In partnership with Canada

care

REPORT ON UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK

Project on Advancing Women Economic Empowerment in Vietnam (AWEEV)

Hà Nội, 12/2021

This material is based upon work funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, implemented by CARE, under the Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment in Vietnam project. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Canada.

Table of content

3 **List of tables**

4 **Executive summary**

6 **Introduction Background**

6 **Purpose**

7 **Methodology**

9 **Limitations**

10 **Results**

11 **1. Unpaid care and domestic work profile**

11 1.1. Gender distribution and time spent on UCDW

16 1.2. Factors associated with time use on UCDW

20 **2. Economic contribution of UCDW to the household economy**

23 **3. Impacts of UCDW**

23 3.1. Impact on time use on income-generating activities (IGA)

25 3.2. Impact on time use on educational and social activities

27 3.3. Impact on time use on reproductive activities

28 **4. Conclusion and recommendation**

28 4.1 Conclusions

29 4.2 Recommendations

32 **References**

List of tables

7 **Table 1.** Characteristics of the sample (N=744)

11 **Table 2.** EM men and women's UCDW during the last 24 hours (%)

12 **Table 3.** Time spent on UCDW during the last 24 hours (hours)

14 **Table 4.** EM men and women involved in UCDW by province (%)

15 **Table 5.** Time spent on UCDW by provinces (hours)

16 **Table 6.** OLS regression for time spent on UCDW during the last 24 hours

18 **Table 7.** OLS regression for time spent on unpaid care work during the last 24 hours in families with children under 6

18 **Table 8.** OLS regression for time spent on domestic work during the last 24 hours

19 **Table 9.** Supporting activities to reduce the time and effort spent on UCDW

21 **Table 10.** The UCDW's economic value is calculated by the opportunity cost approach (Unit: VND)

22 **Table 11.** The UCDW's economic value calculated by replacement cost (Unit: VND)

23 **Table 12.** Correlation between time spent on UCDW and time spent on paid work (n=726)

24 **Table 13.** Time spent on UCDW and Time spent on paid work by gender

25 **Table 14.** OSL regression on determinants of the time that respondents spend on paid work (N=744)

26 **Table 15.** Time spent on educational and social activities by gender, provinces, and ethnicity (N=726)

26 **Table 16.** OSL regression on determinants of the time respondents spend on educational and social activities

27 **Table 17.** Time spent on reproductive activities by gender, provinces, and ethnicity groups (N = 724)

28 **Table 18.** OSL regression on determinants of time spent on reproductive activities

Executive summary

In 2021, the Project Advancing Women Economic Empowerment in Vietnam (AWEEV), implemented by CARE and funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), undertook a baseline survey to inform project indicators. The baseline data was collected through face-to-face interviews with 363 men and 383 women in nine project communes in Ha Giang and Lai Chau. Based on the study, this report aims to understand better how ethnic minority (EM) men and women spend their time on activities during the day (24 hours). The report analyses the status of participation of women and men in Ha Giang and Lai Chau in unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW) and the factors affecting the time use of women and men. The report also calculates the economic value of UCDW performed by women and men. It also identifies the impact of UCDW on other activities in the family household, including income-generating activities (IGA), education, social and reproductive activities. The analysis results indicate the following issues that need further attention:

The existence of a traditional gender-based division of UCDW: Compared to men, women are involved more in UCDW in terms of both the distribution and time. Regarding gender distribution, 96.6% of women do domestic work (cooking, cleaning the house, washing dishes, etc.) during the day compared to 83.7% of men. Meanwhile, the percentage of women doing care work (including childcare and care for the elderly, the sick, or people with disabilities) was 10 percentage points higher than that of men (67.2% vs. 57%). Women also spent a more remarkable amount of time on UCDW during the day than men did. On average, women spent about 4.46 hours/day on UCDW, while men spent 3.02 hours/day.

Significant differences in time used on UCDW by geography and ethnicity were observed. In total, the gender gap in UCDW and care work and domestic work seem to be larger in Lai Chau. Women in Lai Chau spent 2.89 hours more on UCDW than men did, while this gap in Ha Giang was 0.72 hours. Regarding ethnicity, Thai people spent the most time on UCDW while Dao and Tay people spent the least. The gap between Thai females and males in doing UCDW is the highest with 2.28 hours, while the smallest gender gap was observed in Dao and Tay ethnic (0.3 hours and 0.49 hours, respectively).

Cultural norms or gender stereotypes reinforce the traditional gender-based division of UCDW. Having one additional child under six also tends to increase people's time on UCDW by 0.29 hours. By contrast, the number of household appliances and childcare services available contributes to decreasing women's burden of UCDW. One additional household appliance can reduce women's time spent on domestic chores by 0.14 hours. Women with all their children under six attending school spent 1.25 hours on care work, while this figure changes to 2.63 hours when at least one child under six stays at home.

The economic value of UCDW was initially identified through opportunity cost and replacement cost. Research results show that depending on the calculation method, the economic value that women bring from housework ranges from VND2,035,800 to VND2,414,000 per month (compared to the husband's contribution of VND1,610,000 to VND2,799,300 per month). It is estimated that the economic value of UCDW that women do is equivalent to about one-half of the average household income in a month. Accordingly, the economic value of UCDW helps to fully determine the economic contribution of the men and women in the family.

Time spent on UCDW significantly influences women's and men's time spent on paid work, educational and social, and reproductive activities. Spending more time on UCDW means having less time for other activities, particularly in the cases of women who spent less time on paid jobs.

One recommendation to reduce the time spent on UCDW, particularly for women, is to carry out communication programs on gender equality and particularly on UCDW to increase the community's, especially men's, awareness on the issue and enhance their involvement in UCDW. It would also be essential to raise the community's attention about the economic value of the unpaid work that women are doing to increase the participation of men and thus reduce women's time on UCDW. Ultimately, this will help create more opportunities for them to participate in other social, income generation, and training activities. In addition, women's economic empowerment should be paid more attention to, given that when their economic condition is improved, it contributes to enhancing their voices and confidence in the community and family. Lastly, to reduce the time households, and particularly women, spend on UCDW, it is critical to develop and improve support services (including childcare services, elderly care services, etc.) and increase the number of time-saving household appliances available to families.

Project on Advancing Women Economic Empowerment in Vietnam (AWEEV)

Background

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2000. However, many critical issues were overlooked in implementing these goals for women and girls, which has created significant gaps. Unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW) in the family is one of the contributing factors to those gaps. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals identify the goal of achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls (goal 5) with the specific objective of recognizing and evaluating UCDW through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies, promoting the sharing of responsibilities within the family and country (target 5.4).

In Vietnam, Article 19 on the Law on Marriage and Family 2014 stipulates that husbands and wives are obligated to love, be faithful, respect, care for, help each other, and share and perform household chores. In fact, although men have been participating more in housework, most household chores are still performed by women and girls today. This has been confirmed by the results of many studies, including national studies as well as smaller-scale studies.

It is important to note that women's nurturing and reproductive activities for family members are often underappreciated. The traditional gender-based division of labour in housework leads to women having a lower role and status in society and households. In addition, the family is the primary institution legally responsible for taking care of and providing support for children and the elderly according to the provisions of legal documents, which contribute to increasing the burden of unpaid work for women. The time that women spend in the labour market, as well as for income-generating activities, is less than men because of their responsibilities for household chores. Meanwhile, men have more time to participate in socio-economic activities, more opportunities to improve their professional qualifications, get a higher income, and be promoted. Spending much time on household chores leads to time poverty for women and girls. This directly affects their right to work, to study, and the right to rest and entertainment. Consequently, the quality of life and their health are significantly affected. One of the reasons why the role and status of women in the family has not been properly assessed is the lack of data to fully identify the amount of time that women and men spend on household chores and calculate the economic value of household chores.

