



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**THE NATIONAL TREASURY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING**

**REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT
FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE
REPORT: ECONOMIC VALUE OF UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE
WORK IN KENYA, 2025 HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT THE
PANARI HOTEL, NAIROBI**

**Ms. Anne Wang'ombe, Principal Secretary, State Department for
Gender and Affirmative Action -**

**Dr. Macdonald George Obudho, EBS, MBS, The Director General of
the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics EBS, MBS**

Senior Government represented,

Development Partners,

The Civil Society,

Members of the Fourth Estate,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

**Commending the key institutions involved in the development of
the report**

I am greatly honoured to join you today at the launch of this first of a kind
landmark report on ***The Economic Value of Unpaid Domestic and Care***

Work in Kenya, 2025. Let me begin by commending the **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics**, the **State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action**, and our development partners, notably **UN Women, and Statistics Sweden**, for their tireless efforts in providing the technical and financial support towards developing this inaugural report.

The report is informed by the creation of a Household Satellite Account that provides a robust framework for quantifying and valuing Unpaid Domestic and Care Work. It has brought forth valuable findings and recommendations that will guide the government in steering the country's long-term socio-economic development.

This report is not just a statistical publication, but a bold step towards:

- a. Redefining how we understand and value the invisible work that sustains our households, communities, and the economy;
- b. A call to action; and
- c. A foundation for inclusive economic planning and sustainable development.

Statistics, the new oil for development

Statistics is a fundamental public good that plays a critical role in: shaping policies through informed decision-making; facilitating effective resource allocation; and ensuring efficient public service delivery thus fostering inclusive growth.

Whereas natural resources like land, water, and energy powered the economies of the 20th century, today it is statistics that drives growth, inclusion, and innovation. Data has rightly been called the “new oil” for development. Unlike oil, it does not deplete when used. Instead, the more it is shared responsibly, the more valuable it becomes

Commitments in the Fourth Medium Term Plan 2023-2027

Under the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV 2023-2027), the Government committed to:

- a. Develop a National Care Policy informed by the 2021 Kenya Time Use Survey Data;
- b. Set up a Household Satellite Account to determine the economic value of unpaid domestic and care work; and
- c. Undertake periodic time use surveys that will enable us to update the established Household Satellite Account and thus continue to track the contribution of unpaid work to the economy.

The launch of this report is indeed a demonstration of the governments dedication to fulfilling national commitments.

Internationally the report advances the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG Target 5.4 that seeks to “***recognize and value unpaid care and domestic 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.***”

Ladies and Gentlemen

The findings of this report are both illuminating and profound. In 2021, the unpaid domestic and care work, if compensated, would have amounted to **KSh. 2.54 trillion**, equivalent to **23.1 per cent of Kenya’s GDP**. This is a staggering contribution greater than the combined Gross Value Added of manufacturing, electricity supply, water supply and construction, which constitute the industry sectors. Consequently, **this report reveals stark gender imbalances**. Women bear the disproportionate burden of unpaid

domestic and care work, **particularly in nutrition services, care, and household maintenance**. This burden limits their participation in formal employment, reduces productivity, and perpetuates cycles of economic exclusion.

Distinguished Guests

This report is a milestone in our journey towards **gender-responsive economic planning**. Notably, the findings on valuation of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work is a tool for **policy transformation**, which calls for a paradigm shift in how we design our policies, allocate resources, and measure progress. **We should all now move from recognition to action** through the following:

- **First**, we should invest in **public care infrastructure** through affordable childcare, eldercare, and disability support services to reduce the burden of unpaid care work.
- **Second**, we should promote **gender-responsive labour policies** that enable flexible work arrangements, paid family leave, and equitable participation in the workforce.
- **Third**, we should integrate policy actions on the recognition, reduction and redistribution of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work into our **national macroeconomic and social protection frameworks**, ensuring that care work is shared equally within our society.
- **Fourth**, we should institutionalize **regular Time Use Surveys** to update the Household Satellite Account and monitor progress toward gender equality and sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The launch of this report marks the beginning of a new chapter in Kenya's economic planning. **As the State Department for Economic Planning**, we commit to:

1. **Institutionalize the Household Satellite Account** and ensure its regular update through periodic Time Use Surveys;
2. **Strengthen Inter-Agency collaboration to disseminate the findings** of this report at national and county levels to inform planning, budgeting, and policy formulation.
3. **Champion the recognition of unpaid domestic and care work** in our economic discourse and development priorities.

Finally, let me conclude by commending all the stakeholders who contributed to this exemplary national duty. Your efforts have laid the foundation for transformative change. I call upon all stakeholders (both State and non-State actors) to join us on this transformative journey to ensure that unpaid domestic and care work is no longer invisible, but integral to our national development agenda.

Thank you. God Bless you all.

God Bless Kenya