

Action for equality, development and peace in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional report on the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,
30 years on, in synergy with the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda

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Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 years on

Regional Beijing+30 report



Prepared by ECLAC based on national reports submitted by **25 countries and territories in Latin America and the Caribbean**, and on national statistics consolidated in the **Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean**.

In the Caribbean, data were drawn from **6 national reports**: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Grenada, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Jamaica and Saint Lucia.

Regional progress and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action since the last reporting period



The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action has influenced policies and actions in pursuit of gender equality in synergy with the Regional Gender Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean, which is unequalled on the world stage

Commission on the Status of Women



National reports also serve as inputs for the global report that UN-Women is preparing for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-ninth session, to be held in March 2025.

Beijing+30 review is taking place against a complex global backdrop marked by geopolitical instability and cascading crises

In the 30 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:

- Democratization and a region on the path to peace.
- Legislative progress on formal inequality, eliminating discrimination and ending gender-based violence.
- Demographic and epidemiological shifts: crisis of care.
- More women with own source of income.
- Slow but continuous growth of women's labour participation.
- Accelerated evolution of digital technologies.
- **The impacts of climate change continue to intensify. The situation of Caribbean countries is of particular concern as they continue to face extreme weather events that jeopardize their sustainable development.**

In the 5 years since the Beijing+25 review:

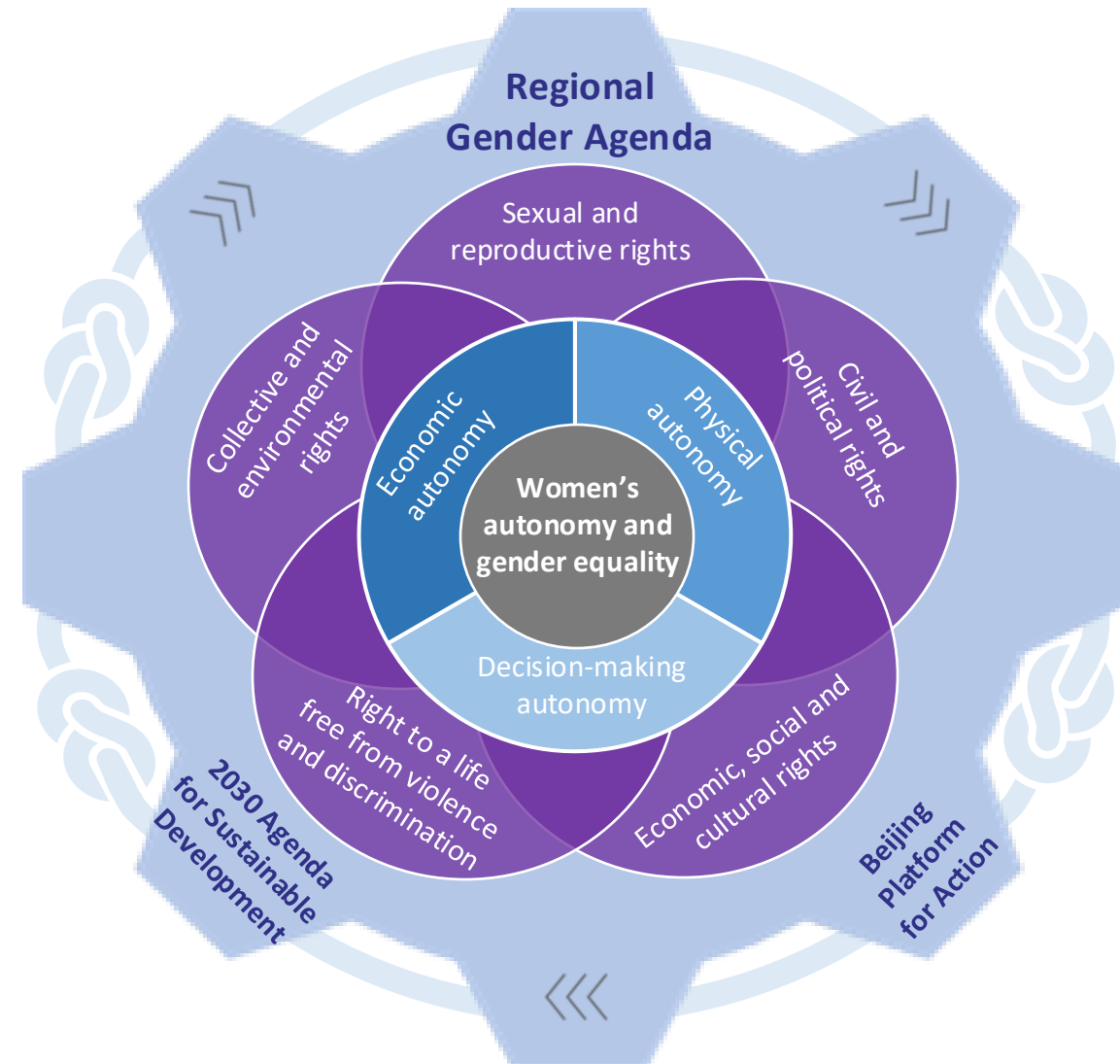
- Strengthening of gender mainstreaming in government and in national statistics.
- Cascading global crises exacerbate gender inequality
- COVID-19 pandemic impacts:
 - **In the Caribbean, the pandemic impacted the sectors of the labor market in which women are concentrated, such as tourism and services**
 - Across the region, the pandemic exacerbated gender-based violence and increased the burden of unpaid domestic and care work, leading to a significant exodus of women from the labor market.
- Resurgence of conservative views jeopardize women's rights.
- Three mutually reinforcing development traps: 1) Low growth, 2) High inequality and low social mobility, and 3) Weak institutional capacities.

