more complex services like childcare and adult care.

**a) Specialist method:** The specialist method values the time spent on each type of household activity by matching it to the hourly earnings of workers in similar market occupations. It accounts for variation in wage rates across activities, assuming that different types of household work correspond to different occupational roles. For example, adult care activities may align with the wages of home health aides, while house maintenance or childcare may correspond to other specialized roles. This method draws from wage rates of specialized workers in the market sector—for instance, comparing the wage of a restaurant cook to that of a home cook. A core limitation of the specialist method is that the working conditions and productivity of a paid replacement worker often differ substantially from those of an unpaid household worker.

**b) Generalist method:** The generalist method applies the wage rate of a general housekeeper to estimate the value of own-use production work. This may be more appropriate for many household tasks, given the similarity of conditions between housekeepers and unpaid household workers, and because the method offers greater flexibility. A generalist is likely to perform a range of routine household

duties, such as cleaning or meal preparation. However, certain tasks, such as plumbing or specialized caregiving, fall outside the generalist's scope. Countries such as Australia, Canada and Mexico have developed a hybrid replacement cost approach, combining generalist wage rates for routine tasks with specialist wage rates for services commonly outsourced, like childcare or home repairs. In the replacement cost generalist (RC-G) approach, household members and their replacements are assumed—by design—to have similar productivity and require limited skills. Wage rates for domestic employees are used because they work under similar conditions. For tasks typically not performed by domestic workers, specialist wage rates are included to improve valuation accuracy.

**c) Hybrid method:** The hybrid approach combines the generalist and specialist methods for valuing unpaid household work. It applies the generalist method to routine household activities and the specialist method to more complex tasks, such as care (childcare, elderly care, etc). This approach acknowledges that household members and housekeepers may vary in their efficiency when performing domestic tasks. For instance, a housekeeper may clean more efficiently than a household member who is simultaneously caring for young children. Conversely, the household member may clean more thoroughly, though more slowly. The hybrid approach seeks to more accurately reflect the type of external labour a household would need to hire to complete a full range of domestic tasks. Countries such as Australia, Canada and Mexico have made advanced efforts to implement hybrid valuation models for unpaid work.

## 2.3 Comparison between input and output approaches

Both the input-based and output-based methods are theoretically valid for estimating own-use production work of services. Choosing between alternatives within the input method can be challenging, and results may vary depending on wage selection and pricing assumptions. While many experts support the output method approach for its conceptual rigour, its implementation challenges mean that a well-managed input approach may be more practical in many settings. The input approach, which depends on time-use data, also faces complications such as selecting appropriate wage rates and capturing secondary activities-issues that require further study (UNECE, 2017). The [UNECE Guide](#) favours the input approach while recognizing the respective strengths and limitations of both methods.

Triangulating with the input valuation method can improve accuracy; combining input- and output-based estimates is encouraged for a more comprehensive understanding. While many countries rely on time use data, using it for output valuation can result in high data collection costs, making the input valuation approach more practical. Both output and input methods are theoretically valid for estimating own-use production work of services, but they often produce significantly different estimates. The output approach is frequently preferred due to its alignment with the SNA, which facilitates direct comparisons and enables productivity measurement. However, practical challenges—including difficulties in defining activities, limited data disaggregation and the challenge of identifying representative outputs—often make the input approach more suitable for implementation.

The two methods will not necessarily yield the same results in a given context. In the output

approach, the starting point is the market value of products. The costs of production are then subtracted to determine income, which includes labour remuneration and a net return on capital or operating surplus. In the input approach, an imputed return to capital is added to the sum of labour value, consumption of capital and other taxes less subsidies on production, resulting in an estimate of gross value added. The core difference between the two approaches lies in the productivity assumptions. If households were more productive than firms, market wages would underestimate household output and vice versa. However, it is generally assumed that firms are more productive due to their greater access to physical capital and other resources.

Both approaches have strengths and limitations. The output method is generally preferred by researchers and national accountants because of its compatibility with the SNA in measuring market production, which allows for direct comparisons. However, it requires detailed activity categorisation, and disaggregation is often constrained by data availability, factors that may heavily affect results. This approach also does not make use of the data collected by time-use surveys.

The input approach presents challenges as well, particularly when choosing between comparable alternatives—for example, hiring a gardener versus tending one's own lawn. Both may be plausible equivalents, but yield different market prices and therefore different valuations.

The limitations of the output approach suggest that a well-managed input method may be the more practical option. This approach is also recommended by the [UNECE Guide](#) and is preferred where a time-use survey is available. The input approach is used in this report.



# 3

# CHAPTER

**Methodology Used for  
HPSA in Bangladesh**

The process and methodology for developing the HPSA in Bangladesh can be divided into three main phases. The input approach, as recommended by the [UNECE Guide](#), was used for measurement, with ICATUS applied for activity classification.

Phase one involved estimating unpaid labour input to own-use production of services. Sub-activities were grouped under five broad categories: housing, nutrition, clothing, care and transport. Phase two aimed to compile extended supply and use tables by adding industries and products to reflect own-use service production distinct from market production. This entailed: identifying intermediate consumption for household production; extracting consumer durables for production from household final consumption expenditure; and estimating capital services, i.e., returns on investment of said consumer durables. Note that this phase could not be completed due to the absence of an updated Supply and Use Table (SUT) framework in Bangladesh. Phase three aimed to focus on measuring volunteer work, such as organization-based and direct volunteering. Although volunteer work falls under the “unpaid care work” category, it inherently assumes that individuals have a certain amount of free time available, which complicates the definition of unpaid work (Dorji et al., 2020); hence, phase three was not undertaken. Additionally, the [UNECE Guide](#) recommends producing a separate guidance document for the measurement of volunteering activities, given that the valuation of volunteering services entails a number of different and complex methodological challenges.

It is important to note that the HPSA developed for Bangladesh is not a full satellite account due to limitations in the data and frameworks

available, such as the lack of an SUT and insufficient data on capital and assets. While the HPSA follows the general structure of a satellite account, it is more limited in scope and integration. A full satellite account aligns closely with the national accounts framework by incorporating extended SUTs and valuing all relevant components, including intermediate consumption and capital services. In contrast, the HPSA in Bangladesh focuses primarily on labour input using the input valuation approach. Due to constraints such as the absence of annual SUTs and incomplete data on capital and assets, it does not yet qualify as a full satellite account. Nevertheless, it serves as an important foundation for future integration and policy development.

### **3.1 Estimating unpaid labour input to own-use production work of service**

The primary data sources for developing the HPSA were the TUS 2021 and the LFS 2022. TUS provided detailed sex-disaggregated time allocation data, and time spent on unpaid work was categorized according to ICATUS standards. The LFS, alongside the Bangladesh Standard Classification of Occupations (BSCO), provided occupation-level wage data.

The population covered included persons aged 15 and older. Following the [UNECE Guide](#), the HPSA applied three input-valuation methods:

- Replacement Cost – Generalist (RC-G)
- Replacement Cost – Specialist (RC-S)
- Replacement Cost – Hybrid (RC-H)

The generalist method yields a lower-bound estimate, the specialist method provides an upper-bound estimate, and the hybrid approach provides an intermediate value.

The purpose of the scoping and validation exercise was to estimate unpaid labour input using appropriate data sources. This assumes that labour input contributes significantly to the net value added through household production. The level of detail and country-specific precision depends on data available from the TUS, LFS, HIES and other administrative sources—particularly those providing wage rates by sector, occupation and skill.

**TABLE 3:**  
**Datasets required for HPSA in Bangladesh**

Datasets required for HPSA
1. Time Use Survey
2. Household Income and Expenditure Survey
3. Informal Sector Survey
4. Labour Force Survey
5. Population and Housing Census
6. Latest Supply and Use Tables and Input-Output Tables
7. Annual National Accounts: Gross Output and Gross Value Added by Sector
8. Annual National Accounts: GDP Expenditure Items
9. Wage Rate Index

The TUS 2021 provides data on the average daily minutes spent by women and men (aged 15 years and above) on unpaid household service work. The HIES 2022, LFS 2022 and Informal Sector Survey (not available) offer wage data disaggregated by industry, occupation and sex. Population and Housing Census data enabled backcasting the working-age population by sex for 2021 (i.e., estimating prior-year figures using more recent census data and known growth

rates). Among the three wage datasets, LFS 2022 was preferred due to its more detailed occupation-level breakdown. Due to unavailability, the GDP expenditure data were not used to calculate intermediate consumption of unpaid work.

### General formula

The annual monetary value of unpaid domestic and care work for the sex subgroup  $i$  in Bangladesh is calculated using the following formula, consistent with Ahmad and Koh (2011) and Geostat and UN Women (2025):

$$V_i = \sum_j^N (\text{Average Hourly Wage}_{ij} \times \text{Total Hours}_{ij} \times \text{Population}_i)$$

Where,

$V_i$  = annual monetary value of subgroup  $i$ 's unpaid domestic and care work;

$N$  = number of unpaid domestic and care activities;

Average Hourly Wage $_{ij}$  = average hourly wage of replacement generalist and/or specialist occupations for activity  $j$  of subgroup  $i$ ;

Total Hours $_{ij}$  = annualized number of hours spent daily on unpaid domestic and care work by subgroup  $i$  on activity  $j$ , computed as the sum of the average time  $t$  subgroup  $i$  spent per day and per person in an unpaid activity  $j$  (a reported in the Time Use Survey) multiplied by 365 ( $\sum_{ij} t \cdot 365$ ); and

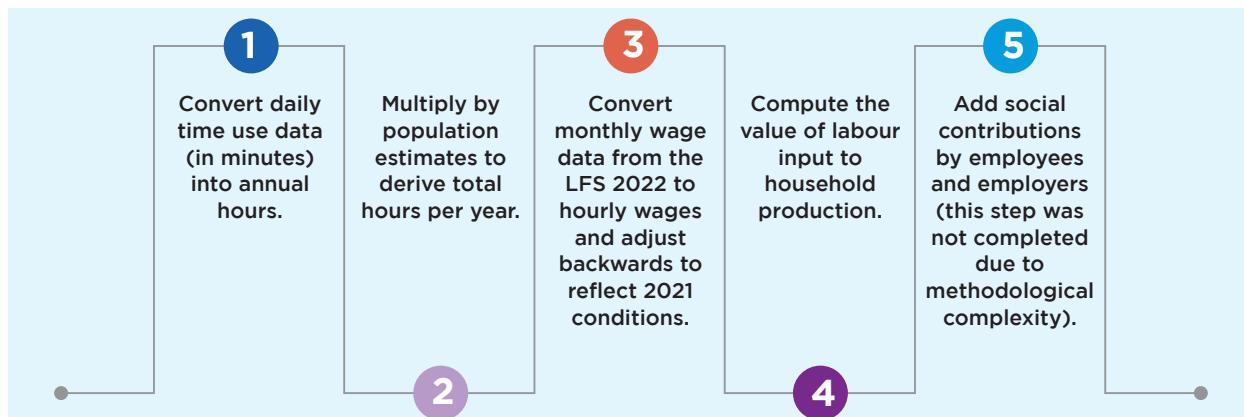
Population = total population of subgroup  $i$  in 2021 (aged 15 and above).

Note: TUS participation rate is included in the value of hours per day per person. The total of hours per day and per person for all activities, being equal to 24 hours, means that participation rates have been included; otherwise, it would not have been possible to totalize up to 24 hours.

The estimated value of unpaid domestic and care work is presented as a percentage of Bangladesh's 2020-2021 GDP. The value is

also expressed as a share of extended GDP—defined as the sum of GDP and the total value of unpaid domestic and care work—to offer a broader perspective on the scale of economic activity. It is important to note, however, that this does not imply that such work directly contributes to GDP under conventional national accounting frameworks. Rather, the estimates serve as an indicative measure of the economic significance of unpaid work relative to formal economic output.

### Five-Step Procedure:



Below is the simplified estimation template used for computing the four-step valuation mentioned above.

**TABLE 4:**  
**Simplified estimation template**

ICATUS 2-digit code and description (1)	BSCO 2-digit code and description (2)	Average time spent (in hours) on specific activity category		Average hourly wage in the equivalent occupation		Valuation of unpaid domestic and care work		
		Female (3)	Male (4)	Female (5)	Male (6)	Women (7) = (3) * (5) *female population	Men (8) = (4) * (6) *male population	Total (9) = (7) + (8)
Activity 31								
...								
Activity 49								
Total								

### 3.2 Step 1: Time use data

TUS data processing is a key initial step in understanding how time is allocated across household service functions. The processed TUS data yielded estimates of the number of hours devoted to own-use production work of services in five broad categories: nutrition, housing, clothing, caring and transport. These time estimates were also used to identify the market-equivalent hourly wage for each service category, comparing generalist and specialist wage rates.

The ICATUS 2016, which was applied in processing the TUS, is a three-level hierarchical classification scheme. It includes nine major divisions (one-digit level), disaggregated into 56 divisions (two-digit) and further into 165 groups (three-digit level).

Table 5 presents the TUS 2021 results using ICATUS at the 2-digit level for the four main components of unpaid work: production of goods for own final use, unpaid domestic services, unpaid care services and unpaid volunteering activities. The focus in subsequent analysis is on unpaid domestic and care services. Table 6 reorganizes the same data by the main function of unpaid domestic and care work: nutrition, housing, clothing, caring and transport. All tables that follow apply this classification.

As shown in Table 5, women spent an average of 3.31 hours per day on food and meal preparation, compared to just 0.1 hours for men. Women also spent 1.15 hours per day on childcare and instruction, while men spent 0.16 of an hour.



**TABLE 5:**

**Average time spent by population aged 15+ (in hours per person) by sex on various unpaid activities (ICATUS 2-digit)**

Activities (ICATUS 2-digit)	Women	Men	All
<b>Production of goods for own final use</b>			
Making processed goods for own final use	0.05	0.02	0.04
Construction activities for own final use	0.01	0.01	0.01
Supplying water and fuel for own household or for own final use	0.26	0.03	0.16
Travelling, moving, transporting or accompanying goods or persons related to own-use production of goods	0.03	0.05	0.04
<b>Unpaid domestic services for household and family members</b>			
Food and meals management and preparation	3.31	0.10	1.91
Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	0.65	0.04	0.39
Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	0.11	0.11	0.11
Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	0.45	0.03	0.26
Household Management for own final use	0.01	0.02	0.01
Pet care	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shopping for own household and family members	0.03	0.17	0.10
Travelling, moving, transporting, or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	0.07	0.12	0.09
Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Unpaid caregiving services for household and family members</b>			
Children and instruction	1.15	0.16	0.71
Care for dependent adults	0.03	0.01	0.02
Help to non-dependent adults' household and family members	0.02	0.01	0.01
Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	0.05	0.02	0.04
Other activities related caregiving services for household and family members	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Unpaid volunteer, trainee and other unpaid work</b>			
Unpaid direct volunteering for other households	0.08	0.04	0.06
Unpaid community- and organization-based volunteering	0.03	0.05	0.04
Unpaid trainee work activities	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Time Use Survey 2021 (Table Annex 03 converted to hours).

Table 6 reorganizes the detailed unpaid household activities by main function. For example, shopping is grouped under nutrition, assuming it primarily supports meal preparation. Pet care is grouped under housing, given its low time allocation.

The most time-consuming function is nutrition, with women spending 3.33 hours

per day (compared to 0.27 for men). This is followed by care (women 1.20 hours, men 0.18 hours), housing (women 0.77 hours, men 0.17 hours), clothing (women 0.45 hours, men 0.03 hours) and finally transport (women 0.12 hours, men 0.14 hours)-the only category where men slightly outpace women.

