

# The **2030 Agenda** for **Sustainable Development** and the **Regional Gender** **Agenda** in **Latin America** and **the Caribbean**

Gender indicators up to **2023**



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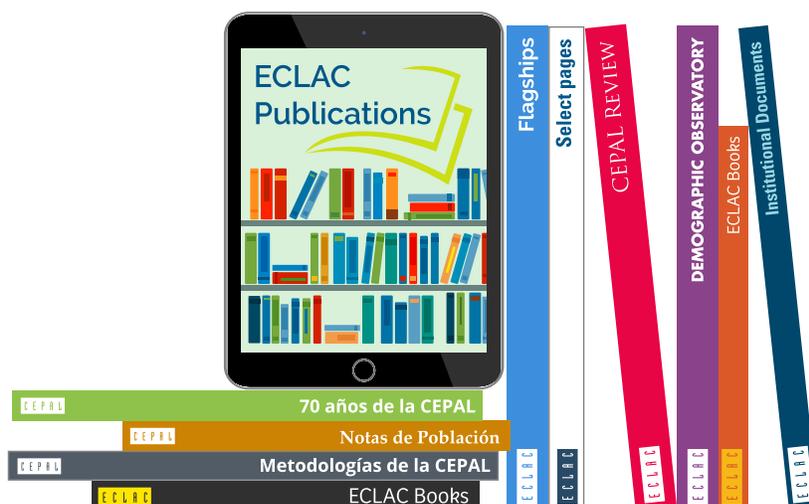
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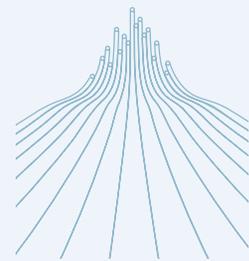
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This publication has been prepared jointly by the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), led by Ana Gúezmes García, and the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), led by María-Noel Vaeza. The preparation of the document was coordinated by Karen García Rojas, Statistician in the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, and Andrea Llerena, Data and Statistics Adviser in the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women. Input was also provided by Gustavo Salazar, Junior Statistics and Data Analysis Specialist in the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women; Catalina Alviz, Javiera Ravest and Catalina Valencia, consultants; Marisa Weinstein, Research Assistant; and Carmen Álvarez, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, all of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

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# Introduction

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which the Organization's Member States adopted a set of global goals aimed at improving the lives of all people, while leaving no one behind. The Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ranging from the elimination of poverty to combating climate change, and encompassing education, gender equality, environmental protection and the design of cities (United Nations, 2023a).

With half of the period set for achieving the SDGs having elapsed, in the midst of a cascading crisis (encompassing health, climate, employment, care, food, energy, education and other issues) there are multiple challenges in making progress towards achieving the targets by 2030. In this context, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) estimates that only 25% of the targets for which information is available appear to be on course to be met by 2030. However, an estimated 48% of them are moving in the right direction, albeit too slowly, and the remaining 27% are moving backwards (ECLAC, 2023b, p.9).

The 2030 Agenda highlights the urgent need to achieve gender equality through the 17 SDGs, with a transformative vision towards economic, social and environmental equality and sustainability. Goal 5 itself is to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", while the achievement of gender equality is cross-cutting and inseparable from the rest of the Agenda's goals (ECLAC, 2022a).

To monitor and drive progress towards the targets set within each SDG, indicators were agreed upon<sup>1</sup> to be reported by the national statistical offices, in coordination with other government sectors. The mainstreaming of gender analysis throughout the 2030 Agenda is reflected in a set of gender indicators, which either require disaggregation by sex or else allude to gender equality as an underlying objective<sup>2</sup> (UN-Women/DESA, 2023). On the basis of these indicators, the current status of progress towards gender equality, globally, is reported through the document "Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: the gender snapshot 2023" (UN-Women/DESA, 2023).<sup>3</sup>

Latin America and the Caribbean has its own Regional Gender Agenda, which has been consolidated over the last 45 years through commitments made by ECLAC member States at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Conference has become the main regional intergovernmental forum within the United Nations on women's rights and gender equality. It has resulted in a far-reaching, progressive and comprehensive Regional Gender Agenda, making Latin America and the Caribbean the only region in the world with an agenda that steers public policies towards gender equality in law and in practice, guaranteeing women's rights and autonomy. Alongside the highest national authorities on women's issues, gender and equality, the sessions of the Conference have active participation from civil society organizations, particularly women's and feminist movements and organizations, the academic sector, intergovernmental agencies and cooperation agencies. The Regional Conference has also had the support of the United Nations system and, in particular, UN-Women as a strategic ally since 2020 (ECLAC, 2023a).

<sup>1</sup> Not all SDG targets have statistical indicators for their monitoring, or specific quantitative targets, owing to the difficulty in defining certain issues quantitatively and a relative lack of experience in measuring them.

<sup>2</sup> These indicators arise from the proposal submitted by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to the United Nations Statistical Commission. As mentioned in the report on the forty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (2013), the Commission "Agreed on the use of the minimum set of gender indicators, developed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics, requested further clarification on the protocols of data collection from countries as well as detailed metadata, and requested further consideration of indicators on the valuation of unpaid work and on migrants." (United Nations, 2013). In 2022, The United Nations Statistical Commission approved the update to this list, titled "Gender Relevant SDG Indicators". For further information, see [online] <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/BG-3h-gender-relevant-SDG-indicator-E.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> This report includes a list titled "Gender-Specific Indicators" corresponding to 10 SDGs.

The Regional Gender Agenda is by nature cumulative; it reinforces, harmonizes and complements other obligations assumed by the States.<sup>4</sup> Its commitments are a contribution by Latin America and the Caribbean to implementation of the development agenda in general, and the 2030 Agenda in particular; and to deliberations at the global level, especially in the framework of the sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women. The Regional Gender Agenda thus establishes a roadmap for overcoming the structural challenges of gender inequality<sup>5</sup> and moving towards a new style of development and organization of society, namely, the care society (ECLAC, 2023a).

In this context, the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, managed by ECLAC, which was created to fulfil the mandate of the 2007 Quito Consensus,<sup>6</sup> provides a battery of indicators in synergy with the Regional Gender Agenda. These are framed by the three dimensions of women's autonomy: economic, physical and decision-making. Thus, prior to the definition of the 2030 Agenda, the region had experience in tracking strategic indicators defined in an intergovernmental manner to monitor progress towards gender equality. Some of these indicators, such as those of femicide and feminicide, total workload and population with no income of their own, were included as complementary indicators in the set of indicators prioritized by the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean for follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.<sup>7</sup> This set of indicators, which was adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas in 2017, includes indicators that make it possible to delve deeper into phenomena that are important for the region and necessary for achieving gender equality (ECLAC, 2023a).

This report presents a description of the current state of progress towards gender equality, based on the gender indicators for monitoring the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda, and the set of indicators prioritized for follow-up of the SDGs in the region.<sup>8</sup> This analysis, carried out jointly by ECLAC and UN-Women, combines the follow-up of the intergovernmental commitments of the 2030 Agenda and the Regional Gender Agenda. The global report *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023* (UN-Women/DESA, 2023) considers gender indicators for 10 SDGs. This document includes seven selected SDGs, which encompass most of the gender indicators that measure women's autonomy. Additionally, a number of regionally relevant indicators are included with intersectional breakdowns, with the aim of contextualizing, contributing to the analysis and adding information within the scope of each Goal.<sup>9</sup> The purpose of the report is to provide the region with a reference document to stimulate decision-making aimed at hastening the achievement of equality and full realization of the rights of women, female adolescents and girls in their diversity. The document is structured as follows: after this introduction, section II contextualizes the economic and social situation in Latin America and the Caribbean; then it presents a summary of the results for the indicators addressed in the document for each goal. It continues with a detailed regional analysis of the gender indicators of the global and regional 2030 Agenda —relating to Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 16; and, lastly, it presents the conclusions, bibliography and annexes.

<sup>4</sup> Such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the Global Level; the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém Do Pará) and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) at the regional level, and other treaties, conventions and agreements at the global and regional levels.

<sup>5</sup> The four structural challenges of gender inequality, identified in the 2016 Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, are: (i) socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty in the context of exclusionary growth; (ii) discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of the culture of privilege; (iii) the sexual division of labour and the unfair social organization of care; and (iv) the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere.

<sup>6</sup> Through the Quito Consensus, the governments of the countries participating in the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, represented by ministers and machineries for the advancement of women at the highest level, requested "the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, together with other organizations in the United Nations system, to collaborate with member States that request them to do so in following up on the fulfilment of the agreements that have been adopted through the creation of an equality observatory that will help strengthen national gender machineries" ECLAC (2007).

<sup>7</sup> For further information, see ECLAC (2018).

<sup>8</sup> Considering the information available for Latin America and the Caribbean, the gender indicators included in this report are listed in the annex A1.

<sup>9</sup> This considers the latest information available as of December 2023.

# I.

## Economic and social context in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Halfway to 2030, there is an urgent need to prioritize actions to achieve gender equality

Latin America and the Caribbean face structural challenges and historical inequalities in a context aggravated by multiple economic, technological, climatic, and geopolitical crises and shocks. The repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic overlap with a series of cascading crises, and a lacklustre economic growth trend that reduces possibilities for creating better jobs, thereby aggravating the environmental crisis, compounded by the persistent care crisis and structural inequality that impacts women disproportionately (ECLAC, 2023c). The crises do not affect everyone equally; for example, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed how women were more affected owing to the intensification of gender-based violence in many households. They also suffered more severe economic impacts owing to the heavy prevalence of women in informal employment (generally without a contract and with no access to social protection systems) (UNDRR and UN-Women, 2022); and they suffered a greater burden of unpaid domestic and care work, and higher rates of unemployment owing to their participation in sectors that were hit by the crisis (UN-Women, 2022a).

In 2023, the region had endured a decade of extremely meagre economic growth, averaging 0.8% per year, which is less than half of the average growth rate in the "lost decade" of the 1980s (ECLAC, 2023c). In 2020, with the onset of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the regional economy contracted by 6.8% (ECLAC, 2021), which is considered the greatest economic and social crisis in decades. In 2021, although there was a recovery with growth of 6.2%, this was not enough to reverse the effects of the crisis (ECLAC, 2022b). The following year saw an expansion of 3.8%; but the outlook for the next two years is not encouraging, with growth of 1.7% forecast for 2023 and 1.5% in 2024. Specifically, for 2024, South American countries are projected to grow by 1.2%; Central America and Mexico by 2.1%; and the Caribbean (excluding Guyana) by 2.8% (ECLAC, 2023d).

This is framed by high inflation rates which are expected to remain above the pre-pandemic levels, with a consequent impact on economic activity (ECLAC, 2023d). In 2022, regional inflation amounted to 7.6% and was above 7% in two consecutive years, bringing the average for the 2020–2022 triennium to 6.2%, compared to an average of 4.3% in 2015–2019 (ECLAC, 2023d).

The pandemic struck at a time when the regional economy was vulnerable. The accumulation of fiscal deficits, higher interest payments on the various countries' debt, among other problems, reduced the funds available for development, such as spending on public health and investment (ECLAC, 2020b). However, the countries of the region confronted this complex scenario with responses that enabled them to cope with the crisis. Specifically, they reallocated public resources to fill the gaps in health services, while adapting production capacity to meet domestic demand for supplies. They also sought to increase public resources to protect households, and safeguard productive capacity and employment. Lastly, the countries adopted social protection measures such as monetary and in-kind transfers, to support families in situations of poverty and vulnerability (United Nations, 2020). From 2021 onwards, spending started to retreat from the peak attained in the previous year. In particular, in 2022, average central government

social spending was equivalent to 11.5% of GDP both in Latin America and in the Caribbean. In the first case, this was 2.2 percentage points less than the peak of 13.7% attained in 2020. In the Caribbean, it was 2.3 percentage points lower than the maximum reached in 2021 (13.8%) (ECLAC, 2023c).

This has repercussions for a regional economic outlook of sluggish growth, weak investment, low labour productivity, sparse job creation, persistent informality, limited fiscal and monetary policy space, and persistent gender gaps (ECLAC, 2023e). A number of indicators, such as those of poverty and extreme poverty, inequality measured by the Gini index, labour participation and employment, show slight improvements in 2023 from the sharp contraction caused by the pandemic. However, these improvements do not narrow the historical gender gaps in participation, employment and wages; nor do they provide equal benefits to women who face multiple forms of discrimination, or to older persons, young refugees or migrants.

In addition, the sexual division of labour and the unequal social organization of care, as a structural challenge of gender inequality, are barriers to women's inclusion in the labour market. The distribution of care responsibilities is unbalanced, as it falls mainly on households, and is mostly performed by women unpaid (UN-Women/ECLAC, 2020; UN-Women, 2022b), which hinders their participation in the labour market. For example, among the population aged 20 to 44, the presence of children in the household results in a marked difference between men and women in terms of labour participation. In 2022, the participation rate of women in households with children was 61.6%, compared to 73.5% in households without children. The opposite is the case for men, with rates of 95.2% and 88.3%, respectively (ECLAC, 2022c). These differences are due, in part, to the unpaid work that women perform outside the labour market. Time-use measurements in 23 of the region's countries show that women spend three times as many hours as men on this type of work (ECLAC, 2022a). Similarly, between 2010 and 2020, the value of unpaid domestic and care work in the region was estimated at between 15.9% of GDP (Argentina, 2019) and 27.6% (Mexico, 2020), with 74% of this contribution made by women (ECLAC, 2022a). It is therefore crucial to advance towards implementing comprehensive care systems that harmonize health, education and care services, with a progressive approach to meet the needs of all people throughout the life cycle. It is also necessary to recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward and represent care work in order to guarantee decent work for those engaged in these activities (UN-Women and others, 2022).

The effects of the pandemic clearly revealed the crisis in care (UN-Women/ECLAC, 2020), exacerbated by population ageing, changes in epidemiological trends and the effects of climate change, which augurs a sustained increase in the demand for labour in the care sector. In addition, the time and number of people available to provide unpaid care is expected to decline. Unlike other sectors, where productivity improvements may reduce the need for labour, the care sector is expected to generate an increase in total labour demand, even with the incorporation of new technologies (ECLAC, 2022c; ILO, 2018a). The reorganization of care is essential to energize economies through an expanding sector; in fact, ECLAC highlights the care economy as one of the 10 promising areas for transforming development models, boosting growth and reducing gender inequalities (ECLAC, 2022a). Strengthening the care sector in the economy, recognizing, redistributing and reducing unpaid work, and generating quality employment, are keys to achieving gender equality, improving social well-being and promoting economic growth (ECLAC, 2022a). At the same time, the countries must approve normative frameworks that regulate the creation of comprehensive care systems with institutional architecture, competencies, control mechanisms, and joint spaces for coordinating various stakeholders and levels of government (Güezmes García and Vaeza, 2023).



The challenge is thus to move towards a care society that is understood as “a new development model that prioritizes the sustainability of life and the planet, recognizes care as forming part of the human rights that are fundamental to the well-being of the population as a whole, ensures the rights of individuals who require care and of those who provide it, and raises awareness of the multiplier effects of the care economy on well-being and as a sector that can power an inclusive, transformative recovery with equality and sustainability”, as proclaimed in the Buenos Aires Commitment (ECLAC, 2023f). This transition is fundamental to achieving gender equality and all the SDGs.

During the sixth meeting of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development that was held in Santiago in 2023, Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, noted that if priority actions are not taken, the region will not be on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. She stated that many local initiatives are an example of transformation and change in the approach of society as a whole, such as the case of the care society and the prioritization of gender equality. In this regard, she highlighted the adoption last year of the Buenos Aires Commitment, which calls for the just social organization of care: “This Commitment is an ambitious and comprehensive roadmap that aims to move towards a ‘care society’, which recognizes interdependence between people, as well as between productive processes and society: a society that puts the sustainability of life and the planet at its core” (United Nations, 2023b).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the scenario for meeting the SDG targets is challenging in the context of cascading crisis. In the region, there has been a pause and even regression in progress towards several SDG targets, directly impacting the entire population and, more particularly, women. This is why gender mainstreaming needs to be prioritized in all endeavours.

It is necessary to move towards synergistic and urgent solutions that adopt intersectional strategies that respond to the specific needs of women and girls, with a special emphasis on overcoming inequality in the region. Recovery plans with affirmative actions to achieve substantive equality need to be promoted. Investing in the care society represents a significant and revitalizing change for the region. This would also create jobs, energize the economy and foster social and gender co-responsibility, thereby leveraging a productive, inclusive and sustainable future.





## II. Gender indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>10</sup>

### Main results



Based on the trend up to 2022, by 2030 an estimated **20 million women and girls** in Latin America and the Caribbean will be living in **extreme poverty**, on less than the international poverty threshold of US\$ 1.90 per day (UN-Women/DESA, 2022).

In 2022, **3 out of every 10 women** in Latin America were living in poverty and **1 in 10** were in **extreme poverty**, relative to the region's poverty thresholds. The figures are slightly lower for men (**29.6%** of **women** and **28.4%** of **men** in situations of poverty; and **11.4%** of **women** and **11.1%** of **men** in **extreme poverty**) (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In Latin America, poverty is more prevalent in specific population groups, such as children, Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendants, rural dwellers and young women (ECLAC and others, 2023).



In 2019, **17.1%** of **women** aged **15–49 years** in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean had **anaemia**, with the proportion rising to **21.9%** in the case of **pregnant women** (ECLAC and others, 2023).

#### Related indicators

In 2022, **41.8%** of **women** in the region suffered some degree of food insecurity, compared to **32.7%** of **men** (ECLAC and others, 2023).



In 2020, the region's **maternal mortality rate** rose from **78.3 women per 100,000 live births** in 2019 to **87.6** per 100,000 during the pandemic (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2022, **95.8%** of **births** in the region were attended by skilled health personnel (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2023, **8 out of every 10 women** in the region between 15 and 49 years of age will meet their family planning needs using **modern contraceptive methods** (ECLAC and others, 2023).

<sup>10</sup> The "region" refers to Latin American and Caribbean countries for which there are data on each indicator reported through official statistics.

In 2023, the region's adolescent fertility rate was **51.4 per 1,000 women** aged **15–19 years**. The rate has fallen from **83.5 per 1,000 women** in 2000<sup>a</sup> and has been below 60 per 1,000 since 2018 (ECLAC and others, 2023). Nonetheless, it is still one of the highest rates in the world (UNFPA, 2020).



In 2021, **95.0%** of **women** in the region had completed **primary education**, and **67.0%** had finished **upper secondary**, surpassing the equivalent rates for **men** of **91.0%** and **60.0%**, respectively (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2022, the **higher education** gross enrolment rates were **65.7%** for **women** and **47.5%** for **men** (ECLAC and others, 2023).

#### Related indicators

In 2022, in Latin America **women aged 25–50** had an average of **10.2 years** of study, compared to **9.9 years** for **men** in that age group (ECLAC, 2023g).