In light of this, this report on UCDW, within the framework of the Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment in Vietnam (AWEEV) project, implemented by CARE Canada and CARE International in Vietnam with the support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC), aims to provide a more accurate view of the situation of women's roles in the family based on their contributions through care and household chores.

Objectives

- To examine how EM women and men use their time on daily UCDW and associated factors with their time allocation on UCDW.
- To estimate UCDW economic values contributing to the household economy via opportunity cost and replacement cost.
- To explore potential impacts of UCDW on income-generating activities and women's participation in social activities, study, and leisure.

Methodology

The report used data that were collected during AWEEV's baseline survey carried out in six communes/towns, including Yen Binh town, Tien Nguyen, Tan Bac, Xuan Minh, and Tan Trinh, Yen Thanh communes in Quang Binh district, Ha Giang province and three communes including Ban Bo, Then Sin, Binh Lu in Tam Duong district, Lai Chau province.

744 questionnaires were conducted in nine communes in the project area in October 2021. Research participants were local men and women chosen from the list of households given by each commune. They are farmers or commune employees, small business owners or paid workers. Participants in the interview were selected to ensure a diverse representation of gender, age, ethnicity, and living standards. Detailed information on the study sample is shown in the table below.

Table 1. Characteristics of the sample (N=744)

		N	Percent
Province	Lai Chau	249	33.5
	Ha Giang	495	66.5
Communes	Ban Bo	96	12.9
	Binh lu	94	12.6
	Then Sin	59	7.9
	Tan Bac	77	10.3
	Tan Trinh	94	12.6
	Tien Nguyen	81	10.9
	Xuan Minh	47	12.6
	Yen Binh town	137	18.4
	Yen Thanh	59	7.9
Gender	Male	363	48.8
	Female	381	51.2
Ethnicity	Kinh	106	14.2
	Dao	170	22.8
	Tay	152	20.4

	Thai	114	15.3
	Pa Then	78	10.5
	Others (La Chi, Lao, Lu,....)	124	16.8
Living standard	Poor	102	13.7
	Nearly poor	170	22.8
	Not poor/ nearly poor	472	63.4
Age	<=25	9.9	74
	26-35	42.5	316
	36-50	37.1	276
	>50	10.5	78

Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Enumerators used an electronic questionnaire to interview selected male and female respondents. The questionnaire gave the respondent a pre-set list of activities (including leisure activities, paid work, care work, domestic work, study and social activities) and a 24-hour diary broken down into 15-minute periods. Then they asked them to choose activities from the given list and fill in the diary accordingly. In this report, UCDW is identified as the following specific tasks:

- Buying food/household items
- Weaving, sewing, repairing clothes for the family
- Laundry
- Cooking, washing dishes
- Tidying and cleaning the house.
- Fetching water
- Preparing cooking fuel (get firewood, coal, make charcoal)
- Childcare (including teaching at home, drop-off and picking up at school)
- Care for the elderly, sick people, disabled people in the family
- Repairing household items

Methods to estimate UCDW economic values

The opportunity cost approach: This method has been developed based on the economic implications of the opportunity cost concept. This concept refers to the benefits foregone by choosing one over the other. In the case of calculating the economic value of UCDW, this method refers to the amount of income that a person can earn from paid work instead of undertaking the UCDW. The limitation of this method is that it is difficult to apply different rates of wages to the same work performed by different people because of the different opportunity costs of each person. For example, a college graduate's cooking time would be more valuable than the cooking time of someone who does not go to school. Another issue is that this approach assumes a labour market available to which people can easily enter

and find jobs. While in fact, it is difficult to find opportunity costs for unemployed people or those who live in areas where jobs are scarce, such as the project implementation areas.

The replacement cost approach by using generalist wages: This method calculates the value of UCDW by assigning the average wages of workers performing jobs like domestic work. For example, with jobs related to the family's daily needs (cooking, cleaning, etc.), the salary that can be used for calculation is the salary of a housemaid. For childcare work, the wages of preschool workers can be used. Applying a general approach to the value of household chores may reduce the actual economic value of this work because it does not consider the management duties of a family member when performing family reproductive activities.

Limitations

To obtain specific and detailed data on the amount of time each individual spends on UCDW daily, the survey used a time use question during a face-to-face interview with a male/female representative of the household. The time spent on UCDW reflects the activities that women and men perform during the previous day at the time of the survey. There may also be other household chores that did not occur at the survey time and are not reflected in the report. According to the data, 93.5% of respondents said that activities in the last 24 hours in the timetable are the same activities as their typical day. However, 2.6% of respondents said those activities were more than average, and 3.9% of respondents chose less than usual. It should also be noted that the data was collected in October 2021, when it was not in the harvest season in the survey area. Therefore, activities related to harvesting and selling products will be less mentioned. The UCDW activities that cost 15 minutes or more were counted.

There is not a unified definition of UCDW. This concept is also being defined differently, from country to country. For example, the United Nations System of National Accounts (UNSNA) in 2008 identified the types of activities that are not considered "economic activities" and introduced four groups of unpaid housework, including a) Production of agricultural goods by households to meet the consumption needs of their households; b) Producing other goods to meet the needs of households themselves: building houses, processing food and making clothes, etc...; c) Providing housing services to meet the needs of their own families; d) Providing personal and family services to meet the needs of the household itself: preparing meals, taking care of and educating children, cleaning the house, repairing, etc. (cited from the Institute for Family and Gender Studies, UN Women, 2014). Compared with the UNSNA concept, the content of the concept in this study is much narrower. Therefore, the analysis of unpaid work in this study is more valuable for the Advancing Women Economic Empowerment in Vietnam (AWEEV) Project than for comparison with other studies.

Results

1. Unpaid care and domestic work profile

1.1. Gender distribution and time spent on UCDW

The disparity between EM men and women participating in UCDW is reflected in the distribution and the time they spent on these activities. The proportion of men involved in domestic work accounted for 83.7%, lower than women's (96.6%), except in repairing household appliances and preparing cooking fuel. A total of 27.6% of male respondents repaired household appliances during the last 24 hours, while only 11.2% of females did this. The only activity with a nearly equal gender distribution was the preparation of cooking fuel, where the proportions of men and women were 31.1% and 38.8%, respectively. Meanwhile, the proportions of women doing other domestic work are significantly higher than that of men. For example, 13.1% of women weaved, sewed and mended clothes while the figure of men was 5.7%, and in washing clothes, 86.1% of women did it compared to 53.7% of men.

Regarding care work, the percentage of women doing care work during the last 24 hours was 67.2%, which was 10 percentage points higher than that of men (57%). While the disparity in taking care of older people and/or the sick was insignificant, the participation of men and women in taking care of children was remarkably different, with 56% of men and 65.2% of women.

Table 2. EM men and women's UCDW during the last 24 hours (%)

	Male (N=352)	Female (N=374)	Total (N=726)
Domestic work* *** *of which:*	**83.7**	**96.6**	**90.3**
• **Go to the market to buy food or other goods**	47.7	50.3	49.0
• **Weave, sew and mend clothes****	5.7	13.1	9.5
• **Wash clothes*****	53.7	86.1	70.4
• **Cook, wash dishes*****	64.8	93.9	79.8
• **Clean houses*****	55.7	75.7	66.0
• **Fetch water**	22.4	18.2	20.2
• **Prepare cooking fuel**	38.1	38.8	38.4
• **Repair household appliances*****	27.6	11.2	19.1
Care work**of which:*	57.0	67.2	62.2
• **Take care of children***	56.0	65.2	60.7
• **Take care of older people and/or the sick**	13.4	15.2	14.3

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05).*
Source: Data from AWEEV's baseline survey, 2021

Time spent on UCDW during the last 24 hours was significantly different between women and men. On average, women spent about 4.46 hours per day on UCDW, which was 1.44 hours per day higher than men. In detail, women's time for both domestic chores and care work was remarkably higher than men's. Women spent 3.24 hours/day on domestic chores while the figure of men was only 2.31 hours per day, which was 0.93 hours per day less than that of women. Similarly, women's time spent on care work was 1.21 hours per day, which was 0.51 hours per day higher than men's.