**TABLE 6:**  
**Average time spent by population aged 15+ (in hours per day) by sex on various unpaid activities (ICATUS 2-digit) by main function**

	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>NUTRITION</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>2.01</b>
Food and meals management and preparation	3.31	0.10	1.91
Shopping for own household and family members	0.03	0.17	0.10
<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.51</b>
Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	0.65	0.04	0.39
Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	0.11	0.11	0.11
Household Management for own final use	0.01	0.02	0.01
Pet care	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>CLOTHING</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.26</b>
Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	0.45	0.03	0.26
Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>CARE</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.74</b>
Children and instruction	1.15	0.16	0.71
Care for dependent adults	0.03	0.01	0.02
Help to non-dependent adults' household and family members	0.02	0.01	0.01
Other activities related caregiving services for household and family members	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.13</b>
Travelling, moving, transporting, or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	0.07	0.12	0.09
Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	0.05	0.02	0.04

Table 7 transforms these daily figures into annual hours multiplied by 365. For example, women spend approximately 1,219 hours annually on unpaid nutrition-related activities, compared to 99 hours for men. This analysis assumes that the TUS data, collected between January and April 2021, are representative of the full year. Ideally, time use data should be collected year-round to capture seasonal variations.<sup>4</sup>

The results confirm that women dedicate significantly more time to household production than men. For women, the top three unpaid activities annually are food preparation (1,208 hours), childcare (420 hours) and cleaning (237 hours). For men, the leading activities are shopping (62 hours), childcare (58 hours) and household-related transportation (51 hours). Women spend seven times as much time on childcare as men. Figure 2 illustrates the gender gaps across household activities.

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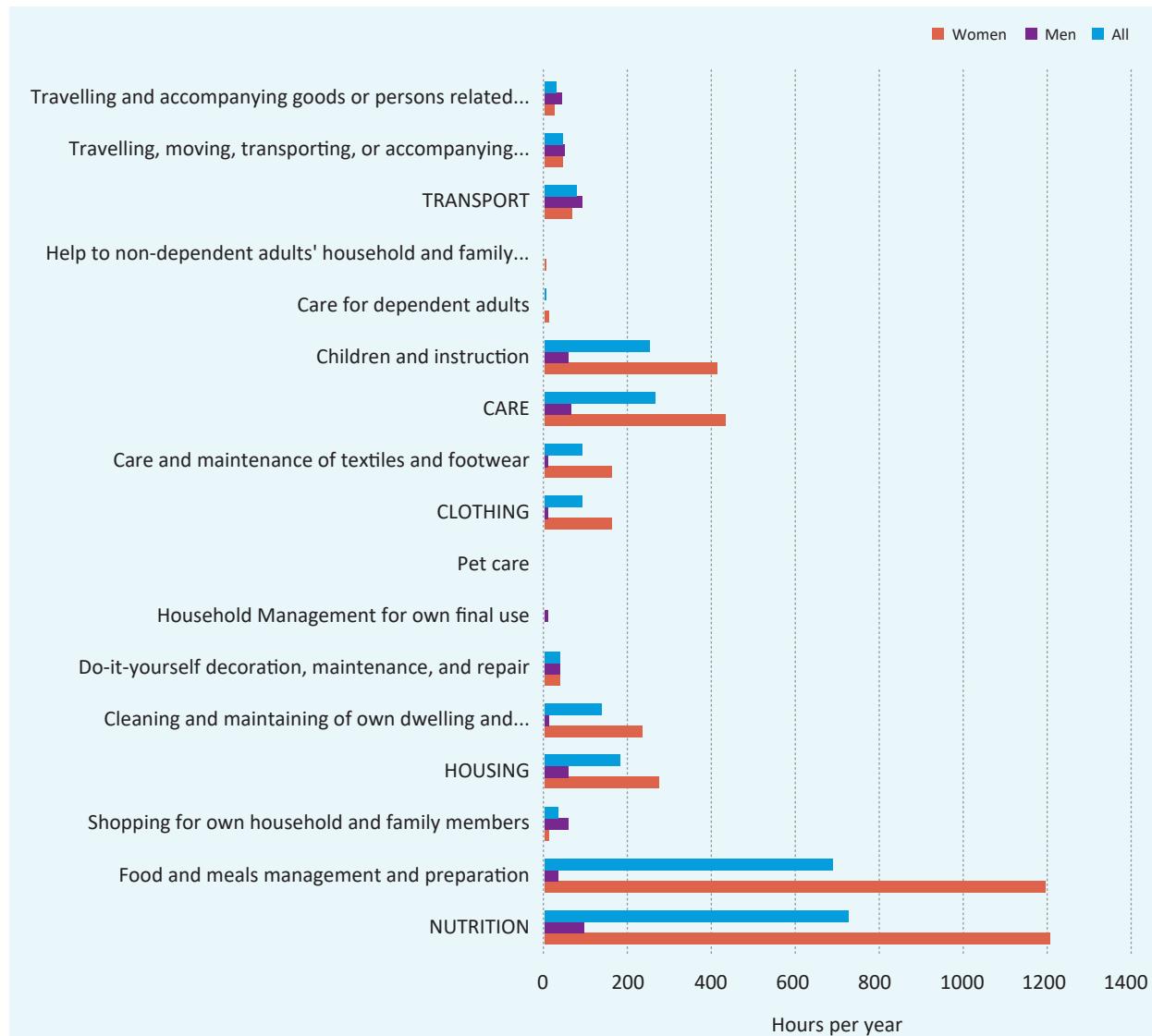
<sup>4</sup>See: [Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use 2024](#) (United Nations, 2024).



**TABLE 7:**

**Average annual time spent by population aged 15+ (in hours per person) on various unpaid household activities (ICATUS 2-digit), by main function and sex**

	Women	Men	All
<b>NUTRITION</b>	<b>1219</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>734</b>
Food and meals management and preparation	1208	37	<b>697</b>
Shopping for own household and family members	11	62	<b>37</b>
<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>186</b>
Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	237	15	<b>142</b>
Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	40	40	<b>40</b>
Household Management for own final use	4	7	<b>4</b>
Pet care	-	-	-
<b>CLOTHING</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>95</b>
Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	164	11	<b>95</b>
Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	-	-	
<b>CARE</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>270</b>
Children and instruction	420	58	<b>259</b>
Care for dependent adults	11	4	<b>7</b>
Help to non-dependent adults' households and family members	7	4	<b>4</b>
Other activities related caregiving services for household and family members	-	-	-
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>80</b>
Travelling, moving, transporting, or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	26	44	<b>47</b>
Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	18	7	<b>33</b>

**FIGURE 2:****Time spent annually on the various unpaid household activities, by sex**

Source: Based on Table 7.

### 3.3 Step 2: Application of population data to TUS data

The next step is to calculate the total number of hours dedicated annually to various unpaid care service activities by the working-age population.

Table 8 presents data from the Population and Housing Census 2022 by age group and sex for the working-age population (15 years and older). Figures for 2021, the year of the TUS, were derived by applying the intercensal

annual growth rate (2011-2022, adjusted rate: 1.12 per cent). In 2021, the population of women aged 15 and above was 59,785,280, while the same population of men was 56,684,296. The annual number of hours spent on various unpaid service work activities (as shown in Table 7) was multiplied by these respective population figures (Table 9). The resulting estimate shows that women performed over 129 billion hours of unpaid household service work, compared to 18 billion hours by men.

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**TABLE 8:****Population 2022 (population and housing census 2022) and retropopulation 2021**

<b>Age</b>	<b>2022</b>			<b>2021</b>		
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
15-19	8,070,324	8,496,183	16,566,507	7,971,866	8,392,530	16,364,396
20-24	6,721,933	8,270,435	14,992,368	6,639,925	8,169,536	14,809,461
25-29	6,463,632	7,915,247	14,378,879	6,384,776	7,818,681	14,203,457
30-34	5,658,888	6,461,182	12,120,070	5,589,850	6,382,356	11,972,205
35-39	6,040,644	6,678,177	12,718,821	5,966,948	6,596,703	12,563,651
40-44	5,120,981	4,919,331	10,040,312	5,058,505	4,859,315	9,917,820
45-49	4,129,672	4,135,750	8,265,422	4,079,290	4,085,294	8,164,584
50-54	4,001,575	3,783,876	7,785,451	3,952,756	3,737,713	7,690,468
55-59	2,955,275	2,776,006	5,731,281	2,919,221	2,742,139	5,661,359
60-64	3,013,689	2,588,189	5,601,878	2,976,922	2,556,613	5,533,535
65-69	2,153,315	1,773,812	3,927,127	2,127,045	1,752,171	3,879,216
70-74	1,569,573	1,262,246	2,831,819	1,550,424	1,246,847	2,797,271
75-79	672,131	555,110	1,227,241	663,931	548,338	1,212,269
80-84	455,872	477,325	933,197	450,310	471,502	921,812
85-89	173,302	180,761	354,063	171,188	178,556	349,743
90-94	117,686	159,486	277,172	116,250	157,540	273,791
95-99	57,098	75,807	132,905	56,401	74,882	131,284
100 & above	8,796	14,746	23,542	8,689	14,566	23,255
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,384,386</b>	<b>60,523,669</b>	<b>117,908,055</b>	<b>56,684,296</b>	<b>59,785,280</b>	<b>116,469,577</b>

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**TABLE 9:**

**Total annual number of hours spent by population by sex on various unpaid activities (ICATUS 2-digit) by main function**

	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>
<b>NUTRITION</b>	72,884,235,138.4	5,586,237,419.2
Food and meals management and preparation	72,229,586,319.8	2,068,976,821.9
Shopping for own household and family members	654,648,818.6	3,517,260,597.3
<b>HOUSING</b>	16,802,653,010.9	3,517,260,597.3
Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	14,184,057,736.5	827,590,728.8
Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	2,400,379,001.6	2,275,874,504.1
Household Management for own final use	218,216,272.9	413,795,364.4
Pet care	-	-
	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>
<b>CLOTHING</b>	9,819,732,279.1	620,693,046.6
Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	9,819,732,279.1	620,693,046.6
Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	-	-
<b>CARE</b>	26,185,952,744.3	3,724,158,279.4
Children and instruction	25,094,871,380.0	3,310,362,915.1
Care for dependent adults	654,648,818.6	206,897,682.2
Help to non-dependent adults' household and family members	436,432,545.7	206,897,682.2
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	4,146,109,184.5	5,379,339,737.0
Travelling, moving, transporting, or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	2,618,595,274.4	2,896,567,550.7
Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	1,527,513,910.1	2,482,772,186.3
<b>TOTAL UNPAID HOUSEHOLD SERVICE WORK</b>	<b>129,838,682,357.3</b>	<b>18,827,689,079.4</b>

The next step is to assign a monetary value to these hours. To do so, it is necessary to impute an appropriate wage rate for each household service.

### **3.4 Step 3: Determining wage rates to be imputed to the annual numbers of hours spent on unpaid household service work**

Among various data sources on wage rates, the LFS 2022 was selected for two primary reasons: i) it provides wage data classified in detail under the Bangladesh Standard Classification of Occupations (BSCO), and ii) it covers all forms of work, including both formal and informal sectors.

Average hourly wages were estimated by backcasting LFS and TUS data adjusted by the ratio of the wage rate index of 2021 and 2022 (the wage rate index tracks nominal wages of low-paid skilled and unskilled workers across various sectors).

The exercise relied heavily on value judgments from the technical team to address data gaps and methodological challenges, following guidance from the [UNECE Guide](#). Like many countries, Bangladesh faced contextual and structural difficulties in measuring unpaid labour and developing the satellite account.

Valuation decisions also involved subjective judgments. For instance, determining whether to use mean or median wages for female-dominated occupations was complicated by low sample sizes, which were too small in most cases. As a result, wage estimates were based on aggregated BSCO 2-digit data rather than the more detailed 4-digit level to maintain consistency of interpretation. The

first decision was whether wages reflected a gender gap for specialist occupations; the next consideration was the complexity of the task. Where the task was complex or data quality was uncertain, the specialist method was used to avoid undervaluation of the task. Since wages in the LFS are reported monthly, conversion to hourly values was required.

Therefore, the estimations are to be interpreted with caution and should not be taken as definitive, since how society perceives and values unpaid domestic and care work might differ from the current estimates depicted through this exercise.

Table 10 presents the hourly wages of workers in a variety of occupations in ascending order of the BSCO 2-digit code and shows that teaching and health professionals have the highest earnings, at BDT 102 and BDT 85 per hour, respectively. 'Personal service workers' and 'cleaners and helpers' with BDT 36 and BDT 34 per hour, respectively, can be taken as the proxy for the generalist wage of the replacement cost approach. The table also shows the very pronounced gender pay gap, especially between the teaching sector and the aforementioned occupations, with the health and 'personal care' sector being dominated by women (with no reported wages for men). Moreover, men consistently earn higher wages than women across all occupations, with the widest gender pay gap observed among teaching professionals (14 per cent).

**TABLE 10:****Average monthly and hourly wage (in BDT), by sex and occupation, LFS 2022**

BSCO 2-digit code	Occupation	Monthly wage (in BDT)		Hourly wage (in BDT)	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
13	Production and Specialized Services Managers	-	-	-	-
14	Hospitality, Retail and Other Services Managers	-	22,500	-	101
22	Health Professionals	16,230	-	85	-
23	Teaching Professionals	16,250	18,500	102	116
24	Business and Administration Professionals	-	-	-	-
26	Legal, Social and Cultural Professionals	-	-	-	-
33	Business and Administration Associate Professionals	-	9,000	-	45
34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals	-	-	-	-
41	General and Keyboard Clerks	-	18,424	-	99
43	Numerical and Material Recording Clerks	-	18,250	-	82
51	Personal Service Workers	6,500	11,000	36	49
52	Sales Workers	-	-	-	-
53	Personal Care Workers	7,320	-	40	-
71	Building and Related Trades Workers, Excluding Electricians	-	12,000	-	62
72	Metal, Machinery and Related Trades Workers	-	12,000	-	55
73	Handicraft and Printing Workers	7,312	9,000	36	38
74	Electrical and Electronics Trades Workers	-	12,000	-	64
75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Craft and Related Trades Workers	10,750	12,500	46	56
81	Stationary Plant and Machine Operators	-	-	-	-
83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators	-	12,000	-	54
91	Cleaners and Helpers	5,500	9,000	34	43
93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	-	10,000	-	50
94	Food Preparation Assistants	-	-	-	-
96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	-	11,000	-	53

Note: Occupations with codes 51 and 91 are generalist jobs. The occupations with no monthly and hourly wages did not fulfil the 3 criteria mentioned in sub-section 3.4.2

As described in Section 2, the valuation relies on the input approach, specifically the replacement cost method, applying generalist, specialist and hybrid wage rates. The generalist approach yields a lower-bound

estimate; the specialist approach reflects the upper bound. Combining the two, the hybrid estimate serves as the final estimate for international comparison.

