

Equality for girl children and adolescents

in Latin America and the Caribbean

Gender equality starts right from early childhood, meaning urgent action must be taken to eradicate all forms of discrimination that affect girl children and adolescents in the region.

Debts outstanding

Who are they?


17% = 


In 2015 girl children and adolescents aged 0-19 years in Latin America and the Caribbean numbered 107 million, 17% of the regional population.

In **55%** 

Girl children and adolescents live in 55% of Latin American households. 40% of those households are in situation of poverty.

According to the latest round of censuses in 2010

54% 
of girl children and adolescents in Brazil are of African descent.

37% 
of girl children and adolescents in Bolivia belong to indigenous peoples.

The barriers to women's economic autonomy begin early

13%

of girl adolescents aged 15 to 19 had given birth to a child, as of 2010. The incidence of adolescent maternity is greater among indigenous peoples.

25%

One in every four women aged 20-24 were first in a conjugal union before the age of 18 (UNICEF, 2015).

23%

of girl adolescents aged 15 to 17 do not attend school. Of that total, 54% carry out care and domestic work, and 33% are in paid employment (2013).

63%

of rural girl adolescents living in poverty and not attending school work in unpaid activities.

x2

Girl adolescents aged 15-17 spend almost double the number of hours on unpaid work than boys the same age.

Recommendations



Guarantee girl children and adolescents universal access to: social protection, integrated care policies, sex education, and sexual and reproductive health.



Dismantle the existing gender division of labour and gender stereotypes from infancy.



Combat child marriage and gender violence.