In 2021, **4.1 million adolescent girls and women** in several of the region's countries were excluded from primary and secondary education (UNESCO, 2023).<sup>b</sup>

**Women are underrepresented** in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers in **16** of the **region's countries**.<sup>c</sup>

Between 2002 and 2017, women accounted for **fewer than 50%** of **tertiary education** graduates in information and communication technologies (ICT) and engineering (ECLAC, 2022c).



*Parity had not been achieved in 2023. While women account for more than half of the region's population, they hold only:*

**35.8%** of **seats in national parliaments** (2023)

**27.2%** of **seats in local government deliberative bodies** (2023)

**36.9%** of **management positions** (2021) (ECLAC and others, 2023)

#### Related indicators

In 2021: **15.4%** of **mayoralties** and **32.7%** of **council seats** were held by **women** (ECLAC, 2023l and 2023m).<sup>d</sup>

**30.4%** of **supreme court prosecutors** in Latin America in 2021 were **women** (ECLAC, 2023n).

In 2023, **75%** of Latin American countries have high-level **machineries** for the **advancement of women**—which means that they have been accorded the institutional rank of a ministry, or their director-general has the rank of minister with full participation in the cabinet. In **83.3%** of Caribbean countries the machineries for the advancement of women are still at a **low institutionalization level**—that is, they are attached to a ministry or a lower-ranking authority (vice ministries, institutes, councils and other entities) (ECLAC, 2023r).

*The rigid sexual division of labour and the unequal social distribution of care form the structural core of gender inequality.*

**Women spend three times** as long as **men** on unpaid domestic and care work in 16 of the region's countries (ECLAC, 2023o).

Between **12% and 25%** of **women's** time is spent on unpaid domestic and care work in 16 countries in the region that have time-use measurements and report this indicator (ECLAC, 2023o). The equivalent proportion for **men** is between **3% and 13%** (ECLAC, 2023o).

**Women** spend between **22.1 and 42.8 hours** per week on unpaid domestic and care work in 16 of the region's countries, compared to between **6.7 and 19.8 hours** in the case of **men** (ECLAC, 2023o).

The labour participation rate of **women** in households with children is **61.6%**, compared to **73.5%** among **women** in households without children. The equivalent rates for **men** are **95.2% and 88.3%**, respectively (ECLAC, 2023c).

*Violence perpetrated against women and girls, including its most extreme form—femicide or feminicide or violent gender-based deaths of women— as well as child marriage and early unions, make dramatically visible the persistence of the structural challenges of gender inequality and, in particular, patriarchal, discriminatory and violent cultural patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean.*

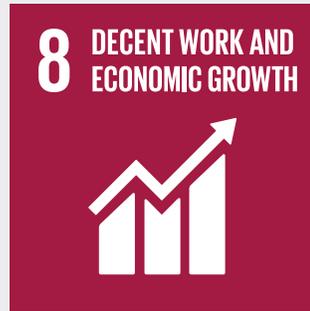
In 2022, **4%** of **20–24-year-old women** in the region were married or in a stable union before the **age of 15**, and **21.2%** before the **age of 18** (ECLAC and others, 2023).

#### Related indicators

Between **63% and 76%** of **women** in the countries of the region have experienced an episode of gender-based **violence** in different areas of their lives (ECLAC, 2022d).

At least **4,050 women** were victims of femicide/feminicide in Latin America and the Caribbean, considering **26** of the **region's countries** (ECLAC, 2023h).<sup>e</sup>

In **9 of the 13 countries** that report information on the relationship between victim and perpetrator, over **60%** of **femicides** or feminicides in 2022 were perpetrated by a partner or ex-partner (ECLAC, 2023h).



In 2022, the **unemployment** rate among persons aged 15 years or older in the region was **8.6%** among **women** and **5.9%** in the case of **men** (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2022, **54.7%** of **women** and **52.4%** of **men** employed in the labour market in the region were working **informally** (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2021, **70%** of **women** and **77%** of **men** (aged 15 or older) in the region had an account in a bank or some other financial institution (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2022, **40.7%** of 15–29-year-old **women** in the region had a job in the labour market, compared to **59.1%** of **young men** in the same age group (ECLAC and ILO, 2023).

In 2022, **26.9%** of **women** and **13.9%** of **men** between 15 and 24 years of age in the region were neither studying nor working in the labour market (ECLAC and others, 2023).

#### Related indicators

In 2022, women in Latin America earned **labour income** equivalent to **82.6%** of that earned by **men** (simple average) (ECLAC, 2023g). Of **11 countries** in the region that publish data on average labour income by gender, **only one** (Panama) reports a figure very close to equality (**99.7%**); in the others, women's labour income represents between **70.1%** (Peru) and **94.5%** (Costa Rica) of the income earned by men (ECLAC, 2023g).

In 2022, just **51.7%** of **women of working age** (15 years and older) were participating in the labour market, compared to **74.5%** of **men** (ECLAC, 2023g).

**27%** of **female employment** is concentrated in the care services sector (health, education and paid domestic work), in contrast to **6%** of **male employment** in this sector (ECLAC, 2023e).



In 2021, **36.6 men** and **3.7 women** per 100,000 inhabitants in the region were victims of intentional homicides (UNODC, 2023).

As of 2023, **14 women** were serving as speakers in the upper chambers of national parliaments in the region, compared to **28 men**; in other words, women held **33.3%** of such speakerships. In the case of lower chambers or single-chamber parliaments, there were **31 female** and **66 male** speakers, so women accounted for **32.0%** of these posts (ECLAC and others, 2023).

Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of the referenced bibliography.

<sup>a</sup> The year in which measurement began.

<sup>b</sup> The following countries were included in the calculation: Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

<sup>c</sup> The following 16 countries have data available: Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

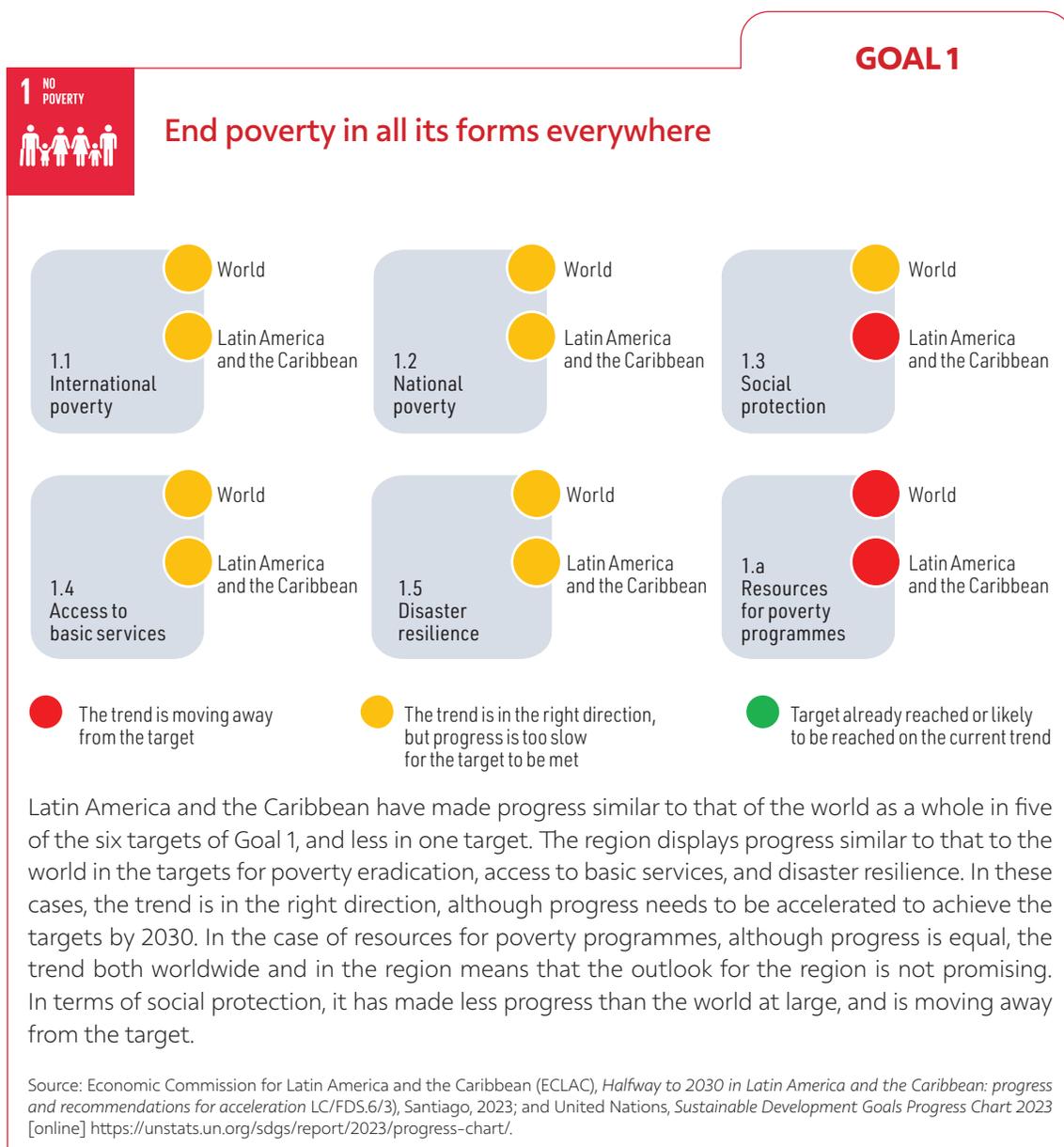
<sup>d</sup> Latest available data, as of 2021.

<sup>e</sup> Countries that send official data to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.



### III.

## Detailed regional analysis of gender indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean



The repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the various crises have set back progress that had been made in reducing poverty. In 2020, between 119 and 124 million additional people fell into extreme poverty around the world (United Nations, 2021). By late 2022, extreme poverty had deepened worldwide, with an estimated 383 million women and girls living in extreme poverty compared to 368 million men and boys—an additional 15 million people (UN-Women/DESA, 2022).<sup>11</sup> In the case of women, poverty is determined by how likely they are to earn income above the poverty lines, as well as their ability to maintain control over their income (UN-Women, 2015). About 10.3% of the world's women live in extreme poverty (UN-Women/DESA, 2023).<sup>12</sup> If the current trend continues, it is estimated that by 2030 about 342.4 million women and girls will still be living in extreme poverty (8% of all women) on less than US\$ 2.15 per day (UN-Women/DESA, 2023).

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, an estimated 21 million women were living in extreme poverty in 2022 (relative to the international poverty threshold of US\$ 1.90 per day); projections to 2030 show that the total number of women in extreme poverty will fall to 20 million (UN-Women/DESA, 2022). In fact, with the updated international poverty line of US\$ 2.15 per day,<sup>13</sup> it was estimated that between 2023 and 2030 the extreme poverty rate among women in the region will drop by 1.6 percentage points (from 6.4% to 4.8%); although this will still be 0.4 percentage points higher than the 2015 figure of 4.4% (UN-Women/DESA, 2023). Poverty data will also be presented relative to the region's poverty thresholds, instead of the international poverty threshold, so the data are not comparable.

In Latin America, poverty in 2022, at 29.0%,<sup>14</sup> was about 3.8 percentage points lower than the 32.8% recorded in 2020. As of 2022, 29.6% of women were living in poverty and 11.4% in extreme poverty, slightly higher rates than those of men (28.4% and 11.1% respectively) (ECLAC and others, 2023). In addition, an intersectional approach finds that young women, as well as women living in rural zones, display the highest levels of poverty (ECLAC and others, 2023).

A territorial analysis reveals differences in poverty conditions between urban and rural zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, but women experience higher levels of poverty than men in both cases. In 2022, 42.2% of women living in rural zones were poor, compared to 39.9% of men, in other words 2.3 percentage points more; and in urban zones, although the gap is smaller at 1.3 percentage points, poverty among women (26.8%) is still slightly higher than among men (25.5%) (ECLAC and others, 2023). Similarly, extreme poverty in 2022, affected 20.0% of women and 19% of men in rural areas, while in urban zones, 9.4% of women were living in extreme poverty compared to 9.1% of men (ECLAC and others, 2023). In general, women in rural zones do not have equal access to livestock and land ownership; and there are inequalities in pay and participation in decision-making, as well as in access to resources, credit and markets (United Nations, 2023d; UN-Women, 2022c).

In addition, the feminization of poverty index in 2022 was 117.7,<sup>15</sup> which shows that poverty affects women to a greater extent than men (ECLAC, 2023g). The situation is similar between urban zones (femininity index 119.3) and rural ones (femininity index 109.9), which shows that gender poverty gaps are maintained in all sectors. The results are related to the term "feminization" of poverty, which refers to the situation in which women are overrepresented in conditions of poverty (UNDP, 2015).

<sup>11</sup> The reports contain estimations owing to the lack of official data. Extreme poverty rates were calculated relative to the international threshold of US\$ 1.90 per day, at 2011 prices.

<sup>12</sup> Extreme poverty rates were calculated relative to the international threshold of US\$ 2.15 per day. In 2022, the international poverty lines were adjusted to 2017 prices.

<sup>13</sup> The international poverty threshold was increased from US\$ 1.90 to US\$ 2.15 in 2022. This poverty line calculation is based on the world's poorest countries. The US\$ 1.90 was calculated as the average of the national poverty lines of 15 poor countries in the 1990s, expressed in 2011 purchasing power parity (PPP) prices; while the US\$ 2.15 was calculated as the as the median of the national poverty lines of 28 of the world's poorest countries, expressed in 2017 PPP prices (World Bank, 2022).

<sup>14</sup> The poverty and extreme poverty data for Latin America reported for men and women, by geographic area, age group and activity status were calculated by ECLAC relative to regional poverty and extreme poverty thresholds.

<sup>15</sup> The feminization index represents the disparities in poverty and extreme poverty between men and women. A value above (below) 100 signifies that women are more (less) affected by poverty and extreme poverty than men.

Considering age groups, in 2022, persons aged between 0 and 14 years generally displayed the highest levels of poverty (close to 50%), while older adults (aged 65 years or more) had the lowest (close to 15%) (ECLAC and others, 2023). There are differences in the trends among men and women in the different age groups. Between birth and 14 years of age, the level of poverty is similar between girls and boys, but as children reach adolescence and adulthood, the gender gap widens, especially in the 25–34 age group. Subsequently, among the over-45s, the gap narrows again and the level of poverty becomes equalized between men and women. Specifically, in the 15–24 age group, 33.5% of women are poor compared to 30.4% of men, a difference of 3.1 percentage points; and the gap widens to 6.7% percentage points in the 25–34 age group, with 30.3% of women poor compared to 23.7% of men. In the 35–44-year age group the gender gap narrows to 3.5 percentage points; specifically, 28.4% of women are poor, compared to 24.9% of men (ECLAC and others, 2023). The poverty gap between 25–34-year-old men and women tends to be biased against women, because, at this age, women are more likely to combine paid work with caring for children, adolescents and other persons with high demand for direct care, such as older persons, persons with disabilities, or sick dependents. In terms of youth poverty, this could be related to the relative scarcity of opportunities available to take advantage of young people's productivity, connectivity and capacity for action. In addition, for persons aged 65 years or older, the factors contributing to lower poverty levels include the availability of some type of support, such as social security.

In terms of the ethnicity and gender of the individuals concerned, women experience higher levels of poverty than men. In 2022, approximately half of Indigenous Peoples were poor, and the poverty rate was higher among women (43.9%) than among men (42.2%). According to the report titled *Indigenous Women's Realities: Insights from the Indigenous Navigator*, Indigenous women generally display a higher poverty rate owing to issues related to health problems, low levels of education, unemployment, low income levels and lack of land (IWGIA/ILO, 2020). In the case of Afrodescendants, in 2022, close to one quarter were poor, and the poverty rate among women (25.3%) exceeded that of men (23.2%) by 2.1 percentage points. The situation is similar among persons who consider themselves neither Indigenous nor Afrodescendant, where women also have slightly higher poverty rates than men (21.8% compared to 20.9%, respectively).

The data show that the inequalities that characterize the region are marked by structural variables such as gender, ethnic and racial status, territory and age, which converge in the analysis of the social inequality matrix developed by ECLAC (ECLAC, 2016). It is therefore essential to make the gaps in these areas visible, in order to enrich understanding of social inequality in the region, and to develop and implement public policies with an adequate impact on overcoming the mechanisms that reproduce poverty, exclusion and discrimination, and thus move towards equality (ECLAC/UNFPA, 2020).

In 2022, the unemployment rate in the region was 7.0% and the informal employment rate stood at 48.2% (ECLAC, 2023d). A gender lens shows that poverty rates are slightly lower for women than men among wage-earners (17.8% among men and 14.5% in the case of women), employed persons (self-employed and unpaid family members) (29.3% men and 28.8% women), and unemployed persons (42.5% men and 40.8% women) —gaps of 3.3, 0.5 and 1.7 percentage points, respectively. The situation is the opposite in the case of persons who are outside the labour market, where the female poverty rate (30.9%) exceeds the male rate (26.1%) by 4.8 percentage points (ECLAC and others, 2023). Women are also more likely to be employed part-time, which implies greater participation in activities with flexible work arrangements (usually associated with informal occupations) to balance care and work. This means that they are probably not covered by social security, because the benefits in question usually pertain to formal jobs (Maurizio, 2016).

An analysis of the employed population living below the international poverty threshold<sup>16</sup> shows that 3.1% of women aged 15 years and older in the region who had jobs were below this threshold in 2019, compared to 3.0% of men of the same age. Lastly, in 2022, 25.3% of women over 15 years of age in the

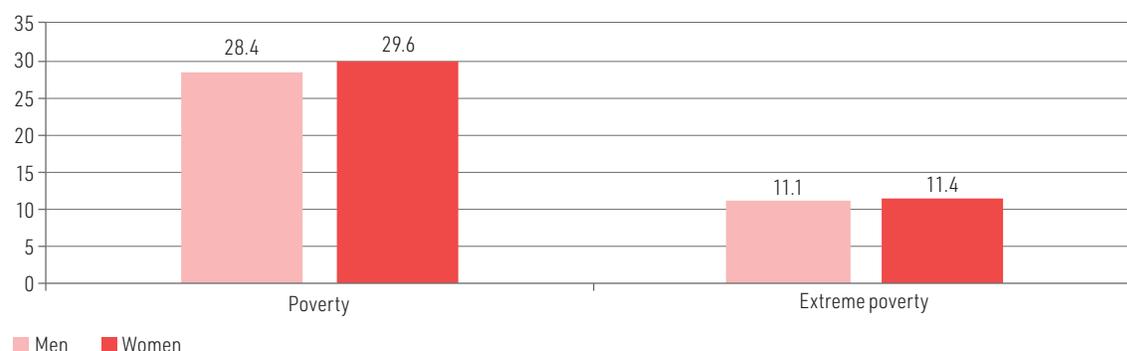
<sup>16</sup> According to ECLAC and others (2023), the "international poverty line" is currently set at US\$ 1.90 per day at 2011 international prices.

region who were not studying had no monetary income of their own, compared to an equivalent male rate of 9.7%. In other words, nearly 2.6 times more women than men do not earn their own income. The negative implications for economic autonomy and decision-making are amplified when this indicator is disaggregated by household socioeconomic quintile; the proportions of women who have no income of their own is approximately 40% in the lowest quintile, 32% in the second quintile and 26% in the third (ECLAC and others, 2023).

## Indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Figure 1**

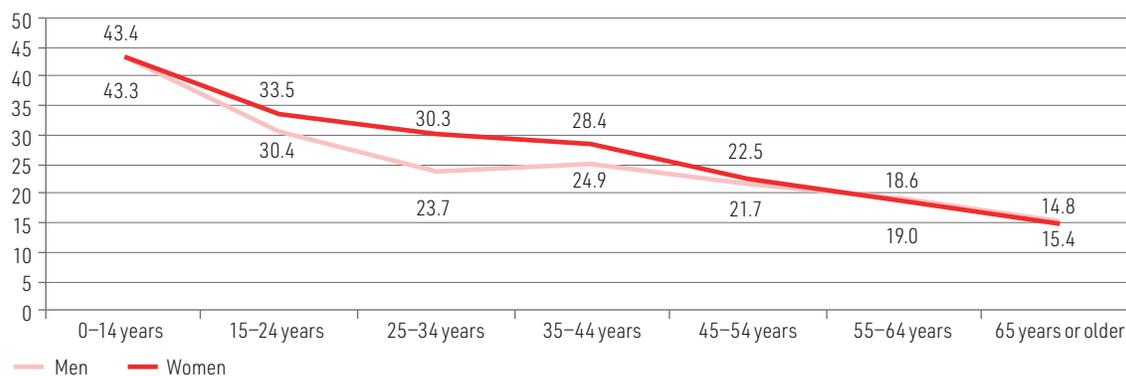
Population living in poverty and extreme poverty, by sex, 2022 (Indicator P-1.1.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es).

**Figure 2**

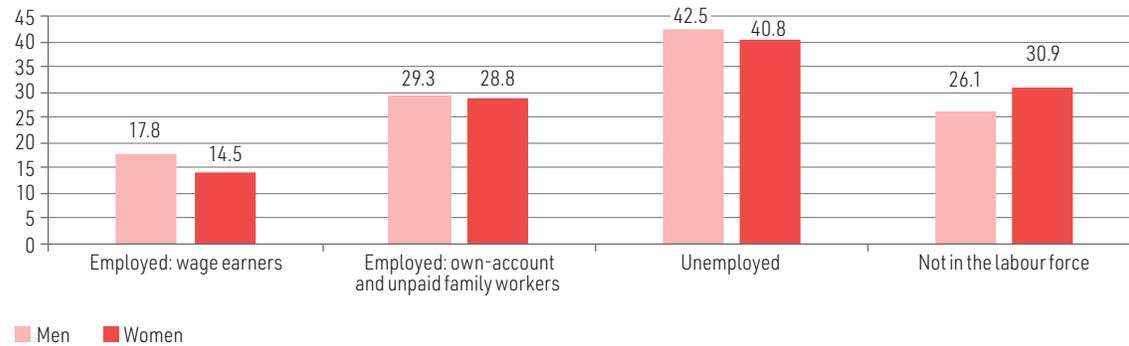
Population living in poverty, by sex and age group, 2022 (Indicator P-1.1.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es).

**Figure 3**

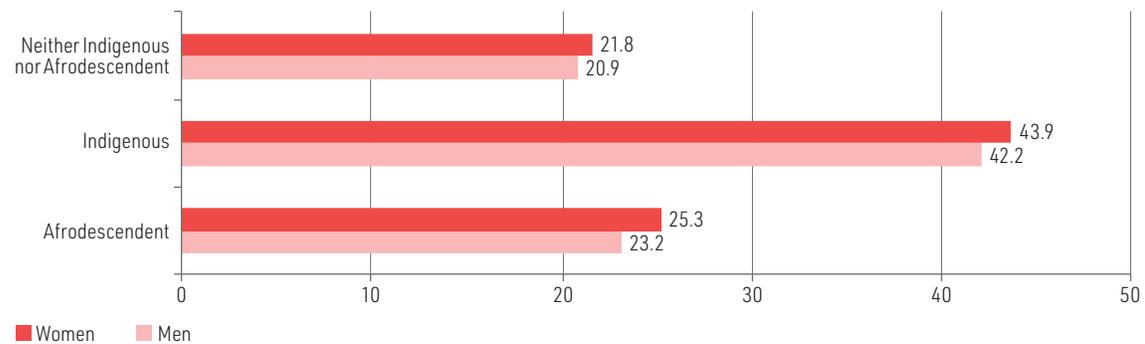
Population living in poverty, by sex and activity status (2022) (Indicator P-1.1.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es).

**Figure 4**

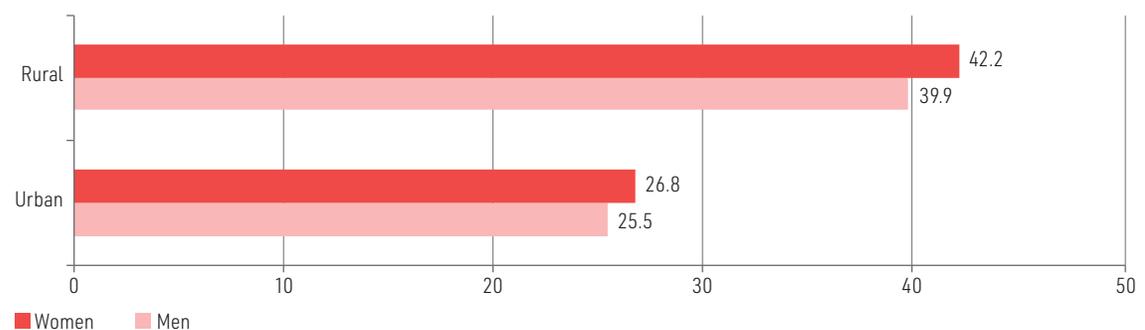
Population living in poverty, by sex and ethnicity (2022) (Indicator P-1.1.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es).

**Figure 5**

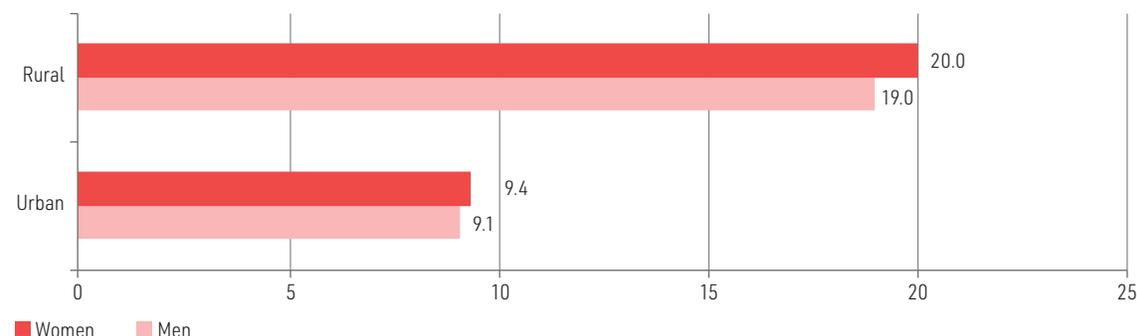
Population living in poverty, by sex and geographic area, 2022 (Indicator P-1.1.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es).

Figure 6

Population living in extreme poverty, by sex and geographic area, 2022 (Indicator P-1.1.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es).

**30.5%**

mothers with newborn children receive cash benefits for maternity (2020)  
(Indicator 1.3.1)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es).

## Gender indicators of the set of prioritized indicators for the region<sup>17</sup>



Poverty  
feminization index  
(2022)  
**117.7**

Urban zone (2022)  
**121.4**  
Rural zone (2022)  
**111.6**

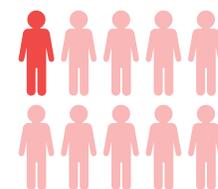


Extreme poverty  
feminization index  
(2022)  
**119.6**

Urban zone (2022)  
**127.0**  
Rural zone (2022)  
**112.4**



**1 in 4** women over 15 years of age  
**(25%)** do not receive an individual  
cash income (2022)



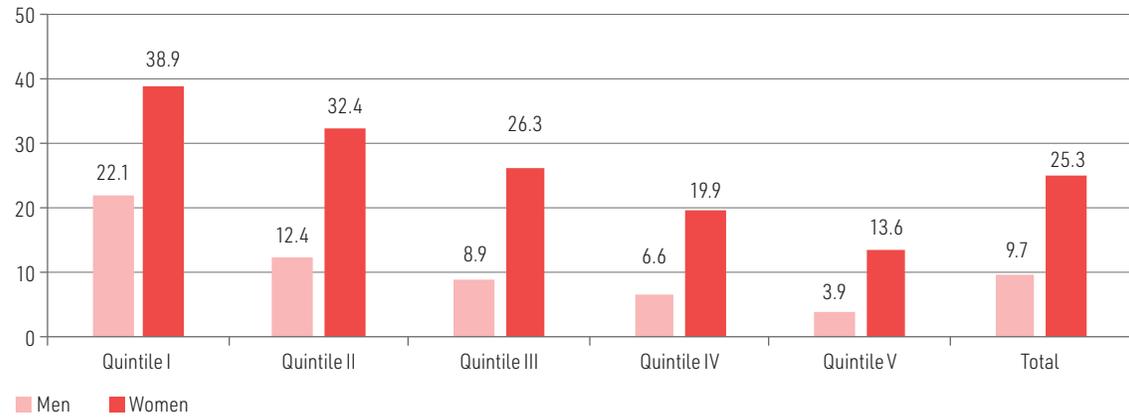
**1 in 10** men  
**(10%)** do not receive  
an individual cash income

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Statistics and indicators", CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?theme=4&lang=en> and Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

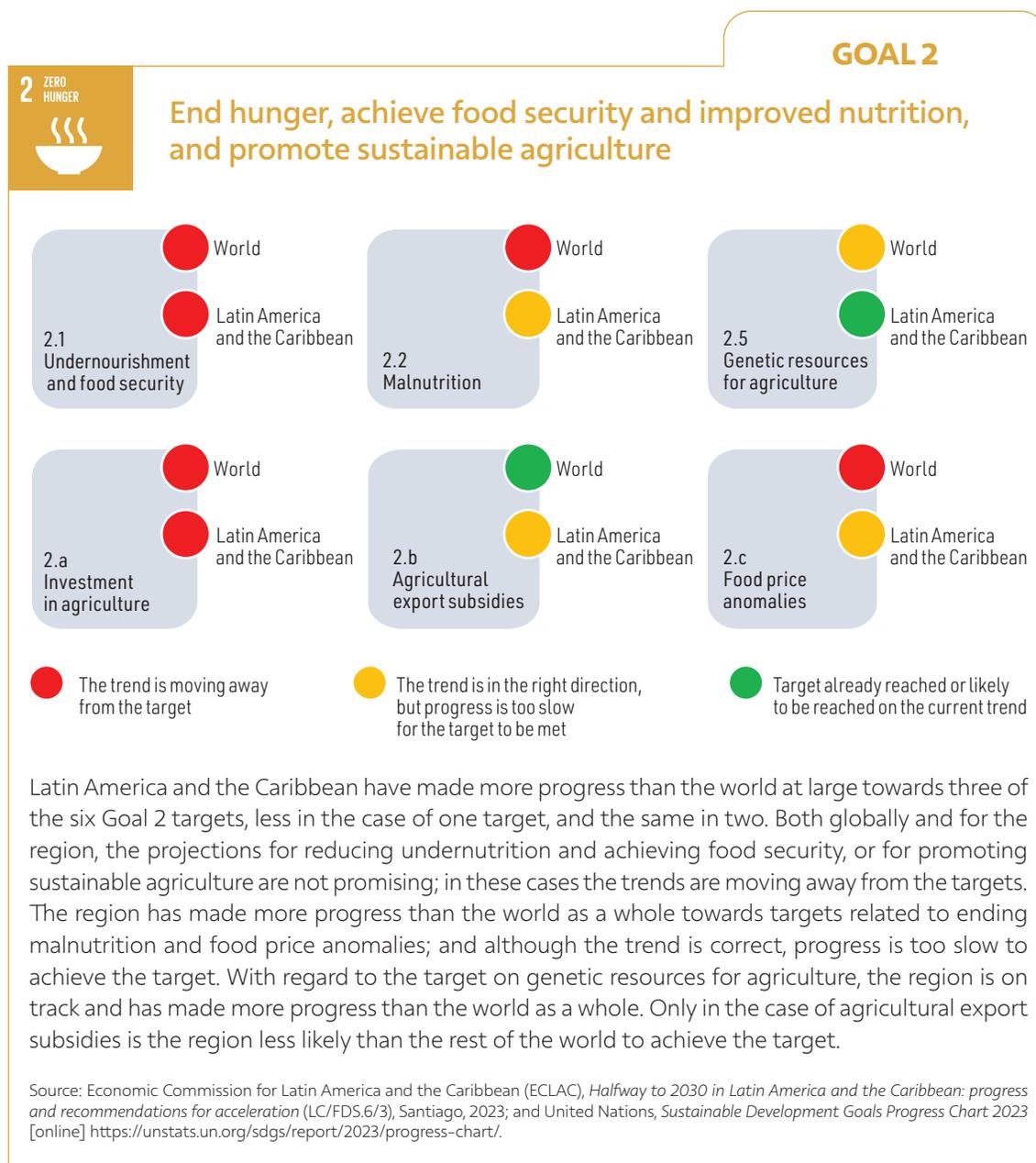
<sup>17</sup> This section includes the complementary indicators adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas as part of the prioritized indicators for monitoring the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean, and which are considered relevant for gender analysis. The section also includes other indicators that are considered relevant for the region.

**Figure 7**

Population 15 years and older without their own income, by sex and income quintile, 2022  
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Statistics and indicators", CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?theme=4&lang=en> and Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.



The cascading crisis is having an adverse effect on global nutrition and food security. In 2022, about 735 million people were chronically hungry worldwide, equivalent to 9.2% of the world's total population (United Nations, 2023e); and one in every three people were moderately or severely food insecure.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the pandemic had a differential impact on rural, Indigenous and Afrodescendent women in the region, who face shortcomings in accessing productive resources such as water, land, agricultural inputs and access to credit. Evidence shows that these factors increase the likelihood of living in poverty and experiencing food insecurity (UN-Women, 2020a).

In 2019, the year before the pandemic, 34.2% of women were subject to moderate or severe food insecurity, compared to 28.0% of men—a gap of 6.2 percentage points (FAO, 2023). At that time, there were already

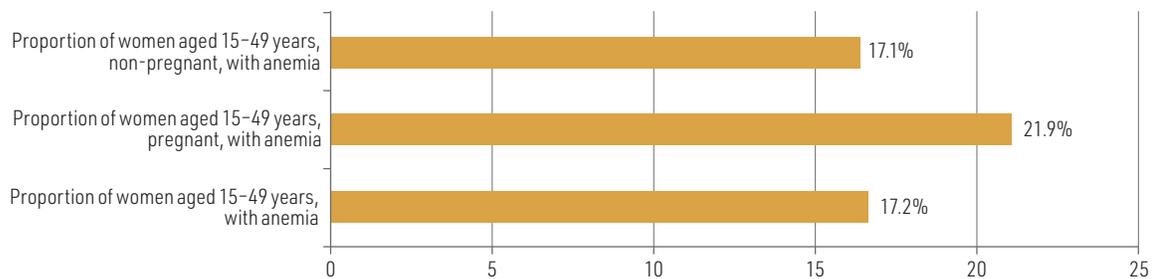
about 20 million more women affected than men (FAO and others, 2021). In 2022, 41.8% of women in the region were suffering some degree of food insecurity, compared to 32.7% of men, a difference of 9.1 percentage points (FAO, 2023).

In addition, in 2019, 17.2% of 15–49-year-old women suffered from anaemia, and the figure rises by 4.7 percentage points to 21.9% in the specific case of pregnant women (ECLAC and others, 2023). On this point, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO, 2008) notes that anaemia affects key growth factors such as height, largely because iron deficiency has an impact on appetite and food intake. Moreover, in pregnant and breast-feeding women, anaemia can lead to deficient linear growth (PAHO, 2008). In 2022, 11.5% of the region's children under five years old were stunted, while 8.6% were overweight (ECLAC and others, 2023).

## Gender indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

Figure 8

Proportion of women with anemia, 2019 (SDG 2.2.3)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es). Note: By definition, this indicator is only reported for women, so data for men are not presented.

## Gender indicators of the set of prioritized indicators for the region

**4** out of **10** women in Latin America and the Caribbean suffered some degree of food insecurity compared to **3** out of **10** men (2022) (Goal 2.1.2)



**1** out of every **10** children in the region was stunted or overweight in 2022 (Goal 2.2.1 and 2.2.2)



Source: FAO, 2023.

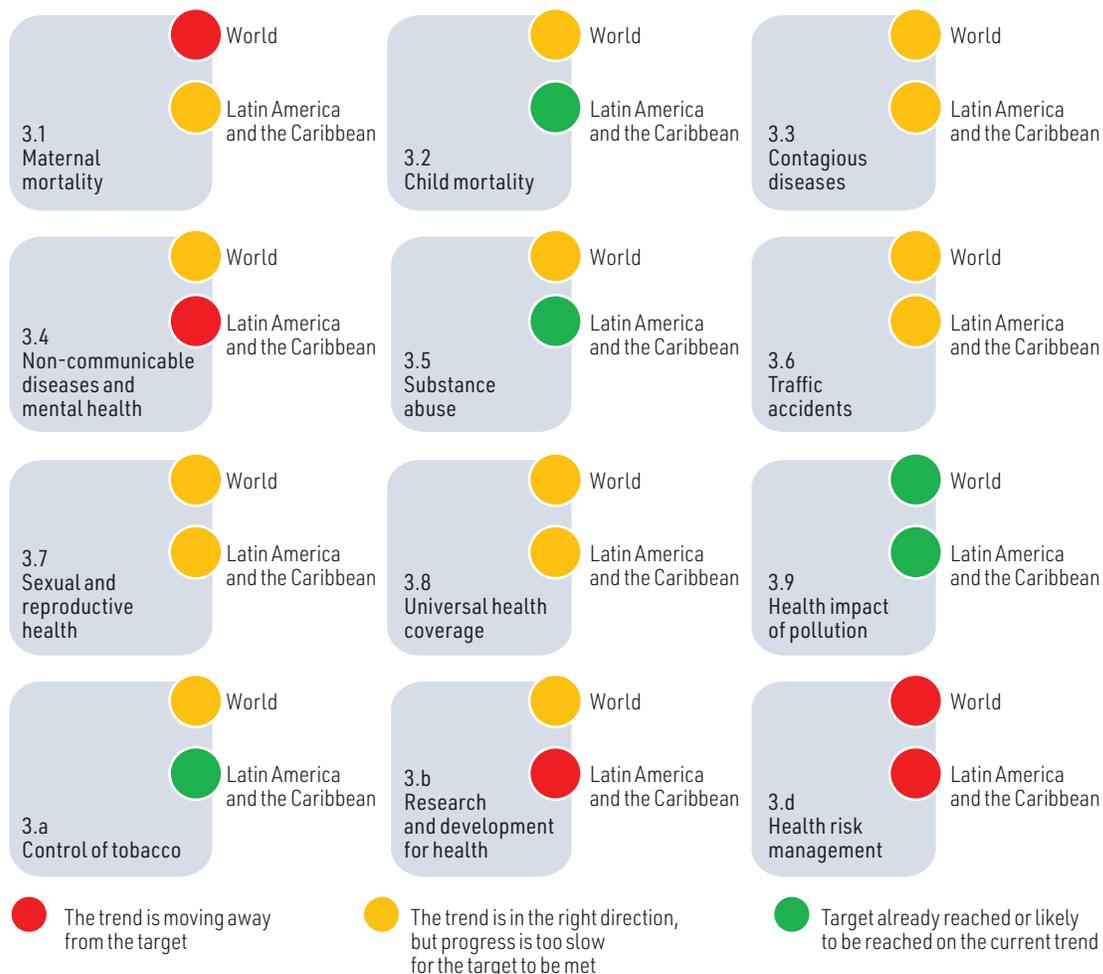
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Banco de datos regional para el seguimiento de los ODS en América Latina y el Caribe" [online] [https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato\\_id=3682&lang=es](https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/banco-datos-regional-seguimiento-ods.html?indicato_id=3682&lang=es).