Table 3. Time spent on UCDW during the last 24 hours (hours)

	Male (N=352)	Female (N=374)	Total (N=726)
Domestic work*,** *of which, time allocated for:*	**2.31**	**3.24**	**2.79**
• **Go to the market to buy food or other goods**	0.37	0.41	0.39
• **Weave, sew and mend clothes****	0.03	0.22	0.13
• **Wash clothes*****	0.32	0.61	0.47
• **Cook, wash dishes*****	0.58	0.97	0.78
• **Clean houses*****	0.33	0.51	0.42
• **Fetch water**	0.07	0.08	0.07
• **Prepare cooking fuel**	0.30	0.36	0.33
• **Repair household appliances*****	0.32	0.08	0.20
Care work***of which:*	0.70	1.21	0.97
• **Take care of children***	0.61	1.06	0.84
• **Take care of older people and/or the sick**	0.09	0.16	0.13

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Among all specific unpaid care and domestic activities, the only activity which men spent more time on than women was repairing household appliances. Men spent 0.32 hours on this activity, four times higher than women (0.08 hours). Meanwhile, the largest gap between men and women was observed in weaving, sewing and mending clothes, where women's time spent on this activity was seven-time higher than men's (0.22 hours and 0.03 hours, respectively).

Qualitative research also confirms women's role in UCDW or the prevalence of the traditional pattern of gender-based division of this work. In one of the FGD's with females, they argued that very few men share UCDW with women, and they did it only when their wives were lazy or their children were small, so their wives were burdened with childcare.

> *"Housework and care work is mainly done by my wife; I only do a part. I am the main care provider for my mom; my wife is the secondary. My wife is in charge of domestic work because I am a man, so bathing and washing clothes for my mom and my sister when they are sick is quite hard for me; my wife takes care of them better. In general, I oversee social work while my wife is the main care provider of domestic work. That division of labor aims to make the most of working time. My wife does not participate much in social activities, so she is embarrassed and afraid of social work." (IDI with a husband, 30, Tay ethnic, Ha Giang)*

> *"Of course, women do more housework. Washing dishes and cleaning the house are women's work. If I am busy all day and when I am out of town, he (i.e., husband) will do it. Normally, I do it more. When he returns home from construction, he also supports me to do it. If I finish all care work early, he will take a shower after coming back home and then we have dinners. He will do it with me if I do not finish it yet."* (IDI with a wife, 41, Thai ethnic, Lai Chau)

This pattern of division of UCDW seems to be a barrier to women's participation in the labour market, especially for those with small children. A number of females expressed that they could not assume paid economic work due to their burden of childcare.

> *"I work as a builder, but it is exhausted; my wife cannot do it. She just does housework, stays at home to do housework, cooks food for the kids and takes care of them. She also likes to be a bricklayer, but I do not let her do. Now she is weak and cannot do heavy work. How can she do when she is over 40 years old? I disagree because no one does housework if she becomes a bricklayer." (IDI with a husband, 37, Thai ethnic, Lai Chau)*
>
> *"I asked my husband for allowing me to work together with him as a bricklayer; I wanted to do that. But he said that it was not women's work because it was tiring. Our kids were still small, so he did not allow me to do that. He told me to stay at home to take care of the kids. He told me to stay at home, so I stayed at home; I did not argue. I just listen to whatever he says."* (IDI with a wife, 39, Thai ethnic, Lai Chau)

However, almost all ethnic minority men and women thought that this division of labour was reasonable and did not need to change.

> *"As the woman in the family, I have to do more domestic chores. Men rarely do it. They only do it when we tell them. Men do important things, for example, selling cattle, building a house, etc. Men carry heavy things such as rice or corn bags, which women are not strong enough to do. I think there is no need to change anything about the work of women and men. Housework is women's work. I do what I usually do. If I do not finish all, I will do the rest the next day." (IDI with a wife, 27, H'Mong ethnic, Ha Giang)*

The percentage of people doing domestic work in Lai Chau and Ha Giang is nearly equal at around 90%. The number of women in both provinces who do this work was significantly higher than men (Lai Chau: 98.4% of women vs. 81.3% of men; Ha Giang: 95.7% of women vs. 85% of men). Women are also involved in more specific chores than men, except with repairing household appliances which the percentage of men doing this activity is significantly higher than that of women. Nonetheless, the gender gap in doing specific domestic chores in Lai Chau seems to be larger than in Ha Giang. In other words, men in Ha Giang seem to be involved in more domestic chores than their counterparts in Lai Chau. For example, 81.5% of women in Lai Chau washed clothes, which is more than double that of men (37.2%), while this gender gap in Ha Giang is only 1.4 times (88.4% vs. 62.3%). In Lai Chau, getting water and preparing cooking fuel are the two chores in which men's participation is at least equal to women's. In Ha Giang, in addition to these chores, going to the market to buy food is nearly equal for both genders (see Table 4).

In terms of care work, more people in Lai Chau do care work than in Ha Giang (67.5% and 59.6%, respectively). However, care for older people or the sick seems to be more of a burden in Ha Giang than in Lai Chau. 17.9% of people in Ha Giang engage in this work, while this figure in Lai Chau was 7.3%. It is worth noting that women in both sites are involved more in domestic chores and care work than men, but the gap is larger in Lai Chau. 79.4% of women in Lai Chau did care work which is 24.1 percentage points higher than that of men (55.3%), while the figures of women and men doing this work in Ha Giang were 61.2% and 57.9%, respectively. This disparity can be attributed to the gender gap in childcare in Lai Chau is larger than in Ha Giang. A total of 76.6% of women in Lai Chau took care of children, while this figure for men was 52.1% (see Table 4).

Table 4: EM men and women involved in UCDW by province (%)

	Lai Chau (N=254)			Ha Giang (N=481)		
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Domestic work*,** *of which, time allocated for:*	**81.3**	**98.4**	**90.0**	**85.0**	**95.7**	**90.5**
• **Go to the market to buy food or other goods**	31.4	45.2	38.4	56.3	52.8	54.5
• **Weave, sew and mend clothes****	2.5	13.7	8.2	7.4	12.8	10.2
• **Wash clothes*****	37.2	81.5	59.6	62.3	88.4	75.9
• **Cook, wash dishes*****	48.8	94.4	71.8	73.2	93.6	83.8
• **Clean houses*****	49.6	75.0	62.4	58.9	76.0	67.8
• **Fetch water**	7.4	7.3	7.3	30.3	23.6	26.8
• **Prepare cooking fuel**	28.1	29.8	29.0	43.3	43.2	43.2
• **Repair household appliances*****	28.1	8.9	18.4	27.3	12.4	19.5
Care work***of which:*	**55.3**	**79.4**	**67.5**	**57.9**	**61.2**	**59.6**
• **Take care of children***	**52.1**	**76.6**	64.5	58.0	59.6	58.8
• **Take care of older people and/or the sick**	8.3	6.5	**7.3**	16.0	19.6	**17.9**

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Regarding time spent on UCDW, people in Lai Chau spent more time on this activity than those in Ha Giang. During the last 24 hours, people in Lai Chau spent about 4.40 hours on UCDW while this figure of Ha Giang was 3.43 hours, which is a difference of 1 hour. In both Lai Chau and Ha Giang, women spend more time on UCDW than men, but the gender gap in Lai Chau seems to be higher than in Ha Giang. In Lai Chau, women spent about 5.83 hours on UCDW, which is 2.9 hours higher than men's, while the gender gap in Ha Giang is 0.72 hours. The gender gap in all specific activities in Lai Chau is also higher than in Ha Giang. For example, women in Lai Chau spent 0.65 hours washing clothes which is 2.8 times higher than that of men, while in Ha Giang, the gap is 1.67 times. The time women spent taking care of children in Lai was 1.69 hours which is 2.73 times higher than that of men, while the gap in Ha Giang is 1.25 times (see Table 5). Compared with their counterparts in Ha Giang, women in Lai Chau spent remarkably more time on UCDW (5.83 hours vs. 3.78 hours). The gap between women in both provinces is observed in some specific activities, including weaving, sewing, mending clothes, repairing household appliances and taking care of children.

