

CARE–BSDD Kenya Series

# From Demographic Change to Care-Responsive Budgeting



Informing A Smarter World



February – March 2026

Session 3



Informing A Smarter World



# Defining and Locating Care Work within the Economy

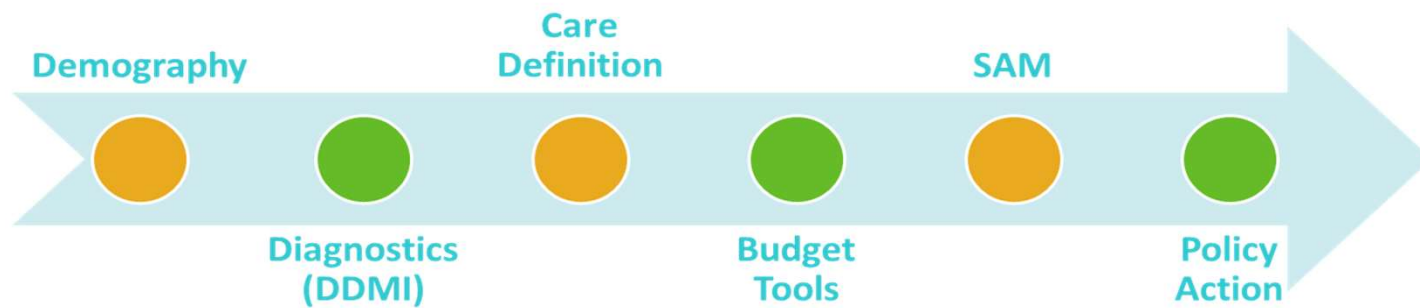
CARE–BSDD Kenya Series

From Demographic Change to Care-Responsive Budgeting

February 17, 2026

## Where We Are in the Series

- ⇒ Tier 1: Demographic Transition
- ⇒ Tier 1: DDMI
- ⇒ Tier 2: Defining Care (Today)
- ⇒ Tier 3: Budget Reform Tools



# Today's Agenda

## ⇒ *Defining and Locating Care Work within the Economy*

Positioning the Question	Why defining care is the missing conceptual step after demographic analysis and diagnostic tools
Defining Care as a System	Direct care, domestic tasks, community care – and the paid/unpaid distinction
Care as Labor	Why care is work, and why unpaid care disappears from national accounts
Making the Invisible Visible	Time-use evidence, gendered distribution of care, and time poverty as an economic constraint
From Evidence to Institutions	How care becomes fragmented inside planning and administrative systems
Systemic Consequences	How invisibility distorts labor policy, human capital investment, and budgeting
Visibility and Its Limits	Why measurement is necessary but not sufficient for reform

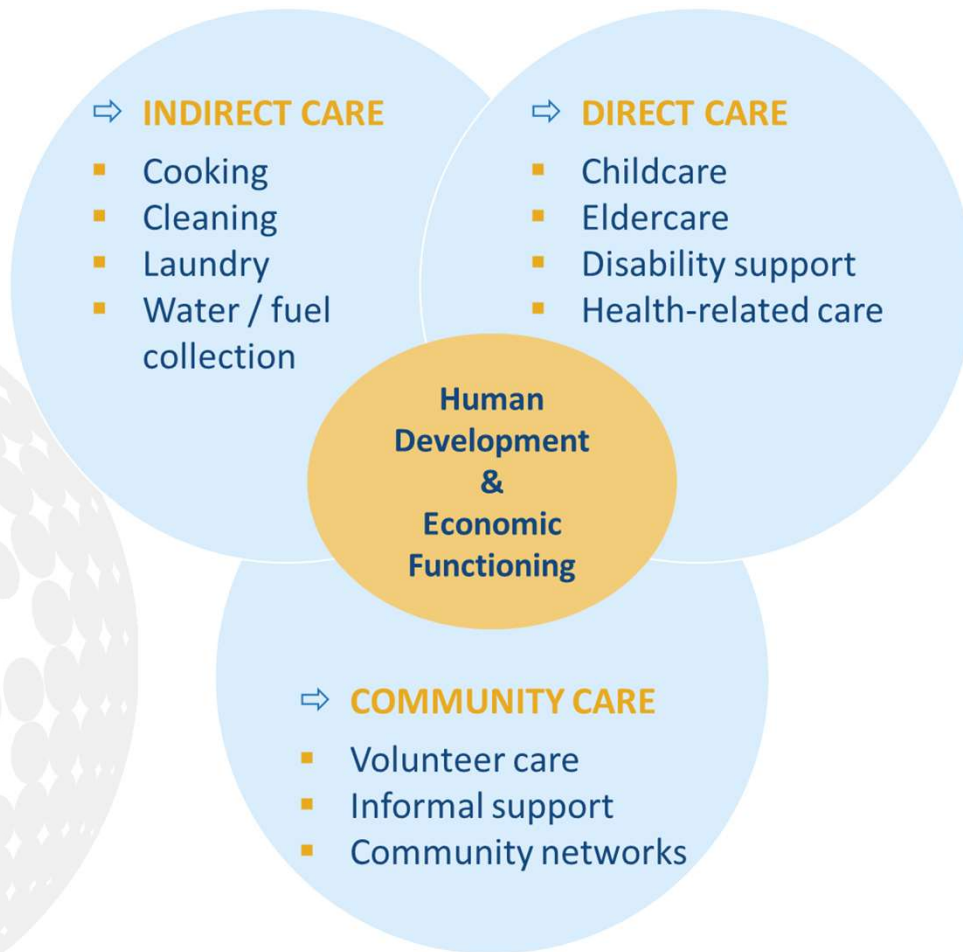
# The Core Question

- ⇒ Care is widely acknowledged as important.
- ⇒ Yet it disappears in statistics and budgets.

- ⇒ What counts as care?
- ⇒ Where does it take place?
- ⇒ Who provides it?
- ⇒ Which part is paid and which is unpaid?