## GOAL 3

## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Latin America and the Caribbean have made more progress than the world at large towards four of the 12 Goal 3 targets, less in the case of two targets, and the same in six. The region has made greater progress than the world as a whole on the targets for child mortality, substance abuse and tobacco control. Although the region has a better prognosis than the world in the maternal mortality reduction target, the trend is correct but progress is too slow to achieve it by 2030. Meanwhile, the region has made less progress than the world as a whole towards targets related to research and development (R&D) for health, noncommunicable diseases and mental health. Lastly, the region displays similar progress to the world in the management of health risks, communicable diseases, road traffic accidents, sexual and reproductive health, universal health coverage, and the impact of pollution on health. In the latter case, both the region and the world have already either met the target or are on course to meet it by 2030.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration* (LC/FDS.6/3), Santiago, 2023; and United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2023* [online] <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/progress-chart/>.

Prior the pandemic, maternal and child health was improving globally, health coverage had increased and communicable diseases were declining; but the pace of progress was too slow to achieve the targets by 2030 (United Nations, 2021). After the pandemic, health progress stalled and even regressed (United Nations, 2022c; United Nations, 2023e). During the pandemic, the governments of the individual countries focused their medical attention on COVID-19, neglecting other aspects of people's health and posing additional risks for the population, especially for persons belonging to disadvantaged groups. Nine out of 10 countries reported at least one interruption to essential health services, and the pandemic reduced the population's life expectancy (United Nations, 2021). The pandemic also clearly affected progress towards achieving Goal 3, to the extent that child immunization has witnessed its steepest decline in the last three decades, while deaths from tuberculosis and malaria have increased (United Nations, 2023e). In addition, health inequalities have been amplified, with a greater impact on the elderly, indigent, refugees and migrants (United Nations, 2021). For these reasons, the United Nations (2023e) recommends increasing investment in health systems, in order to help countries recover and build resilience to future health threats. It is also necessary to consider gender as a social determinant of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, since health inequalities can be generated by patriarchal, discriminatory and violent cultural patterns, harmful practices, discrimination, violence and power imbalances (UN-Women, 2019).

According to PAHO (2022), women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean ceased to receive health because of the adjustment and prioritization of health services during the pandemic. This situation has also affected maternal mortality, as pregnancy controls became less frequent and certain risk factors were not detected in a timely manner. Moreover, pregnancy aggravated the effects of the virus in some cases, and the care capacity needed to cope with such emergencies was not available (PAHO, 2022). In 2020, the maternal mortality rate stood at 87.6 per 100,000 live births; after the pandemic there was an increase, although the rate had been trending up since 2014. In 2019 it stood at 78.3; that is an increase of 9 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in just one year (ECLAC and others, 2023). It is important to note that, in 2022, the majority of births (95.8%) were attended by skilled health personnel, when the health coverage rate, as of 2021, was 76.0 (ECLAC and others, 2023).<sup>18</sup>

In 2022, the adolescent fertility rate in Latin America and the Caribbean was 51.4 births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years; and in 2020, in Latin America, 10.1% of 15–19-year-old women were mothers (ECLAC and others, 2023). In terms of family planning, in 2023, 8 out of every 10 women of childbearing age (15–49 years old) in Latin America and the Caribbean had their family planning needs met (ECLAC and others, 2023).

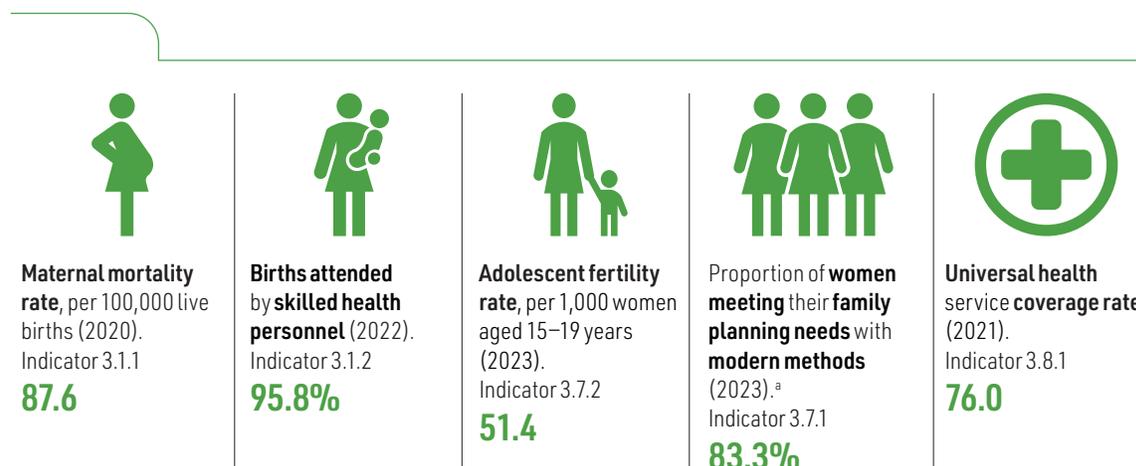
With respect to new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected persons, in 2021 the largest number of new infections occurred among 15–24 year-olds, and mostly men (twice as many as among women) (ECLAC and others, 2023).

Women aged 15 years or older in the region consume less alcohol than men (measured as litres of pure alcohol per capita per year). In 2019, men on average consumed 3.8 times more alcohol than women (ECLAC and others, 2023). Tobacco consumption was also less prevalent among women in the region: 8.5% among women aged 15 years or older in 2020, compared to 18.3% among men (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2019 the mortality rate from injuries caused by traffic accidents among women in the region was 6.7 per 100,000 inhabitants, which was much lower than the equivalent rate for men (28.2 per 100,000) (ECLAC and others, 2023). The death rate from unintentional poisoning was also lower among women (0.2 per 100,000 of population in 2019) than among men (0.5). Lastly, in 2019, the probability of dying from one of the four main noncommunicable diseases (cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease), between the ages of 30 and 70 years in Latin America and the Caribbean, was 14.8% overall, 12.6% among women and 17.1% among men (ECLAC and others, 2023).

<sup>18</sup> The indicator is an index reported on a unitless scale from 0 to 100, calculated as the geometric mean of 14 tracer indicators of health services coverage (ECLAC and others, 2023).

## Gender indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

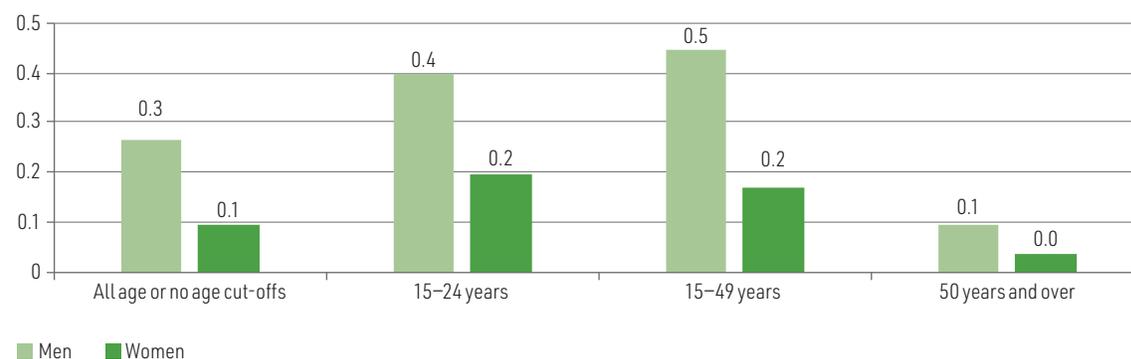


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

<sup>a</sup> The complementary indicator of the set of prioritized indicators for the region P-3.7.1 "Unmet family planning needs" has been measured intermittently for 26 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; it does not have a regional average owing to a lack of harmonization, and it is out of date. The latest data reported relates to 2020, for Peru only (6.1%). Indicator C-3.7.b "Percentage of women aged 15–19 years who are mothers" has data for 2020 for just two countries: Mexico and Panama, so it is not considered appropriate to report it as a regional average.

Figure 9

New HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, 2021 (Indicator 3.3.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

## Gender indicators of the set of prioritized indicators for the region



In 2019, **women aged 15 years or older** in the region consumed the equivalent of

**2.6 litres** of pure alcohol per capita in 2019

**(3.8 times less** than men)

(Goal 3.5.2)



**8.5%** of women aged 15 years or older in the region consumed tobacco in 2020 compared to

**18.3%** of men in the same age group

(Goal 3.a.1)



In 2019, the **death rate among women** due to injuries caused in **traffic accidents** was

**6.7** per 100,000 inhabitants, compared to

**28.2** per 100,000 in the case of **men**

(Goal 3.6.1)

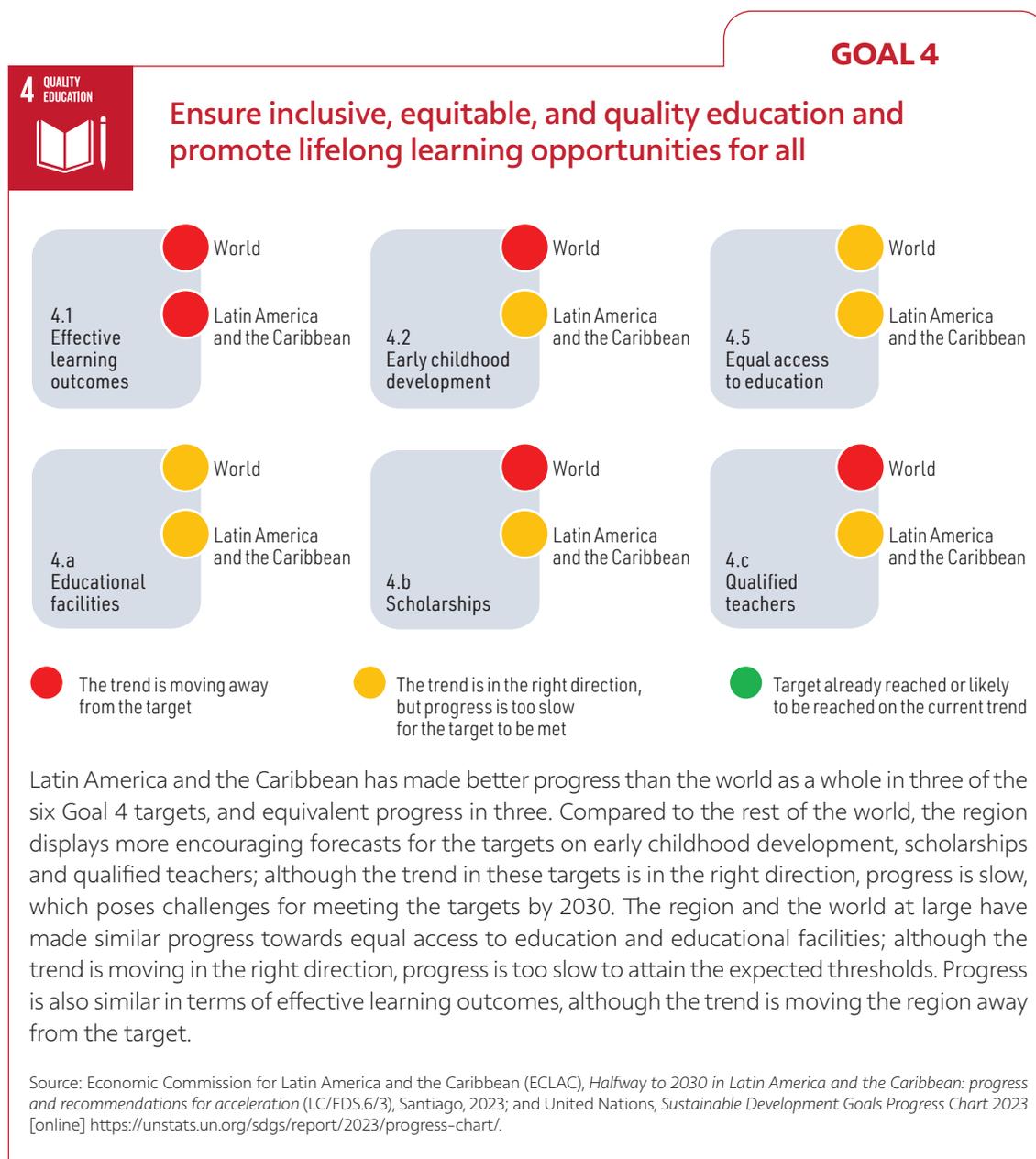


**12.6 %**

is the probability in 2019 of **30-70-year-old women** dying from one of the **four main noncommunicable diseases** (cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular or chronic respiratory diseases) in Latin America and the Caribbean (Goal 3.4.1); the probability for **men** is

**17.1%**

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.



Despite the progress made in recent decades, in 2019 the region was far from achieving the Goal 4 targets, and the situation was aggravated by the challenges posed by the pandemic (ECLAC/UNESCO/UNICEF, 2024). If the necessary corrective measures are not adopted, only one in six countries will meet the target of universal secondary education completion by 2030. In this scenario, by 2023, an estimated 84 million children and young people will not be attending school worldwide, and nearly 300 million students will fail to develop basic numeracy and literacy skills (United Nations, 2023e). School closures aggravated learning disparities, as many of the countries that had performed poorly before the pandemic also tended to keep their schools closed for longer.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the pandemic had a direct effect on education and will impact the futures of girls and adolescents in the region (ECLAC, 2022a; UNICEF, 2020 and 2021; World Bank, 2021). Of all the world's schools, those in Latin America and the Caribbean remained closed for longest

between 2020 and 2022 (70 weeks on average) (ECLAC/UNESCO/UNICEF, 2024). School closures and the consequent need for education to be conducted remotely accentuated inequalities, because not all households had the resources needed for children and adolescents to be able to study at home. This increased the exposure of children and adolescents to contexts of violence (ECLAC/UNICEF/ORESG-VCN, 2020) and child labour (ILO/UNICEF, 2021), interrupted their educational processes and hampered their learning and progression through school (ECLAC, 2022a; UNICEF, 2020 and 2021; World Bank, 2021). On the basis of data for 2021 from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the majority of girls and adolescents in the Southern Cone (64%) and the Caribbean (67%), and nearly half (45%) of girls in the Andean region, considered that their studies would be held back as a result of COVID-19 (UNICEF, 2021).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, learning poverty, which measures whether 10-year-old children are able to adequately understand a text of moderate length, could reach 80% in the worst-case scenario in 2022 compared to 51% in 2019 (UNICEF, 2023). Also in the region,<sup>19</sup> in 2021 there were 9.3 million children and adolescents not attending primary and secondary education; of whom 4.1 million were girls (UNESCO, 2023). Post-pandemic data show that, by 2022, pre-primary school attendance had not regained the pre-pandemic levels, implying a delayed integration of children into the education system (ECLAC/UNESCO/UNICEF, 2024, p. 3). The data also show that some countries have recovered pre-pandemic school attendance rates (such as Argentina, Chile and the Dominican Republic), while others continue to display negative trends (such as Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay). In some cases, although the enrolment rate does not show major changes, the tendency for children in public schools to attend sporadically rather than regularly has increased (ECLAC/UNESCO/UNICEF, 2024, p. 3.). This also has consequences in terms of increased demand for unpaid care within households.

In 2022, women in Latin America displayed a slightly higher average number of years of schooling than men in all age groups. An analysis of the economically active population aged 15 years or older shows that women have an average of 10.7 years of schooling, compared to 9.7, in the case of men (ECLAC, 2023g). Although women display better school attendance and obtain higher grades, boys tend to achieve better results on standardized tests, particularly in mathematics (Bustelo, Frisnacho and Viollaz, 2023; Pérez-Mejías and others, 2021; McDaniel and Phillips, 2018), although girls scored better on reading in tests of the Third Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (TERCE) (UN-Women, 2020b). A key cause of interrupted schooling among girls and female adolescents is child marriage and early union. As recent household surveys in six countries show, the majority of girls under 18 years of age who have been in a union at any time do not attend school. The figures are particularly high in Mexico (87.8%) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (74.2%), and close to 50% in Ecuador. The only country where the proportion is reversed is the Dominican Republic, where most girls and adolescents who have ever been in a union do attend school (70%). By contrast, in the six countries surveyed, more than 80% of girls and adolescents who are not in a union attend school, with rates of over 90% in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (ECLAC, 2023j).

There are also differences between men and women in the region with respect to school completion, literacy and enrolment rates. In 2021, women displayed higher completion rate, both at the primary level (95.0%) and at the upper secondary level (67.0%), than men (91.0% and 60.0%, respectively); the gap is largest at the upper secondary level, at 7.0 points (ECLAC and others, 2023). Furthermore, in 2021 the gross primary-school enrolment rate was higher among boys (103.8%) than girls (102.6%) (UNESCO, 2023),<sup>20</sup> whereas at the tertiary level the gross enrolment rate among women in 2022, at 65.7%, surpassed that of men (47.5%) by 18.2 percentage points (ECLAC and others, 2023). Nonetheless, women are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses in 16 of the region's countries

<sup>19</sup> The following countries were included in the calculation: Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

<sup>20</sup> The gross enrolment rate may exceed 100%, owing to the inclusion of older and younger students due to early or late entry, as well as grade repetition.