Table 5: Time spent on UCDW by province (hours)

	Lai Chau (N=254)			Ha Giang (N=481)		
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
UCDW* **	**2.93**	**5.82**	**4.40**	**3.06**	**3.78**	**3.43**
Domestic work,** *of which, time allocated for:*	**2.24**	**3.91**	**3.09**	**2.35**	**2.91**	**2.79**
• Go to market to buy food or stuffs*	0.24	0.42	0.33	0.43	0.41	0.42
• Weave, sew and mend clothes**	0.03	0.47	0.25	0.03	0.09	0.06
• Wash clothes	0.23	0.65	0.44	0.36	0.60	0.48
• Cook, wash dishes	0.47	1.16	0.82	0.64	0.87	0.76
• Clean houses	0.39	0.64	0.51	0.30	0.45	0.38
• Fetch water	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.09	0.09	0.09
• Prepare cooking fuel	0.27	0.41	0.34	0.32	0.34	0.33
• Repair household appliances	0.59	0.12	0.35	0.18	0.06	0.12
Care work,** *of which, time allocated for:*	**0.69**	**1.19**	**1.31**	**0.71**	**0.87**	**0.79**
• Take care of children***	0.62	1.69	1.16	0.60	0.75	0.68
• Take care of older people and/or the sick	0.08	0.23	0.15	0.10	0.12	0.11

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Gender division of labour in families among different ethnic groups seems to share a similar pattern. Women of all ethnicities do more UCDW than men. The only activity that men of all ethnicities participate in more than women is repairing household appliances. Across ethnic groups, the percentage of men doing this activity varied from twice to three times higher than that of women

1.2. Factors associated with time use on UCDW

An Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression was conducted to understand better the factors impacting time spent on UCDW in general and domestic chores or care work in particular. Variables added in the OLS regressions included respondents' socio-demographic characteristics (gender, age, educational level and occupation), care burden (number of children under six and having family members with a disability and/or people aged 80 and over), household's economic status (household living condition and number of household appliances) and cultural factors (ethnicity and perception of gender equality). The analysis sample for conducting the OLS regressions for time spent on care work includes only participants with children under six instead of the total sample because a significant difference between males and females in care activities is observed in only taking care of children as in Table 3. In these models, all children under six going to the nursery schools/kindergarten was added as an impact factor to measure the importance of this service to reduce the care burden for women.

In all regression models, gender always significantly affect the total time spent on UCDW and in domestic chores or care work. In other words, women spend remarkably more time on domestic chores and care work than men. Table 6 shows that men tend to spend 1.28 hours less on UCDW than women. In domestic chores, men are more likely to spend 0.88 hours less than women (see Table 8), while men in households with children under six tend to spend 0.59 hours less on care work than women (see Table 7).

The OLS regression results looking for only men's total time spent on UCDW as well as care work and domestic chores confirmed the importance of gender factor on time for UCDW, However, other factors such the number of children under six, number of household appliances, household living conditions, perception of gender equality, ethnicity, age, occupation and educational attainment do not statistically contribute significantly to men's time spent on UCDW (see Table 6).

Table 6: OLS regression for time spent on UCDW during the last 24 hours

Variables	Odd ratio (total)	Odd ratio (male)	Odd ratio (female)
Male (female=ref)	**-1.28*** (0.18)**		
Age	**-0.03** (0.01)**	-0.01 (0.01)	**-0.04** (0.01)**
Educational attainment (number of schooling years)	-0.03 (0.03)	0.02 (0.04)	-0.03 (0.04)
Doing only agricultural work[1] (others=ref)	**0.53* (0.21)**	0.47 (0.25)	0.62 (0.35)
Number of children under six	**0.29* (0.12)**	0.32 (0.16)	0.28 (0.18)
Having people with disability and/or people aged 80 and over (No=ref)	-0.01 (0.27)	0.01 (0.34)	0.15 (0.41)
Poor/near poor household (medium & above= ref)	0.02 (0.22)	0.09 (0.28)	-0.04 (0.33)
Number of household appliances[2]	-0.10 (0.07)	-0.00 (0.08)	**-0.21* (0.10)**

[1] This variable is calculated based on whether respondents do only agricultural activities or not. This variable is coded as 1 if respondents who do only agricultural activities and is 0 or others if they do either non-agricultural activities or both agricultural and non-agricultural activities.

[2] This variable is calculated by the sum of all household appliances in the family related to doing unpaid care work including an electric cooker, gas stove/induction cooker, built water tank, stainless steel water tank with 500ml or more of capacity, electric kettle, fridge/frozen fridge, microwave/oven and washing machine. The more appliances the household has, the higher value it is. The value of this variable is varied from 1 to 8.

Dao ethnic	**-1.30*** (0.34)**	0.04 (0.44)	**-2.43***(0.52)**
Tay ethnic	**-0.88** (0.31)**	0.00 (0.40)	**-1.78*** (0.48)**
Thai ethnic	-0.14 (0.35)	-0.17 (0.44)	-0.07 (0.53)
Other ethnic groups	-0.48 (0.33)	-0.15 (0.40)	-0.81 (0.51)
Perception of gender equality[3]	**0.10* (0.04)**	0.09 (0.05)	0.09 (0.05)
R	0.14	0.04	0.16
N	695	332	363

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Respondents' age and occupation significantly influence time spent on UCDW. Older people tend to spend less time on UCDW than younger people. Respondents doing only agricultural work tend to spend 0.53 hours more than those doing non-agricultural work or both agricultural and non-agricultural work. Regarding care work, older people are more likely to spend less time on this activity than younger people. Socio-demographic characteristics insignificantly influence males' time on UCDW but significantly impact females'. Older women tend to spend less time on UCDW and care work.

Regarding the care burden, people's time on UCDW tends to increase when they have children under six (see Figure 1 and Table 7). Having one additional child under six can increase people's time on UCDW by 0.29 hours (see Table 6). Nonetheless, the influence of the number of children under six on time for care work tends to become statistically insignificant when all children under six go to nursery schools or kindergartens. Women whose children under six go to school spend 1.13 hours less on care work than those who have at least one child under six who stays at home (see Table 7). This shows the importance of providing appropriate childcare services to reduce the care burden for women.