# Care as a System of Activities



⇒ Mostly unpaid → Mostly invisible

⇒ Only part of this system appears in official statistics.

# Paid vs Unpaid Care

- ⇒ Paid care appears in GDP and budgets.
- ⇒ Unpaid care remains largely invisible.

- **Care is labor.**
- **Exclusion is methodological.**
- **Invisibility is structural.**

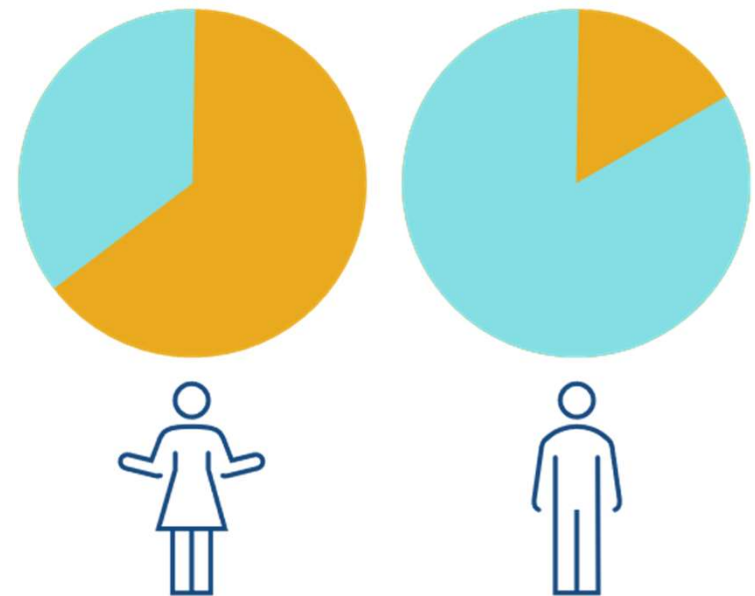


## Time-Use Evidence

⇒ How do we make the invisible visible?

- ⇒ Women perform the majority of unpaid care work.
- ⇒ Unpaid care consumes substantial daily hours.
- ⇒ This creates time poverty.

### Unpaid Care Work



# Time-use and Economic Visibility



**Prof. Latif Dramani**

Coordinator, Regional  
Consortium for Research in  
Generational Economics  
(CREG)

- ⇒ How time-use data can be translated into economic visibility?
- ⇒ How unpaid care work can be quantified and integrated into economic analysis?

**Session 3 – Guest Speaker – Pr. DRAMANI - CREG**



Informing A Smarter World



# Measuring and Understanding Unpaid Care Work through Time-Use Surveys

**CARE–BSDD Kenya Series**

**From Demographic Change to Care-Responsive Budgeting**

February 17, 2026

# Why Measuring Time Matters

⇒ Every individual has only 24 hours in a day.

- Time is an economic resource.
- Unpaid care work is invisible labor.
- Some economic realities disappear without time data.

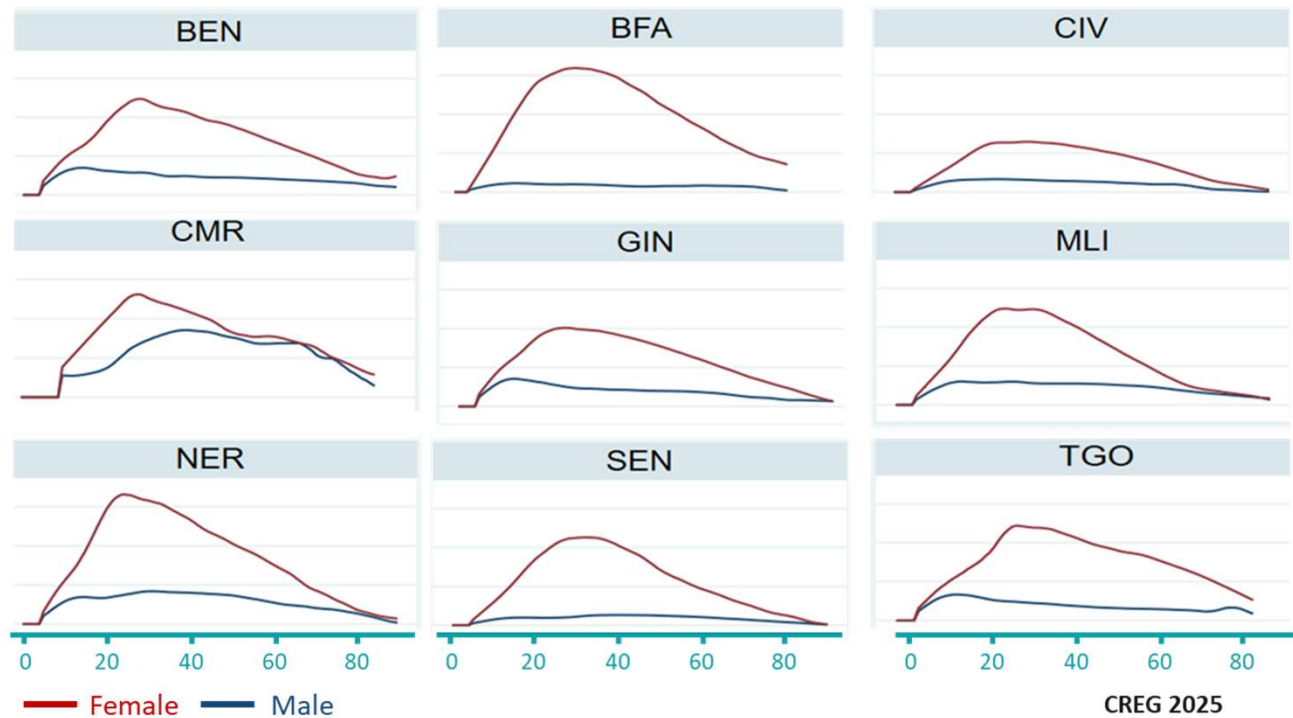
Intended destination of production	for own final use			for use by others					
	Own-use production work		Employment (work for pay or profit)	Unpaid trainee work	Other work activities	Volunteer work			
Forms of work	of services	of goods				in market and non-market units	in households producing		
						goods	services		
ICATUS 2016	4. Unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	3. Unpaid domestic services for household and family members	2. Production of goods for own final use	1. Employment and related activities			5. Unpaid volunteer, trainee and other unpaid work		
				11. Employment in corporations, government and non-profit institutions	12. Employment in household enterprises to produce goods	13. Employment in households and household enterprises to provide services	53. Unpaid trainee work and related activities	59. Other unpaid work activities	51. Unpaid direct volunteering for other households**
Type of work	Unpaid work (unpaid care work, domestic work and production of goods for own final use*)						Unpaid work (community, volunteer, trainee work)		
Relation to 2008 SNA				Activities within the SNA production boundary					
				Activities inside the SNA General production boundary					