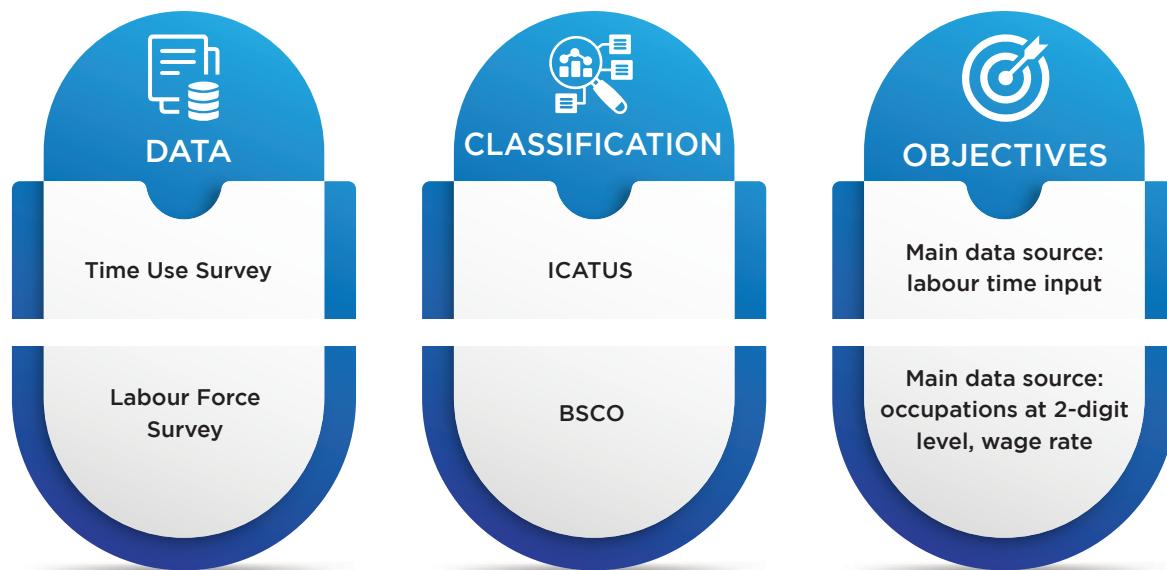
Because wages are classified according to BSCO, it was necessary to establish correspondences between ICATUS and BSCO (see Table 11).

### 3.4.1 Mapping (ICATUS with BSCO)

The mapping process followed nationally and internationally recognized (Statistics Canada, 2022) classification standards. BBS conducted the TUS 2021 using household

questionnaires and time diaries aligned with ICATUS 2016, ensuring comparability across countries. The LFS is based on ISCO 2008 and mapped using BSCO 2020, which provides detailed occupational categories and allows robust analysis of labour trends. This step involved linking TUS activity codes with corresponding BSCO occupations and assigning average hourly wages to each occupation.

**FIGURE 3:**  
**Data sources and objectives**



**Population coverage:** Aged 15 years and above

**Scope of household activities:** Nutrition, housing, clothing, care and transport

**Approach:** Input Approach-Replacement Cost Method

Table 11 shows the various occupations (according to BSCO) that have been included in the mapping of ICATUS activities. Further details of the mapping exercise are given in Table A1 of the Annex.

**TABLE 11:**  
**Table of correspondence between ICATUS and BSCO (at 2-digit)**

ICATUS Code	ICATUS Description	BSCO Code	Occupation
31	Food and meals management and preparation	34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals
		43	Numerical and Material Recording Clerks
		51	Personal Service Workers
		52	Sales Workers
		75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Craft and Related Trades Workers
		91	Cleaners and Helpers
		94	Food Preparation Assistants
		51	Personal Service Workers
		91	Cleaners and Helpers
32	Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surrounding	96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers
		71	Building and Related Trades Workers, Excluding Electricians
		72	Metal, Machinery and Related Trades Workers
		74	Electrical and Electronics Trades Workers
		75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Craft and Related Trades Workers
33	Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport
		73	Handicraft and Printing Workers
		75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Craft and Related Trades Workers
		81	Stationary Plant and Machine Operators
		91	Cleaners and Helpers
34	Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	33	Business and Administration Associate Professionals
		41	General and Keyboard Clerks
		43	Numerical and Material Recording Clerks
		83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers
36	Pet care	51	Personal Service Workers

<b>ICATUS Code</b>	<b>ICATUS Description</b>	<b>BSCO Code</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
37	Shopping for own household and family members	14	Hospitality, Retail and Other Services Managers
		33	Business and Administration Associate Professionals
		51	Personal Service Workers
		91	Cleaners and Helpers
38	Travelling, moving, transporting or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	51	Personal Service Workers
		83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers
41	Childcare and Instruction	13	Production and Specialized Services Managers
		22	Health Professionals
		23	Teaching Professionals
		34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals
		53	Personal Care Workers
42	Care for dependent adults	13	Production and Specialized Services Managers
		22	Health Professionals
		24	Business and Administration Professionals
		26	Legal, Social and Cultural Professionals
		34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals
		41	General and Keyboard Clerks
		53	Personal Care Workers
43	Help to non-dependent adults' household members	26	Legal, Social and Cultural Professionals
		53	Personal Care Workers
44	Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household members	41	General and Keyboard Clerks
		51	Personal Service Workers
		53	Personal Care Workers
		83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers
49	Other activities related to unpaid caregiving services for household members	51	Personal Service Workers
		91	Cleaners and Helpers

### **3.4.2 Mean versus median wage comparison**

While both mean and median wages represent average earning figures, the key difference lies in how they are calculated. The mean wage is determined by dividing the total sum of wages by the number of workers, while the median wage represents the midpoint where half of the workers earn more and half earn less. The median is less susceptible to distortion by extremely high or low wages and provides a clearer picture of typical earnings in contexts with significant income disparities.

During valuation and mapping using ICATUS and BSCO, sample sizes at the BSCO 4-digit level were not representative across all occupations. As a result, BSCO 2-digit codes were used instead. At this level, the data encompass a mix of generalist and specialist jobs. Two criteria were imposed during mapping: a) each occupation needed a minimum of 25 observations, which is the conventional threshold for sufficiently large samples in each quarterly LFS dataset at the BSCO level; and b) if there were more than 25 observations, the distribution was tested for normality; where the distribution was not normal, the median wage was used instead of the mean. A third criterion was also necessitated during the estimation of average hourly wages by occupation and sex, whereby an occupation group must have at least two (2) quarterly data points to control for labour seasonality (the median was used since the quarterly data consists of a mix of mean and median values, and quarters with missing data were excluded from the calculation).

### **3.4.3 Hourly wages**

Men generally earn higher wages than women do across a range of activities, with some showing pronounced gender wage gaps. In

certain areas, such as household management for own final use, women's wages are more closely aligned with men's. Applying the generalist replacement cost approach (using the average for generalist occupations, i.e. personal service workers under BSCO code 51 and cleaners and helpers under BSCO code 91), wages were estimated at BDT 43 per hour for men and BDT 33 per hour for women.

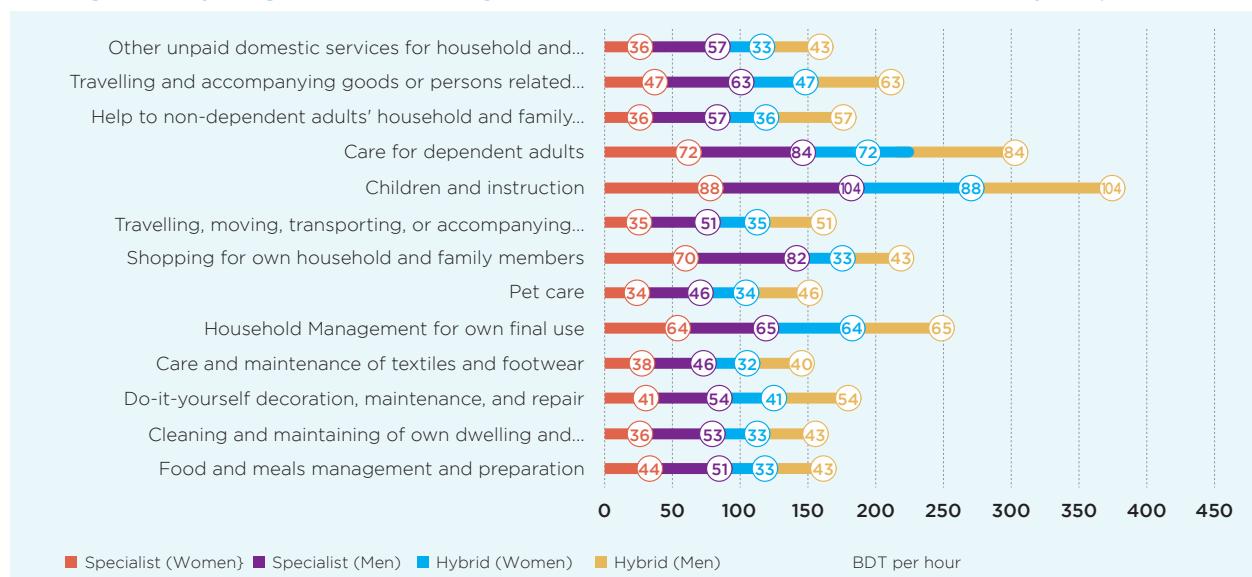
LFS data were processed to estimate hourly wages by household service activity, skill level and enterprise type (market or non-market). Following this, the team evaluated and reconciled multiple data sources (HIES 2022, National Pay Scale 2015 and wage rate indices 2021 and 2022) to compile the satellite account in accordance with international standards and frameworks. All data processing steps were documented for current use and future reference.

In some cases, the estimated hourly wage for specific occupations was unreasonably low, prompting extended review and discussion. It was noted that the LFS in Bangladesh records weekly working hours rather than monthly working days, and wage data are self-reported. In addition, small sample sizes at the 4-digit level prevented systematic use of specialist wages for both women and men. This could have introduced a data-driven systemic bias, with women assigned generalist wages (e.g., for domestic workers) and men assigned specialist wages for the same tasks. For example, the generalist wage for domestic cleaners (BSCO 91) was only BDT 32 (USD 0.38) [see Table A2 in the Annex], which would have been too low when applied to other occupations. Sample size limitations also affected roles such as domestic helpers (BSCO 51). To address these constraints, it was agreed to use aggregated wages at the BSCO 2-digit level. Details of the backcasting process using the 2021/2022 wage rate indices and occupations and replacement wages under each approach are shown in Tables A2-A5 in the Annex.

**TABLE 12:**

**Hourly wage rate (in BDT) by main function according to the generalist, the specialist and the hybrid replacement cost approach**

In BDT	Generalist		Specialist		Hybrid	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
<b>NUTRITION</b>						
Food and meals management and preparation	33	43	44	51	33	43
Shopping for own household and family members	33	43	70	82	33	43
<b>HOUSING</b>						
Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	33	43	36	53	33	43
Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	33	43	41	54	41	54
In BDT	Generalist		Specialist		Hybrid	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Household management for own final use	33	43	64	65	64	65
Pet care	33	43	34	46	34	46
<b>CLOTHING</b>						
Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	33	43	38	46	32	40
Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	33	43	36	57	33	43
<b>CARE</b>						
Children and instruction	33	43	83	104	88	104
Care for dependent adults	33	43	72	84	72	84
Help to non-dependent adults' household and family members	33	43	36	57	36	57
<b>TRANSPORT</b>						
Travelling, moving, transporting, or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	33	43	35	51	47	63
Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	33	43	47	63	33	43

**FIGURE 4:****Average hourly wages in BDT of unpaid domestic and care work activities by sex, 2021**

Source: Based on Table 12

#### 3.4.4 Average wage rates for both sexes

The use of sex-disaggregated wages in satellite accounts raises two concerns:

1. Why should gender disparities in labour market earnings be reproduced in a national accounting framework that is typically gender-neutral and based on average wages by occupation or industry, regardless of gender distribution?
2. Labour transferred from households to the market will likely reflect the gender composition of paid workers, not unpaid household labour.

Therefore, it may be appropriate to complement disaggregated estimates with a weighted average wage rate that reflects both women and men.

#### 3.5 Step 4: Apply wage rate to total hours by time use activity for the total population

For the generalist replacement cost approach, all unpaid service activities are valued using

an average wage rate of BDT 33 for women and BDT 43 for men, corresponding to the average wages of 'personal service workers' (BSCO 51) and 'cleaners and helpers' (BSCO 91). These results are shown in Table A3 in the Annex.

For the specialist replacement cost approach (Table A4 in the Annex), the wage rates applied are those indicated in Table 12, derived from average wages for BSCO occupations at the 2-digit level (Table 10).

The hybrid approach to the replacement cost method consists of applying the wages corresponding to the category of workers that best fit the related unpaid service activity. As delineated in Table 13 below, specialist wage rates are used for all unpaid service activities except for 'food and meals management,' 'cleaning and maintenance of own dwellings and surroundings,' 'shopping for own household and family members' and 'other activities related to unpaid caregiving services,' for which the generalist wage rates are applied.

It is interesting to note that unpaid domestic services are valued lower than unpaid care services per the hybrid method. The hybrid approach mainly uses the wages of generalist occupations to value domestic activities. For example, the two main time-consuming domestic activities- 'food and meals management' and 'cleaning and maintenance of own dwellings and surroundings'- are valued using the wages of 'personal service workers' (BDT 36 per hour for women and BDT 49 per hour for men) and 'cleaners and helpers' (BDT 34 per hour for women and BDT 43 for men)- the generalist approach.

These two levels of earnings are considerably lower than the wages for all occupations (Table 10). In Bangladesh, cleaners and helpers and personal service workers are the least rewarded categories of occupations (as evident by the reported wages in the LFS 2022).

Alternatively, care activities are valued using higher-level wages, such as those of teachers (BDT 102 per hour for women and BDT 116 per hour for men). Such results advocate for more detailed statistics on wages at the occupation level.



**TABLE 13:**  
**Valuation of unpaid work (hybrid replacement cost) in 2021**

	Total number of hours		Hourly wage		Total value of unpaid work (in million taka)		
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	All
<b>NUTRITION</b>	<b>72,884,235,138.4</b>	<b>5,586,237,419.2</b>			<b>2,413,411.5</b>	<b>241,102.4</b>	<b>2,654,513.9</b>
Food and meals management and preparation	72,229,586,319.8	2,068,976,821.9	33	43	2,391,734.1	89,297.2	2,481,031.3
Shopping for own household and family members	654,648,818.6	3,517,260,597.3	33	43	21,677.3	151,805.2	173,482.6
<b>HOUSING</b>	<b>16,802,653,010.9</b>	<b>3,517,260,597.3</b>			<b>581,006.6</b>	<b>185,919.0</b>	<b>766,925.6</b>
Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	14,184,057,736.5	827,590,728.8	33	43	469,675.9	35,718.9	505,394.8
Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	2,400,379,001.6	2,275,874,504.1	41	54	97,423.9	123,152.9	220,576.9
Household Management for own final use	218,216,272.9	413,795,364.4	64	65	13,906.8	27,047.2	40,954.0
Pet care	-	-	34	46	-	-	-
<b>CLOTHING</b>	<b>9,819,732,279.1</b>	<b>620,693,046.6</b>			<b>315,128.0</b>	<b>24,750.0</b>	<b>339,878.0</b>
Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	9,819,732,279.1	620,693,046.6	32	40	315,128.0	24,750.0	339,878.0
Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	-	-	33	43	-	-	-
<b>CARE</b>	<b>26,185,952,744.3</b>	<b>3,724,158,279.4</b>			<b>2,281,889.7</b>	<b>372,429.1</b>	<b>2,654,318.8</b>
Children and instruction	25,094,871,380.0	3,310,362,915.1	88	104	2,218,864.1	343,210.8	2,562,074.9
Care for dependent adults	654,648,818.6	206,897,682.2	72	84	47,321.1	17,414.3	64,735.3
Help to non-dependent adults' household and family members	436,432,545.7	206,897,682.2	36	57	15,704.6	11,804.0	27,508.5
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>2,618,595,274.4</b>	<b>2,896,567,550.7</b>			<b>105,514.1</b>	<b>151,973.4</b>	<b>257,487.5</b>
Travelling, moving, transporting, or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	1,527,513,910.1	2,482,772,186.3	35	51	53,718.4	125,823.0	179,541.5
Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	1,091,081,364.3	413,795,364.4	47	63	51,795.7	26,150.4	77,946.1
<b>TOTAL UNPAID HOUSEHOLD WORK</b>	<b>128,311,168,447.2</b>	<b>16,344,916,893.1</b>			<b>5,696,949.9</b>	<b>976,173.9</b>	<b>6,673,123.8</b>

# 4

# CHAPTER

## Considerations and Limitations

Several independent studies have attempted to quantify the economic value of unpaid work in Bangladesh. A 2015 study by Khatun et al. used the replacement cost approach and estimated that unpaid work accounted for 76.8 per cent of GDP in FY2013-14. Earlier, Hamid (1989) explored methodological concerns in valuing women's non-market labour using Margaret Reid's (1934) 'third-person criterion' and found that women's subsistence activities were worth around 11 per cent of GDP in 1983/84. Efroymson, Biswas, and Ruma (2007) applied three valuation methods: applying the daily wage of a general labourer for most activities, while assigning the earnings of professionals such as nurses or tutors—and estimated income from tailoring—for more specialized tasks; adopting a fixed wage rate of 200 taka per person per month for cooking one meal a day, and generalized to estimate the value of 45 other activities; and using an average government salary (specifically a mid-level wage of 10,000 taka per month). Their results estimated the value of women's unpaid labour between USD 69.8 billion, USD 81.93 billion and USD 91.0 billion, per respective method. More recently, Sen et al. (2024) used a generalist replacement cost method to estimate women's unpaid work at BDT 5,307 billion-14.8 per cent of GDP-compared to just 2.8 per cent for men.