Structural challenges of gender inequality in the region create significant barriers to the exercise of women's and girls' rights and limit the reach of public policies

Structural challenges of inequality

1. Socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty, in the framework of exclusionary growth

3. Rigid sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care



2. Discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of the culture of privilege

4. Concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere

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1) Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

Achieving inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work with gender equality requires transforming the sexual division of labour, redressing the unfair distribution of care work and women's economic autonomy

Low labour market participation among women remains a challenge, hindering their economic autonomy and sustainable development of the region

Latin America and the Caribbean (weighted average for 26 countries):^a labour participation and unemployment rates, by sex, 2001–2023
(Percentages)



In the **Caribbean**, female labour force participation rate is **57%**, compared to **69,8%** for men in 2023.

The unemployment rate for women was **6,6%** compared to **4,2%** for men in the same period.

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official figures from the countries

1 in 2 women is outside the labour market

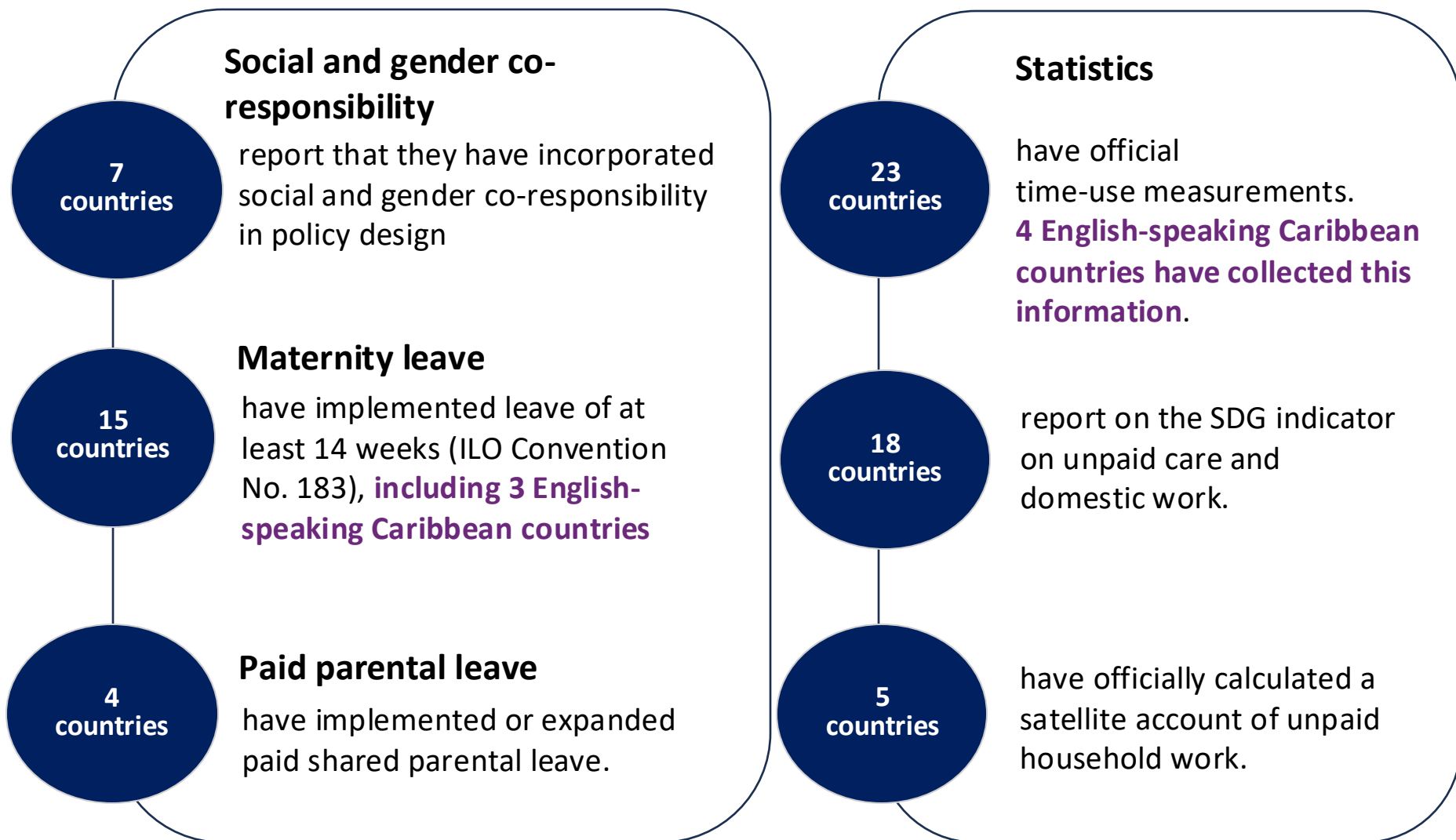
COVID-19 widened gender gaps

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official figures from the countries. In some countries and years for which official data are not available, regional data incorporate own estimates.

^a Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

Progress has been made in the design and implementation of care policies and in measures to change the current social organization of care

- ### Care policies
- Eight countries have established national care systems by law
 - Others are being discussed and developed