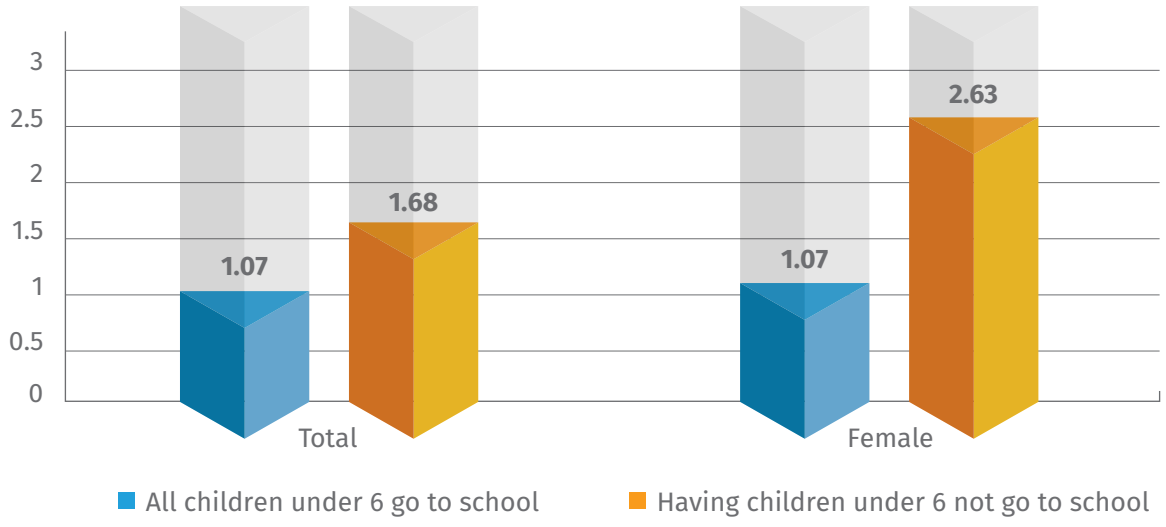

Figure 1: Time spent on UCDW during the last 24 hours in families whose children go to school or not

[3] This variable aims to measure how gender equality is perceived by the respondents. It is calculated by the sum of all answers selecting that "both spouses" should do some activities together in total of 8 activities including housework, income-generating, teaching children, taking care of children, making important decisions, participating in community work, being representative of household to negotiate prices of household's products and actively doing business. The value of this variable is varied from 1 to 8. The higher value this variable is, the better perception of gender equality respondents have.

Table 7. OLS regression for time spent on UCDW during the last 24 hours in families with children under six

Variables	Odd ratio (total)	Odd ratio (female)
Male (female=ref)	**-0.59** (0.19)**	
Age	**-0.04** (0.01)**	**-0.05*(0.02)**
Educational attainment (number of schooling years)	-0.05 (-0.03)	-0.08 (0.05)
Doing only agricultural work (others=ref)	0.37 (0.21)	0.55 (0.41)
Number of children under six	-0,31 (0.18)	-0.39 (0.30)
All children under six go to the nursery schools/ kindergartens (No=ref)	**-0.50* (0.19)**	**-1.13** (0.34)**
Having people with disability and/or people aged 80 and over (No=ref)	0.13 (0.27)	0.30 (0.51)
Poor/ near poor household (medium and above = ref)	**-0.46*(0.22)**	-0.81 (0.41)
Dao ethnic	**-1.46***(0.35)**	**-2.38 ***(0.64)**
Tay ethnic	**-0.87** (0.32)**	**-1.71**(0.58)**
Thai ethnic	-0.34 (0.34)	-0.46 (0.62)
Other ethnic groups	**-0.90**(0.33)**	**-1.54*(0.62)**
Number of household appliances	-0.05 (0.07)	-0.33 (0.12)
Perception of gender equality	0.09 (0.05)	0.10 (0.08)
R	0.17	0.24
N	385	194

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Both variables related to cultural factors have influenced the total time spent on UCDW and care work and domestic chores separately. People with a better perception of gender equality tend to spend more time on UCDW (see Table 6). This could mean that people with a better perception of gender equality potentially discuss and negotiate with their spouses to have an equal division of UCDW in the household. It shows the power or importance of traditional cultural norms or gender stereotypes in the project sites.

Compared to the perception of gender equality, the impact of ethnicity on time for UCDW is more significant. Total time spent on UCDW and care work of the Tay ethnic group, especially the Dao ethnic group, tends to be lower than their counterparts. For example, Dao ethnic people are more likely to spend less than 1.3 hours on UCDW than other groups. This result is also confirmed in female respondents. Dao and Tay female respondents also spend less time on this work than other groups regarding domestic work.

Table 8. OLS regression for time spent on domestic work during the last 24 hours

Variables	Odd ratio (total)	Odd ratio (female)
Male (female=ref)	**-0.86*** (0.15)**	
Age	**-0.00 (0.01)**	**-0.00 (0.01)**
Educational attainment (number of schooling years)	-0.02 (0.02)	-0.02 (0.03)
Doing only agricultural work (others=ref)	0.28 (0.17)	0.25 (0.25)
Number of children under six	-0.03 (0.10)	-0.09 (0.14)

Having people with disability and/or people aged 80 and over (No=ref)	**-0.18 (0.22)**	**-0.26 (0.31)**
Poor/ Near poor household (medium and above = ref)	0.23 (0.17)	0.37 (0.24)
Number of household appliances	**-0.08 (0.06)**	-0.14* (0.08)
Dao ethnic	**-0.50 (0.28)**	**-1.19** (0.39)**
Tay ethnic	**-0.37 (0.25)**	**-0.79* (0.35)**
Thai ethnic	0.05 (0.28)	0,04 (0,40)
Other	**0.12 (0.26)**	**0,05 (0.38)**
Perception of gender equality	0.04 (0.03)	0.02 (0.04)
R	0.10	0.11
N	695	363

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Answering what can help respondents do domestic work and care work more conveniently (reducing time and effort), the data show that the two most common activities are having people perform housework together and having better appliances to help with household chores. Besides, a certain percentage of people want to have more skills and knowledge to perform UCDW better. In general, men and women have pretty similar opinions except that the percentage of women wanting better appliances to support them with UCDW is higher than that of men.

Table 9. Supporting activities to reduce the time and effort spent on UCDW

Activities	Domestic work		Care work	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Family members working together	78.5	81.4	78.5	82.9
Better household appliances	46.0	54.3	45.5	53.3
Improve knowledge and skills	49.9	52.8	44.9	51.4
Having daily marketplaces for grocery, food, necessities close to your house	35.0	35.7	30.9	29.1
Piped water to villages	28.4	30.2	28.4	28.9

2. Economic contribution of UCDW to the household economy

It can be affirmed that housework and family care play a key role in human development. Without care, children will not be able to develop intellectually or physically, and adults will have difficulty maintaining and developing their capacities. The problem is that UCDW brings happiness to those who benefit from care on the one hand, and on the other hand, it takes away the "costs" of caregivers, mainly women. Those "costs" include energy, health, working opportunities, income, social security benefits, and the enjoyment of free time. This can lead to gender inequality both in the family and in society. Elson, in his book (Progress of the World's Women, 2000), emphasizes that care work does not mean that the person doing it is always ready and wants to do it, because sometimes, a woman feels pressured by society and sometimes, even forced to perform those activities (cited from Debbie Budlender, 2002).

Le Ngoc Van (1999:18) argues that the gender division of labour leads to differences in the nature and value of the work performed by women and men. Spending more time (compared with men) on housework and caregiving causes women to be undervalued than men regarding their economic contribution to the family. Therefore, quantifying household works in terms of economic value will bring about an important change in the perception of the value of employment, income and economic contribution to the family of men and women. The lack of quantification and inadequate assessment of the housework's value makes society in general and policymakers, in particular, not fully aware and not properly attract support and investment from men and society.

The report employs the opportunity cost approach and generalist approach to estimate the economic value of household chores to providing evidence on the economic value of domestic and care work performed by women and men,

The UCDW economic value calculated by the opportunity cost approach

The assumption is that when spending time on housework and caring for the family, women or men may lose the opportunity to participate in income-generating activities. Since there is no information on the monthly average income of female and male respondents in the sample, the report is based on the average income of one working day of women and men in the area to estimate the opportunity cost they may lose when they spend time on housework and caregiving.

The information shows that men and women have different work opportunities. Women often take jobs such as transplanting, tea picking, construction assistant, peeling tree bark, etc., while men usually work in construction. On average 8 hour working days, the daily wage rate for women for rice planting or picking tea is VND200,000. However, this job is only seasonal. The pay rate for regular hire jobs such as peeling tree bark is VND100,000 VND for 8 hours. Because seasonal employment opportunities only cover about one-fourth of the year (approximately three months), the average wage rate for women is estimated to be around VND125,000 per day. Men can earn a salary of VND250,000 to VND300,000 per 8-hour working day doing construction work. Daily rates have been converted to hourly rates to calculate the economic value of housework and unpaid care, respectively.