(ECLAC, 2022c).<sup>21</sup> Between 2002 and 2017, fewer than 50% of tertiary education graduates in the areas of information and communications technologies (ICT) and engineering were women (ECLAC, 2022c). Women are also underrepresented in higher education STEM courses in the region (UN-Women, 2020b). Lastly, in 2022, the literacy rate of persons aged 15 years or older was slightly higher for men (94.9%) than for women (94.3%) (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2020, participation in organized learning was higher among women (94.6%) than among men (92.7%) (ECLAC and others, 2023). The adjusted parity index between women and men of the rate of participation in organized learning did not display variations between 2019 and 2020, and is gender equal and equivalent to 1.0 (ECLAC and others, 2023). Nonetheless, an analysis of other indicators of the gender parity index,<sup>22</sup> reveals several variations. The gender parity index adjusted for the proportion of teachers with the minimum qualifications required to teach at the pre-primary level is greater than 1 both in 2019 (1.3) and in 2020 (1.2). This reflects the fact that a larger number of female teachers have the minimum required qualifications. The situation is similar at primary school level, where the parity index was 1.1 in both 2019 and 2020 (ECLAC and others, 2023). Lastly, in 2020 there was an equal proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications at the secondary education level (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In terms of access to school services and infrastructure, 72.8% of upper secondary schools in the region had access to computers for pedagogical purposes in 2020, while 60.8% of primary schools had such access in 2018 —a difference of 12.0 percentage points. This gap between educational levels widens when analysing the proportion of schools that had access to the Internet for pedagogical purposes (ECLAC and others, 2023). In 2020, 69.6% of upper secondary level schools had internet access, whereas less than half (43.0%) had such access in primary level schools in 2018 —a difference of about 26.6 percentage points. In the case of access to basic services, most upper secondary schools in 2017 had access to drinking water (72.1%); most primary schools had basic sanitation (81.1%); and most primary (89.9%) and upper secondary (92.4%) schools had access to electricity (ECLAC and others, 2023). There is a pending challenge in schools in the region, in terms of access to infrastructure and materials adapted to students with disabilities. In 2018, less than half of all schools had facilities adapted for students with disabilities; specifically 32.7% of primary schools and 48.6% of upper secondary schools have such infrastructure (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In Latin America and the Caribbean,<sup>23</sup> education expenditure accounted for 3.8% of GDP in 2022 (ECLAC, 2023g). On this point, it is worth highlighting the wide-ranging economic and non-economic returns that are associated with investment in education (including poverty reduction, productivity improvement, lower fertility rates, among others). In addition, 36% of the region's countries have adopted at least one support measure to help girls and boys return to school (UN-Women/DESA, 2021). Achieving the Goal 4 targets for education coverage, spanning pre-primary to secondary in the countries of the region will require an additional investment averaging 0.21% of GDP per year (Huepe, 2023).

<sup>21</sup> There are 16 countries with data available: Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

<sup>22</sup> Calculated as the ratio of the indicator value of one group relative to another. Normally, the numerator is group that is likely most disadvantaged. A value of exactly 1 indicates parity between the two groups.

<sup>23</sup> For this indicator, a simple average was calculated for the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Turks and Caicos Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

## Gender indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

Table 1

Indicator	Male (Percentages)	Female (Percentages)
Primary education completion rate, 2021 (Goal 4.1.2)	91.0	95.0
Upper secondary education completion rate, 2021 (Goal 4.1.2)	60.0	67.0
Gross primary education enrolment rate, 2021	103.8	102.6

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

Table 2

Indicator 4.2.2	Male (Percentages)	Female (Percentages)
Participation rate in organized learning (one year before official primary entry age), 2020	92.7	94.6

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

Table 3

Indicator 4.5.1	2019	2020
Female-to-male adjusted parity index of participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)	1.0	1.0
Gender parity index <sup>a</sup> adjusted for the proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications (pre-primary)	1.3	1.2
Gender parity index adjusted for the proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications (primary)	1.1	1.1
Gender parity index adjusted for the proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications (secondary)	1.0	1.0

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

<sup>a</sup> Calculated as the ratio of the indicator value of one group relative to another. Normally, the numerator is group that is likely most disadvantaged. A value of exactly 1 indicates parity between the two groups.

Table 4

Indicator 4.a.1	Lower secondary (Percentages)	Primary (Percentages)	Upper secondary (Percentages)
Proportion of schools with access to the Internet for pedagogical purposes	62.3 (2018)	43.0 (2018)	69.6 (2020)
Proportion of schools with access to basic drinking water			72.1 (2017)
Proportion of schools with basic hand-washing facilities	84.5 (2018)		82.5 (2017)
Proportion of schools with access to infrastructure and materials adapted to students with disabilities.	43.9 (2018)	32.7 (2018)	48.6 (2018)
Proportion of schools with access to electricity	91.7 (2018)	89.9 (2019)	92.4 (2020)
Proportion of schools with access to computers for pedagogical purposes	72.4 (2018)	60.8 (2018)	72.8 (2020)
Proportion of schools with access to basic sanitation		81.1 (2017)	

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>. Note: Blank cells mean that no data are available for the indicator.

## Gender indicators of the set of prioritized indicators for the region

Table 5

Indicator	Men (Percentages)	Women (Percentages)
Gross tertiary education enrolment rate, by gender, 2022 (Goal C-4.3)	47.5	65.7
Literacy rate of persons aged 15 years and over, 2022 (Goal C-4.6)	94.9	94.3

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

### Average number of years of study, 2022



Population **15 to 24 years old**

**Women: 10.6 years**

**Men: 10.2 years**

Population **25 to 59 years old**

**Women: 10.2 years**

**Men: 9.9 years**

**Economically active** population  
15 years and older

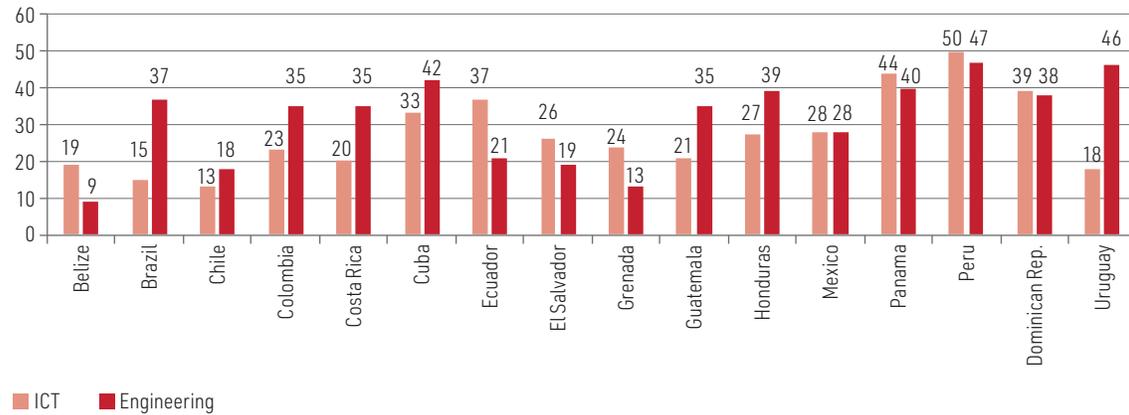
**Women: 10.7 years**

**Men: 9.7 years**

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Statistics and indicators", CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?theme=4&lang=en>.

**Figure 10**

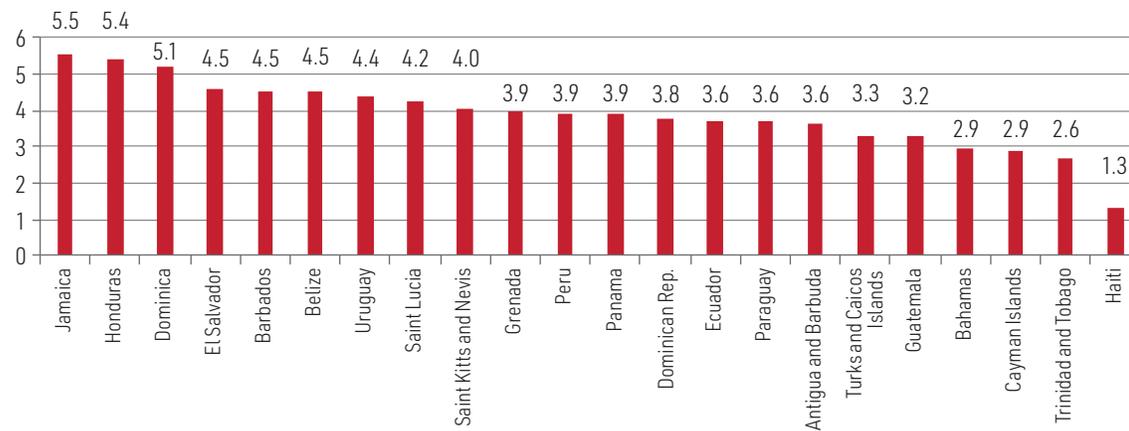
Share of women in the total number of tertiary education graduates in engineering and information and communications technologies (ICTs)  
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022* (LC/PUB.2022/15-P), Santiago, 2022.

**Figure 11**

Education expenditure, 2022  
(Percentages of GDP)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Statistics and indicators", CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?theme=4&lang=en>.



**36%**  
of Latin American and Caribbean countries adopted **at least measure to help** girls return to school (2021)

Source: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), "Survey on National Education Responses to COVID-19 School Closures (third iteration)", on the basis of data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.



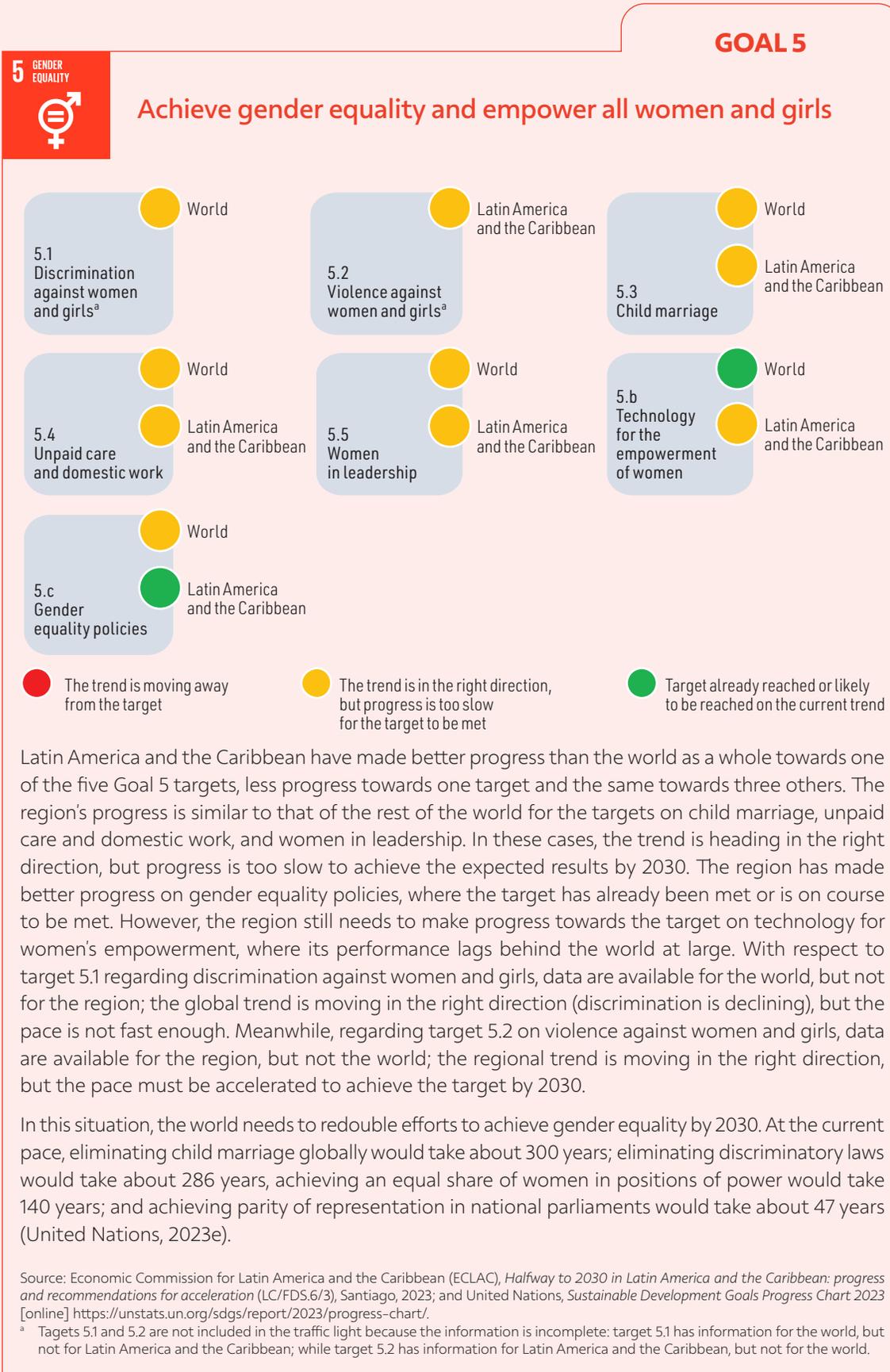
**4.1 million** girls and female adolescents **were out** of primary and secondary education (2021)

Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UIS.Stat [online] <http://data.uis.unesco.org>.



**3.8%**  
is the average share of of education expenditure in GDP in the countries of the region (2022)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Statistics and indicators", CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?theme=4&lang=en>.



Violence against women and girls of all ages exists in all countries and regions despite increased public awareness, legislative advances, government responses and better measurement. Globally, 26% of women aged 15 years or older who have been in a relationship at any time (641 million) have suffered physical or sexual violence, or both, at the hands of an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime (United Nations, 2022c). Every year, 245 million women and girls aged 15 years or older worldwide are victims of physical or sexual violence, or both, perpetrated by their intimate partner (UN-Women/DESA, 2023). In addition, the pandemic is estimated to have intensified violence against women, with a rapid assessment study undertaken by UN-Women in 2021 reporting that 45% of women informants from 13 countries say that they, or a woman they know, have been victims of violence since the onset of the pandemic (United Nations, 2022c). Furthermore, the pandemic has corroborated the fact that as more women and girls turn to digital spaces, gender-based violence in such spaces also increases, highlighting that structural gender inequalities cut across all societies and are reproduced beyond the physical domain (UN-Women/MESECVI, 2022a).

Data estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) show that one in every four women in the region between 15 and 49 years of age have experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by their partner at least once in their lifetime, that is, 43 million women (WHO, 2021). Moreover, adolescent girls who are victims of child marriage and early unions are at higher risk of intimate-partner violence than adult women.

In Latin America, between 6 and 8 out of every 10 women (in countries with prevalence studies such as the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay) have been victims, or have experienced, some episode of gender-based violence in different areas of their lives. Data from the rapid gender assessments conducted by UN-Women, show that more than half of the women in both Paraguay (51%) and Colombia (63%) said that they, or other women they knew, had experienced some form of violence (UN-Women, 2021a). It is also clear that calls to helplines for domestic violence during lockdown increased by between 25% (Costa Rica and Ecuador) and 91% (Colombia) (Thomas, 2022). In addition, the social acceptability of gender-based violence in the region,<sup>24</sup> measured as the percentage of women who agree that a husband/partner is justified in beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances, ranges from 3% (Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay) to 31.8% (Mexico) (OECD, 2023a).

In terms of the most extreme form of gender-based violence, the data show that in most Latin American countries femicide or feminicide<sup>25</sup> has been a persistent scourge in recent years. In 2022, of the 19 countries and territories of Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>26</sup> with information, Honduras reports the highest rate of femicide or feminicide (6.0 per 100,000 women), followed by Trinidad and Tobago (5.5 per 100,000), Grenada (3.2) and the Dominican Republic (2.9). The countries with the lowest rates (less than one victim of femicide or feminicide per 100,000 women) are, in descending order, Puerto Rico, Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Chile and Cuba. In terms of the absolute number of cases, in 2022 at least 4,050 women were victims of gender-related homicides in Latin America and the Caribbean; in other words, about 338 women per month and 11 per day were victims of femicide or feminicide in the region. More than 70% of femicide or feminicide victims were between 15 and 44 years of age; but it is also alarming that 4% of the total were girls under 15. In 2022, 81% of the victims with nationality reported were living in their country of origin and 19% had foreign nationality (ECLAC, 2023h). There was a total of 4,955 deaths of women caused by their intimate partner or ex-partner in the last five years, considering the period 2018–2022 (ECLAC, 2023i). In 2022 specifically, about 129 women dies as a result of actions by

<sup>24</sup> Acceptability of gender-based intimate partner violence is measured as the percentage of women aged 15–49 years who consider it justified for a husband to beat his wife when she: burns the food, argues with him, goes out without telling him, neglects the children, or refuses to have sexual relations (OECD, 2023a).

<sup>25</sup> Based on the information contained in the CEPALSTAT indicator fact sheet: corresponds to the annual quantification of the total number of killings of women 15 years of age and older, murdered for gender-related reasons.

<sup>26</sup> In the Caribbean, only the absolute numbers of gender-related homicides of women are analysed, not rates, because in some countries there are very few cases and the female population is below 100,000, which makes the calculation difficult.

their intimate partner or ex-partner every month (ECLAC, 2023i). Additionally, the region faces challenges even in providing effective access to reparation measures for the children and dependants of victims of femicide or feminicide (UN-Women/MESECVI, 2022b).

In 2021, one out of every five 20–24-year-old women stated that they were married or in a stable union before their eighteenth birthday, and 4 out of every 100 were married or in a stable union before their fifteenth birthday (ECLAC and others, 2023). These figures conceal differences both between and within countries: the information available in 11 countries shows that early and forced child marriages and unions are more prevalent in households with incomes in the lowest income quintile compared to those in the highest quintile. In Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Suriname, more than 40% of women between 20 and 24 years of age in the lowest quintile had married or entered into a union before the age of 18, compared to rates ranging from 23% (Suriname) to 2% (Costa Rica) in the highest quintile (ECLAC, 2023j).

In 2023, almost 90% of women reported that they make their own informed decisions about contraceptive use, reproductive health care or sexual relations. However, only seven out of 10 women aged 15–49 years claimed to make their own informed decisions on all of these issues (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In 2022, analysis of the legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality show that the achievement rate is only above 80% in the area of marriage and family (86.2%). Meanwhile, the areas with a lower achievement rate correspond to general legal frameworks and public life (68.4%), alongside legal frameworks for employment and economic benefits (75.2%) (ECLAC and others, 2023). In terms of regulatory progress on violence against women and girls, 18 Latin American countries<sup>27</sup> have defined femicide, feminicide or violent gender-based death of women as a specific crime. Of these countries, 13<sup>28</sup> adopted comprehensive laws to address violence against women; and all such laws contain specific provisions on the recording of data and production of information on gender-based violence against women and girls. The remaining five countries<sup>29</sup> do not have comprehensive laws on violence, but introduced this type of crime as an amendment to criminal legislation. The Caribbean countries have not passed comprehensive laws on gender-based violence or laws to address femicide, but they do have specific laws on domestic violence and sexual abuse (ECLAC, 2023h). In terms of child marriage and early unions, 13 of the region's countries<sup>30</sup> prohibit marriage under the age of 18 without exceptions (ECLAC, 2023j).