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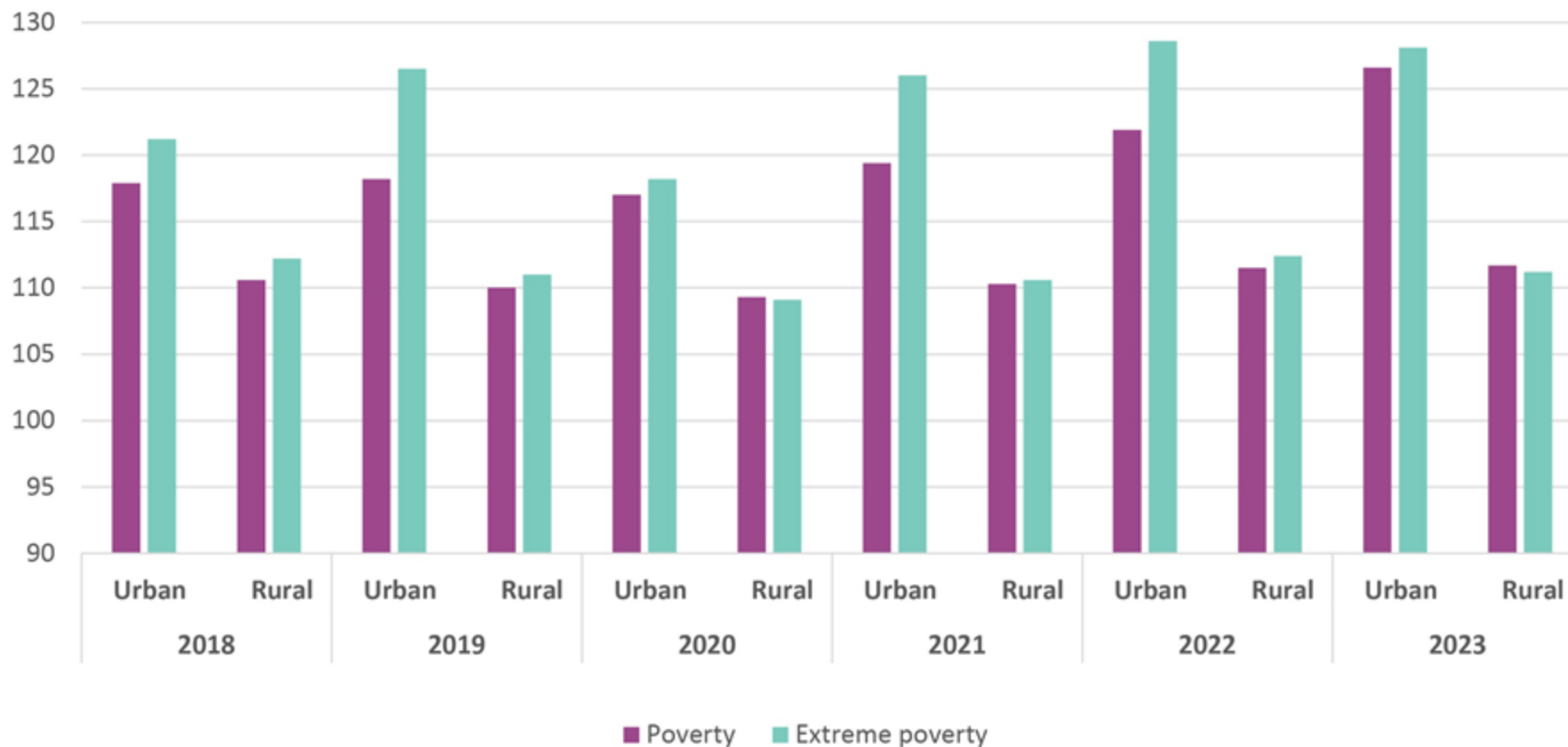
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2) Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

Overcoming socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty requires strengthening social protection and social services

Inequality and the feminization of poverty are persistent structural features in the region

Latin America (18 countries):^a femininity index of poverty and extreme poverty by geographical area, 2018–2022



1 in 4 women has no income of her own, while the proportion for men is 1 in 10

Source: ECLAC, CEPALSTAT, on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

Note: Data for Argentina refer to urban areas.

^a Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

Social protection and social services

Social protection coverage remains low and inadequate to address regional crises.

- However, Latin American and Caribbean countries have strengthened their systems, expanding policies and programs, particularly non-contributory measures like cash transfers and pensions to address high informality

Gender gaps in access to contributory and non-contributory pensions remain as a result of access to the labour market.

- Among English-speaking Caribbean countries that sent reports, one expanded eligibility for pensions through legislative reforms.

6 countries

In Latin America have passed laws ensuring access to or decriminalizing voluntary termination of pregnancy.

Among English-speaking Caribbean countries, one reported implementing measures to strengthen comprehensive sexuality education.

10 countries

STEM education

report various measures to improve the participation of women and girls in STEM.