Table 10. The UCDW's economic value is calculated by the opportunity cost approach (Unit: VND)

	Average daily income	Odd ratio (female)	Average income by hour	Working hours for UCDW/day	Estimated average income from UCDW/day	Estimated average income from UCDW/ month
Women	125,000	8	15,600	4.35	67,860	2,035,800
Men	250,000	8	31,000	3.01	93,310	2,799,300

The opportunity cost shows that if women and men have the opportunity to get jobs during the crop season and if they do not have to spend time on UCDW, women can earn 108,750 VND/day. If it is not the crop season, the cost to pay for the daily-basis worker is lower. If they would not have to spend time on UCDW, women could earn an estimated sum of 54,375 VND per day. If men do not spend time on UCDW, the opportunity cost they can get is 93,310 VND/day.

Thus if the economic value of UCDW is converted to the value of paid jobs, at the time of crop season, women might lose a significantly higher amount of income due to their higher hours on UCDW - VND108,750 VND per 4.35 hours, compared to VND93,310 VND per 3.1 hours. When it is not the crop season, the possible income of women is lower than that of men due to their lower pay rate. It can be said that taking on UCDW can make women and men lose the opportunities to work and earn income.. However, it should be noted that the level of income that can be obtained from paid work without having to do household chores varies greatly depending on employment opportunities and earning capacity.

The UCDW economic value calculated by replacement cost

The assumption is that if families have access to support services for housework and caregiving, women and men will reduce their time spent on UCDW. However, due to many reasons, such as the unavailability of services and difficulties in accessing services, it is difficult for family members, especially women who mainly perform these tasks. The average wages of a housemaid are collected to calculate the economic value of UCDW using the generalist approach. In ethnic minority rural areas, housemaid services are not common. The data show that a housemaid service is available in Yen Binh town, with an average salary of VND5,000,000 per month for a housemaid to do housework and take care of children. On average, the

working time is about 9 hours per day. The economic value of housework is calculated by the formula of hourly income of a domestic worker (income/30 days/9 hours a day) multiplied by the number of hours the wife/husband spends on housework. The results of estimating the economic value of UCDW using the generalist approach are shown in Table 11.

Table 11. The UCDW's economic value is calculated by replacement cost (Unit: VND)

	Average income by hour/day	Average hours on UCDW/day	Average income from UCDW/day	Average income from UCDW/month
Women	18,500	4.35	80,475	2,414,000
Men	18,500	3.01	55,685	1,610,000

The replacement cost shows that women's economic contribution to the family through UCDW is 80,475 VND/day, equivalent to 2,414,000 VND/month, 1.5 times higher than the economic value that men contribute to the family through UCDW. However, it should be noted that in rural areas, the cost of using services to replace the burden of housework is too high. This estimated cost accounts for 56.7% of ethnic minority households' income. Poor households cannot use these services because the alternative price exceeds 143.3% of their income (Center for Analysis and Forecasting and Care International in Vietnam, 2021). On the other hand, it should be noted that housemaid services do not cover all activities related to housework and family care (E.g., repairing household appliances, fetching water, or preparing cooking fuel)

The above calculations on the economic value of housework allow an estimate of the economic value that women and men contribute to the family and society through the performance of household chores. These methods to calculate the economic value of household work show several issues that need further attention as follows:

First, despite certain limitations in each method, initial calculations of the economic value of UCDW provide evidence that changes the prevailing notion that housework is a type of labour that only creates use value, not economic value. The estimated average income of women from UCDW is around 2,035,800 to 2,414,000 VND per month, equivalent to about one-half of the average monthly household income. In the baseline survey, the average household income in the past 12 months ranged from 45 to nearly 50 million VND. When women spend lots of their time on UCDW, they may lose opportunities to get about VND2,035,800 per month for their families. On the other hand, without women's participation in UCDW, the family will have to spend about VND2,414,000 to pay for people or housework and care work services. This leads to the fact that it is even more necessary to recognize the value and importance of women's roles in society. Policies and programs should pay more attention to women's contributions or provide support services to reduce their time on UCDW to increase their opportunities to engage in income-generating activities.

Second, comparing the economic contributions of women and men by quantifying the time they spend on housework by the opportunity cost method shows that, although women spend more time on UCDW, the economic conversion value is lower than that of men. The reason is that the income from women´s jobs is much lower than that of the men. Thus, men's tendency to engage in income generation activities and women taking care of care and domestic work seems to be a reasonable choice of the households based on economic benefits. It suggests that supporting policies and programs to help women to get jobs with a better income is necessary to promote men's participation in UCDW.

3. Impacts of UCDW

3.1. Impact on time use on income-generating activities (IGA)

The impacts of UCDW on IGA are measured by the time respondents spent on UCDW in relation to time spent on IGA. We used a correlation analysis between the two variables. The results show a negative correlation (p<0.000), which means that if respondents spend a lot of time on UCDW, they have to reduce their time on IGA and vice versa when they spend a lot of time on IGA, they may reduce their time on UCDW.

Table 12. Correlation between time spent on UCDW and time spent on paid work (N=726)

		Time spent on UCDW (hours)	Time spent on paid work (hours)
Time spent on UCDW (hours)	Pearson Correlation	1	-0.63**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.00
	N	726	726
Time spent on paid work (hours)	Pearson Correlation	-0.63**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.00	
	N	726	726
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Table 15 clearly shows that time spent on UCDW is significantly varied between men and women in the research area, in which women spent much more time on UCDW than men. Specifically, about 20% of men spend 4-8 hours on UCDW compared to 32.5% among women. The gap is more significant at the level of more than 8 hours spent on UCDW, where there are only about 2.3% of men involved but 10.2% of the women spending such hours on doing UCDW (4.4 times higher than men).

Indicates that the less time people spent on UCDW, the more time they spent on paid work. For instance, among those surveyed women who spent around 2 hours on UCDW, 87.7% reported spending over 8 hours on paid work. This figure is only 27.5% among those who reported spending around 4-8 hours on UCDW. This pattern is similar among surveyed men.

Table 13. Time spent on UCDW and Time spent on paid work by gender

Time spent on UCDW	Time spent on paid work***					
	Men		Total	Female		Total
	Up to 8 hours	Over 8 hours		Up to 8 hours	Up to 8 hours	
Up to 2 hours	22	100	122	8	57	65
	18.0%	82.0%	100.0%	12.3%	87.7%	100.0%
From 2-4 hours	71	79	150	54	92	146
	47.3%	52.7%	100.0%	37.0%	63.0%	100.0%
From 4-8 hours	62	8	70	87	33	120
	88.6%	11.4%	100.0%	72.5%	27.5%	100.0%
More than 8 hours	8	0	8	38	0	38
	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%		100.0%
Total	163	187	350	187	182	369

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

Importantly, there is a significant gap between men and women regarding their time spent on paid work in relation to time used on UCDW. The results remark that among those who spent around 2 hours on UCDW, the percentage of women who reported spending more than 8 hours on paid work is 87.7%, compared with 82% of men. This observation is repeated among those who used 2-4 hours on UCDW and those who spent 4-8 hours. Even with the constraint of UCDW, women still spent considerable time on paid work.

Table 14 provides the OSL regression analyses that show the gender of respondents, province, perception of gender equality, and time spent on UCDW are determinants of time respondents' spending on paid work. Female respondents living in Ha Giang who have a better perception of gender equality spend less time on UCDW and are more likely to spend more time on paid work. This finding implies that increasing gender equality and reducing time on UCDW will help to increase women's opportunities to participate in the labour workforce.

