



UNITED NATIONS



# Repository on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean

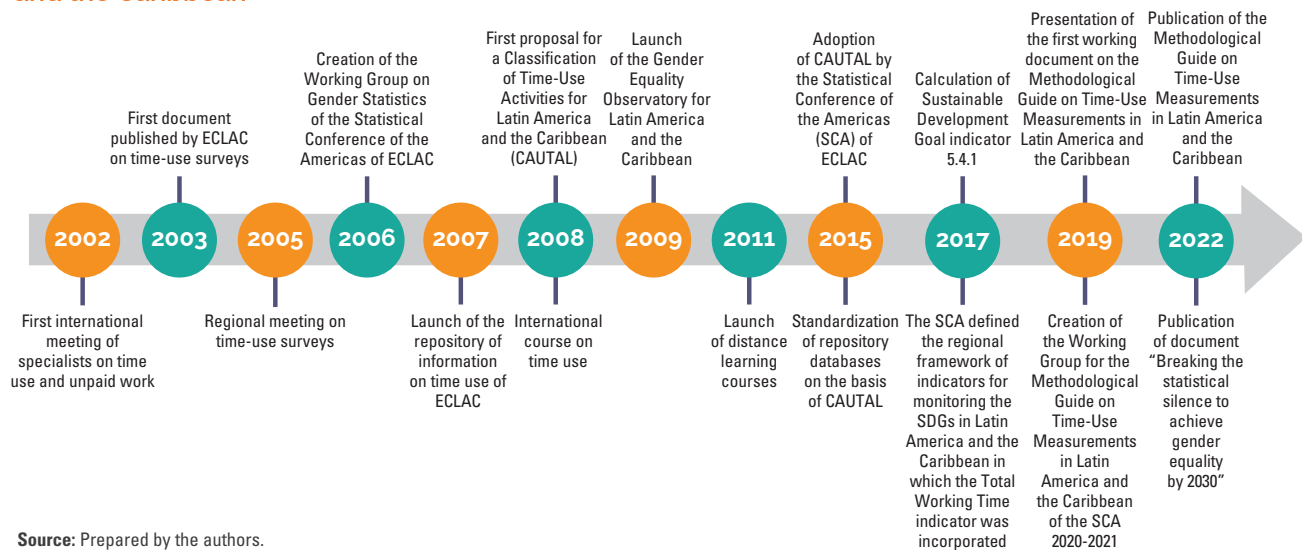
“Information systems: transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions”

Pillar 9 of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030

September, 2023

The Repository on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean, created in 2007 and managed by the Gender Equality Observatory (OIG) of ECLAC, houses databases, indicators and metadata provided by the statistical offices of the countries with official measurements of time use. In order to promote comparability, the activities in the databases are harmonized to two digits based on the Classification of Time Use Activities of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL). The above has allowed the OIG to calculate and monitor SDG indicator 5.4.1 and other regionally agreed time use indicators, available on the OIG website and in CEPALSTAT<sup>1</sup>, with relevant population disaggregations. This brochure condenses the status of time use measurements and indicators in the region, according to the repository updated to date.

## Key milestones in the creation of the repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: Prepared by the authors.

Periodic measurement of time use is crucial to analyze gender inequalities and obtain relevant information to overcome the sexual division of labour, implement public policies and move towards a [care society](#). It allows accounting for the unpaid work carried out mainly by women and valuing care as a need, as work, and as a right. It also allows estimating the multiplier effects of promoting the care economy on the well-being of society.