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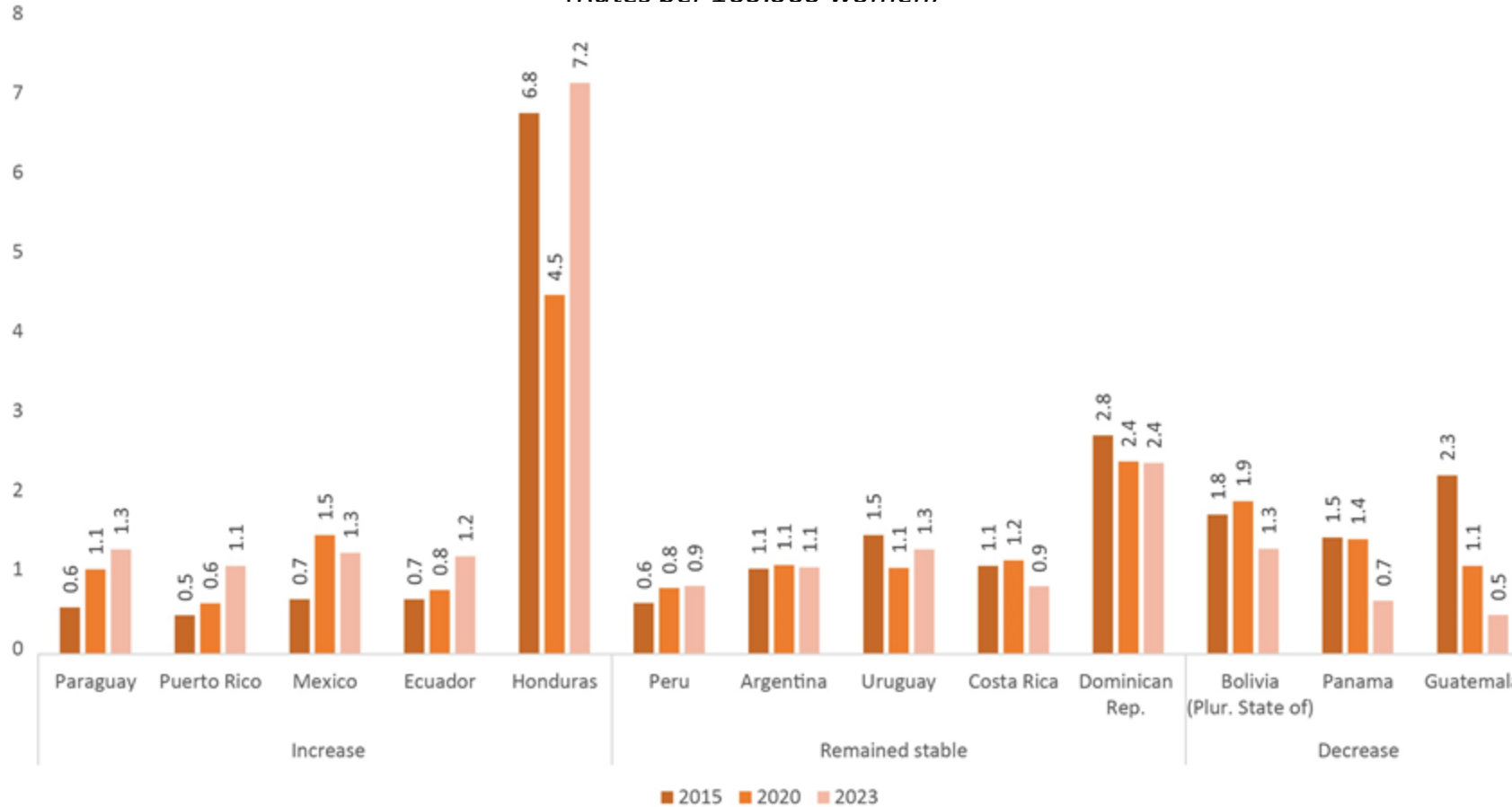
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3) Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

To end gender-based violence against women and girls, discriminatory and violent patriarchal cultural patterns must be changed through comprehensive and sustainable strategies

The region has made great strides on the regulatory front and in increasing the visibility of gender-based violence against women and girls, but it remains a severe and persistent problem

Latin America (13 countries and territories): femicides or feminicides, 2015, 2020 and 2023
(Rates per 100.000 women)