This report contributes to the growing literature on valuating the economic contribution of unpaid work in Bangladesh and outlines the key considerations and limitations encountered in developing the HPSA in this section.

## 4.1 Use of current GDP

Throughout the process, it was necessary to adapt to limited data availability by year and sample size and broader contextual factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic and pre-

existing data limitations. Wage data from 2021 were not adjusted for inflation, and since the estimation pertains to a single year and does not require temporal comparisons, the current GDP was used rather than the constant GDP.

## 4.2 Data collection for TUS during the COVID-19 pandemic

The TUS 2021 was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Bangladesh was still grappling with restrictions and a public health crisis that began in 2020. The pandemic posed significant challenges to data collection and reliability. It also had a clear and substantial impact on time-use patterns. Government-imposed lockdowns, combined with the longest closure of schools (17 months), health and social services, led to a notable increase in unpaid household work and caregiving, as more people remained at home. Survey results may have reflected this shift in the time spent on various activities during this period. In addition, simultaneous activities—such as preparing meals while caring for children—were not reported separately in time-use estimates. Further, the data collection period was shortened to three months, whereas standard TUS implementation typically spans a full year to capture seasonal variations.<sup>5</sup>

## 4.3 Selection of wages and estimates

Assigning monetary value to unpaid household activities is inherently complex, as these services are not exchanged in formal markets and often produce intangible outputs. Measurement challenges include accounting for multitasking, for example, cooking while supervising a child and helping another with homework, and distinguishing

<sup>5</sup>See: *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use 2024* (United Nations, 2024).

household service work from leisure. For instance, some people view gardening as a chore, while others consider it leisure.

Due to small sample sizes at the 4-digit BSCO level, the analysis used 2-digit codes, which include a mix of generalist and specialist roles. Data from the HIES 2022 and the National Pay Scale 2015 for public officials were reviewed at the wage estimation stage, but ultimately not used. This is because the HIES occupation codes were not aligned with BCSO codes, and the National Pay Scale did not allow for sex-disaggregated wage estimations. Average hourly wages were estimated by backcasting LFS and TUS data using the wage rate index. Three criteria guided the mapping:

- a) Occupations required at least 25 observations
- b) If that threshold was met, the normality of the distribution was assessed. Where distributions were not normal, the median wage was used instead of the mean, and
- c) An occupation group must have at least two (2) quarterly data points to control for labour seasonality; the median is used since the quarterly data consists of a mix of mean and median values, and quarters with missing data are excluded from the calculation.

#### **4.4 Data gaps in the LFS**

The current LFS includes very few women in certain occupational categories, resulting in a lack of wage data disaggregated by sex. It also records working hours for self-employed individuals but not income, and includes only two wage-relevant questions: one on the periodicity of payments (daily, weekly, monthly, or other) and another on the amount earned in the last month, which

complicates hourly wage estimation. Future rounds will need to include own-account workers' earnings data, hourly wage rates and ensure year-round implementation of the LFS.

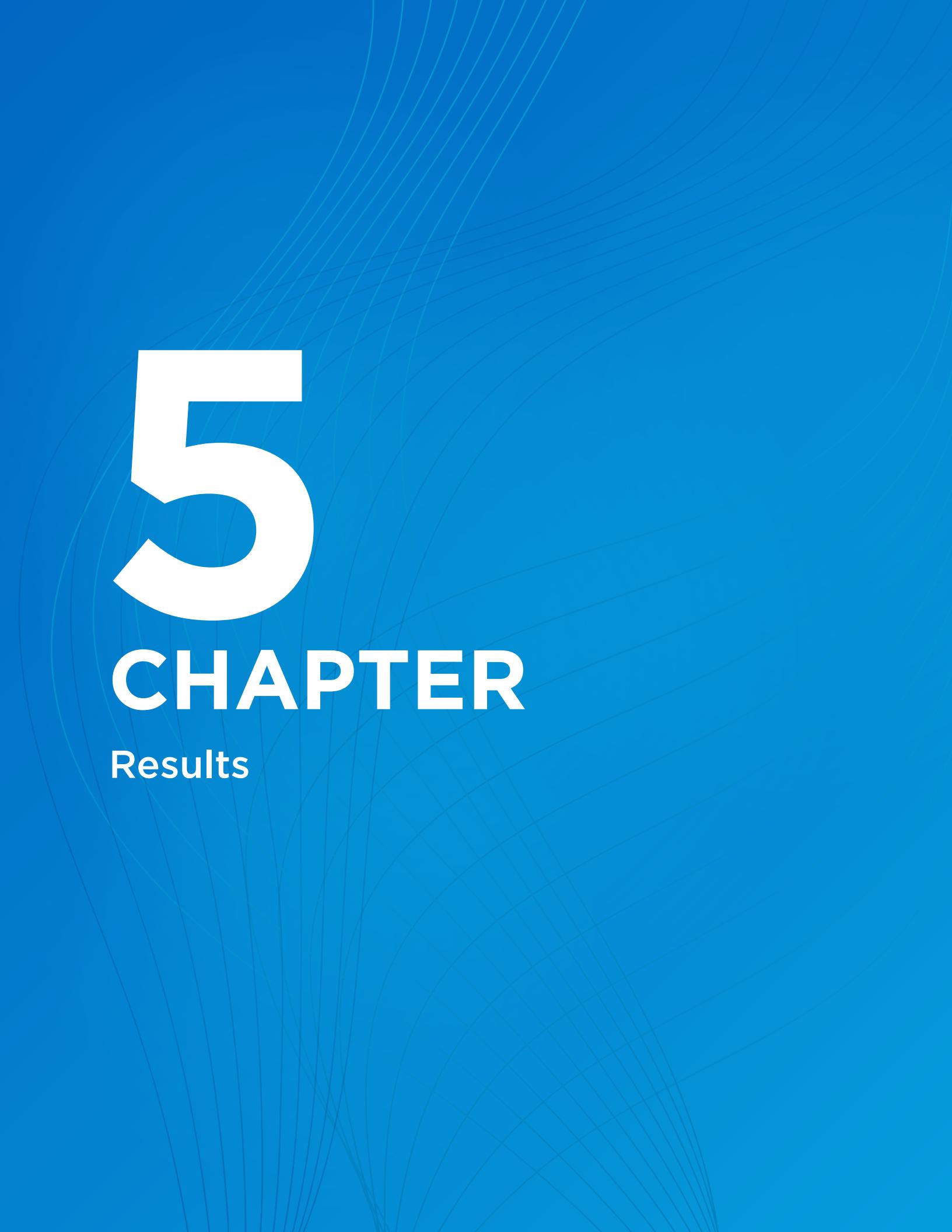
With no alternative wage sources for women, the team applied the aforementioned estimation criteria. The sample size for generalist occupations was particularly limited, requiring aggregation at the 2-digit level. The hybrid wage approach, combining generalist and specialist wages, helped address gender-related data gaps in valuation.

#### **4.5 Supply Use Table (SUT) framework**

The most recent Supply Use Table (SUT) available for Bangladesh is from 2011, and data on capital asset consumption are also scarce. Given these limitations, the current satellite account focuses on estimating unpaid domestic and care work in terms of labour input only. SUT data will be required for Phase II of HPSA development. However, using a 2011 SUT creates estimation challenges, as the Bangladesh economy has changed significantly over the past decade. Best practice recommends SUT data that is no more than five years old.

Average hourly wages were estimated by backcasting LFS data using the wage rate index, which tracks nominal wages of low-paid skilled and unskilled workers in 44 occupations, based on gross wages and salaries (base year 2010-11). Remaining components of the satellite account will be developed as new data become available.





# 5

# CHAPTER

## Results

The HPSA results confirmed that women bear the greatest share of unpaid and unevenly distributed domestic and care work. The economic valuation of women's unpaid labour has significant implications for policymaking and public investment to support equitable redistribution and promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment across Bangladesh.

Tables 14, 15 and 16 summarize the aggregated results for the three valuation approaches, disaggregated by main function and sex.

## 5.1 Generalist replacement cost method

Using the generalist replacement cost method (Table 14), total unpaid work stood at BDT 4,954 billion, representing 14.03 per cent of 2021 GDP and 12.31 per cent of extended GDP.<sup>6</sup> This represents the lower bound estimate. Women's unpaid work was six times greater than men's, accounting for 85.76 per cent of the total, compared to 14.24 per cent by men.

**TABLE 14:**  
**Value of unpaid work by sex and by main function of household production (generalist method)**

	Total value of unpaid work (in billion BDT)		
	Women	Men	All
Nutrition	2,413	241	2,655
Housing	556	152	708
Clothing	325	27	352
Care	867	161	1,028
Transport	87	125	212
Total unpaid domestic and care work	4,249	705	4,954
% share of unpaid domestic and care work	85.76%	14.24%	100.00%
% GDP (at current price 2021)	12.04%	2.00%	14.03%
% extended GDP (at current price 2021)	10.55%	1.75%	12.31%

*Note: Detailed values of the main functions are given in Table A5. Values may not add up due to rounding off.*

## 5.2 Specialist replacement cost method

Using the specialist replacement cost method (Table 15), unpaid household service work

totalled around BDT 7,725 billion, equivalent to 21.88 per cent of GDP and 17.95 per cent of extended GDP, with women's share at 85.21 per cent. This represents the upper bound estimate.

<sup>6</sup>GDP in this case refers to current GDP at 2021 prices (FY2020-2021), and extended GDP refers to current GDP plus the value of unpaid domestic and care work

**TABLE 15:****Value of unpaid work by sex and by main function of household production (specialist method)**

	<b>Total value of unpaid work (in billion BDT)</b>		
	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>All</b>
Nutrition	3,198	396	3,593
Housing	628	194	822
Clothing	370	28	398
Care	2,282	372	2,654
Transport	106	152	257
Total unpaid household work	6,583	1,142	7,725
% share of unpaid domestic and care work	85.21%	14.79%	100.00%
% GDP (at current price 2021)	18.65%	3.24%	21.88%
% extended GDP (at current price 2021)	15.30%	2.66%	17.95%

Note: Detailed values of the main functions are given in Table A6. Values may not add up due to rounding off.

### 5.3 Hybrid replacement cost method

The intermediate estimate, considered the final estimate for international comparison purposes, is produced using the hybrid replacement cost method (Table 16). Unpaid

domestic and care work amounts to about BDT 6,673 billion in 2021, and represents 18.9 per cent of GDP and 15.9 per cent of extended GDP—with women contributing 85.37 per cent of the total.

**TABLE 16:****Value of unpaid work by sex and by main function of household production (hybrid method)**

	<b>Total value of unpaid work (in billion BDT)</b>		
	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>All</b>
Nutrition	2,413	241	2,655
Housing	581	186	767
Clothing	315	25	340
Care	2,282	372	2,654
Transport	106	152	257
Total unpaid household work	5,697	976	6,673
% share of unpaid domestic and care work	85.37%	14.63%	100.00%
% GDP (at current price 2021)	16.14%	2.77%	18.90%
% extended GDP (at current price 2021)	13.57%	2.33%	15.90%

Note: Detailed values of the main functions are given in Table 13. Values may not add up due to rounding off.

The value of women's unpaid work in Bangladesh was approximately 12.04 to 18.65 per cent of GDP in 2021 at current prices. This is significantly higher than that of men, which stood at 2.00 to 3.24 per cent of GDP in the

same year. The overall value of unpaid work by all people, without sex disaggregation, is about 14.03 to 21.88 per cent of Bangladesh's GDP in 2021.

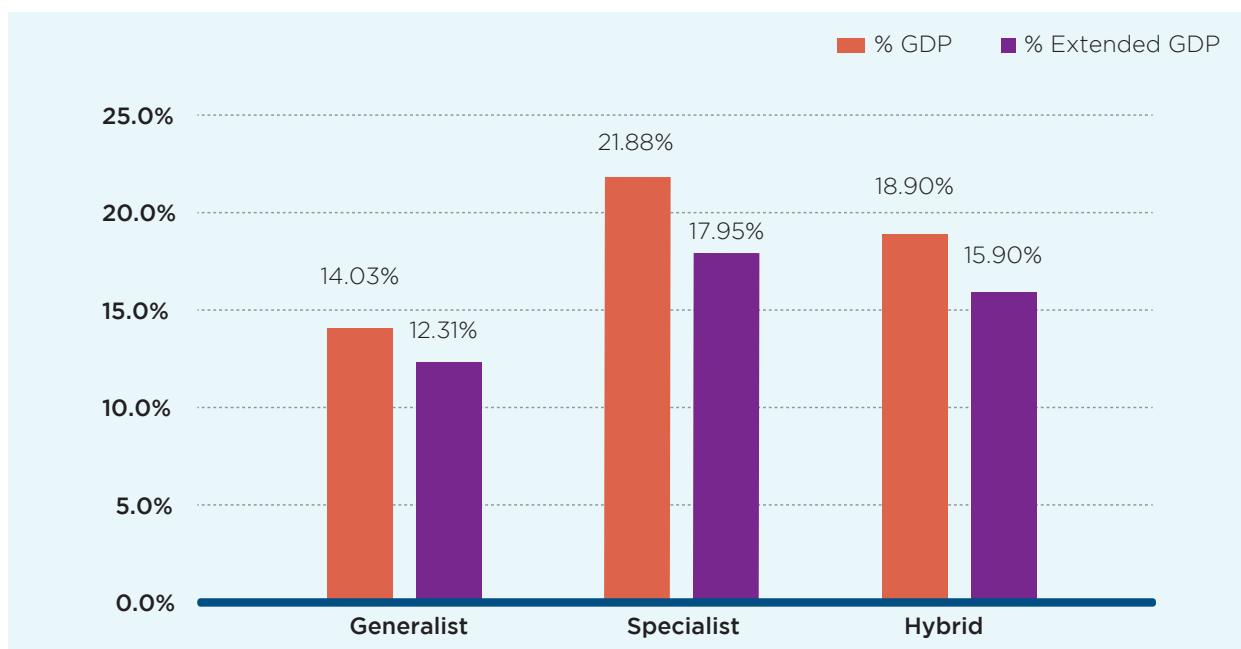
Women's unpaid work is primarily driven by activities such as food preparation, childcare and cleaning, amounting to between BDT 3.7 trillion and 5.9 trillion. Men's contributions largely come from tasks such as shopping, transportation and childcare, amounting to between BDT 401 billion and 758 billion in 2021. Women's total unpaid work amounted

to between BDT 4.3 trillion and 6.6 trillion, compared to men's BDT 705 billion and 1.1 trillion in 2021 (Tables A6 and A7 in the Annex).