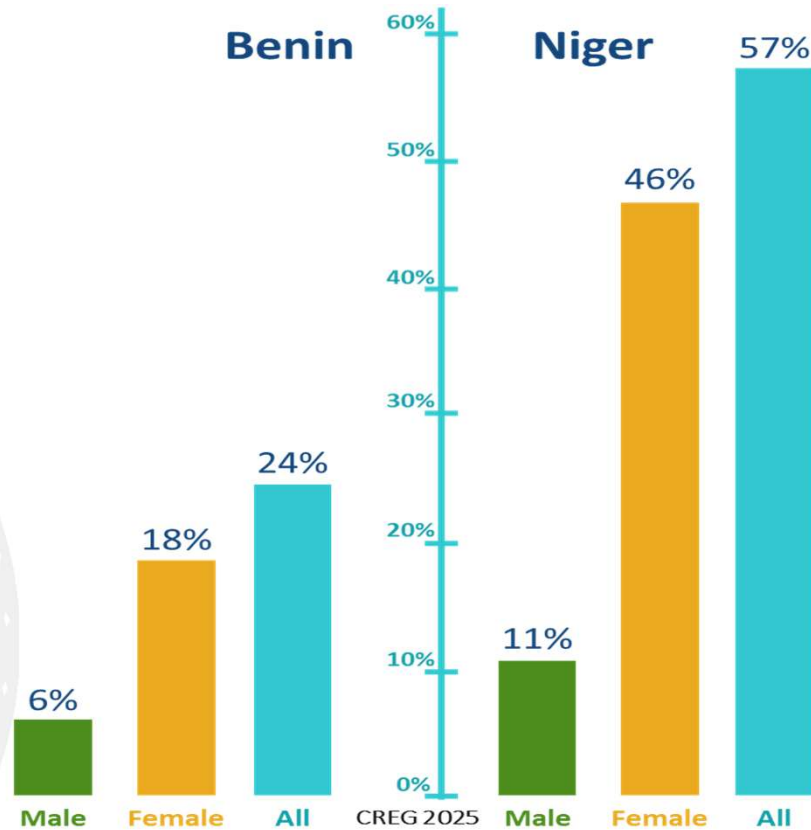
# What Time-Use Surveys Reveal

- Daily distribution of activities
- Gendered care responsibilities

Production and Consumption of Time over the Life Cycle



# What Time-Use Surveys Reveal



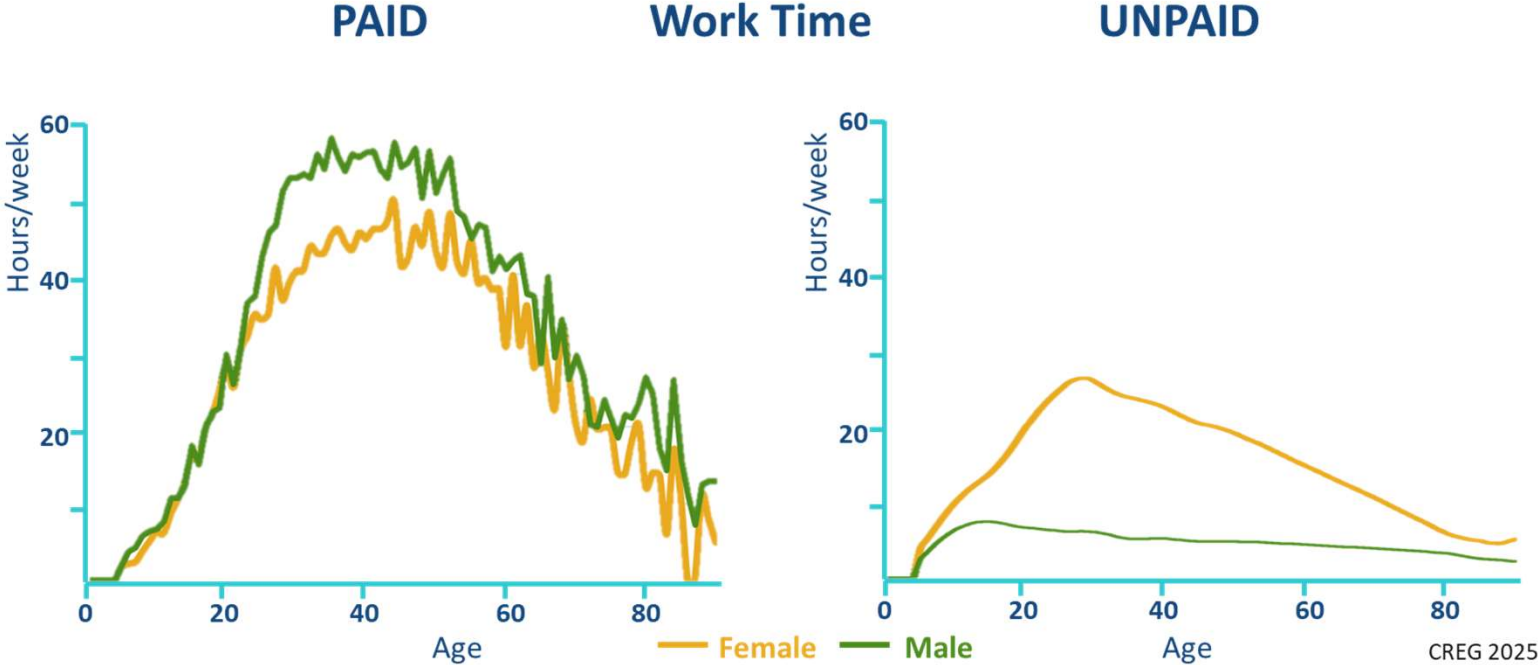
Share of Unpaid Work value to GDP

- ⇒ Economic contributions
- invisible in GDP
- but essential to household and social functioning

# The Economic Significance of Care Hours

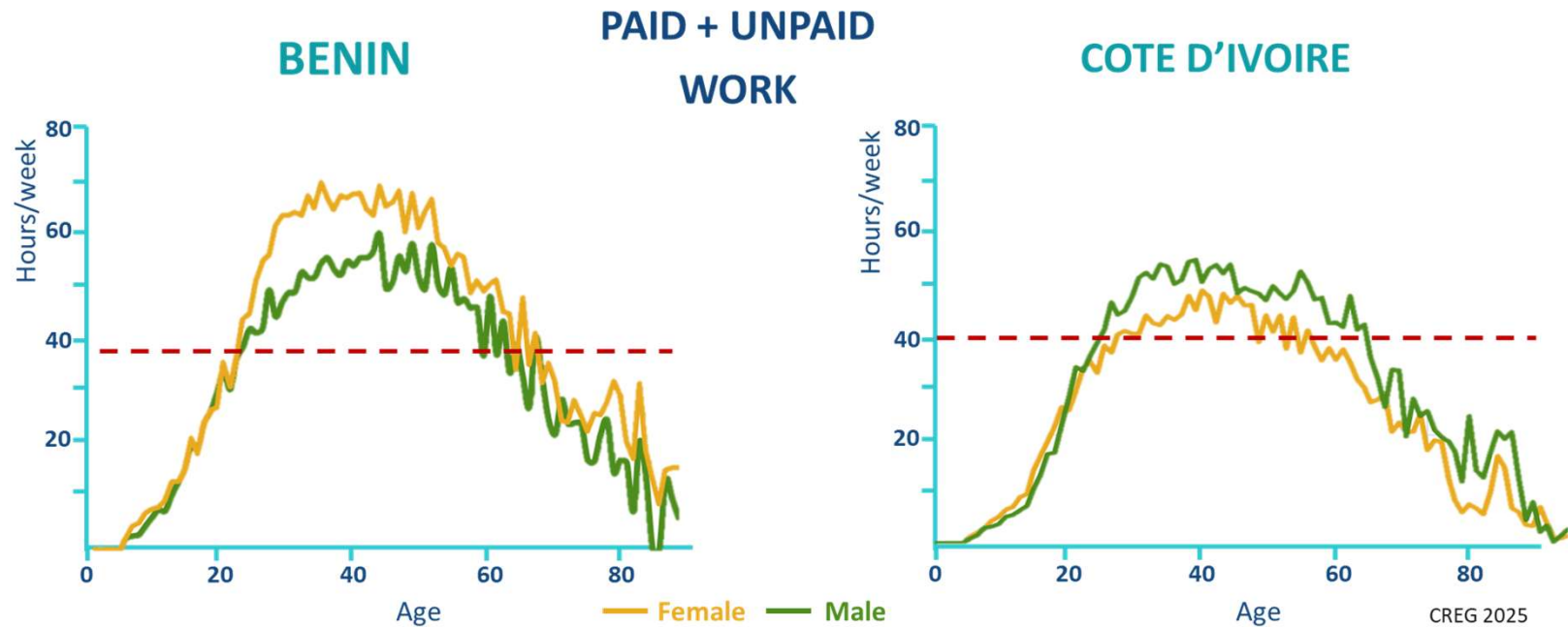
⇒ Unpaid care hours can rival formal employment hours.

## BENIN



# From Time-Use Data to Macroeconomic Understanding

⇒ Without accounting for unpaid care work, our understanding of growth and productivity is incomplete.



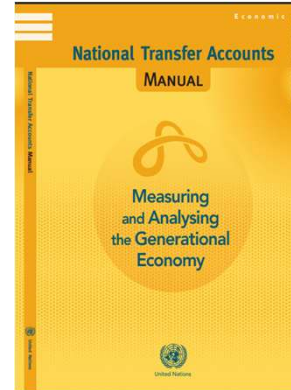
## From Time-Use Data to Macroeconomic Understanding

	BENIN		NIGER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Paid Work Value (10<sup>9</sup> lcu)</b>	<b>2 963</b>	<b>2 240</b>	<b>1 320</b>	<b>918</b>
<i>Share in the global</i>	57%	43%	59%	41%
<i>% of GDP</i>	37%	28%	32%	23%
<b>Unpaid Work Value (10<sup>9</sup> lcu)</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>1 459</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>3 312</b>
<i>Share in the global</i>	24%	76%	18%	82%
<i>% of GDP</i>	6%	18%	11%	46%
<b>Total Production (Paid+Unpaid)</b>	<b>3 427</b>	<b>3 699</b>	<b>2 071</b>	<b>4 230</b>
<i>Share in the global</i>	48%	52%	33%	67%
<i>% of GDP</i>	43%	47%	43%	69%