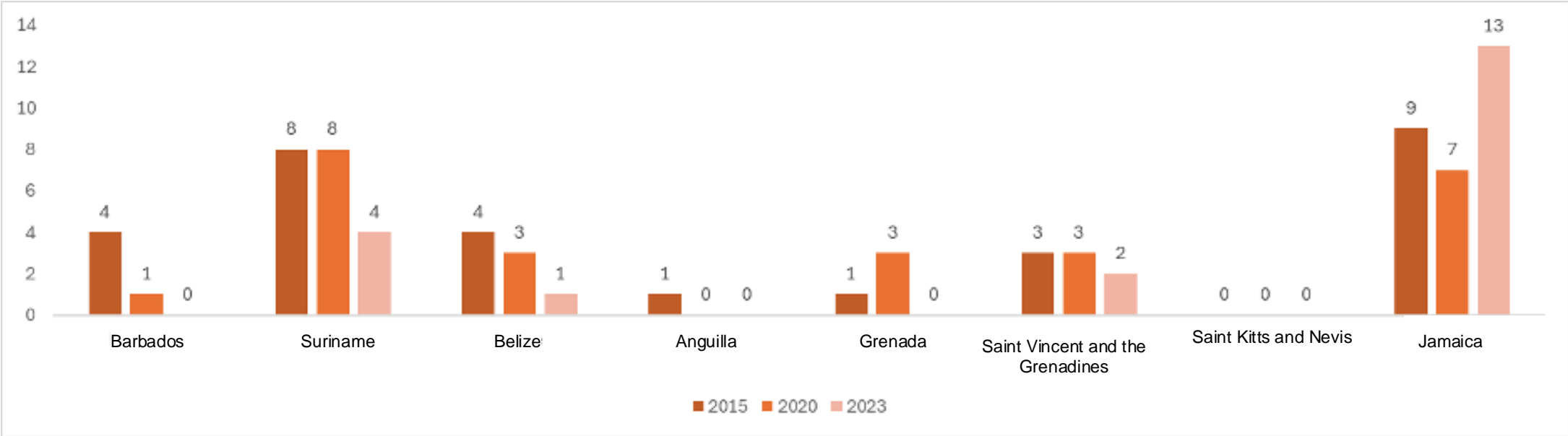
Between 63% and 76% of women have experienced some form of gender-based violence in some area of their lives.

Source: ECLAC, "Urgent action to prevent and eliminate femicides", *Femicidal Violence in Figures: Latin America and the Caribbean*, No. 3, Santiago, 2024.

Trends in the number of femicides or feminicides in eight countries and territories in the Caribbean between 2015 and 2023 show the persistence of gender-based violence in the subregion



The Caribbean (8 countries and territories): femicides or feminicides, 2015, 2020 and 2023
(Absolute numbers)



Source: ECLAC, “Urgent action to prevent and eliminate femicides”, *Femicidal Violence in Figures: Latin America and the Caribbean*, No. 3, Santiago, 2024.

Regulatory gains in combating violence against women and girls in the region since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

All countries have laws to end violence against women

14
countries

have enacted comprehensive laws that broaden the understanding of violence

19
countries

have criminalized femicide, feminicide or gender-related killing of women.

10
countries

have standards on the production of data and information on violence against women and girls and femicide and feminicide.

15
countries

prohibit child marriage without exceptions.

Regulatory gains in combating violence against women and girls in the region since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Focus in the Caribbean

All countries in the Caribbean have laws to end violence against women

Comprehensive plans that broaden the understanding of violence

- 5 non-Spanish speaking Caribbean countries have implemented national plans or action strategies to coordinate policies against gender-based violence, even without comprehensive laws.
- 3 English-speaking Caribbean countries have ratified ILO Convention 190 - Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019

Laws on domestic violence

- In the Caribbean, laws on domestic violence have been reformed, broadening the definition of sexual violence to include within marriage and in cases of early pregnancy. 3 English-speaking Caribbean countries have adopted new legal measures and response protocols.

Child marriage

- Among English-speaking Caribbean countries, 2 have banned child marriage without exceptions.