In terms of laws and regulations that guarantee men and women aged 15 years or older full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education, in 2022, HIV confidentiality clearly has the highest proportion of laws and regulations in Latin America and the Caribbean (94%), followed by HIV treatment and care services, maternal care and life-saving products (86% each). Less progress has been made with regard to laws on abortion (31%), followed by access to HPV vaccination (57%) and access to emergency contraception (60%) (ECLAC and others, 2023).

In terms of political participation, women are underrepresented globally, especially in less urbanized areas or those with traditional gender norms. They are also underrepresented in political positions of higher authority, whether in local government or in executive posts (UN-Women, 2021b). Moreover, women who hold positions in political and public life are often subject to gender-based violence that undermines, and can even nullify, the exercise of their political rights (UN-Women/CIM, 2023). In the region, when analysed on an intersectional basis, "rural women, indigenous women, Afro-descendants, young women, women in situations of human mobility, with disabilities, older women, and LGBTIQ+ women are still exceptional

<sup>27</sup> The countries are Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Uruguay.

<sup>28</sup> The countries are Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Uruguay.

<sup>29</sup> The following countries that do not have comprehensive laws on violence: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba and Honduras (ECLAC, 2023h).

<sup>30</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad and Tobago.

cases in positions of political representation.” (Inter-American Task Force on Women’s Leadership, 2022, p. 25). In general, gender-based violence impacts all women who in some way have a public voice, such as journalists, women human rights defenders, activists and women in politics. A study by UN-Women and the Regional Alliance for Free Expression and Information concluded that the threats and aggressions that these groups suffer are so constant that they have become naturalized and are viewed as “the rules of the game” (UN-Women/Regional Alliance for Free Expression and Information, 2022, p.9).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the presence of women in legislatures has been increasing in recent years. Although the seats are still held by men, the region is leading the way towards parity in national parliaments (lower chamber or unicameral). As of 2023, 35.8% of seats in national parliaments are occupied by women, while in local government deliberative bodies, women hold about one quarter of the seats (27.2%) (ECLAC and others, 2023). In addition, 15.4% of mayorships and 32.7% of council seats were held by women (latest available data from electoral results, as of 2021) (ECLAC, 2023l and, 2023m); and 30.4% of supreme court prosecutors in Latin America were women in 2021 (ECLAC, 2023n). Furthermore, in 2021, of the total number of managerial positions,<sup>31</sup> nearly 4 in every 10 were held by women (ECLAC and others, 2023). In the region, 13% of countries have systems for monitoring gender equality and women’s empowerment and the allocation of public funds<sup>32</sup> for this purpose (ECLAC and others, 2023). In addition to increasing women’s participation in political office, civil society and public institutions also need tools to defend women’s political participation (UN-Women/CIM, 2020).

Lastly, in terms of data on the use of time, 23 countries<sup>33</sup> have conducted at least one measurement, 10 have valued unpaid work in households economically, and five have calculated a satellite account of unpaid domestic and care work with official statistics (ECLAC, 2022e). In Latin America,<sup>34</sup> women spend between 12% (Brazil) and 27.7% (Chile) of their time on unpaid domestic and care work, while men spend between 3% (Honduras) and 12.5% (Cuba) of their time in this way. In the 16 countries with information available for the last 12 years, women devote a larger proportion of their time to unpaid domestic and care work than men do (ECLAC, 2023o). When compounded by the low level of care services that are accessible, it is clear how women of low- and middle incomes generally have few opportunities to undertake care work and paid work at the same time (UN-Women, 2017). However, analysis of total work time shows that men and women work a similar number of hours per week; and, in eight of the 16 countries with information, women actually work more hours per week than men. Nonetheless, women receive less income for their time worked than men, as they spend more time on unpaid domestic and care work, while men dedicate the majority of their working hours to paid work.

The infographic below shows the results for the indicators associated with the Goal 5 targets.

<sup>31</sup> “This indicator refers to the share of women in the total number of persons employed in managerial positions” (ECLAC and others, 2023). In the calculation methodology, it is recommended to combine the proportion of women in total management and the proportion of women in senior and middle management, excluding junior management, to thus determine whether women are more represented in junior management than in senior and middle management positions, thereby showing the potential ceiling that women confront in acceding to senior management positions.

<sup>32</sup> According to (ECLAC-United Nations, 2023), the indicator that accompanies these systems measures three criteria. The first is based on a government’s intention to address gender equality objectives: whether it has programmes/policies and allocations for this purpose—for example, a government programme that provides scholarships only for girls, or a prenatal care programme. The second criterion assesses whether a government has planning and budgeting tools to track resources for gender and women’s empowerment—for example, budget ceilings, key programmes and policies that are designed to address gender objectives, or ex-ante gender impact assessments. The third and last criterion builds on transparency by identifying whether a government has provisions to make gender and women’s empowerment allocations publicly available—for example by publishing information in an accessible and timely manner.

<sup>33</sup> The countries are Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

<sup>34</sup> As the information is not comparable between countries, regional averages are not used.

## Gender indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean: legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality  
(Percentages of achievement) (Goal 5.1.1) by area  
(Percentages)



**68.4** General **legal frameworks** and public life, 2022

**79.6** **Violence** against women, 2022

**75.2** **Employment** and economic benefits, 2022

**86.2** **Marriage** and family, 2022

Latin America and the Caribbean: women, leadership and political participation  
(Percentages)



**35.8** Proportion of **seats held** by women in **national parliaments**, 2023 (Goal 5.5.1a)

**27.2** Proportion of **elected seats held** by women in **local government** deliberative bodies, 2023 (Goal 5.5.1b)

**36.9** Proportion of women in **managerial positions**, 2021 (Goal 5.5.2)

**13.0** Proportion of **countries** with systems to **track and make public allocations** for **gender equality** and **women's empowerment**, 2021 (Goal 5.c.1)

Table 6

Latin America and the Caribbean: countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education, 2023 (Goal 5.6.2)  
(Percentages)

Section	Component	Percentage
S1: Maternal care	C1: Maternal care	86
	C2: Products that save lives	86
	C3: Abortion	31
	C4: Post-abortion care	75
S2: Contraception and family planning	C5: Contraceptive services	77
	C6: Contraceptive consent	82
	C7: Emergency contraception	60
S3: Sex education	C8: Laws on sex education in the curriculum	67
	C9: Sex education topics in the curriculum	77
S4: HIV and HPV	C10: HIV counselling and testing services	84
	C11: HIV treatment and care services	86
	C12: HIV confidentiality	94
	C13: Human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine	57

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

Figure 12

Latin America and the Caribbean: proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, population aged 15 or older, 2023 (Goal 5.4.1)  
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 'Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex (Goal indicator 5.4.1)', Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, 20 September 2023 [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/proportion-time-spent-unpaid-domestic-and-care-work-sex-sdg-indicator-541>.

Note: The data are not comparable between countries owing to methodological differences in the collection instruments, so no regional average is presented.

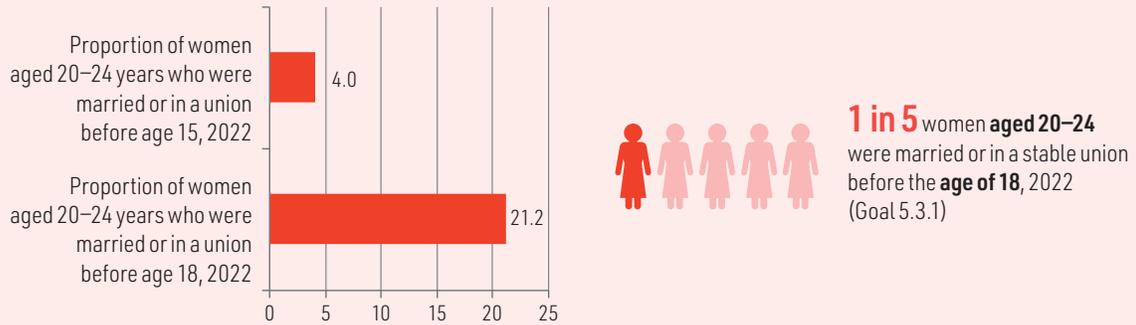
Figure 13

Latin America and the Caribbean: average hours per week spent on unpaid and paid work combined (total workload), by sex, population aged 15 years and over, 2023 (Goal C-5.4)  
(Number of hours per week)

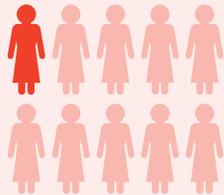


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 'Total work time', Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, 20 September [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/total-work-time>.

Note: The data are not comparable between countries owing to methodological differences in the collection instruments, so no regional average is presented.



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.



**1 in 10 women** have experienced **physical or sexual violence**, or both, at the hands of a current or former intimate partner in the past **12 months**, 2018 (Goal 5.2.1)

### Women and informed decision making about sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care (Goal 5.6.1)

(Percentages)

- 72** Proportion of women who make their own informed decisions regarding **sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care**, 2023
- 86** Proportion of women who make their own informed decisions regarding **reproductive health care**, 2023
- 91** Proportion of women who make their own informed decisions regarding **contraceptive use**, 2023
- 90** Proportion of women who make their own informed decisions regarding **sexual relations**, 2023

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

## Gender indicators of the set of prioritized indicators for the region

Figure 14

Latin America and the Caribbean: rate of femicide or feminicide per 100,000 women, 2022 (Goal C-5.2)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Femicide or feminicide", Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023 [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/femicide-or-feminicide>.

In 2022, more than **60%** of **femicides or feminicides** were perpetrated by an intimate partner or ex-partner in **9 of the 13 countries** that report on the relationship between victim and perpetrator (ECLAC, 2023h).

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Femicide or feminicide", Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023 [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/femicide-or-feminicide>.

Table 7

Indicator	Percentages
Percentage of women who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence or both by an intimate partner	<b>14</b> Cuba (minimum) <b>42</b> Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (maximum)
Percentage of social acceptability of domestic violence	<b>3</b> Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Uruguay (minimum) <b>31.8</b> Mexico (maximum)

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "Violence against women" [online] <https://data.oecd.org/inequality/violence-against-women.htm> and OECD Stat [online] <https://stats.oecd.org/>.

Note: Latest year available in each country.



Women continue to be underrepresented in **elected office**:

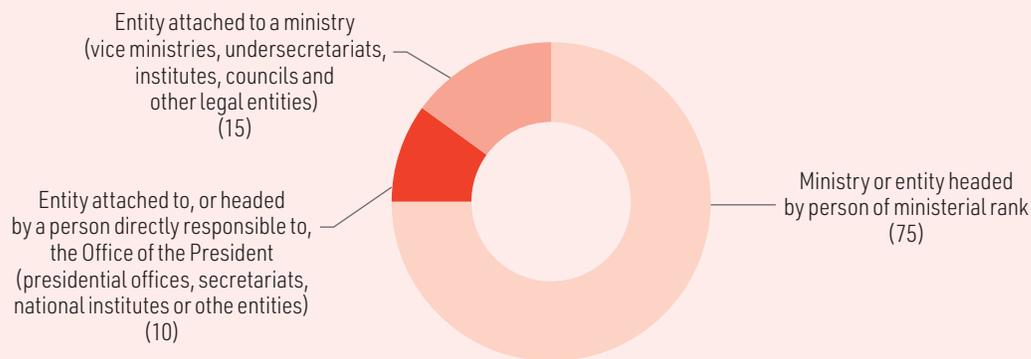
**15.7%** of mayorships and  
**32.7%** of council seats in Latin America are held by women.  
**30.4%** of the members of supreme courts in Latin American countries are women.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, "Elected mayors who are female", [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/elected-mayors-who-are-female>; "Elected city council members who are female" [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/elected-city-council-members-who-are-female>; "Judicial power: percentage of women judges in the highest court or Supreme Court" [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/judicial-power-percentage-women-judges-highest-court-or-supreme-court>.

Note: Average calculated by taking the last year available for each country. Indicators of decision-making autonomy obtained from the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Figure 15**

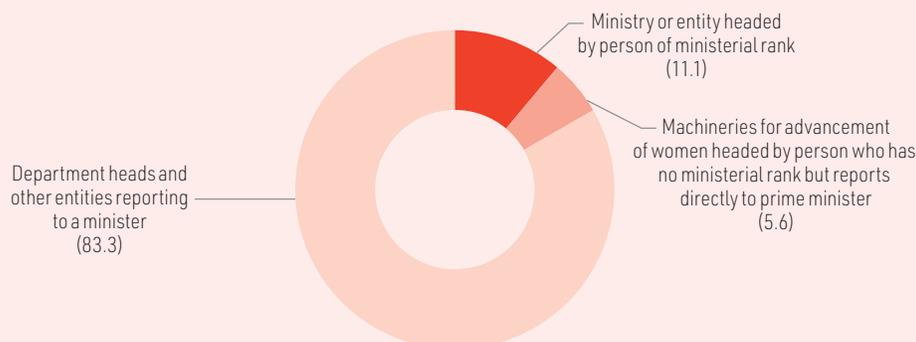
**Latin America (20 countries): hierarchical level of the machineries for the advancement of women**  
*(Percentages)*



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Level within governmental hierarchy of national Machineries for the Advancement of Women", Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/level-within-governmental-hierarchy-national-machineries-advancement-women>.

**Figure 16**

**The Caribbean (18 countries): hierarchical level of machineries for the advancement of women**  
*(Percentages)*



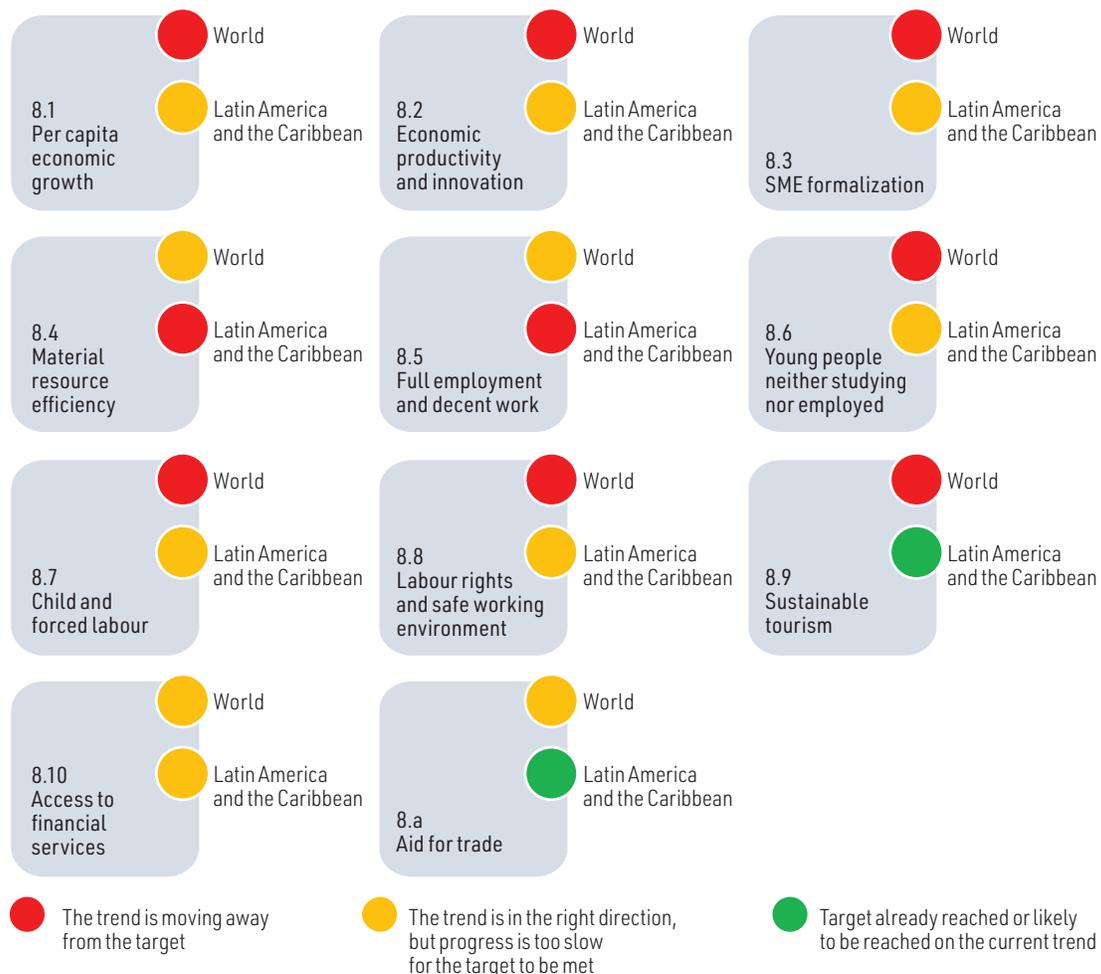
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Level within governmental hierarchy of national Machineries for the Advancement of Women", Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/level-within-governmental-hierarchy-national-machineries-advancement-women>.

## GOAL 8

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



## Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Latin America and the Caribbean has made more progress than the world at large towards seven of the 11 Goal 8 targets, less progress towards two of the targets, and the same towards two. Only in the sustainable tourism and aid-for-trade targets is the region's progress trending in the right direction with the required intensity. For both the world as a whole and the region, achieving the target for reducing the proportion of young people who are neither studying nor working by 2030 poses challenges, because the trend is moving away from the target. Furthermore, although there is a trend in the right direction for several other targets (per capita economic growth, economic productivity and innovation, formalization of SMEs, child and forced labour, labour rights and safe working environment, and access to financial services), progress is too slow to achieve them by 2030.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration* (LC/FDS.6/3), Santiago, 2023; and United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2023* [online] <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/progress-chart/>.

The global economic crisis, in conjunction with the effects of the pandemic and the ensuing cascading crises, have caused significant damage to the lives of people and particularly women. Global real per capita GDP increased at an average annual rate of 1.8% from 2015 to 2019, then declined sharply by 4.1% in 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It then rebounded in 2021, posting robust 5.2% growth, only to slow to 2.2% in 2022. Growth is expected to continue, going forward, but at a slower pace (1.6% in 2024) (United Nations, 2023e).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, per capita GDP declined by 7.5% in 2020, before growing by 6.1% in 2021 and 3.1% in 2022 (ECLAC, 2023d). The region's high GDP growth rates in 2021 reflect recovery processes commensurate with the impact of the crisis. However, since the first quarter of 2022, the region's GDP embarked upon a process of adjustment, deceleration and stagnation.

Considering the rigid sexual division of labour prevailing in the region, it is worth noting that during the pandemic and subsequent recovery period, responsibility for domestic and care work fell mainly on women (UN-Women/ECLAC, 2020). This limited their ability to participate in the labour market and reduced their time available for paid activities (ECLAC, 2022a). In this regard, 27% of female employment is concentrated in the care services sector (health, education and paid domestic work), in contrast to 6% of male employment in this sector (ECLAC, 2023e). Paid domestic work in the region is characterized by gender, class and ethnic inequalities, and also by precarity and informality (UN-Women/OISS/ ILO, 2022). During the pandemic, the workload of domestic workers intensified because of the care they had to provide to a larger number of people who stayed at home, owing to mobility restrictions and the suspension of face-to-face classes. Many workers had to spend the night at their workplaces, and also had limited access to health services, since most of them were not, and are not, affiliated to the social security system (UN-Women/ILO/ECLAC, 2020).