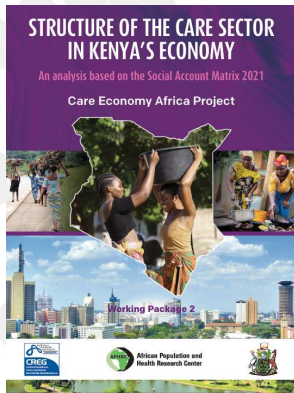
# Expanded analytical frameworks



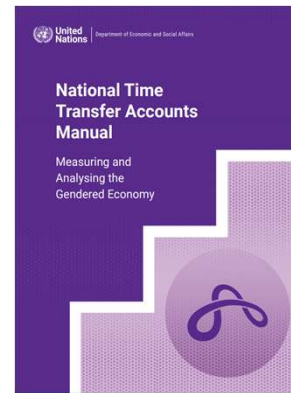
- ⇒ **HSA**  
**Household Satellite Account**
- Statistical framework.
  - Measures and values unpaid productive activities carried out within the home.



- ⇒ **NTA**  
**Analysis of National Transfer Accounts**
- How society supports individuals economically at each stage of their lives.
  - Introduces the dimension of age into traditional macroeconomic statistics.



- ⇒ **SAM**  
**Social Accounting Matrix**
- Integrated analytical framework.
  - How the production structure of an economy interacts with the distribution of income among different social groups.



- ⇒ **NTTA**  
**Analysis of National Time Transfer Accounts**
- Quantifies and values the exchange of unpaid services between generations and genders.
  - Complements traditional monetary accounts (NTA).

# Why Time Data Matters for Planning and Budgeting

⇒ **If time is invisible, policy is incomplete.**

- Evidence-based policy design
- Identifying structural constraints
- Risks of policy blind spots

## Without Time-Use Data

- Assumes unlimited labor supply
- Ignores unpaid care burden
- Overestimates female labor participation potential
- Underestimates true policy costs
- Fragmented sectoral responses

- Misaligned budgets
- Implementation gaps
- Limited impact

**Policies built without time data rest on invisible labor.**

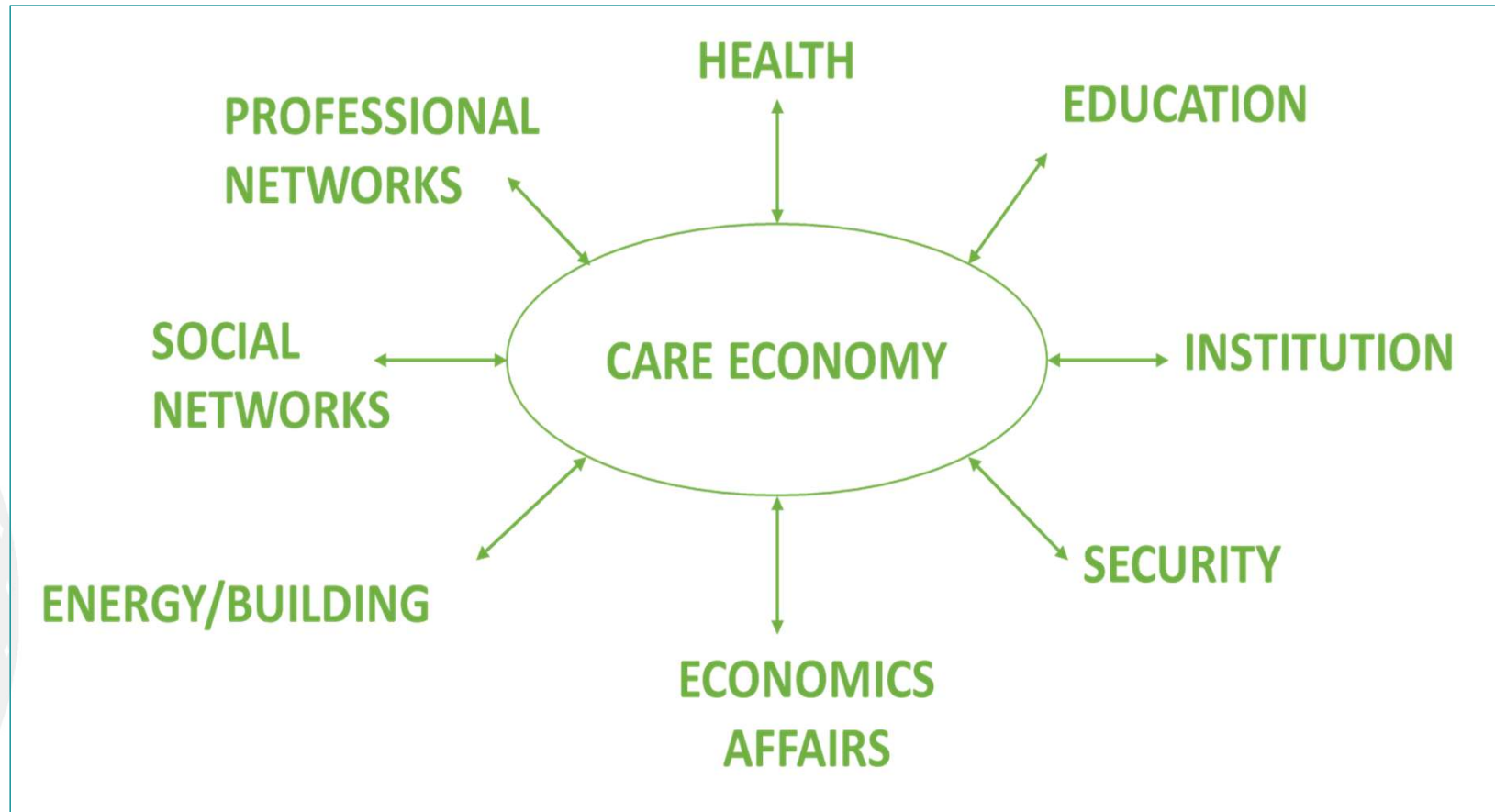
## With Time-Use Data

- Recognizes fixed 24-hour constraint
- Quantifies unpaid care workload
- Identifies gendered time inequalities
- Reveals opportunity costs
- Supports realistic planning assumptions