Figure 5 summarizes the findings in terms of share of GDP and extended GDP, with lower and upper bounds, and Figure 6 displays the findings disaggregated by sex.

**FIGURE 5:**

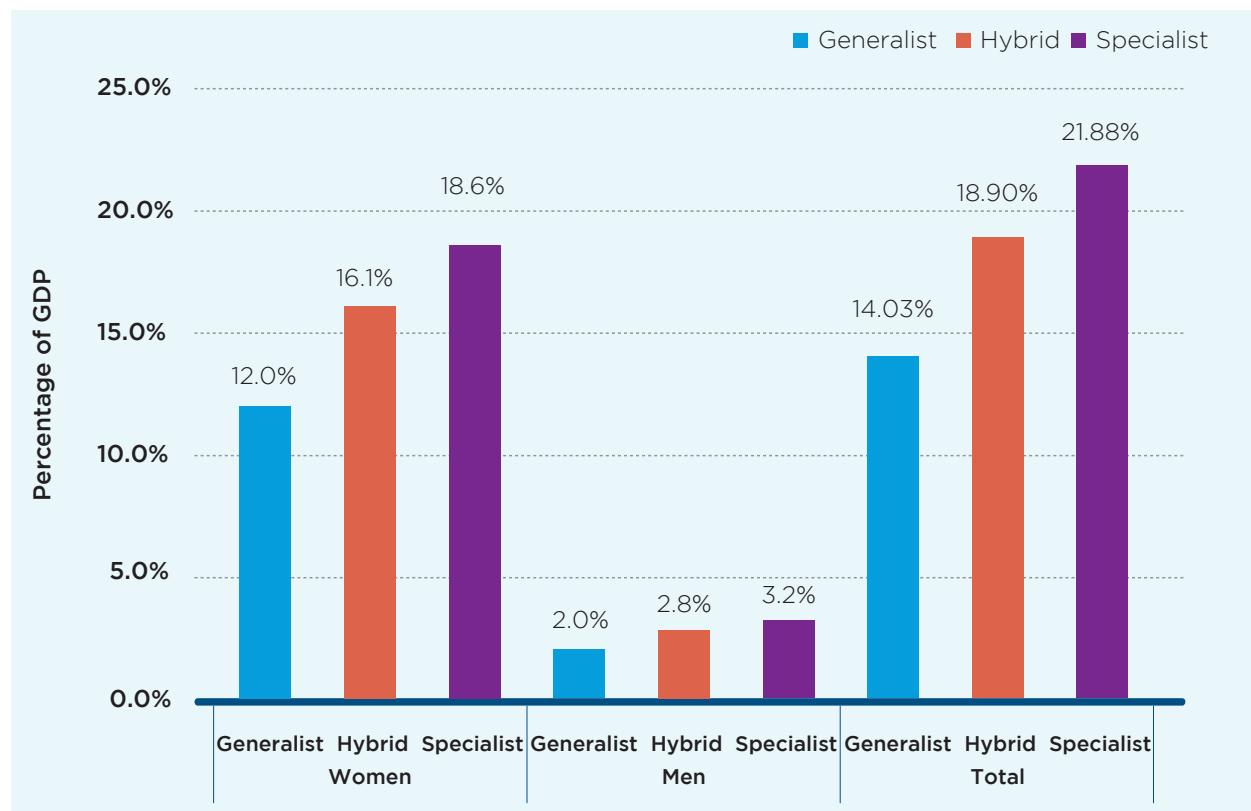
**Shares of unpaid work as a percentage of GDP according to methods of valuation**



Source: Tables 14, 15 and 16.

**FIGURE 6:**

**Shares of unpaid work as a percentage of GDP according to methods of valuation, by sex**



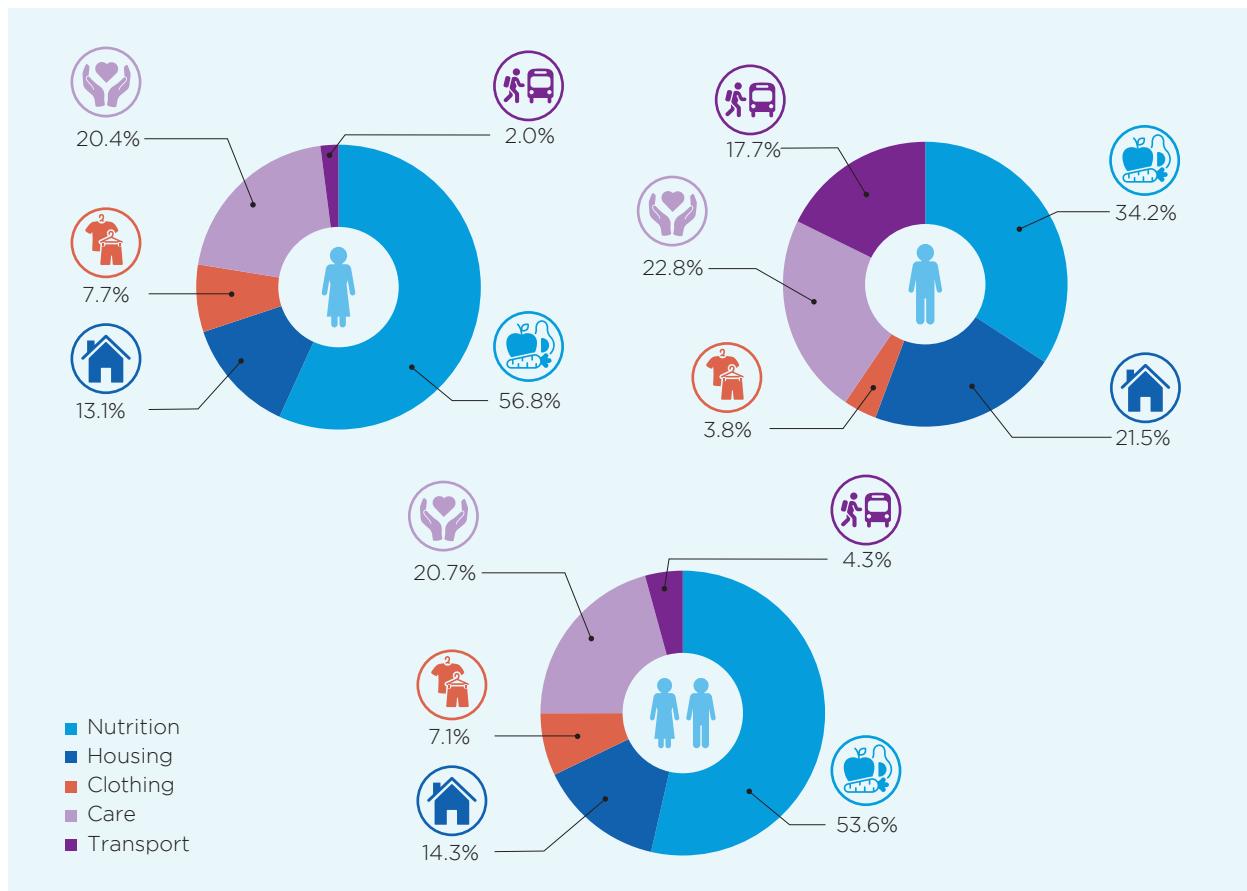
Figures 7, 8 and 9 display the shares of the main functions of unpaid household service work for women, men and both sexes, respectively, using the generalist, specialist and

hybrid replacement cost methods. In all three approaches, nutrition and care represent the largest shares for both women and men, with nutrition surpassing care.

Figure 7 shows the results of the generalist approach, with nutrition accounting for the largest share of both women's (56.8 per cent) and men's (34.2 per cent) contributions, with

women's share exceeding that of men's. For men, care represents a higher share (22.8 per cent) than for women (20.4 per cent).

**FIGURE 7:**  
**Percentage distribution of the value of unpaid work, by main function and sex (generalist approach)**

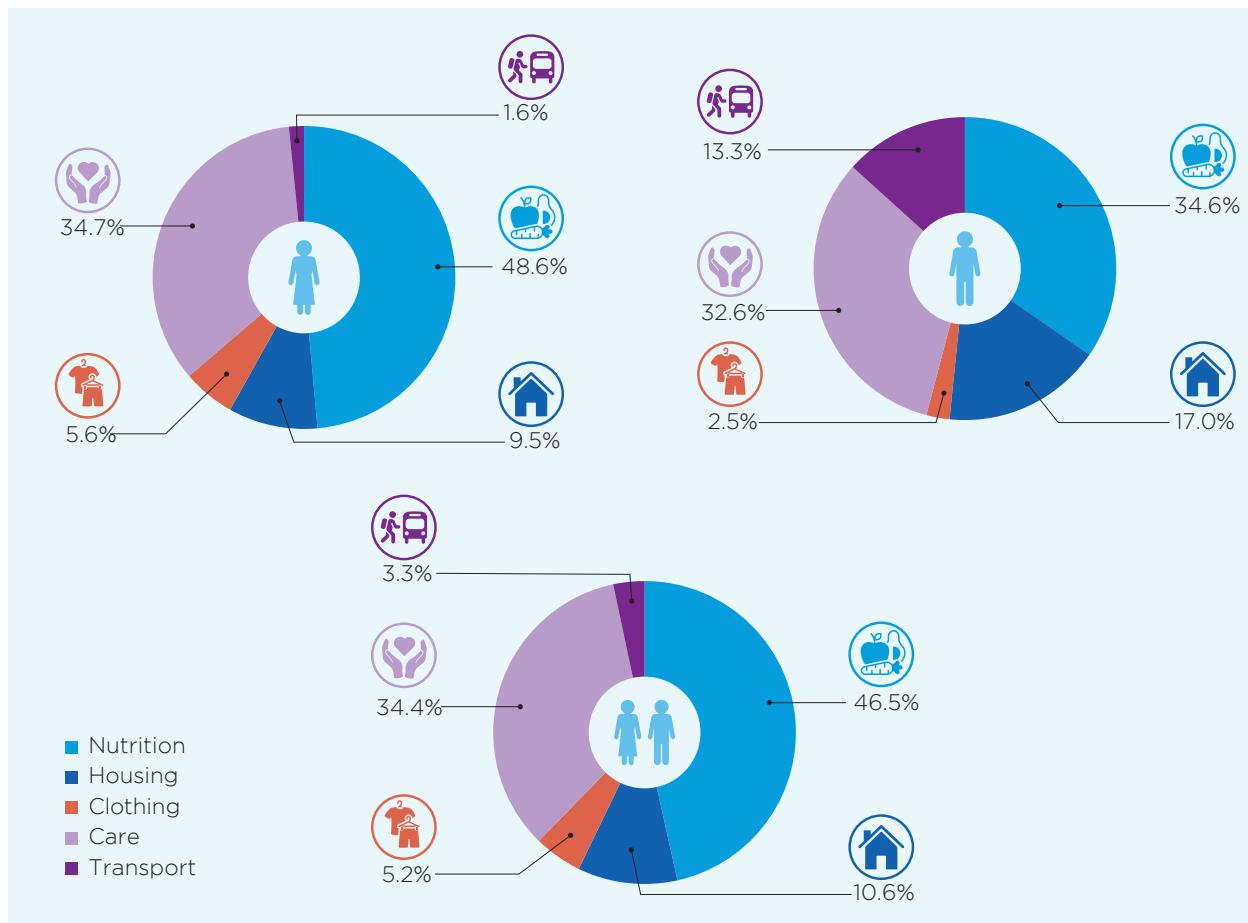


Source: Based on Table 14

As per the results of the specialist approach depicted in Figure 8, the share of nutrition surpasses that of care for both women (48.6 per cent versus 34.7 per cent, respectively)

and men (34.6 per cent versus 32.6 per cent, respectively). In both cases, women's share exceeds that of men's.

**FIGURE 8:**  
**Percentage distribution of the value of unpaid work, by main function and sex (specialist approach)**

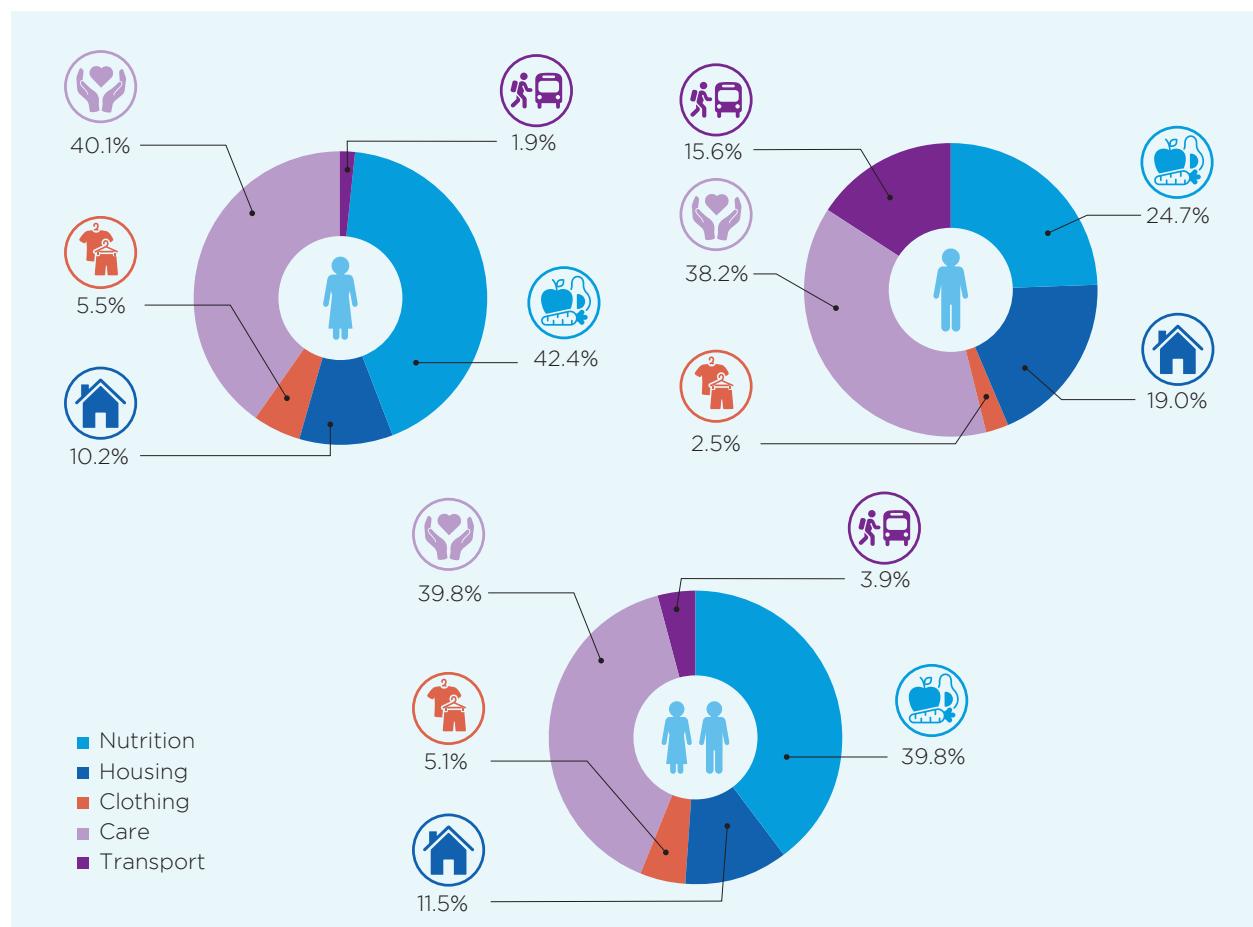


Source: Based on Table 15

Figure 9 highlights the results of the hybrid approach- the final recommended estimates from the exercise. For women, the shares of nutrition and care to the total value of their unpaid work are nearly equal (42.4 per cent and 40.1 per cent, respectively). Care accounts

for the largest share of men's contribution (38.2 per cent), followed by nutrition (24.7 per cent) and housing (19 per cent). Women's contribution to nutrition and care surpasses that of men's.