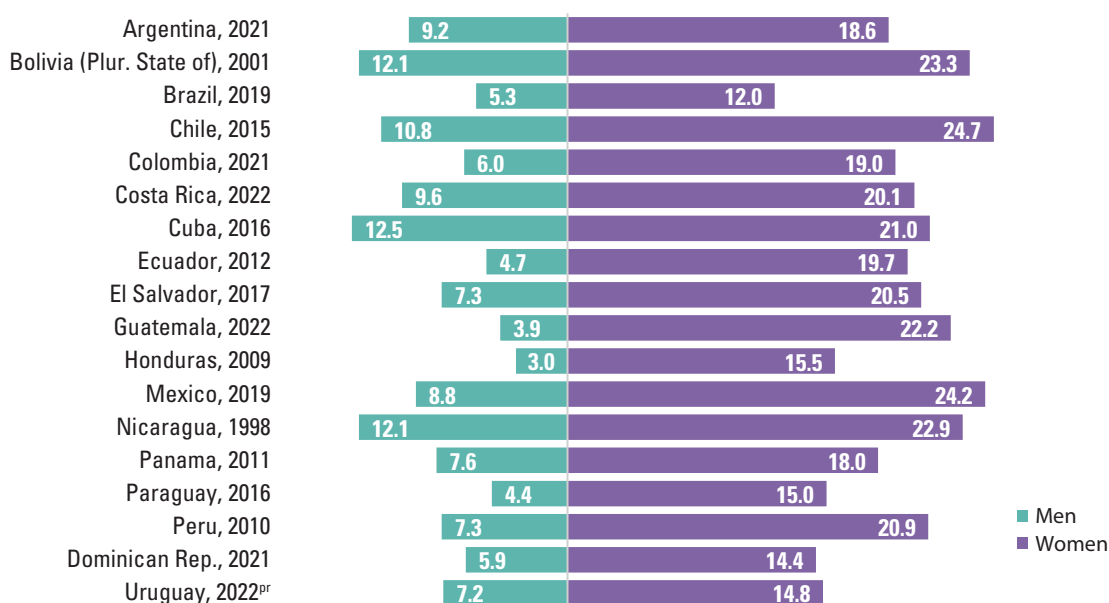
<sup>1</sup> For more information, go to <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/index.html?lang=en>

## Time-use indicators in follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines a transformative vision for economic, social and environmental development. It also recognizes the central role of gender equality and women's rights across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5, which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The targets for that Goal include ending all forms of gender discrimination and recognizing and valuing unpaid care work.

### Latin America (18 countries): proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.4.1), by sex

(Percentages)



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries. Information updated on 05 September 2023.

**Note:** Calculated on the basis of metadata published in United Nations Statistics Division [online] <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-04-01.pdf>, at 13 July 2018.

Refers to unpaid domestic and care work carried out for own final use by household members, for other households or the community, and to volunteer work, except for Brazil, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Data correspond to the national total, except in the cases of Argentina, where they refer to 31 urban conglomerates, and Cuba, where they are limited to Old Havana. The data refer to the population aged 15 years or older, except in Nicaragua where the population aged 6 years or older is considered. The calculations corresponding to Uruguay are preliminary.

Although Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.4.1 (proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location) is not among those regularly produced by countries, it can be calculated for 18 countries in Latin America. However, because the methodologies for measuring time-use in the region have been developed in accordance with the specific objectives of each country, the data are not comparable. Nevertheless, they do reveal trends with regard to the unequal division of time. The indicators that are built based on the information from the time use repository can be found on the [OIG website](#) in the economic autonomy tab.

Information from time-use surveys shows that, in the region, women spend more time than men on unpaid domestic and care work. The excessive burden of unpaid work borne by women affects their economic autonomy by curtailing their participation in the labour market. Among other consequences, this reduces their capacity to generate their own income and restricts their access to social security, which is strongly linked to formal employment in the region.

## Economic valuation of unpaid household work

Time use surveys are essential inputs for the construction of the satellite account of unpaid household work, which makes visible the monetized contribution made by households, particularly women, within the framework of national accounting.

The normative provisions on this matter date back to 1991 when the CEDAW Monitoring Committee highlighted the need to promote the measurement and quantification of women's unpaid domestic work (General Recommendation No. 17 of 1991). Then, at the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995), countries committed to quantitatively measuring unpaid work, valuing it and including it in a satellite account to national accounts.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the 1994 Regional Conference on Women included as a strategic line of action establishing mechanisms for quantifying the economic contribution of unpaid household work (Mar del Plata Action Program 1995-2001). Accordingly, in 2006, within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), the Working Group on Gender Statistics was created, which has technically guided the advancement of the valuation of unpaid work.

### Latin America (10 countries): economic value of unpaid household work in relation to gross domestic product (GDP) (2010-2021)

(Percentages)



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on the valuation of the unpaid work of the governing institutions of the national accounts of each of the countries. Except for the following countries in which the governing institution of the national accounts did not participate and whose calculations were based on: Argentina: National Directorate of Economy, Equality and Gender of the Ministry of Economy, including the effects of the pandemic, "Care , a strategic economic sector. Measurement of the contribution of unpaid domestic and care work to the Gross Domestic Product", Buenos Aires, 2020; Uruguay: S. Salvador, "The economic valuation of unpaid work", The times of social well-being: gender, unpaid work and care in Uruguay, K. Batthyány (ed.), Montevideo, National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) , 2015. Information updated as of September 5, 2023.

