

Young People in Latin America and the Caribbean

Who Don't Study or Work

There is growing concern over young people in the region who remain excluded from two fundamental institutions for social inclusion: education and employment, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) warns.

22%

Around **30 million** of the region's young people between the ages of 15 and 29, or 22% of the total, don't study or have paid work, according to figures from 2012.

Of that total,

70 %

are women from mainly urban sectors



ECLAC calls for overcoming the stigma regarding the poorly termed "NEET generation" because it obscures facts and is too simplistic for understanding these people's diverse employment situations.

ECLAC's recommendations:



» Develop strategies in the educational systems to improve the inclusion of these young people.



» Implement more flexible training initiatives, which respect the economic and family dynamics of young people and include people with disabilities.



» Reinforce the links between education and the labor market, and design policies with a gender perspective to address demands in terms of care and domestic work.



» Expand the focus of intercultural educational formats to incorporate the experiences of different peoples, their histories, knowledge, techniques and modes of transmission.



55%

is dedicated to unpaid domestic or care work.



25%

is unemployed or looking for paid work for the first time.



15%

is inactive for no clear reason. This is the "hard core of exclusion": people who are younger in age and have lower income.



5%

has some kind of disability, according to figures from 2011.

In 6 of 9 countries with available data (2011), the percentage of young people of African descent who don't study or have jobs is higher than the average for this age group (28%). In addition, recent censuses show that the most educationally disadvantaged areas tend to coincide with indigenous territories.