Nonetheless, with economic activity in the region stalled, the recovery of employment since the pandemic has displayed gender-differentiated trends in recent years. Although the participation rate has recovered, it is still below pre-pandemic levels. In the case of women, the rate has risen slowly in 2020 (47.6%), 2021 (50.3%) and 2022 (52.0%). In the latter year, the male economic participation rate was 74.5%, i.e. 22.5 percentage points higher than that of women. Moreover, the unemployment rate also exhibits gender disparities. Between the first quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, the female unemployment rate fell by most (from 13.3% to 10.2%), while the male rate dropped by 2.2 percentage points (from 9.2% to 7.0%). As a result, the gap between the two rates narrowed from 4.2 to 3.2 percentage points. This trend persisted in the first quarter of 2023, when the unemployment rates for men and women were 5.8% and 8.6%, respectively (ECLAC, 2023d).

In terms of age groups, in 2022 there was an even larger gap; the unemployment rate among 15–24-year-old women was 19.1%, 6.2 percentage points higher than that of men (12.9%) in the same age group (ECLAC and others, 2023). There has been a clear lack of progress on this issue over time, with the gender gap displaying few signs of narrowing in the last two decades. In Latin America the outlook is worrying, since youth unemployment rates are set to rise (ILO, 2022). Lastly, data available for 2020 and 2021 show that women's unemployment was higher in households with children under five years of age (ECLAC, 2021).

In 2021, the proportion of people in informal employment was relatively similar between men and women at the regional and subregional levels. However, there are differences between sectors given the structural heterogeneity that characterizes the region's labour market. This is reflected in the coexistence of employment modalities of varying productivity, where informality prevails (Infante, 2011). In the region, more than half of women are employed in low-productivity sectors and, of these, more than 80% are neither affiliated nor contributing to a pension system (Vaca Trigo, 2019).

Women in the informal economy are usually in a more vulnerable situation than their male counterparts and tend to receive lower pay for their work. They are also subject to greater deficits in terms of decent work (ILO, 2018b). In this context, such heterogeneous patterns of occupational segregation emerge from an analysis of the composition of employment by broad sectors of economic activity, and according to the proportion of employed people with labour or social protection in 13 Latin American countries (see the graph of occupational segregation and formality). Commerce is the sector that provides the largest number of jobs, employing 32% of women and 31% of men (the latter with higher rates of social security affiliation). In agriculture, men outnumber women, but both display low affiliation rates. Sectors such as non-market services, communications, financial and professional activities report equal participation, but with disparities in terms of affiliation. The manufacturing sector is highly masculinized, but the proportion of female contributors is higher.

In the care sector, where men are the minority, their proportion of female workers who are affiliated is higher (59% of women employed in care work pay contributions). In addition to the education and health sectors, the expanded care sector includes paid domestic work. All of these are occupations with a high degree of feminization and informality and, hence, less access to social security (ECLAC, 2022a). Since the COVID-19 crisis, the care deficit has become more visible, which provides opportunity for advancing public policies in this area (UN-Women, 2022b).

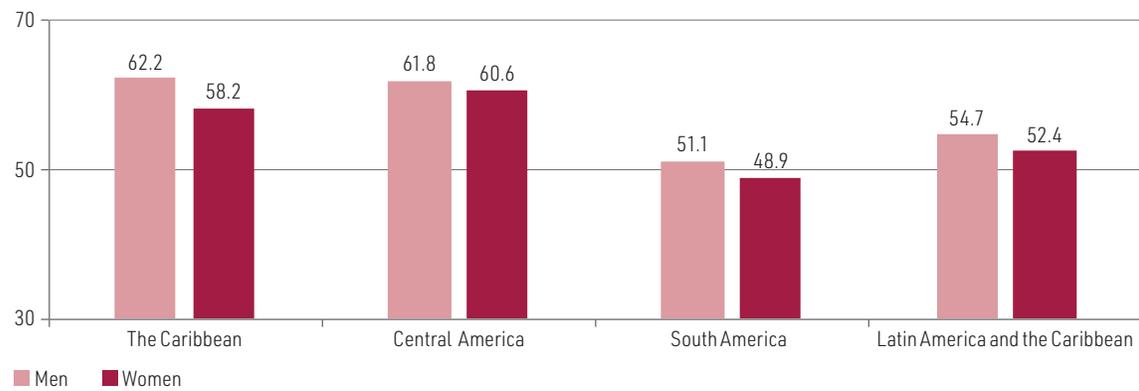
In Latin America, 28.5% of women between 15 and 29 years of age were neither working nor studying in 2022, compared to 13.6% of men in the same age group. This gender gap starts at an early age and affects the expected transitions between the education system, vocational training and labour market entry. It is also strongly influenced by the heavy burden of domestic and care work that young women are required to perform (ECLAC/ILO, 2023). These inequalities are accentuated by socioeconomic level and are expressed in long hours of unpaid work.

Lastly, in terms of the (simple average) labour income gap, women in Latin America received 82.6% of the income received by men in 2022 (ECLAC, 2023g). Of 11 countries in the region with data on average labour incomes by gender, only Panama shows a result very close to equality (99.7%); in the others, women's labour income is equivalent to between 70.1% (Peru) and 94.5% (Costa Rica) of that of men (ECLAC, 2023g). Moreover, certain female population groups are more affected by this gap: a study that considered six Latin American countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay and Peru) showed a significant wage gap affecting persons of African descent, particularly women. This is explained by the characteristics of the jobs they perform in the occupational structure, the shorter working day and the various forms of discrimination and barriers that restrict their access to higher paying jobs (Huepe, 2023).

## Gender indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Figure 17**

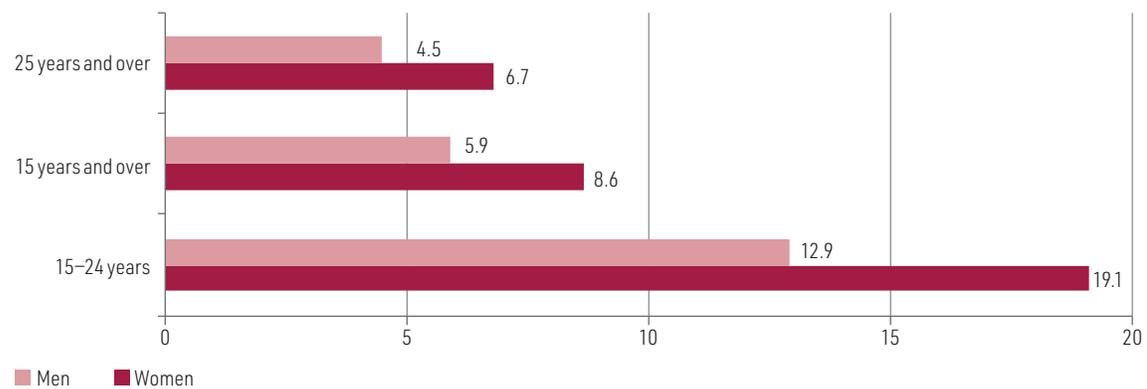
Proportion of informal employment, by sex, 2021 (Indicator 8.3.1)  
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

**Figure 18**

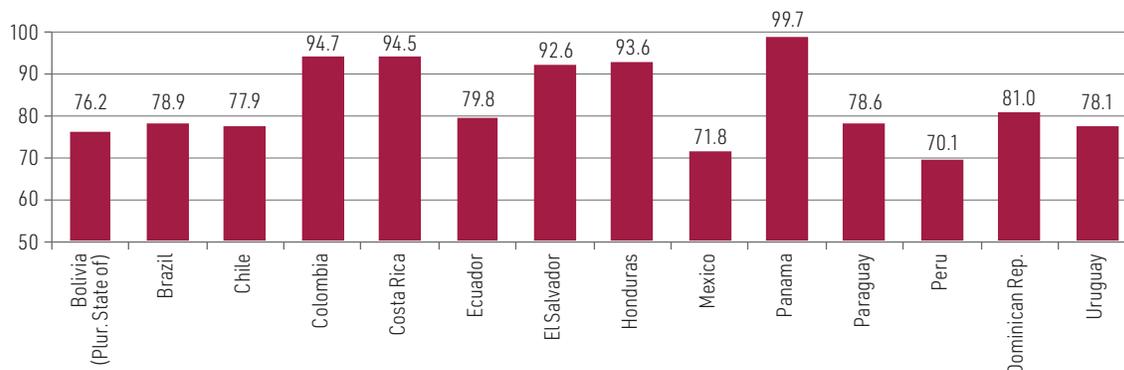
Unemployment rate, by sex and age, 2022 (Indicator 8.5.2)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

Figure 19

Average labour income of women relative to that of men, around 2022  
(Indicator complementary to 8.5.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/index.html?lang=en>.

Note: Country data correspond to 2022, with the exception of Colombia, Honduras and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which correspond to 2021. This indicator is presented in this section since indicator 8.5.1 in the SDG database is less up-to-date (complete series up to 2019) and has less country data.

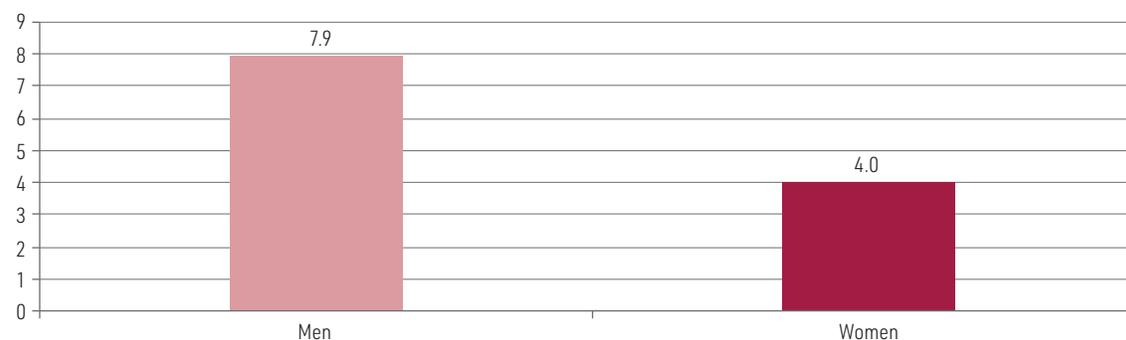


In 2021,  
**70%** of women and  
**77%** of men (15 years and older) had an account at a bank or other financial institution  
(Indicator 8.10.2)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

Figure 20

Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, 2020 (SDG Indicator 8.7.1)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

## Gender indicators of the set of prioritized indicators for the region

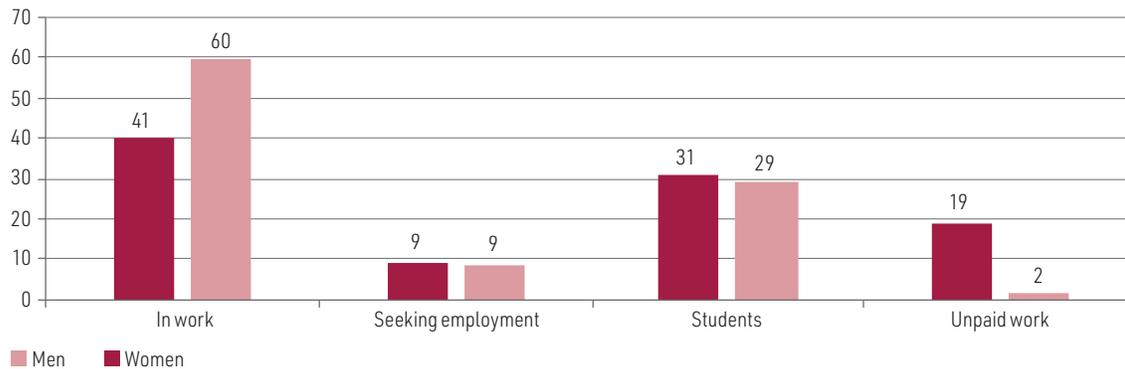


**26.9%** of women and **13.9%** of men between **15 and 24 years of age** were neither studying nor employed in the labour market in 2022 (Goal C-8.6)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/International Labour Organization (ECLAC/ILO), "Labour market inclusion of young people and redistribution of care work: challenges and opportunities", *Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, No. 29 (LC/TS.2023/197), Santiago, 2023.

**Figure 21**

Proportion of youth (15–29 years) by activity status and gender, 2022 (SDG Indicator C-8.6)  
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the authors, on the basis of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/International Labour Organization (ECLAC/ILO), "Labour market inclusion of young people and redistribution of care work: challenges and opportunities", *Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, No. 29 (LC/TS.2023/197), Santiago, 2023.



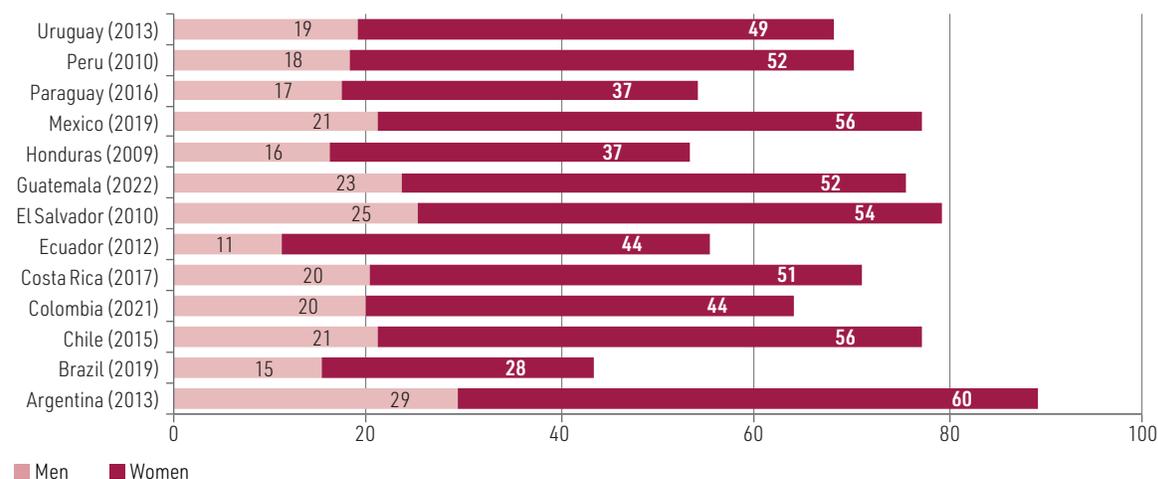
In 2022, in Latin America and the Caribbean,  
the economic participation rate of **women over 15 years of age** was **51.7%**  
and that of **men over 15 years of age** was **74.5%**

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/index.html?lang=en>.

## Unpaid work

**Figure 22**

Unpaid work time of the population aged 20 to 59 years without own income  
(Hours per week)

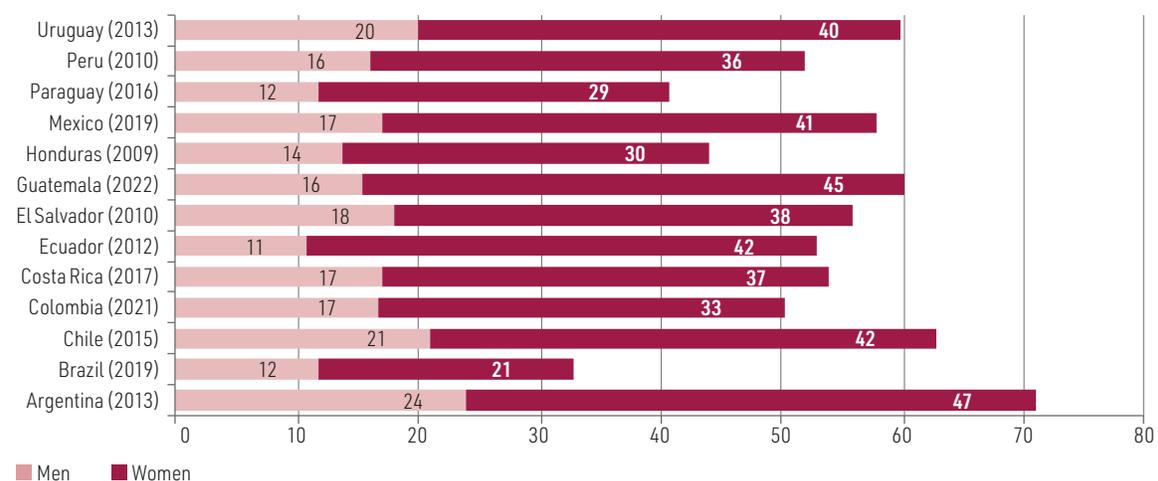


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/index.html?lang=en>.

Note: At the time of writing, Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay had more recent data on time-use measurements, but they have not been included owing to the unavailability of the income variable.

**Figure 23**

Unpaid work time of the population aged 20 to 59 years with own income  
(Hours per week)



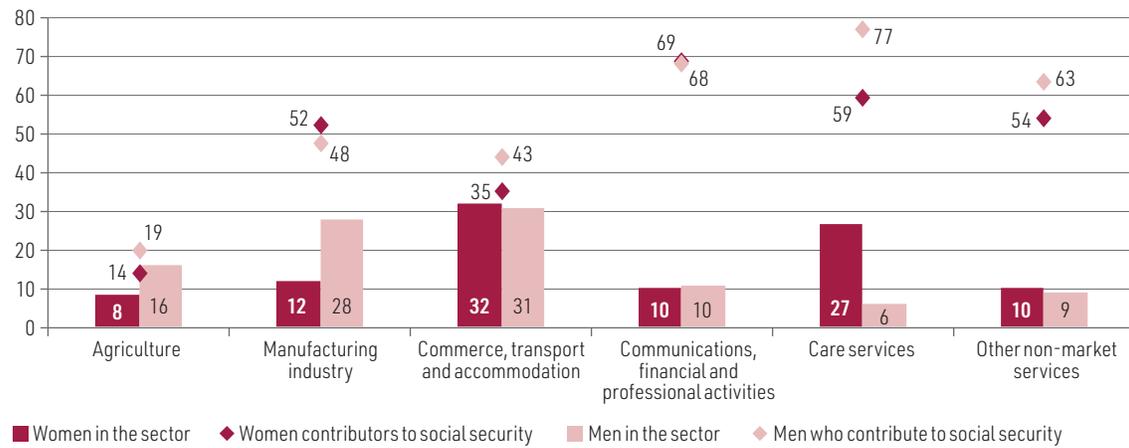
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT [online] <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/index.html?lang=en>.

Note: At the time of writing, Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay had more recent data on time-use measurements, but they have not been included owing to the unavailability of the income variable.