**FIGURE 9:**  
**Percentage distribution of the value of unpaid work, by main function and sex (hybrid approach)**



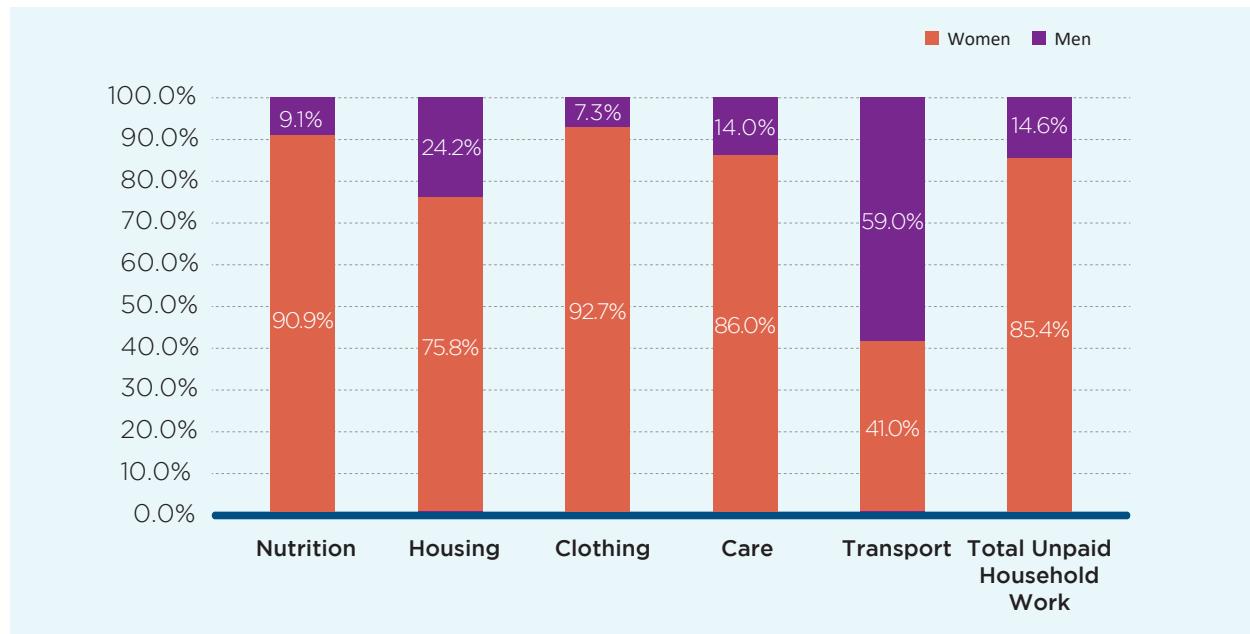
Source: Based on Table 16

The gendered distribution of unpaid domestic and care work by the main function of household production, under the hybrid approach, is shown in Figure 10. As noted, women contribute 85.4 per cent of total unpaid work, including 86 per cent of care

services and 90.9 per cent of nutrition services. Their contribution to housing services is lower (75.8 per cent) and lower still for transport, which is the only function where men outperform women (41 per cent).

**FIGURE 10:**

**Percentage share in total value of labour inputs, by main function and sex**



Source: Based on Table 16.

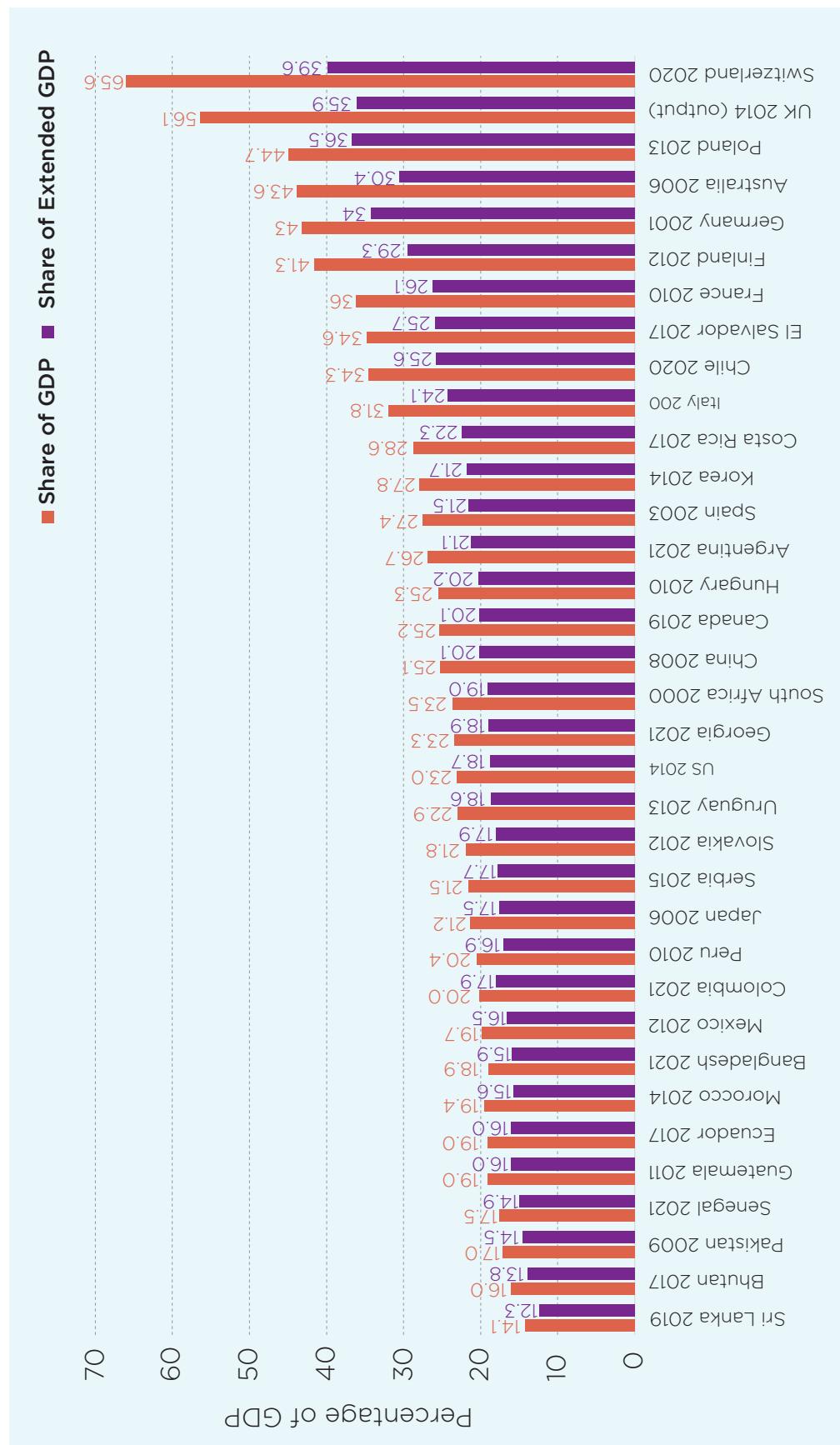
The valuation of unpaid domestic and care work in Bangladesh sheds light on women's substantial economic contributions, revealing stark gender disparities and underscoring the need for gender equality initiatives. Despite spending significantly more time on unpaid work, women often earn lower replacement wages than men, reflecting underlying gender wage gaps.

The estimated value of unpaid work is about [14.03](#) to [21.88](#) per cent of Bangladesh's current GDP in 2021. When disaggregated by sex, the data highlight women's economic contribution and their significant economic impact, underscoring gendered disparities in unpaid labour. Given the limitations associated with applying the specialist approach (e.g., overestimating the value of certain activities in the Bangladesh wage context) and the generalist approach (e.g., underestimating the value of skilled domestic and care work),

the hybrid approach is recommended for future discussions on HPSA in Bangladesh. Since the survey was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the analysis may have been affected by atypical shifts in how time was spent on various activities.

Using this intermediate estimate, it is useful to compare findings with similar estimates from other countries. Figure 11 provides a comparative perspective of 35 countries in different parts of the world, most of which used the labour input replacement cost method (the United Kingdom used the output method). Bangladesh is positioned at the lower end of the range, with Sri Lanka ([14.1](#) per cent of GDP), Bhutan ([16](#) per cent of GDP) and Pakistan ([17](#) per cent of GDP) also at lower levels; and Japan ([21.2](#) per cent of GDP), China ([25.1](#) per cent of GDP), Korea ([27.8](#) per cent of GDP) and Australia ([43.6](#) per cent of GDP) at significantly higher levels.

**FIGURE 11:**  
Unpaid domestic and care work as a share of GDP and extended GDP in 35 countries



Source: Author's calculations based on national sources  
Note: Countries are ranked in ascending order by share of GDP

# 6

# CHAPTER

Potential use and way forward

## 6.1 Framing the care economy

The care economy encompasses a broad spectrum of both paid and unpaid labour that enables caregiving across households, communities, and institutions (United Nations, 2024). Globally, care work remains highly gendered, with women and girls overwhelmingly responsible for the majority of these tasks—regardless of whether they are remunerated (Addati et.al., 2018). This gendered division of labour directly undermines women's opportunities for decent work, pushing many into precarious, informal, and low-paid employment due to time constraints and competing responsibilities (United Nations, 2024).

Among unpaid tasks, childcare emerges as one of the most significant barriers to women's labour force participation. The absence of accessible, affordable childcare prevents many women from entering or re-entering the workforce (Schochet, 2019). Even when care is paid, the sector is often characterized by exploitative working conditions and low wages, failing to comply with international and national labour standards (Addati et.al., 2018).

Women's entry into paid work does not absolve them of domestic responsibilities; rather, it compounds their workload (Samman et.al., 2016). Women are expected to maintain their unpaid roles while also fulfilling paid responsibilities, resulting in a double—or at times, triple—burden (ADB, 2024; United Nations, 2016). This cumulative load affects multiple dimensions of women's lives: their health and well-being, access to education and skills development, income generation, mobility, voice in decision-making, and overall social status (UN Women, 2015). The situation is further exacerbated by inadequate public services, especially in essential sectors such as health, sanitation, water, energy, food security,

and livelihoods, all of which shift additional care burdens onto women (UN Women, 2015).

Feminist economists have long argued that women's unpaid labour acts as a hidden subsidy to the economy, functioning as an invisible "time-tax" imposed throughout their life cycle (Hirway, 2015; Antonopoulos & Hirway, 2010). When macroeconomic policies ignore unpaid work—as is common in structural adjustment and market liberalization frameworks—they disproportionately disadvantage women while undermining overall economic sustainability (Folbre & Yoon, 2008; Hirway, 2005; Elson, 2017; United Nations, 2024).

Despite the burdens of care work and the chronic time poverty it entails, many women find meaning or satisfaction in caregiving roles (Antonopoulos, 2009). This is often less a matter of personal preference than a reflection of entrenched social and gender norms, which position caregiving as an intrinsic duty of women (World Bank, 2022). In South Asia in particular, these normative expectations are deeply rooted, with strong cultural assumptions that men should be breadwinners and women should manage household responsibilities (ADB, 2024).

A World Bank 2022 study on reshaping gender norms in South Asia found that adjusting public perceptions about men's and women's roles could have dramatic effects. Aligning societal views more closely with individuals' actual beliefs could raise women's labour force participation by up to 14 percentage points and reduce their time on domestic chores by as much as one hour daily. Ultimately, transforming the care economy requires systemic change across households, markets, communities, and the state. It demands a redistribution of care responsibilities, investments in universal and inclusive care services, and the dismantling

of structural inequalities that prevent women from realizing their full economic and social potential.

## 6.2 Bangladesh context

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has increasingly demonstrated its commitment to advancing women's economic empowerment over the years.

- In a [landmark pronouncement](#) in the context of the national budget for FY2025-26, the Government has committed to including the economic value of women's unpaid labour in the country's GDP calculations.
- A signatory to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the GoB has endorsed the [Political Declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women](#) in March 2025, reaffirming its political will and firm commitment to ensuring women's economic empowerment.<sup>7</sup>
- The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, in her report to the 68th Session of the General Assembly in 2013 has termed the unequal burden of unpaid and care work borne by women as a major human rights issue: it restricts women, especially poor women, from enjoying a whole gamut of basic rights – the right to health, education and training, public participation, and in the labour market, to paid, decent work and social security.
- Bangladesh's [8<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan](#)<sup>8</sup> recognizes that women's labour force participation remains low and indicates a few avenues

to increase it. It also commits to implementing SDG Target 5.4 to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work by providing public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and promoting shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate. In doing so, it targets reducing the proportion of the total time that women spend on unpaid domestic and care work from 25.8 per cent to 20 per cent, and increasing the proportion that men spend from 5 per cent to 10 per cent by 2030.

- The [National Women Development Policy 2011](#), and its Action Plan, also emphasize the need to take necessary steps to address unpaid and domestic work, including mass media campaigns on women's contribution to national development and economic growth. This also serves the purpose of monitoring SDG Indicator 5.4.1. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has also committed to allocating funds to expand the number of childcare facilities to support the economic participation of professional and working women and their equitable access to quality public care services.
- In 2005, GoB introduced gender responsive budgeting. Analysing the allocation for the gender budget over the past decade reveals that in the FY2009-10, the gender budget accounted for 3.42 per cent of the total GDP. This percentage has increased to approximately 33 per cent in FY2025-26, indicating a positive trend.

<sup>7</sup>Article 15 (b): *Recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women within the household and promoting work-life balance, inter alia, through prioritizing public investments to develop and expand integrated care systems, including care leave policies, the provision of universal care and support services throughout the life course and the proper recognition, representation, remuneration and reward of care workers.*

<sup>8</sup>Following the political transition in August 2024 and the establishment of an government, the 8<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan has been extended by one year as a rolling plan.

- In June 2021, the Child Daycare Centre Bill was passed, requiring childcare centres to be registered and for penalties to be issued for a lack of duty of care.
- In 2021, BBS conducted a comprehensive TUS—a timely undertaking as the COVID-19 pandemic unravelled a care crisis. The TUS has radically shifted how gender statistics are used, produced and promoted to inform policy and advocacy on gender equality in the country. The findings from the survey report have enabled Bangladesh to monitor progress on SDG Indicator 5.4.1 for the first time.

Marking a transformative step with the development of the HPSA, the GoB underscores its high-level commitment to recognizing and valuing unpaid domestic and care work—activities that disproportionately affect women’s economic opportunities and well-being but have long been invisible in policy discourses, national budgets and national accounting systems.