- Targeted investments
- Coherent budget alignment
- Higher policy effectiveness

**Policies informed by time data recognize real constraints.**

## Positive Externalities with Time-Use Data



# Thank You



**Pr. Latif Dramani**

[creg-center.org](http://creg-center.org)

[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)

# Time-use and Economic Visibility



**Prof. Latif Dramani**

Coordinator, Regional  
Consortium for Research in  
Generational Economics  
(CREG)

- ⇒ Time-use surveys complement the national accounts.
- ⇒ Unpaid care is not informal in importance.
- ⇒ Unpaid care is informal in measurement.

# From Economic Evidence to Institutional Reality



**Mercy Wanjohi**

Deputy Director Gender &  
Inclusivity, Nairobi City  
County

- ⇒ Evidence reveals invisible care.
- ⇒ Institutions must translate evidence into plans.
- ⇒ Where does the gap emerge?

**Session 3 – Guest Speaker – Mercy Wanjohi – NBO County**



Informing A Smarter World



# The “Unseen Oxygen” and the Administrative Vacuum

**CARE–BSDD Kenya Series**

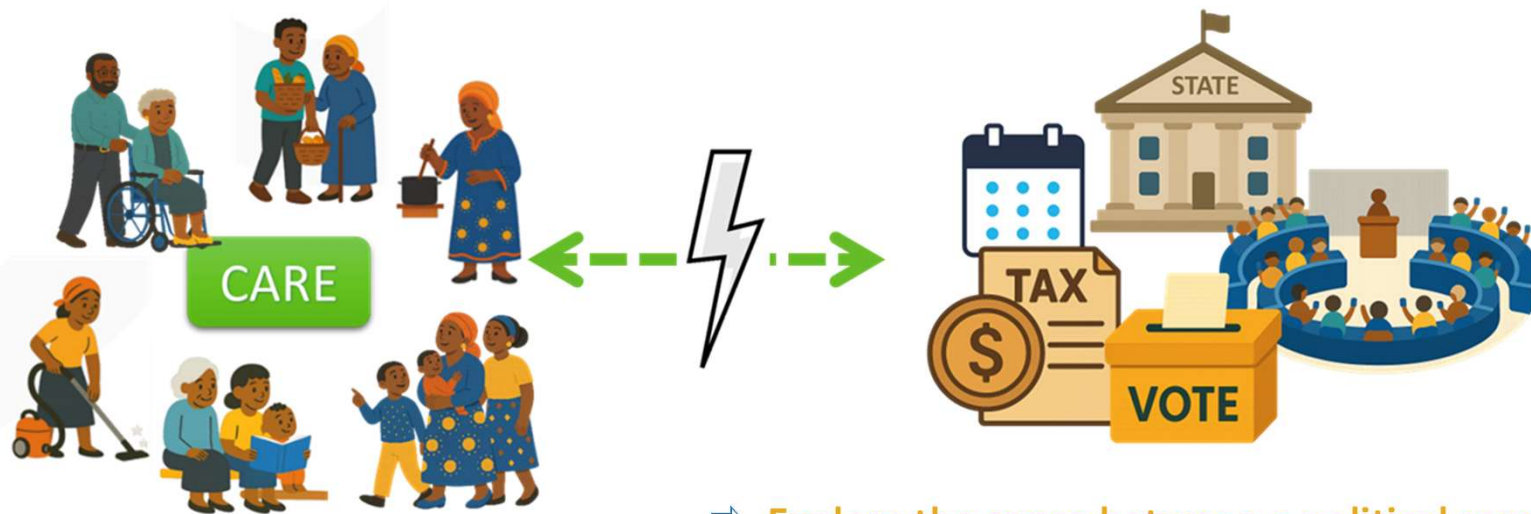
**From Demographic Change to Care-Responsive Budgeting**

February 17, 2026

# The “Unseen Oxygen” that keeps our society alive.

⇒ Undervaluing care is a "barrier to county's prosperity".

- How do you plan and budget for "oxygen"?
- How do you fund something that remains invisible in our administrative systems?



⇒ Explore the space between a political commitment and the practical reality of a county budget cycle.

# What we talk about when we talk about “care”.

⇒ Healthcare

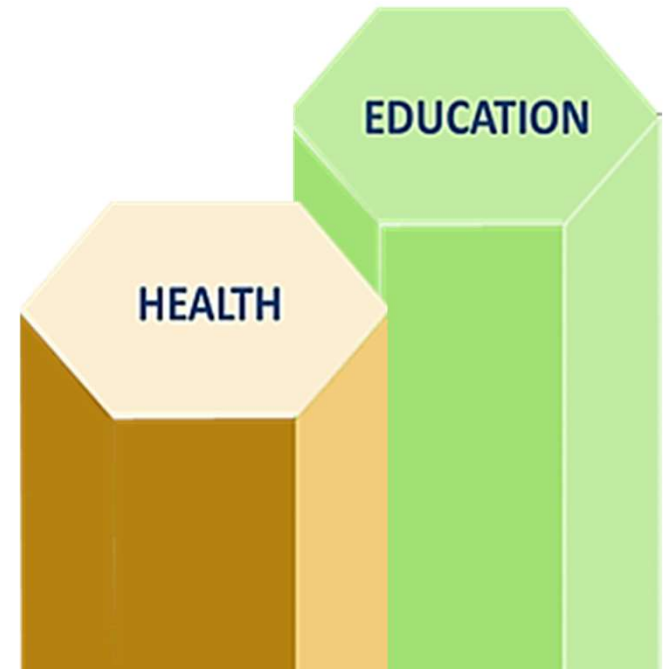
⇒ Early Childhood Development

- 
- Hospitals - Clinics
  - ECD centres
  - School feeding programs

Into  
Departmental  
Silos



Care is immediately reduced  
to formal services.