Table 14. OSL regression on determinants of the time that respondents spend on paid work (N=744)

	OR (Std.Error)	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Gender (1=male; 2=female)	0.89 (0.20)***	0.50	1.27
Provinces (1=Lai Chau; 2 = Ha Giang)	1.87 (0.22)***	1.43	2.31
Respondents' occupation (0=other; 1=farmer)	-0.08 (0.22)	-0.51	0.34
Age groups	-0.04 (0.13)	-0.30	0.21
Education levels	-0.07 (0.10)	-0.27	0.14
Ethnic groups	-0.05 (0.11)	-0.27	0.17
Family with member aged under six years old (0=No; 1=Yes)	0.09 (0.19)	-0.28	0.47
Family with disabled people/older people aged 80 or older (0=No; 1=Yes)	-0.03 (0.28)	-0.573	0.52
Perception of gender equality	0.10 (0.04)**	0.02	0.18
Poor household (0=No; 1=Yes)	0.04 (0.27)	-0.49	0.58
Time spent on unpaid care work	-0.80 (0.04)***	-0.88	-0.72
R	0.69		
N	726		

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

3.2. Impact on time use on educational and social activities

Educational and social activities in this analysis include six different activities: training, village or group meetings, community work, attending a wedding, funerals, and village festivals, socializing with relatives, communicating with local authorities.

The majority of men and women spend about up to 2 hours per day on educational and social activities, and the percentage of women is higher than men at this level. However, percentages of men who spend 2-4 hours per day and more than 4 hours per day for these activities are higher than those of women (p<0.05).

Comparing the two provinces, people in Lai Chau spend less time on education and social activities than ones in Ha Giang. More people in Lai Chau spend 2 hours per day for such activities but more people in Ha Giang spend over 4 hours.

There are no significant differences among different ethnic groups, but some variation can still be seen among them at a certain amount of time spent on these activities (see Table 15).

Table 15. Time spent on educational and social activities by gender, province, and ethnicity (N=726)

	Up to 2hrs/day		From 2 – 4hrs/day		More than 4hrs/day	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Gender*						
Men	229	65.1	74	21.0	49	13.9
Women	273	73.0	53	14.2	48	12.8
Provinces*						
Lai Chau	182	74.3	41	16.7	22	9.0
Ha Giang	320	66.5	86	17.9	75	15.6
Ethnicity groups						
Dao	113	67.7	31	18.6	23	13.8
Kinh	70	67.3	12	11.5	22	21.2
Tay	98	66.7	30	20.4	19	12.9
Thai	82	73.2	22	19.6	8	7.1
Others	139	70.9	32	16.3	25	12.8

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

The time spent on UCDW and educational and social activities are significantly correlated. When respondents spend more time on UCDW, they reduce the time on educational and social activities (p<0.05).

People in poor households are more likely to spend more time on educational and social activities. Especially, time spent on UCDW negatively influence time spent on educational and community activities. Notably, respondents who devote more time to those activities are more likely to spend less time on education and social activities.

Table 16. OSL regression on determinants of the time on educational and social activities

	OR (Std.Error)	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Gender (1=male; 2=female)	0.17 (0.13)	-0.08	0.42
Provinces (1=Lai Chau; 2 = Ha Giang)	1.05 (0.15)***	0.76	1.34
Respondents' occupation (0=other; 1=farmer)	0.20 (0.14)	-0.07	0.47
Age groups	-0.03 (0.08)	-0.20	0.13
Education levels	0.06 (0.07)	-0.07	0.19
Ethnic groups	0.09 (0.07)	-0.05	0.23
Perception of gender equality	0.05 (0.03)	-0.00	0.10
Poor household (0=No; 1=Yes)	0.45 (0.17)**	0.11	0.79
Time spent on UCDW (hours)	-0.40 (0.03)***	-0.46	-0.34

Time spent on paid work (hours)	-0.50 (0.02)***	-0.55	-0.45
R	0.628		
N	726		

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

3.3. Impact on time use on reproductive activities

Reproductive activities in this analysis include sleeping, personal hygiene and eating, relaxation (Watching TV, sports, surfing the internet, reading books, newspapers...). Time spent on reproductive activities distributed by gender, ethnicity groups and provinces is presented in Table 17. There are high correlations between gender, location of residence and ethnicity groups and time spent on reproductive activities. Men spend more time on reproductive activities than women, for example, 32.7% men spend more than 12 hours on these activities while the proportion among women was 15,6%. In relation to ethnicity, Thai people spend more time on these activities than other. People who live in Lai Chau also spend more time on these activities than those who live in Ha Giang (p<0.005).

Table 17. Time spent on reproductive activities by gender, provinces, and ethnicity groups (N = 724)

	From 8hrs/day and less		More than 8hrs - 12hrs/day		More than 12hrs/day	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Gender* **						
Men	20	5.7	217	61.6	115	32.7
Women	24	6.5	290	78.0	58	15.6
Provinces* **						
Lai Chau	8	3.3	144	58.8	93	38.0
Ha Giang	36	7.5	363	75.8	80	16.7
Ethnicity groups* **						
Dao	14	8.4	128	76.6	25	15.0
Kinh	4	3.8	75	72.1	25	24.0
Tay	14	9.6	105	71.9	27	18.5
Thai	2	1.8	66	58.9	44	39.3
Others	10	5.1	133	68.2	52	26.7

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

In order to examine the impacts of UCDW on the time respondents spend on reproductive activities, an OSL regression analysis is used to identify the determinants. It is reported that respondents who live in Lai Chau, or those in non-poor households, who spend less time on UCDW or paid work are more likely to spend more time on reproductive activities. No difference is found between men and women, and perception of gender equality is not a determinant. This finding implies the importance of improving economic conditions and reducing the burden of UCDW, which has been considered women's roles to increase respondents' time for reproductive activities (Figure 19).

Table 18. OSL regression on determinants of time spent on reproductive activities

	OR (Std.Error)	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Gender (1=male; 2=female)	-0.17 (0.13)	-0.42	0.08
Province (1=Lai Chau; 2 = Ha Giang)	-1.05 (0.15)***	-1.34	-0.76
Occupation (0=other; 1=farmer)	-0.20 (0.14)	-0.47	0.07
Age groups	0.03 (0.08)	-0.13	0.20
Education levels	-0.06 (0.07)	-0.19	0.07
Ethnic groups	-0.09 (0.07)	-0.23	0.05
Perception of gender equality	-0.05 (0.03)	-0.1	0.00
Poor household (0=No; 1=Yes)	-0.45 (0.17)**	-0.79	-0.11
Time spent on UCDW (hours)	-0.60 (0.03)***	-0.66	-0.54
Time spent on paid work (hours)	-0.50 (0.02)***	-0.55	-0.45
R	0.73		
N	726		

*(Statistical significance: ***: p<0.001; **: p<0.01; *: p<0.05)*
Source: Data from the project survey, 2021

4. Conclusion and recommendation

4.1. Conclusions

The disparities between EM men and women in performing UCDW are observed in both the distribution and the time they spent on these activities. Regarding gender distribution of domestic work, 96.6% of women did it during the last 24 hours compared to 83.7% of men. Similarly, the percentage of women doing care work was ten percentage points higher than that of men (67.2% vs. 57%). The percentages of women involved in all specific UCDW activities were also higher than that of the men, except in repairing household appliances and preparing cooking fuel (27.6% of males compared to 11.2% of the females).

In terms of time used on UCDW between men and women, women spent significantly more time on UCDW during the last 24 hours than men. On average, women spent about 4.46 hours per day, which was 1.44 hours per day higher than men. There is only one activity in which men spent more time than women: repairing household appliances (0.32 hours vs. 0.08 hours). The burden of UCDW seems to be a barrier to women's participation in the labour market.