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4) Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

The concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public and private spheres must be addressed to achieve women's full and meaningful participation, accountability and gender-responsive institution-building

A region aspiring to parity democracy: Considerable progress made in women's participation in representative bodies, but barriers to their full and effective participation persist

35.8%

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (SDG 5.5.1a)

40.7% in the Caribbean

27.2%

Proportion of seats held by women in deliberative bodies of local government (SDG 5.5.1b)

Among 4 non-Spanish speaking Caribbean countries that provide this information, the proportion ranges from 18,3% up to 66,7%

9
countries

have adopted constitutional reforms, electoral reforms or legislation aimed at fostering parity.

9
countries

have quota laws for representative elections.

Advancing in parity laws is still a challenge for countries in the Caribbean



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5) Peaceful and inclusive societies

Advancing towards peaceful and inclusive societies requires implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and effective protection of women human rights defenders

The region has stood out globally for its capacity to peacefully settle international disputes and for promoting multilateralism as a means of building political consensus

11
countries

National action plans on women, peace and security

have adopted at least one national action plan on women, peace and security.

Caribbean countries have the challenge of establishing national action plans in accordance with Resolution 1325

17
countries

Escazú Agreement

are party to the first regional environmental agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean with specific provisions on human rights defenders in environmental matters.

Decision III/4, adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Escazú Agreement provides for mainstreaming the gender perspective.

In the Caribbean, **7 countries are parties** to the Escazú Agreement

Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between Colombia and FARC-EP

Signed in 2016, it is a global reference for good practices in women's participation and the inclusion of the gender perspective in peace negotiations. The Final Agreement has more than 100 specific provisions related to gender and advancing women's rights.



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6) Environmental conservation, protection and restoration

Environmental conservation, protection and restoration require sustained efforts to mainstream gender and strengthen intersectoral coordination

Regional progress in the development of specific gender and climate change plans and in mainstreaming the gender perspective in regulatory frameworks and environmental public policy

15
countries

Gender and climate change

have or are developing action plans, strategies or road maps focusing specifically on gender and climate change.

Measures implemented in the Caribbean to respond to disasters from a gender perspective:

- Development of gender-sensitive early warning systems
- Training on flood management and gender-based violence
- Provision of shelters and resilience-building activities for women
- Implementation of strategic plans to prevent gender-based violence in emergency contexts



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Accelerating implementation
of the Beijing Declaration
and Platform for Action
in synergy with
the Regional Gender Agenda

**Recommendations
for action**

Recommendations

- 1) **Fostering Inclusive Development, shared prosperity and decent work:** Promote labor inclusion policies, affirmative action for women in male-dominated sectors, and formalization of care work.
- 2) **Reducing Inequality & Poverty:** Strengthen social protection policies, infrastructure, and social services to enhance economic security and opportunities.
- 3) **Ending Gender-Based Violence & Discrimination:** Enforce laws, strengthen institutions, and implement policies to eliminate gender violence and stereotypes.
- 4) **Parity and Inclusive Governance** – Ensure women's full and equal participation in all areas, enforce parity laws and quotas, and protect human rights with an intersectional approach.
- 5) **Women, Peace & Security** – Promote women's role in peace processes in compliance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), protect women human rights defenders and address regional human mobility challenges.
- 6) **Environmental Protection, Conservation and Restoration** – Strengthen policies for environmental conservation, recognize women's contributions, and foster free, prior and informed consent of communities and Indigenous Peoples in environmental decision-making.

Enabling conditions and drivers for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in synergy with the Regional Gender Agenda

Gender institutions, governance and institutional capacities

- Roughly 70% of the machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America are high-level, and 16,7% in the Caribbean
- It is essential to strengthen their role and ensure they have the resources required to fulfil their mandates

Information systems

- Accurate information on the effects of policies on women's lives is fundamental and progress and setbacks must be monitored

Financing

- It is necessary to push for fiscal compacts that can increase revenues progressively and expenditures strategically to contribute to gender equality and sustainability

Civil society participation

- Women's and feminist organizations are fundamental to the promotion of women's rights and gender equality
- It is essential to strengthen mechanisms for citizen participation and boost women's leadership

It is time to make strategic investments and develop public policies to advance towards substantive gender equality and the care society

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs

Thank you

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