# What we talk about when we talk about “care”

## ⇒ The overlooked half

- Unpaid care work
- 77.8 hours per week (female domestic workers)
- Household labor enabling the formal economy

⇒ What remains invisible shapes economic reality.

⇒ Narrow definition → Narrow solutions



# Definition matters: you can't budget for a blank

⇒ **Administrative tools require specific, measurable outputs.**

- Mapping childcare in Nairobi: 4,000+ informal centres identified that were a blind spot.
- Female market traders with children earn 48% less than those without.

⇒ **If our definition of "care" doesn't include this reality, our budgets for "economic empowerment" or "trade" will miss a primary barrier to their success.**



# Childcare as Economic Infrastructure

⇒ **Wow Moms Childcare centres in NBO markets**

- Removes barrier to work
- Increases business
- Enables economic participation
- Peace of mind to focus on the work



Investing in child-friendly cities

⇒ **The care economy removes the barrier to work, turning childcare into a platform for economic empowerment.**

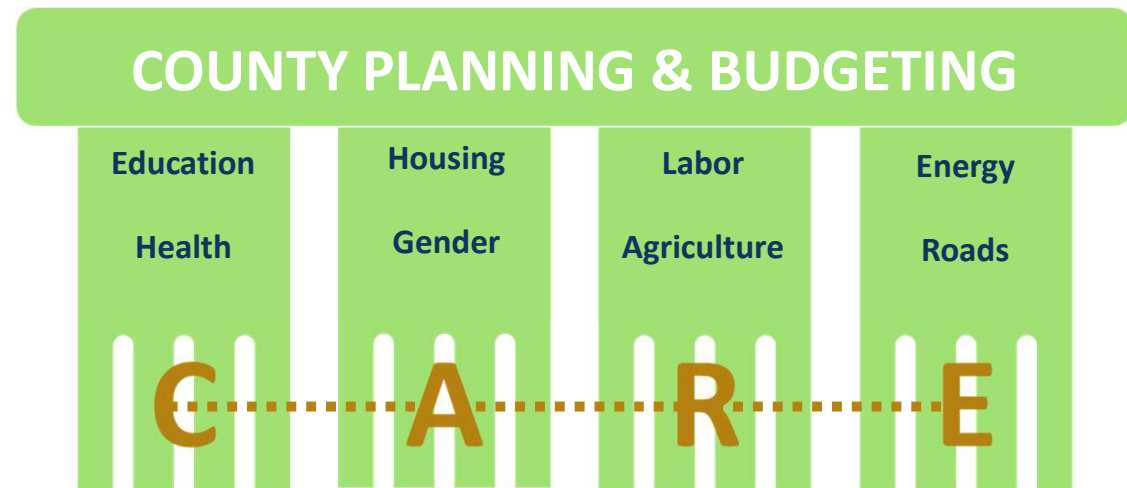
## The institutional perspective: where does “care” live in a sector plan?

⇒ Every planned or budgeted activity must belong to a specific sector.

### Care is multisectoral

- Water → reduces time burden on unpaid care work.
- Roads → improves access to basic services.
- Health & Nurturing Care → supports ECD.

⇒ Care falls through the cracks of sector-based budgeting.



A horizontal issue lost in a vertical budget structure.

# The capacity gap: who plans for what they don't understand?

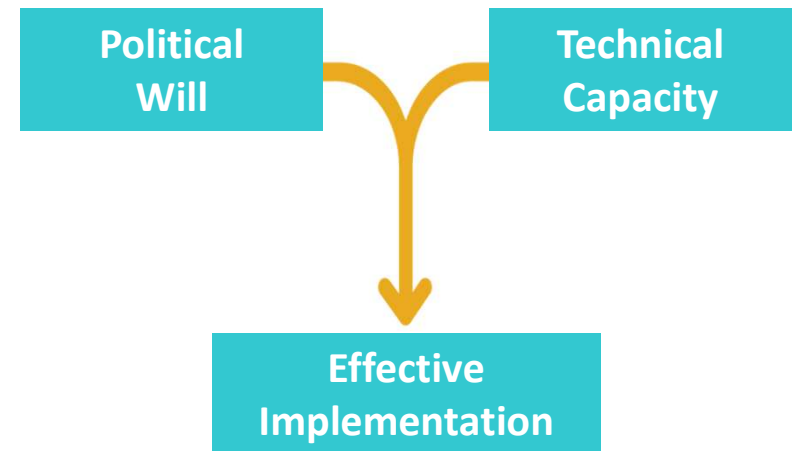
⇒ **Knowledge gap**

⇒ **Planning & budgeting training gaps**

- ~50% health workers not trained in health planning or budgeting
- Officials insufficiently trained in their core sector.

⇒ New tools available.

⇒ Capacity building just beginning.