### 6.3 The 5Rs of Care

Investing in care economy infrastructure is key to reducing the unequal distribution of unpaid work shouldered by women and providing them equal employment and livelihood opportunities. Following the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, a framework known as the ‘3Rs’ was conceptualized by Diane Elson in 2008 to address unpaid care work. This approach—Recognize, Reduce, and Redistribute—was later formalized in 2017 by Professor Elson for UN Women, building on the work of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment in 2016. The 3Rs reflected the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action by highlighting the need to value and share unpaid work more equitably.

As global understanding of the care economy evolved, the framework expanded. In 2018, the ILO added two more components: Reward and Represent. These additional Rs emphasized the rights, working conditions, and representation of paid care workers, forming what is now widely referred to as the 5R Framework for Decent Care Work.

Specifically, the 5R framework includes policy reforms for more gender-sensitive care systems, expanded social and physical infrastructure, efforts to shift social norms around the gendered division of labour and improved access to work opportunities for women.

Policy interventions for establishing a care economy in Bangladesh can be categorized as follows:



**Recognition** is the first step in raising awareness among political and economic actors about women’s disproportionate

care responsibilities within the household. These responsibilities often prevent women from engaging in and remaining in income-generating activities. Even when they do participate, the lack of reliable, quality care services—whether provided by the state or private sector—remains a significant impediment. **Recognition** also involves addressing the value of care work through Time Use Surveys and estimates of satellite accounts of household production. It opens the door to policy reflection and the adoption of measures to reduce unpaid care work by expanding access to adapted, quality care services commensurate with the needs of the population, including paid domestic work.

**Reduction** and **redistribution** of the burden of unpaid work requires addressing structural and behavioural shifts amongst policymakers and social partners regarding discriminatory perceptions and social norms related to care work. This involves building awareness and advocating for the recognition of care work as ‘respectful’ work and sharing responsibilities between women and men, and between the private sphere of households (unpaid work) and the public, private and non-profit sectors to provide paid care services.

Care policies, macroeconomic strategies and social protection systems are all relevant when implementing the first three Rs. Examples include prioritizing early childhood/day care centres, strengthening the social services sector and extending social protection coverage both horizontally (to more categories of the population) and vertically (with expanded benefits such as maternity, paternity and parental leave).

Given the critical role of the care sector in reducing and redistributing unpaid work, it is essential to **reward** care jobs with better pay, integrated skills interventions, enhanced professional caregiver training, job security and access to social protection. Finally,

**representation** of these workers and active social dialogue with their representatives—including unpaid care workers—must be ensured so their voices are heard at all levels of decision-making. This final R intersects with labour and migration policies, as many migrant workers are employed in care sectors, both domestically and abroad.

## 6.4 Recommendations

The valuation of unpaid domestic and care work in Bangladesh highlights women’s substantial economic contributions, reveals persistent gender disparities and reinforces the need for gender equality initiatives. Despite spending significantly more time on unpaid work, women often receive lower replacement wages than men, reflecting broader gender wage gaps. The estimated value of women’s unpaid work—equivalent to approximately 16.14 per cent of Bangladesh’s current GDP in 2020-2021 (as per the hybrid method)—underscores its significant economic weight and the disproportionate impact on women.

### Key recommendations:

- A key entry point for comprehensive recognition of unpaid care work is the establishment of national-level coordination on the care economy, guided by the principles of equality in caregiving and care receiving and structured around the 5R framework. This would involve inter-ministerial coordination to harmonize existing legislation and practices while introducing new actions to reduce and redistribute unpaid work. Such coordinated action would transform fragmented and implicit recognition into a coherent, explicit and effective approach grounded in principles of equality.
- The Government can ensure that economic (fiscal policies in particular) and social policies (labour market policies and social protection in particular) include

clear commitments to establish, fund and sustain universal care systems and to invest in affordable, accessible, quality care services and infrastructure for all. It also needs to ensure care-responsiveness is integral to their policies and programmes. HPSA estimates should be used to formulate and revise evidence-based and gender-responsive policies, budgets, and programmes, including integration into the upcoming national development plan and implementation of the Smooth Transition Strategy in the context of LDC graduation.

- The private sector, too, plays a critical role in advancing the care economy by, for example, providing decent care jobs, enacting care policies that promote gender equality (including paid maternity, paternity and parental leave) and investing in social care infrastructure. The private sector should align with the public sector in implementing and upholding care-related laws, regulations and standards, including labour rights and protection, in support of the 5R framework.
- The Government can also take direct action to reduce and redistribute unpaid work. Programmes that ease women's care burden, such as investments in climate-responsive care infrastructure and increased provision of quality and carbon-conscious care delivery services, should be prioritized.
- Lower wages remain a key reason why women's economic contributions are undervalued in national statistics. Regulation of care work and skills-building programmes are key to the creation of decent jobs for women to enter the formal job market, especially benefiting women in the informal sector and women migrant workers. Additionally, legal measures should be strengthened or introduced where needed to eliminate wage discrimination against women in all sectors. Civil society and women's rights organizations can play an essential role in supporting these efforts.
- Transform social and economic norms through nationwide behavioural change initiatives and educational curricula to foster gender equitable norms related to care, including by engaging men and boys, so that care work is recognized as valuable and skilled and seen as a shared responsibility within and between households, the State, and the private and not-for-profit sectors.
- Ensure sustained financing to collect and use quantitative, qualitative and inclusive data on paid and unpaid care work, including on the well-being of care recipients and caregivers. Data on policies, including resource allocation, and their effect on outcomes, such as reduced time and income poverty, improved working conditions and wages among paid care workers, can help drive sustainable change by recognizing care as a fundamental element of society.

Bangladesh stands at a pivotal moment in the institutionalization of gender statistics for informed decision-making. With notable progress in advancing gender equality, the TUS and HPSA provide a strong foundation for continued momentum. By incorporating women's unpaid labour into official measurement and budgeting processes, Bangladesh can make significant strides in the medium term and contribute meaningfully to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The HPSA is not simply a valuation of unpaid work, but a strategic tool to transform how domestic and care work is recognized, valued, and supported in Bangladesh. It allows policymakers, duty-bearers, and rightsholders to improve the instrument further and provides a framework for mainstreaming gender statistics to support the economic empowerment and well-being of all women and girls.

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# ANNEXES

**TABLE A1:****Table of correspondence between ICATUS (2-digit) and BSCO (4-digit)**

<b>ICATUS 2-digit</b>	<b>BSCO 4-digit</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
31	3434	Chefs
	4321	Stock Clerks
	5120	Cooks
	5131	Waiters
	5132	Bartenders
	5246	Food Service Counter Attendants
	7511	Butchers, Fishmongers and Related Food Preparers
	7512	Bakers, Pastry-Cooks and Confectionery Makers
	7514	Fruit, Vegetable and Related Preservers
	9111	Domestic Cleaners and Helpers
32	9411	Fast Food Preparers
	5152	Domestic Housekeepers/Domestic Help
	5153	Building Caretakers
	9111	Domestic Cleaners and Helpers
	9112	Cleaners And Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments
33	9611	Garbage and Recycling Collectors
	7111	House Builders
	7112	Bricklayers and Related Workers
	7114	Concrete Placers, Concrete Finishers and Related Workers
	7115	Carpenters and Joiners
	7119	Building Frame and Related Trades Workers Not Elsewhere Classified
	7123	Plasterers
	7125	Glaziers
	7126	Plumbers and Pipe Fitters
	7127	Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics
	7131	Painters and Related Workers
	7132	Spray Painters and Varnishers
	7133	Building Structure Cleaners
	7231	Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers
	7234	Bicycle and Related Repairers
	7412	Electrical Mechanics and Fitters
	7421	Electronics Mechanics and Servicers/Radio, TV, Fridge etc.)
	7422	Information and Communications Technology Installers and Servicers
	7522	Cabinet-Makers and Related Workers

<b>ICATUS 2-digit</b>	<b>BSCO 4-digit</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
	7523	Woodworking-Machine Tool Setters and Operators
	7534	Upholsterers and Related Workers
	9313	Building Construction Labourers
34	7318	Handicraft Workers in Textile, Leather and Related Materials
	7531	Tailors, Dressmakers, Furriers and Hatters
	7532	Garment and Related Pattern-Makers and Cutters
	7533	Sewing, Embroidery and Related Workers
	7536	Shoemakers, Shoe Shiners and Related Workers
	8157	Laundry Machine Operators
	8159	Textile, Fur and Leather Products Machine Operators Not Elsewhere Classified
	9111	Domestic Cleaners and Helpers
	9121	Hand Launderers and Pressers
35	3332	Conference and Event Planners
	4110	General Office Clerks
	4313	Payroll Clerks
	8321	Motorcycle Drivers
	8322	Car, Taxi and Van Drivers
	9333	Freight Handlers
	9621	Messengers, Package Deliverers and Luggage Porters
36	5164	Pet Groomers and Animal Care Workers
37	1420	Retail and Wholesale Trade Managers
	3323	Buyers
	5152	Domestic Housekeepers/Domestic Help
	9111	Domestic Cleaners and Helpers
38	5113	Travel Guides
	5162	Companions and Valets
	8321	Motorcycle Drivers
	8322	Car, Taxi and Van Drivers
	8331	Bus and Tram Drivers
	8332	Heavy Truck and Lorry Drivers
	9331	Hand and Pedal Vehicle Drivers
	9332	Drivers of Animal-Drawn Vehicles and Machinery
	9333	Freight Handlers
	9621	Messengers, Package Deliverers and Luggage Porters
41	1341	Child Care Services Managers
	2221	Nursing Professionals
	2330	Secondary Education Teachers
	2341	Primary School Teachers

<b>ICATUS 2-digit</b>	<b>BSCO 4-digit</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
42	2342	Early Childhood Educators
	2343	Primary Level/Ebtadia Madrasha & Religious Education Teachers
	2352	Special Needs Teachers
	2353	Other Language Teachers
	2354	Other Music Teachers
	2355	Other Arts Teachers
	2359	Teaching Professionals Not Elsewhere Classified
	3422	Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials
	3423	Fitness and Recreation Instructors and Program Leaders
	5311	Child Care Workers
	5321	Health Care Assistants
	5322	Home-Based Personal Care Workers
	1343	Aged Care Services Managers
	2221	Nursing Professionals
	2423	Personnel and Careers Professionals
43	2634	Psychologists
	2635	Social Work and Counseling Professionals
	3412	Social Work Associate Professionals
	4120	Secretaries (General)/Personal Assistants (PA & PS)
	5321	Health Care Assistants
	5322	Home-Based Personal Care Workers
	5329	Personal Care Workers in Health Services Not Elsewhere Classified
	2634	Psychologists
	2635	Social Work and Counseling Professionals
	5321	Health Care Assistants
44	5322	Home-Based Personal Care Workers
	4120	Secretaries (General)/Personal Assistants (PA & PS)
	5111	Travel Attendants and Travel Stewards
	5113	Travel Guides
	5162	Companions and Valets
	5321	Health Care Assistants
	5322	Home-Based Personal Care Workers
	8321	Motorcycle Drivers
	8322	Car, Taxi and Van Drivers
	9331	Hand and Pedal Vehicle Drivers
	9332	Drivers of Animal-Drawn Vehicles and Machinery
	9621	Messengers, Package Deliverers and Luggage Porters
49	5152	Domestic Housekeepers/Domestic Help
	9111	Domestic Cleaners and Helpers

**TABLE A2:****Backcasting of wages (in BDT) using the 2021/2022 Wage Rate Indices (WRI)**

BS CO 2digit code	Occupations	Women			Men		
		2022 Wages (a)	2021/2022 WRI ratio (b)	2021 Wages (c = a*b)	2022 Wages (d)	2021/2022 WRI ratio (e)	2021 Wages (f = d*e)
13	Production and Specialized Services Managers	-	0.9386	-	-	0.9386	-
14	Hospitality, Retail and Other Services Managers	-	0.9386	-	101	0.9386	95
22	Health Professionals	85	0.9386	80	-	0.9386	-
23	Teaching Professionals	102	0.9386	95	116	0.9386	109
24	Business and dministration Professionals	-	0.9386	-	-	0.9386	-
26	Legal, Social and Cultural Professionals	-	0.9386	-	-	0.9386	-
33	Business and Administration Associate Professionals	-	0.9386	-	45	0.9386	42
34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals	-	0.9386	-	-	0.9386	-
41	General and Keyboard Clerks	-	0.9386	-	99	0.9386	93
43	Numerical and Material Recording Clerks	-	0.9386	-	82	0.9386	77
51	Personal Service Workers	36	0.9458	34	49	0.9458	46
52	Sales Workers	-	0.9386	-	-	0.9386	-
53	Personal Care Workers	40	0.9386	37	-	0.9386	-
71	Building and Related Trades Workers, Excluding Electricians	-	0.9583	-	62	0.9583	59
72	Metal, Machinery and Related Trades Workers	-	0.9579	-	55	0.9579	52
73	Handicraft and Printing Workers	36	0.9517	34	38	0.9517	36
74	Electrical and Electronics Trades Workers	-	0.9785	-	64	0.9785	62

BSCO 2digit code	Occupations	Women			Men		
		2022 Wages (a)	2021/2022 WRI ratio (b)	2021 Wages (c = a*b)	2022 Wages (d)	2021/2022 WRI ratio (e)	2021 Wages (f = d*e)
75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Crafts and Related Trades Workers	46	0.8931	41	56	0.8931	50
81	Stationary Plant and Machine Operators	-	0.9437	-	-	0.9437	-
83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators	-	0.9579	-	54	0.9579	52
91	Cleaners and Helpers	34	0.9336	32	43	0.9336	40
93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	-	0.9406	-	50	0.9406	47
94	Food Preparation Assistants	-	0.9386	-	-	0.9386	-
96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	-	0.9386	-	53	0.9386	50

Notes:

1. Occupations with codes 51 and 91 are generalist jobs
2. Average WRI has been used if there are multiple ratios per occupation
3. The national WRI average has been used if the occupation has no ratio

**TABLE A3:**

**Occupations and Replacement Wages (in BDT) under Generalist Approach**

BSCO Code	Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	
		Women	Men
51	Personal Service Workers	34	46
91	Cleaners and Helpers	32	40

**TABLE A4:****Occupations and Replacement Wages (in BDT) under Specialist Approach**

ICATUS Code	ICATUS Description	BSCO Code	Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	
				Women	Men
31	Food and meals management and preparation	34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals	33	43
		43	Numerical and Material Recording Clerks	77	77
		52	Sales Workers	33	43
		75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Craft and Related Trades Workers	41	50
		94	Food Preparation Assistants	33	43
32	Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surrounding	96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	36	53
		71	Building and Related Trades Workers, Excluding Electricians	59	59
		72	Metal, Machinery and Related Trades Workers	33	52
		74	Electrical and Electronics Trades Workers	33	62
33	Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Craft And Related Trades Workers	41	50
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	36	47
		73	Handicraft and Printing Workers	34	36
34	Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Craft And Related Trades Workers	41	50
		81	Stationary Plant and Machine Operators	37	51

ICATUS Code	ICATUS Description	BSCO Code	Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	
				Women	Men
35	Household management for own final use	33	Business and Administration Associate Professionals	106	70
		41	General and Keyboard Clerks	93	93
		43	Numerical and Material Recording Clerks	77	77
		83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators	33	52
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	36	47
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	36	53
37	Shopping for own household and family members	14	Hospitality, Retail and Other Services Managers	33	95
		33	Business and Administration Associate Professionals	106	70
38	Travelling, moving, transporting or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators	33	52
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	36	47
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	36	53
		13	Production and Specialized Services Managers	166	151
		22	Health Professionals	109	145
		23	Teaching Professionals	95	109
41	Childcare and Instruction	34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals	33	43
		53	Personal Care Workers	39	71
		13	Production and Specialized Services Managers	166	151
		22	Health Professionals	109	145
		23	Teaching Professionals	95	109
42	Care for dependent adults	24	Business and Administration Professionals	33	43
		26	Legal, Social and Cultural Professionals	33	43