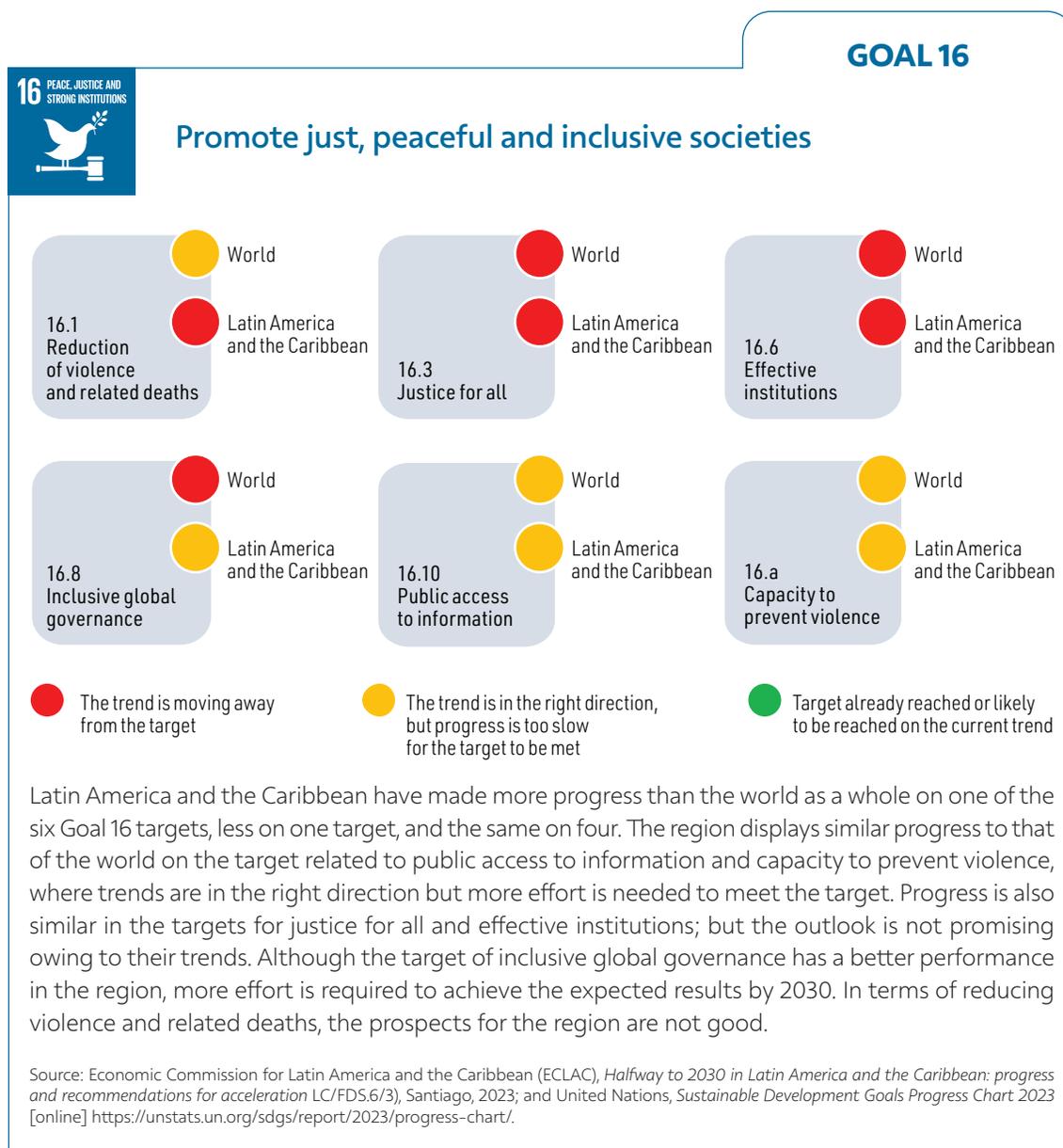
## Occupational segregation and formality

**Figure 24**

Distribution of employment by sector of economic activity and proportion of persons contributing to the social security system, by sex, 2022  
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the authors, on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).



In May 2022, 100 million people had been forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of persecution, conflict and widespread violence worldwide; this was a global record: (United Nations, 2022). The world's second-largest external displacement crisis has occurred in recent years (R4V, 2022).

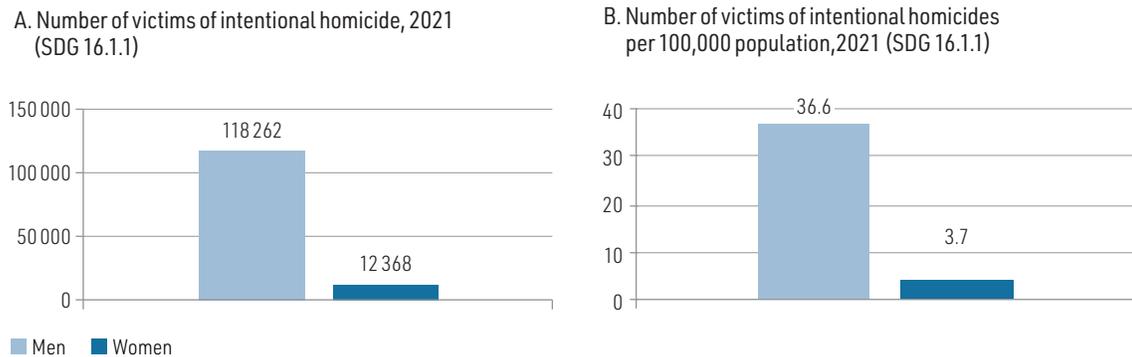
Latin America and the Caribbean was hosting 15 million international migrants in 2020, representing 5.3% of the world's international migrant population. By expanding from 7 million migrants in 2005 to 15 million in 2020, Latin America and the Caribbean is the region in which this population is growing most quickly (McAuliffe and Triandafyllidou, 2021). In December 2023, more than 7.7 million people in the region were refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the majority (6.5 million) living in other Latin American and Caribbean countries (R4V, 2023).

In 2021, there were also nearly 131,000 victims of intentional homicide, the vast majority being men (9.6 times more than female victims) (UNODC, 2023). The intentional homicide rate in the region was 36.6 victims per 100,000 inhabitants in the case of men and 3.7 per 100,000 among women (UNODC, 2023). While the majority of homicide victims are men, women and girls are disproportionately affected by homicidal violence in the private domain (UNODC/UN-Women, 2023). Women are at much higher risk than men of being victims of intentional homicide in the family and intimate-partner context, which means that “while large share of female homicide victims are murdered by people who are expected to care for them, the majority of men are killed by people they may not even know” (UNODC, 2014).

Lastly, in 2023, 0.7% of women members of parliament held posts in the lower chamber or in a unicameral parliament,<sup>35</sup> and 0.6% held posts in the upper chamber (ECLAC and others, 2023).<sup>36</sup> An analysis of other hierarchies by gender shows that these positions are mainly occupied by men, and there have been no significant variations between 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the number of male speakers in the lower chamber or unicameral (23) was almost three times the number of female speakers (8); and although the gap in the upper chamber is smaller (11 male compared to seven female speakers), the situation has worsened since 2022 and 2021 (ECLAC and others, 2023). By contrast, around 30% of the chairs of permanent commissions in the lower chamber, unicameral and upper chamber, were held by women, in both 2022 and 2023. There are only more women chairs of permanent committees in the joint committees (ECLAC and others, 2023).

## Gender indicators for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean

Figure 25



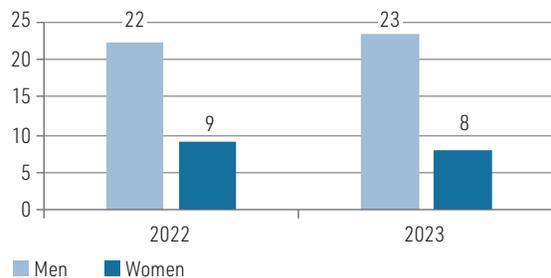
Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), “Victims of intentional homicide – Regional estimate”, 2023 [online] <https://dataunodc.un.org/dp-intentional-homicide-victims-est>.

<sup>35</sup> Proportion of women in parliament relative to the proportion of women in the national population, with the age of eligibility as a lower bound.

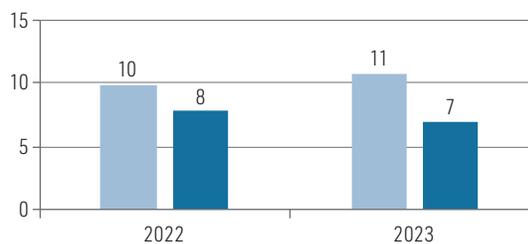
<sup>36</sup> Idem.

Figure 26

A. Number of speakers in parliaments, lower house, 2022–2023 or unicameral (SDG 16.7.1a)



B. Number of speakers in parliaments, upper chamber, 2022–2023, (SDG 16.7.1a)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.



**Female chairs** of permanent committees of joint commissions:

**3** (2022) and **5** (2023)

**Male chairs** of permanent committees of joint commissions:

**1** (2022) and **3** (2023)



**0.7** is the percentage of **female members of parliament, lower chamber or unicameral parliament** (2023)<sup>a</sup>

**0.6** is the percentage of **female members of parliament, upper chamber** (2023)<sup>b</sup>

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

<sup>a</sup> Women in the national population, with the age of eligibility as a lower bound.

<sup>b</sup> Idem.



**Female chairs** of permanent committees, **upper chamber**:

**15** (2022) and **14** (2023)

**Male chairs** of permanent committees, **upper chamber**:

**28** (2022) and **28** (2023)



**Female chairs** of permanent committees, **lower chamber or unicameral parliament**:

**31** (2022) and **31** (2023)

**Male chairs** of permanent committees, **lower chamber or unicameral parliament**:

**69** (2022) and **66** (2023)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and others, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean" [online] <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-data-bank-statistical-follow-up-sdg-1.html?lang=en>.

## IV. Conclusions

This report aims to make a diagnostic assessment of progress towards gender equality in the framework of the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It reviews seven of the 17 SDGs for which there is disaggregated information that is particularly important for gender analysis, and which also make it possible to compare the region's progress with respect to that of the world in terms of 52 targets.<sup>37</sup>

The following table presents the progress towards meeting the SDG targets in Latin America and the Caribbean compared to progress made in the world at large, considering the seven SDGs analysed in this report, and including the targets that have data on progress for both the region and the world. The region's prospects are more promising than those of the world as a whole in achieving 19 of the 52 targets cited (36.5%); progress is less encouraging in eight of the 52 targets (15.4%), and similar to that of the world in 25 of them (48.1%).

**Table 8**

**World and Latin America and the Caribbean: Sustainable Development Goals by progress towards achievement in 2030**

Goal	Region	Target											
Goal 1	Latin America and the Caribbean	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.a						
	World	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.a						
Goal 2	Latin America and the Caribbean	2.1	2.a	2.2	2.b	2.c	2.5						
	World	2.1	2.a	2.2	2.b	2.c	2.5						
Goal 3	Latin America and the Caribbean	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.a	3.b	3.d
	World	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.a	3.b	3.d
Goal 4	Latin America and the Caribbean		4.1	4.2	4.5	4.a	4.b	4.c					
	World		4.1	4.2	4.5	4.a	4.b	4.c					
Goal 5	Latin America and the Caribbean			5.3	5.4	5.5	5.b	5.c					
	World			5.3	5.4	5.5	5.b	5.c					
Goal 8	Latin America and the Caribbean	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.10	8.a	
	World	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.10	8.a	
Goal 16	Latin America and the Caribbean	16.1	16.3	16.6	16.8	16.10	16.a						
	World	16.1	16.3	16.6	16.8	16.10	16.a						

Source: Prepared by the authors, on the basis of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Halfway to 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and recommendations for acceleration* (LC/FDS.6/3), Santiago, 2023; and United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2023* [online] <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/progress-chart/>.

<sup>37</sup> Goal 1 (6 targets); Goal 2 (six targets); Goal 3 (12 targets); Goal 4 (six targets); Goal 5 (five targets); Goal 8 (11 targets); Goal 16 (six targets).

With regard to Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, the region is on track in terms of the targets set for 2030 in the gender equality policy component. In the rest of the goals analysed —referring to early marriage, unpaid care and domestic work, women who participate in leadership, and technology for women’s empowerment— the trend is correct, but progress is too slow to meet the target. Thus, in none of the targets analysed for Goal 5 is the region far from the target, but it is clear that there is a need to increase efforts to accelerate progress towards gender equality, including by implementing the normative frameworks that have been achieved.

The panorama described and the indicators presented in this document updated with the latest available data in December 2023, show that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean need to redouble efforts to achieve substantive equality and autonomy for women, adolescents and girls in their diversity. The structural challenge of gender inequality related to the rigid sexual division of labour and unequal social organization of care, which is clear to see when analysing the Goal 5 indicators, constitute a barrier that reduces women’s chances of entering the labour market on equal terms with men. This diminishes women’s economic autonomy, as well as their participation in politics and all areas of society, and means they also have less time for rest and recreational activities.

The region faces a paradox: women have outperformed men in terms of average years of schooling, gross primary school completion, and higher education enrolment rates (Goal 4 indicators); but this does not translate into better outcomes for women in terms of economic participation, exit from unemployment, and equal pay for work of equal value in the labour market (Goal 8). In relation to the above, situations of educational segregation persist. Women are underrepresented in the STEM areas and in the labour market. Women work mainly in services, particularly in the care sectors, and they are disproportionately affected by informality and lack of social protection coverage. In this context, women are more likely to be living in poverty (Goal 1) and less likely to invest time and energy in activities related to their self-care and personal development, or to participate in public decision-making mechanisms (Goal 5).

At the same time, guaranteeing the right to a life free of violence remains challenging, as violation of the human rights of women and girls continues to be highly prevalent despite legal advances. The paradigm of the care society, adopted in the Buenos Aires Commitment (2022), represents the horizon for the path towards sustainable development and equality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As stated in the declaration by the Ministers and High-level Authorities of the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, it is urgent for the States to “reaffirm once again the commitment to take all necessary and progressive measures so that States, as duty bearers, will accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender equality institutions and architecture through the prioritization at the highest level of machineries for the advancement of women, including at ministerial or equivalent level, reinforcing their role as the governing and managing bodies of policies on gender equality and women’s rights and autonomy, and the mainstreaming of gender at the different levels and branches of the State, increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with civic participation” (sixty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023).

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# Annex A1

## Gender indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for Latin America and the Caribbean

The following table lists the gender indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development analysed in this document for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of available information.

Some of the gender indicators that were not included, owing to the lack of official information disaggregated by gender at the regional level, are shown in red. In some cases, certain countries may have this information.

Goal	Indicator
Goal 1	<p><b>1.1.1</b> Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural).</p> <p><b>1.2.1</b> Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age.</p> <p><b>1.2.2</b> Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.</p> <p><b>1.3.1</b> Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable.</p> <p><b>1.4.2</b> Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.</p>
Goal 2	<p><b>2.1.2</b> Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity (<i>Percentages</i>).</p> <p><b>2.2.1</b> Proportion of children with moderate or severe stunting (<i>Percentages</i>).</p> <p><b>2.2.2</b> Proportion of children who are moderately or severely overweight (<i>Percentages</i>).</p> <p><b>2.2.3</b> Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (<i>Percentages</i>).</p> <p><b>2.3.2</b> Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and Indigenous status.</p>
Goal 3	<p><b>3.1.1</b> Maternal mortality rate.</p> <p><b>3.1.2</b> Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.</p> <p><b>3.3.1</b> Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations.</p> <p><b>3.4.1</b> Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease.</p> <p><b>3.6.1</b> Death rate due to road traffic injuries.</p> <p><b>3.7.1</b> Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods</p> <p><b>3.7.2</b> Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group.</p> <p><b>3.7.b</b> Percentage of women aged 15 to 19 years old who are mothers.</p> <p><b>3.8.1</b> Coverage of essential health services.</p> <p><b>3.9.3</b> Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning.</p> <p><b>3.a.1</b> Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older.</p> <p><b>C-3.1</b> Prenatal care coverage by skilled health personnel (at least four consultations).</p> <p><b>C-3.3a</b> HIV/AIDS prevalence among population aged 15–49 years.</p> <p><b>C-3.3b</b> HIV/AIDS mortality ratio, by sex.</p> <p><b>C-3.7a</b> Percentage of live births to adolescent and young mothers that are unplanned.</p> <p><b>C-3.7b</b> Percentage of women aged 15–19 years who are mothers.</p>
Goal 4	<p><b>4.2.1</b> Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex.</p> <p><b>4.2.2</b> Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex.</p> <p><b>4.3.1</b> Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex.</p> <p><b>4.5.1</b> Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, Indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated.</p> <p><b>4.6.1</b> Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex.</p> <p><b>4.7.1</b> Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment.</p> <p><b>4.a.1</b> Proportion of schools that offer basic services, by type of service.</p> <p><b>C-4.3</b> Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education, by sex.</p> <p><b>C-4.6</b> Literacy rate in persons aged 15–24 years and 15 years and older, by sex.</p>

Goal	Indicator
Goal 5	<b>5.1.1</b> Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.
	<b>5.2.1</b> Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.
	<b>5.2.2</b> Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.
	<b>5.3.1</b> Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.
	<b>5.3.2</b> Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age.
	<b>5.4.1</b> Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location.
	<b>5.5.1</b> Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments.
	<b>5.5.2</b> Proportion of women in managerial positions.
	<b>5.6.1</b> Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.
	<b>5.6.2</b> Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.
	<b>5.a.1</b> (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.
	<b>5.a.2</b> Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.
	<b>5.b.1</b> Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex.
	<b>5.c.1</b> Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.
<b>C-5.2</b> Rate of femicide or feminicide (gender-related killings of women aged 15 years and older per 100,000 women).	
<b>C-5.4</b> Average hours per week spent on unpaid and paid work, combined (total workload), by sex.	
Goal 8	<b>8.3.1</b> Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex.
	<b>8.5.1</b> Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities.
	<b>8.5.2</b> Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
	<b>8.6.1</b> Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training.
	<b>8.7.1</b> Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age.
	<b>8.8.1</b> Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status.
	<b>8.8.2</b> Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status.
	<b>8.10.2</b> Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider.
<b>C-8.6</b> Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training, and not working exclusively in the home, by sex.	
<b>Goal 10</b>	<b>10.2.1</b> Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
<b>Goal 11</b>	<b>11.2.1</b> Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
	<b>11.7.1</b> Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
	<b>11.7.2</b> Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months.
<b>Goal 13</b>	<b>13.3.1</b> Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment.
<b>Goal 16</b>	<b>16.1.1</b> Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age.
	<b>16.1.2</b> Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause.
	<b>16.2.2</b> Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation.
	<b>16.2.3</b> Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18.
	<b>16.7.1</b> Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions.
	<b>16.7.2</b> Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group.
	<b>16.b.1</b> Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.



Latin America and the Caribbean is in the midst of cascading crises that are deepening historical and structural inequalities and which disproportionately affect women. It is therefore urgent for the countries of the region to speed up progress towards achieving gender equality and the full exercise of the rights of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity.

This document presents a descriptive analysis of the gender indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and the prioritized set of indicators for regional follow-up of the SDGs, in line with the Regional Gender Agenda of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is intended to be used by the countries of the region as a reference document for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, whose priority theme is "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective".

