



CONCEPT NOTE

UNITED FOR CARE-SENSITIVE APPROACHES TO RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT (UCARE)

NATIONAL DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON THE ALINEA TIME USE REPORT ON THE SIXTH ROUND OF THE GHANA LIVING STANDARDS SURVEY (GLSS 6)

INTRODUCTION

The United for Care-sensitive Approaches to Rights and Empowerment (UCARE) Project is a five-year project (2024-2029) that seeks to reduce the heavy, unequal and unfair share of unpaid care and domestic work borne by women and adolescent girls in northern Ghana. The Alinea International-led project collaborates with national, regional and district governments and local partner organizations to create an enabling policy and programming environment to recognise, reduce, redistribute the load of unpaid care work (UCW) and respond to UCW needs by integrating them in MMDA development plans. UCARE is being implemented in 10 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in the Northern, North East and Savannah regions, covering both urban and rural communities, reaching 197,547 women and men, and adolescent girls and boys.

As one of the partners of the UCARE project, the Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) is responsible for convening national level advocacy initiatives of the project. NETRIGHT is a women's rights network promoting gender dimensions of national policies, programmes and processes and advocating for gender-responsive policy reforms to strengthen women's human rights.

BACKGROUND

Persistently, statistics show that women shoulder most of the unpaid care work within the household, limiting opportunities for engaging in decision making as well as the labour force. Ultimately, a large portion of women's labour remains unpaid and not counted in conventional income and labour force statistics (Dong & An, 2014).

Ghana's Time Use Survey data (GTUS, 2009) shows the disparities as women spend more time on both paid and unpaid jobs (a double shift) compared to men while being economically dependent on men, pointing to an inadequate value placed on this important contribution to production (Amporful et al. 2018). This reality is exacerbated in northern Ghana where women and adolescent girls undertake a lot of unpaid care work compared to men and boys.

However, knowledge and evidence remain limited with many unaware of the dynamics for these disparities. Over the past decades, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) has been collecting time use data on UCW in a number of surveys, using a section of the Ghana Living Standards Survey. Time use for UCW, however, has not been a priority topic of analysis in comparison to many other socio-economic variables. As a result, there is a gap regarding the accessibility, understanding, and appreciation of data on the amount of time spent by women and adolescent girls on UCW, and the resulting time poverty experienced by this group.

In light of the above, a study was commissioned under the UCARE project to analyse and generate insights that can contribute to addressing that gap, in collaboration with the GSS. The analysis particularly focused on UCW in the project locations namely Northern, North East, and Savannah regions. The report applied basic analytical approaches to identify patterns in the relationships between time use for UCW and other socio-economic variables. Most of the findings, therefore, while not conclusive, do suggest patterns that provoke a discussion, particularly among local government officials and community leaders.

RATIONALE

In response to a gap identified by the UCARE project due to the lack of understanding and appreciation of the total amount of time spent by women and adolescent girls, particularly in northern Ghana, the project carried out a comprehensive review of the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) Ghana Time Use Survey (GTUS, 2009) and the sixth round of the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS 6 2012-13). The review was aimed at generating analysis and insights that can contribute to addressing the identified gap with specific focus on UCW in the project's locations namely Northern, North East, and Savannah regions.

This activity is intended to disseminate the UCARE UCW Analysis (Time Use) Report on GTUS, 2009 and GLSS 6 to key stakeholders within the UCW ecosystem as part of the UCARE project's contribution to the better understanding and appreciation of time spent by women and adolescents in northern Ghana to enhance advocacy around addressing the unfair burden of Unpaid Care Work (UCW) on women and adolescent girls in northern Ghana.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this workshop are to:

- disseminate the GSS UCARE UCW Analysis (Time Use) Report on GLSS 6
- show how data can be used to influence evidence-based advocacy on UCW
- Collect perspectives on preferred formats of knowledge products based on the data

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are expected at the end of the workshop:

- increased understanding and appreciation of the gender dynamics of time spent on UCW
- demonstration of how data can inform evidence-based UCW advocacy
- perspectives on preferred formats of knowledge products documented

METHODOLOGY

The workshop will adopt a participatory approach involving presentations, group work and plenary sessions. This is to ensure interactive engagement by participants.

PARTICIPANTS

The training will bring together 40 participants made up of UCARE Steering Committee members, project partners including GSS and NDPC officials, relevant MDAs, academia, CSOs and other key actors.

DATE AND VENUE

The workshop will take place on 2nd June 2026 at, Accra.