ICATUS Code	ICATUS Description	BSCO Code	Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	
				Women	Men
		34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals	33	43
		41	General and Keyboard Clerks	93	93
		53	Personal Care Workers	39	71
43	Help to non-dependent adult's household members	26	Legal, Social and Cultural Professionals	33	43
		53	Personal Care Workers	39	71
44	Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household members	41	General and Keyboard Clerks	93	93
		53	Personal Care Workers	39	71
		83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators	33	52
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	36	47
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	36	53

Note: Occupations with BSCO codes 24, 26, 34, 52 and 94 are valued at generalist replacement wages (average of BSCO codes 51 and 91)

**TABLE A5:****Occupations and Replacement Wages (in BDT) under Hybrid Approach**

ICATUS Code	ICATUS Description	BSCO Code	Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	
				Women	Men
31	Food and meals management and preparation	51	Personal Service Workers	34	46
		91	Cleaners and Helpers	32	40
32	Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surrounding	51	Personal Service Workers	34	46
		91	Cleaners and Helpers	32	40
		71	Building and Related Trades Workers, Excluding Electricians	59	59
		72	Metal, Machinery and Related Trades Workers	33	52
		74	Electrical and Electronics Trades Workers	33	62
		75	Food Processing, Wood Working, Garment and Other Craft And Related Trades Workers	41	50
33	Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	36	47
		91	Cleaners and Helpers	32	40
		33	Business and Administration Associate Professionals	106	70
		41	General and Keyboard Clerks	93	93
		43	Numerical and Material Recording Clerks	77	77
		83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators	33	52
35	Household management for own final use	93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	36	47
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	36	53
		51	Personal Service Workers	34	46
36	Pet Care				

ICATUS Code	ICATUS Description	BSCO Code	Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	
				Women	Men
37	Shopping for own household and family members	51	Personal Service Workers	34	46
		91	Cleaners and Helpers	32	40
38	Travelling, moving, transporting or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators	33	52
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	36	47
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	36	53
41	Childcare and Instruction	13	Production and Specialized Services Managers	166	151
		22	Health Professionals	109	145
		23	Teaching Professionals	95	109
		34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals	33	43
		53	Personal Care Workers	39	71
42	Care for dependent adults	13	Production and Specialized Services Managers	166	151
		22	Health Professionals	109	145
		24	Business and Administration Professionals	33	43
		26	Legal, Social and Cultural Professionals	33	43
		34	Legal, Social, Cultural and Related Associate Professionals	33	43
		41	General and Keyboard Clerks	93	93
		53	Personal Care Workers	39	71
43	Help to non-dependent adult's household members	26	Legal, Social and Cultural Professionals	33	43
		53	Personal Care Workers	39	71

ICATUS Code	ICATUS Description	BSCO Code	Occupation	Average Hourly Wage	
				Women	Men
44	Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household members	41	General and Keyboard Clerks	93	93
		53	Personal Care Workers	39	71
		83	Drivers and Mobile Plant Operators	33	52
		93	Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport	36	47
		96	Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers	36	53
49	Other activities related to unpaid caregiving services for household members	51	Personal Service Workers	34	46
		91	Cleaners and Helpers	32	40

Note: Occupations with BSCO codes 24, 26, 34, 52 and 94 are valued at generalist replacement wages (average of BSCO codes 51 and 91)

**TABLE A6:**  
**Valuation of unpaid work (Generalist replacement cost) in 2021**

	Total number of hours			Hourly wage			Total value of unpaid work (in million Taka)		
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	All		
<b>NUTRITION</b>	72,884,235,138.4	5,586,237,419.2	33	43	2,413,411.5	241,102.4	2,654,513.9		
Food and meals management and preparation	72,229,586,319.8	2,068,976,821.9	33	43	2,391,734.1	89,297.2	2,481,031.3		
Shopping for own household and family members	654,648,818.6	3,517,260,597.3	33	43	21,677.3	151,805.2	173,482.6		
<b>HOUSING</b>	16,802,653,010.9	3,517,260,597.3	33	43	556,385.3	151,805.2	708,190.5		
Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	14,184,057,736.5	827,590,728.8	33	43	469,675.9	35,718.9	505,394.8		
Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	2,400,379,001.6	2,275,874,504.1	33	43	79,483.6	98,226.9	177,710.5		
Household Management for own final use	218,216,272.9	413,795,364.4	33	43	7,225.8	17,859.4	25,085.2		
Pet care	-	-	33	43	-	-	-		
<b>CLOTHING</b>	9,819,732,279.1	620,693,046.6	33	43	325,160.2	26,789.2	351,949.4		
Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	9,819,732,279.1	620,693,046.6	33	43	325,160.2	26,789.2	351,949.4		
Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	-	-	33	43	-	-	-		
<b>CARE</b>	26,185,952,744.3	3,724,158,279.4	33	43	867,093.9	160,734.9	1,027,828.9		
Children and instruction	25,094,871,380.0	3,310,362,915.1	33	43	830,965.0	142,875.5	973,840.5		
Care for dependent adults	654,648,818.6	206,897,682.2	33	43	21,677.3	8,929.7	30,607.1		
Help to non-dependent adults' household and family members	436,432,545.7	206,897,682.2	33	43	14,451.6	8,929.7	23,381.3		
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	2,618,595,274.4	2,896,567,550.7	33	43	86,709.4	125,016.1	211,725.5		
Travelling, moving, transporting, or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	1,527,513,910.1	2,482,772,186.3	33	43	50,580.5	107,156.6	157,737.1		
Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	1,091,081,364.3	413,795,364.4	33	43	36,128.9	17,859.4	53,988.4		
<b>TOTAL UNPAID HOUSEHOLD WORK</b>	<b>128,311,168,447.2</b>	<b>16,344,916,893.1</b>			<b>4,248,760.3</b>	<b>705,447.8</b>	<b>4,954,208.1</b>		

TABLE A7 Valuation of unpaid work (Specialist replacement cost) in 2021

	Total number of hours		Hourly wage		Total value of unpaid work (in million taka)		
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	All
<b>NUTRITION</b>							
Food and meals management and preparation	72,884,235,138.4	5,586,237,419.2			3,197,675.0	395,487.1	3,593,162
Shopping for own household and family members	72,229,586,319.8	2,068,976,821.9	44	51	3,151,979.3	106,221.8	3,258,201
<b>HOUSING</b>							
Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	654,648,818.6	3,517,260,597.3	70	82	45,695.7	289,265.3	334,961
Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	16,802,653,010.9	3,517,260,597.3			628,087.7	194,251.0	822,339
Household Management for own final use	14,184,057,736.5	827,590,728.8	36	53	516,757.0	44,050.9	560,808
Pet care	-	-	34	46	-	-	-
<b>CLOTHING</b>							
Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	9,819,732,279.1	620,693,046.6			369,509.9	28,337.3	397,847
Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	9,819,732,279.1	620,693,046.6	38	46	369,509.9	28,337.3	397,847
<b>CARE</b>							
Children and instruction	26,185,952,744.3	3,724,158,279.4			2,281,889.7	372,429.1	2,654,319
Care for dependent adults	25,094,871,380.0	3,310,362,915.1	88	104	2,218,864.1	343,210.8	2,562,075
Help to non-dependent adults' household and family members	654,648,818.6	206,897,682.2	72	84	47,321.1	17,414.3	64,735
<b>TRANSPORT</b>							
Travelling, moving, transporting, or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	436,432,545.7	206,897,682.2	36	57	15,704.6	11,804.0	27,509
Travelling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	2,618,595,274.4	2,896,567,550.7			105,514.1	151,973.4	257,488
Traveling and accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	1,527,513,910.1	2,482,772,186.3	35	51	53,718.4	125,823.0	179,541
	1,091,081,364.3	413,795,364.4	47	63	51,795.7	26,150.4	77,946
<b>TOTAL UNPAID HOUSEHOLD WORK</b>	<b>128,311,168,447.2</b>	<b>16,344,916,893.1</b>					
	<b>6,582,676.5</b>	<b>1,142,477.9</b>	<b>7,725,154</b>				

## Household Production Satellite Account: All Committees

**TABLE A8**

**Table A8: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics HPSA Thematic Working Group (BBS HPSA TWG)**

SL No	Name and Designation (Not according to seniority)	Designation in Committee
1	Mr. Md. Emdadul Haque, Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Chairperson
2	Ms. Jasmin Akter, Joint Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
3	Mr. Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Director, Computer Wing, BBS	Member
4	Ms. Aziza Rahman, Deputy Director, Industry and Labour Wing, BBS	Member
5	Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, MPH, Deputy Director, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
6	Mr. Tufail Ahmed, Deputy Director, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
7	Ms. Aklima Khatun, Deputy Director, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
8	Ms. Naima Akter, Deputy Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
9	Mr. Md. Mahabub Alam, Deputy Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
10	Ms. Anewsa Ghose, Statistical Officer, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
11	Mr. Mahmud Al Hasan, Statistical Officer, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
12	Mr. Sudipta Datta, Statistical Officer, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
13	Mr. Md. Ashadur Alam Prodhan, Statistical Officer, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
14	Ms. Ismat Zerin, Statistical Officer, Census Wing, BBS	Member
15	Mr. S M Anwar Husain, Assistant Statistical Officer (PLR), National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
16	Ms. Asma Akter, Deputy Director and Focal Point, MEWGC Phase II, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member Secretary
17	Mr. Md Mashud Alam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs (special mention)	Member
18	Ms. Reshma Jesmin, Deputy Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS (special mention)	Member

**TABLE A9****UN Women-ADB: Bangladesh HPSA Expert Team**

SL No	Name	Designation
1	Ms. Cecilia Tinonin	Statistics Specialist, WEE Data and Research Lead, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
2	Mr. Mahinthan Joseph Mariasingham	Principal Statistician, ADB
3	Ms. Nubayra Jeheen	Programme Analyst, Gender Statistics, UN Women Bangladesh
4	Mr. Christian Marvin Zamora	Consultant, ADB
5	Ms. Ana Francesca Rosales	Consultant, ADB/ United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN SIAP)
6	Ms. Julieta Magallanes	Consultant ADB
7	Ms. Loubill Dayne Aceron	Consultant ADB
8	Ms. Lora Kryz Baje	Consultant, ADB

**TABLE A10****Technical Committee**

SL No	Designation (Not according to seniority)	Designation in Committee
1	Director General, BBS	Chairperson
2	Deputy Director General, BBS	Member
3	Joint Secretary (Development), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
4	Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
5	Director, Computer Wing, BBS	Member
6	Director, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
7	Representative, Department of Women Affairs	Member
8	Representative, Department of Labour	Member
9	Representative, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)	Member
10	Representative, Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), University of Dhaka	Member
11	Representative, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka	Member
12	Focal Point Officer, SDG Cell, BBS	Member
13	Project Director, Improving Labour Market Information through Labour Force Survey Project, BBS	Member
14	Representative, UN Women Country Office, Bangladesh	Member
15	Focal Point Officer, MEWGC Phase II, BBS	Member Secretary

**TABLE A11**  
**Steering Committee**

SL No	Designation (Not according to seniority)	Designation in Committee
1	Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division	Chairperson
2	Additional Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
3	Director General, BBS	Member
4	Joint Secretary (Development), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
5	Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
6	Representative, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Member
7	Representative, Ministry of Labour and Employment	Member
8	Representative, General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission	Member
9	Representative, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance	Member
10	Representative, Ministry of Social Welfare	Member
11	Representative, Finance Division	Member
12	Focal Point Officer, MEWGC Phase II, BBS	Member
13	Deputy Secretary (Development-2 Section), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member Secretary

**TABLE A12**  
**Editors Forum, BBS**

SL No	Designation (Not according to seniority)	Designation in Committee
1	Deputy Director General, BBS	Chairperson
2	Director, Census Wing, BBS	Member
3	Director, Agriculture Wing, BBS	Member
4	Director, Computer Wing, BBS	Member
5	Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
6	Director, Industry and Labour Wing, BBS	Member
7	Director, FA & MIS Wing, BBS	Member
8	Director, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
9	Focal Point Officer, Making Every Woman and Girl Count Bangladesh (MEWGC) Phase II, BBS	Member
10	Director, SSTI Wing, BBS	Member Secretary

**TABLE A13****Report Review Committee, Statistics and Informatics Division**

SL No	Designation (Not according to seniority)	Designation in Committee
1	Additional Secretary (Informatics), Statistics and Informatics Division	Chairperson
2	Joint Secretary (Budget, Financial Management and Audit), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
3	Joint Secretary (Development-1), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
4	Joint Secretary (Development-2), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
5	Joint Secretary (Informatics), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
6	Joint Secretary (Admin-2), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
7	Deputy Secretary (Admin-4), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
8	Deputy Secretary (Development-1), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
9	Deputy Secretary (Development-2), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
10	Deputy Secretary (Planning), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
11	Deputy Secretary (Informatics-1), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
12	Deputy Secretary (Informatics-3), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
13	Focal Point Officer, Making Every Woman and Girl Count Bangladesh (MEWGC) Phase II, BBS	Member
14	Accounts Officer, Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
15	Deputy Secretary (Informatics-2), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member Secretary

**TABLE A14**  
**Working Committee, BBS**

SL No	Names and Designation (Not according to seniority)	Designation in Committee
1	Mr. Md. Emdadul Haque, Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Coordinator
2	Mr. Mostafa Ashrafuzzaman, Joint Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
3	Representative, Planning Section, Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
4	Mr. Iftekharul Karim, Deputy Secretary, MoPA	Member
5	Mr. Md. Alamgir Hossen, Deputy Director & Focal Point Officer, SDG Cell, BBS	Member
6	Ms. Aziza Rahman, Project Director, Improving Labour Market Information through Labour Force Survey, BBS	Member
7	Md. Arif Hossain, Deputy Director, Census Wing, BBS	Member
8	Mr. Muhammad Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Director, Agriculture Wing, BBS	Member
9	Ms. Aklima Khatun, Deputy Director, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
10	Mr. Md. Mahabub Alam, Deputy Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
11	Mr. Md. Sadequr Rahman, Statistical Officer, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
12	Ms. Anewsa Ghose, Statistical Officer, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
13	Representative, Department of Women's Affairs	Member
14	Ms. Nubayra Jeheen, Programme Analyst- Gender Statistics, UN Women Bangladesh	Member
15	Ms. Asma Akhter, Deputy Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member Secretary

**BOX 1: Computation Process:** The process of data gathering, processing, compilation, analysis and reconciliation was highly collaborative between BBS, UN Women and ADB. It involved study visits, scoping missions and validation consultations. The initiative began with an initial mission by the UN Women and ADB teams to Bangladesh in January 2024, which served multiple purposes: developing a detailed workplan, establishing working modalities and formalising the UN Women-ADB partnership to support BBS in constructing the HPSA. During this visit, participants conducted thorough assessments of data requirements, identified potential gaps and established robust data-sharing mechanisms. The mission also marked the inaugural meeting of the Thematic Working Group, bringing together representatives from each organization to align on project objectives and establish effective working protocols. Building on the first mission, a second study visit was organized for the BBS team to travel to the ADB Headquarters in the Philippines to focus more on data processing and on estimating unpaid labour related to housing, nutrition and clothing. Through comprehensive scoping exercises, several national data providers were identified.









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