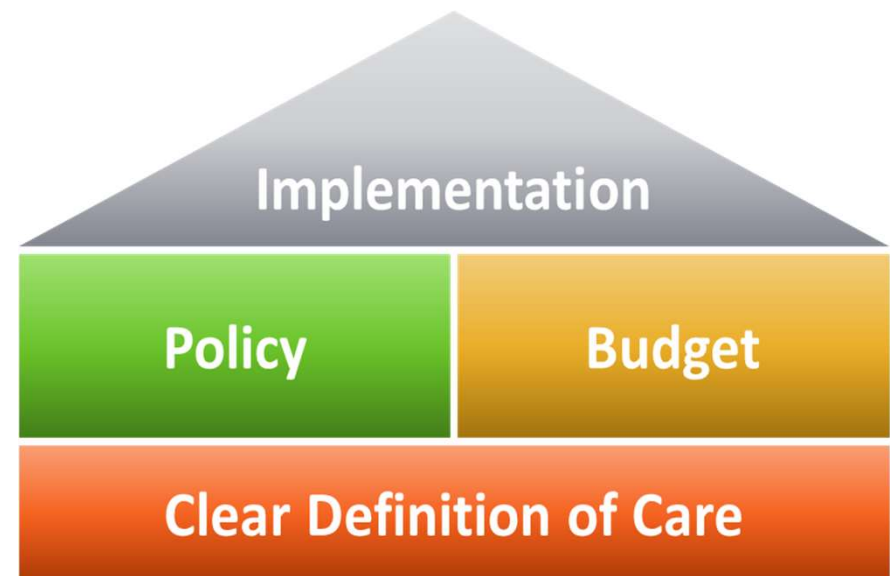
*Political will without capacity cannot deliver structural change.*

## Foundation before funding

⇒ Building a care-responsive county requires a clear, shared, and administratively usable definition of care.

- **Mainstreaming Care:** Strengthening Nairobi City County Government's Capacity to Enhance Care Services through Increased Budgets and Policy Implementation

⇒ Money is not the starting point — Definition is.



## Conclusion – Institutional momentum is underway.

⇒ **The institutional journey has begun.**

- Care Mainstreaming Technical Working Group established
- 15 county departments represented
- Civil society and NGO engagement
- Capacity-building process underway
- Care integrated into the County Fiscal Strategy Paper

⇒ **Mainstreaming care is a process, not an event**

Political  
Recognition

Definition

Data

Institutional  
Coordination

Budget  
Integration



# Thank You



**Mercy Wanjohi**

[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)

# From Economic Evidence to Institutional Reality



**Mercy Wanjohi**

Deputy Director Gender &  
Inclusivity, Nairobi City  
County

- ⇒ **The invisibility of care is not a matter of indifference — it is a matter of administrative structure.**
- ⇒ **At the institutional level, care becomes fragmented because planning systems are not designed to integrate it.**

# Reflection From Practice

⇒ The problem is not political will. It is structural misalignment.

## Economic System

- Unpaid care = labor
- Measurable (time-use)
- Excluded from GDP

## Institutional System

- Sectoral silos
- Fragmented mandates
- No aggregated costing

**Statistical invisibility → Institutional fragmentation**

# What We Do Not Measure, We Do Not Plan

- ⇒ Invisible care → Underestimated inputs
- ⇒ Underestimated inputs → Weak planning
- ⇒ Weak planning → Policy blind spots

⇒ **What we do not measure, we assume does not constrain.**

⇒ **Care is treated as residual instead of foundational input.**



# Visibility Is Necessary But Not Sufficient

- ⇒ Definition and measurement do not automatically create funding.
- ⇒ But they create legitimacy and analytical clarity.

## What Visibility Does NOT Do

- ✗ Does not create funding
- ✗ Does not eliminate political trade-offs
- ✗ Does not create mandates automatically

## What Visibility DOES Enable

- ✓ Shared analytical foundation
- ✓ Cross-sector location of care
- ✓ Aggregation of expenditures
- ✓ Economic recognition

- ⇒ **Visibility is a precondition for coherent reform.**
- ⇒ **Measurement is the foundation — not the reform itself.**

# Q&A

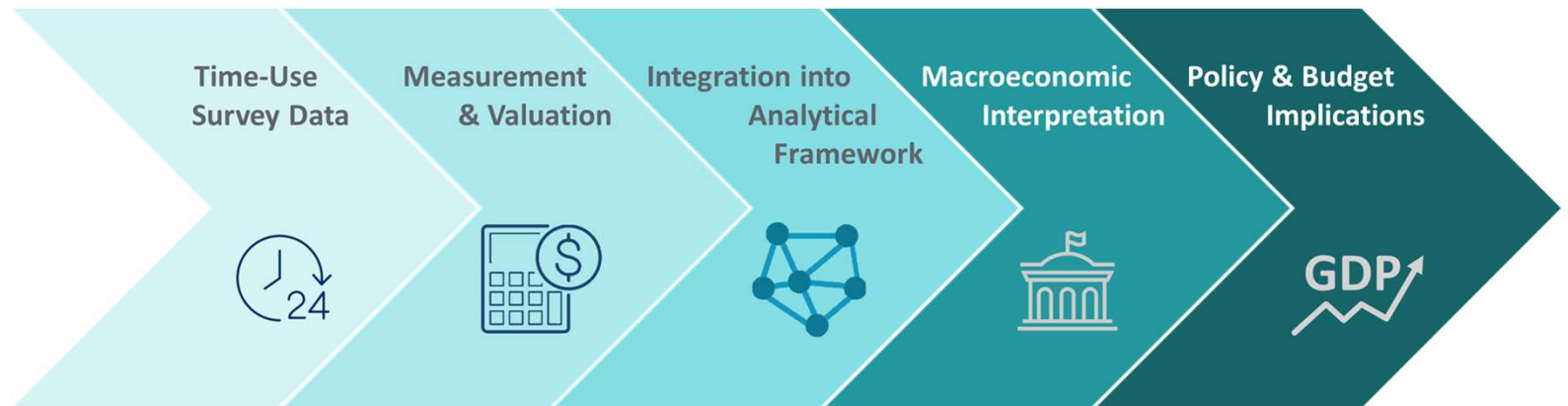
- ⇒ Your questions and insights on defining and measuring care.
- ⇒ How does this resonate with your institutional context?



## Key Takeaway and Bridge

- ⇒ Care must be visible before it can be planned.
- ⇒ If care is foundational, budget architecture must reflect it.
- ⇒ Foundations must be visible in the structure.

⇒ **Next session: structural limitations of program-based budgeting.**





Thank You

Aïssata Fall

[afall@prb.org](mailto:afall@prb.org)

[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)