Although women of all ethnicities spend significantly more time on UCDW than men do, the gap between Thai females and males in UCDW is the highest with 2.28 hours. The smallest gender gap was observed in Dao and Tay ethnic (0.3 hours and 0.49 hours, respectively).

Men in Ha Giang seem to involve more in domestic chores than in Lai Chau. In Lai Chau, getting water and preparing cooking fuel are the two chores in which men's participation is the least equal to women's. In addition to these chores, going to the market to buy food engaged both genders nearly equally in Ha Giang.

The research shows the influence or power of cultural norms or gender stereotypes on the gender-based division of UCDW. People with a better perception of gender equality tend to spend less time on UCDW.

Household appliances help to decrease women's time on domestic work. By contrast, the number of children under six can increase people's, especially women's, time on UCDW in general and care work in particular. However, when all children under six go to school, people's time spent on care work tends to reduce, particularly among women.

The analysis clearly shows the relationship between gender, age, educational level, perception of gender equality, time spent in UCDW, paid work and participation in economic activities, educational and social activities, and reproductive time of people in the survey area.In households where respondents have a better perception of gender equality, often all jobs are decided by both husband and wife.

This study has shown that, in addition to the social values that women bring about by performing housework (such as care, education, etc.), they also contribute certain economic values to their families. The economic values that a woman contributes by performing housework range from VND2,035,800 to VND2,414,000 VND per month (compared to the husband's contribution from VND1,610,000 to VND2,799,300 per month). By that level of contribution, the economic status of women is significantly improved in relation to the men. The results of this study provide solid evidence for the economic contribution of women through housework performance.

Time spent on UCDW significantly impacted respondents' time engaged in income-generating activities. The analysis results show that women in Ha Giang, who have a better perception of gender equality and spend less time on UCDW, are more likely to spend more time on paid work.

Similarly, in the case of educational and social activities, UCDW also has a significant impact on time spent in these activities. People who have to perform much unpaid care work will have less time for educational and social activities. Similar results were also observed in the case of the factors affecting the respondents' time spent on reproductive activities.

4.2. Recommendations

National data clearly show that most women have participated in the labour force[4], but it does not mean that housework will be shared more equitably among family members. The development of the household businesses without paying sufficient attention to promote the sharing of housework and care work may increase the responsibilities and burdens for women as they have to take on the dual role of generating income and performing care duties of the mother and wife in the family. The importance of addressing UCDW is highlighted by its inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals under Target 5.4: Recognise and value UCDW through public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate. Based on the research results, the following solutions are recommended:

4 The rates of women participating in the labour force in 2018, 2019, 2020 are 71.6%, 71.8% and 69% respectively (according to the Labor and employment survey report 2020, GSO).

Solution 1: Communication activities

Communicate to change the perception of gender roles and gender equity and let men realize the benefits of sharing UCDW responsibilities. It is recommended to implement different communication activities about women and men's roles in the family (events, contests, integrated into village meetings, mass organizations' meetings, etc.). It is vital to ensure both men's and women's participation. The proper awareness of housework will help to recognize the woman and man's position and role in the family. Communication activities need to be suitable to the culture of each ethnic group, paying special attention to the Thai, Pa Then, H'Mong, etc., among whom the gender gap in doing UCDW is common.

Early education on non-discriminating gender roles for children is also recommended as children will act upon what they observe from their parents.

Communicate on women's economic contribution by performing UCDW

In the absence of national data on the participation of women and men in housework, it is necessary to use the available research results, especially those attempts to quantify the economic values of housework and women's economic contribution in organised communication activities to change the perception of housework and the role and economic status of women by taking on those tasks.

Solution 2: Supportive activities

Implement activities to improve opportunities and accessibility to enhance women's resources such as employment and education: in particular, it is necessary to create job opportunities with better income for women to promote their participation in the labour market and reduce time spent on UCDW.

Conduct research to develop or increase accessibility to family support services needed to reduce women´s time spent on household chores.

Provide family support services, including childcare and housing services that support housework and caregiving, especially for families who are responsible for the care of a dependent group (children and the elderly). Activities to support the family, especially women, to reduce time and effort doing UCDW could be giving access to devices/tools/appliances to perform housework and care for the family effectively. The mountainous terrain and harsh conditions make travelling difficult, limiting women's opportunities to access jobs or develop a household economy. Therefore, improving road conditions may give them more opportunities for employment and economic development and increase their accessibility to services. Furthermore, building clean water systems would help to reduce women's time to collect water.

Solution 3: Implementing research and monitoring activities to understand women's contribution by performing UCDW correctly

It is necessary to have a national definition of UCDW. Constructing and conceptualizing "UCDW" that covers all reproductive activities for both males and females, closely adhering to the nature of domestic and care work. It is also necessary to gradually eliminate the notion that women do better than men in such care and nurturing tasks. The National Strategy on Gender Equality for the 2021-2030 period (issued together with the Government's Resolution No. 28/NQ-CP of March 3, 2021) sets the target: Reduce the average number of hours doing domestic and care work for women to 1.7 times in 2025 and 1.4 times in 2030 compared to men. However, the strategy does not define domestic and care work.

Based on the United Nations System of National Accounts (UNSNA) definition, to have a comprehensive view of UCDW, this study proposes that UCDW includes the following work: 1) Activities to maintain household life (preparing meals, washing clothes, cleaning the house, washing dishes, preparing offerings, burning incense, ..), 2) Farming/raising activities for household consumption, 3) Educating children in the family, 4) Taking care of children, the elderly in the family/other family members, 5) Taking care of ornamental plants and domestic animals, 6) Maintenance and repair of tools, household appliances and houses, 7) Buy goods and use commercial and administrative services for the family, 8) Social and community activities.

Identifying the concept of UCDW, as this study does, allows for a complete view of the different types of unpaid work overcomes the tendency to focus only on characteristics such as caring and nurturing that women tend to do more than men. Viet Nam does not have any estimation of the economic value of UCDW at the national level, so there is not much evidence of women's economic contribution when they do housework as well as evidence to develop social services or social protection for reducing women's time on UCDW. In the long term, policies and programs on gender equality that the Ministry of Labour- Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) have also promoted considering this type of work and devising policies to reduce housework burden for women by promoting men's understanding and participation. When data on UCDW is accurately collected and analyzed, it will play a significant role as solid evidence and foundation to make decisions and implement interventions to reduce the burden of UCDW on women, which could help transform women's lives. For example, data on the "care deficit" in Uruguay helped to make the case to expand care services for preschool children and the elderly. In Finland, data on care and employment led to a string of policies to close the gender gap, such as increased paternity leave and free daycare for preschool children (Diva Dhar, 2020). It can be said that recognizing UCDW as work with economic value is the first step in assessing activities that women mainly carry out. This, along with changing gender norms around UCW, will be important to encourage men to shoulder more of the unpaid care burden, particularly when the number of women in the workforce is increasing.

References

1. Debbie Budlender. 2004. Why should we care about unpaid care work? A guidebook prepared for the UNIFEM Southern African Region Office, Harare, Zimbabwe.
2. Le Ngoc Van. 1999a. Gender-based division of labor in fishery families. Journal of Science on Women, No.1/1999.
3. Le Ngoc Van. 1999b. Changes in the gender-based division of labour: Some raising issues. Journal of Science on Women, No. 4/1999.
4. Center for Analysis and Forecasting, Care Vietnam, 2021. Survey on unpaid housework for ethnic minorities in Vietnam.
5. Diva Dhar, 2020, Women's unpaid care work has been unmeasured and undervalued for too long, from https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/womens-unpaid-care-work-has-been-unmeasured-and-undervalued-for-too-long

Consultant team:

Tran Thi Hong
Trinh Thai Quang
Nguyen Ha Dong

In partnership with Canada care

CARE International in Vietnam
9th floor, CDC Building,
25 Le Dai Hanh street, Hai Ba Trung district,
www.care.org.vn
info@care.org.vn