**Note:** This graph shows the 10 exercises on the valuation of Unpaid Work located by the OIG, however, only 5 of them correspond to calculations with official statistics published by the statistical authorities, corresponding to Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru.

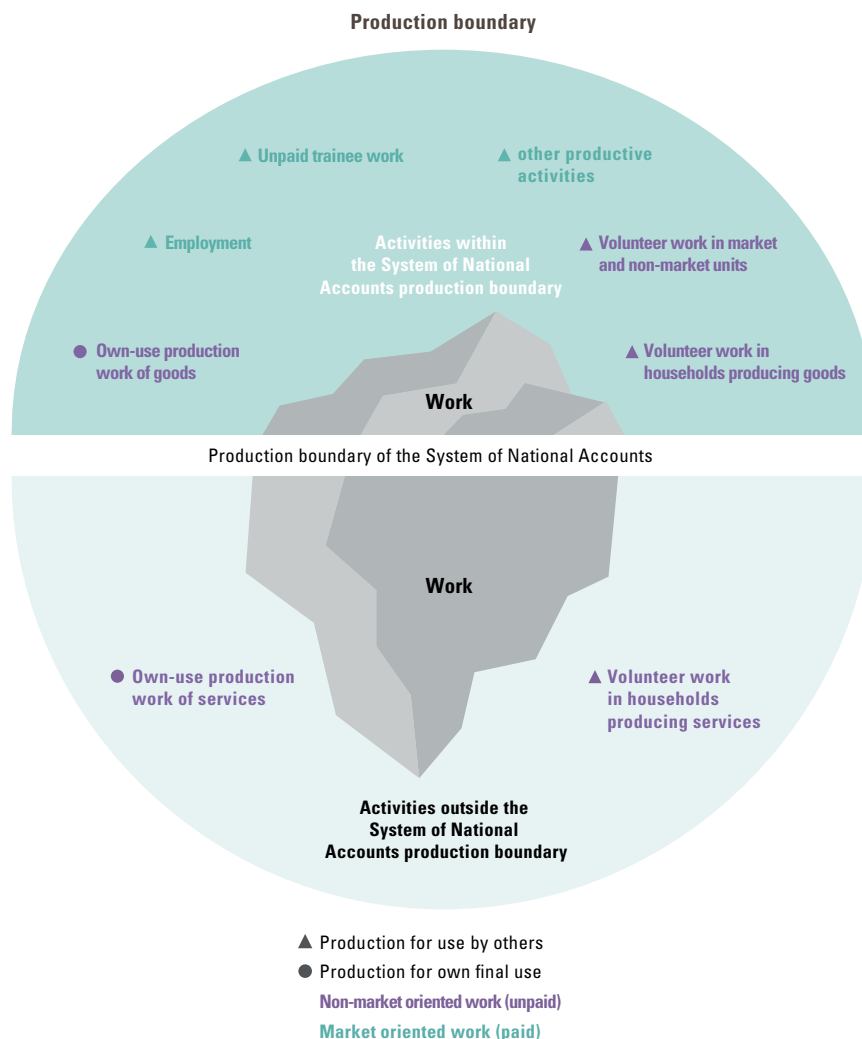
Valuing unpaid work within the System of National Accounts (SNA) provides an accurate measure of what society produces as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), revealing a part of the economy that would otherwise remain hidden. This allows the contribution of this type of work to be incorporated into macroeconomic analysis and decision making. Furthermore, it improves the understanding of the economic dynamics that occur within households, between households and between these and the rest of the economy, which is critical in order to incorporate the analysis of the care economy into how the functioning of the economic system is understood.

It is also key insofar as it can allow policymaking to create the necessary conditions for men and women alike to share the responsibilities and benefits associated with unpaid work, and for the State and community to share the responsibility of the well-being of all members of society.

## Conceptual agreements at the international level on the understanding of the notion of work

Deconstructing the traditional notion of work assimilated to remuneration is one of the main contributions of gender studies to the social sciences. With the aim of overcoming the historical invisibility of unpaid work, conceptual agreements at the international level have moved towards a notion of work that recognizes its paid and unpaid facet.

### International conceptual agreements on the understanding of the concept of work



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

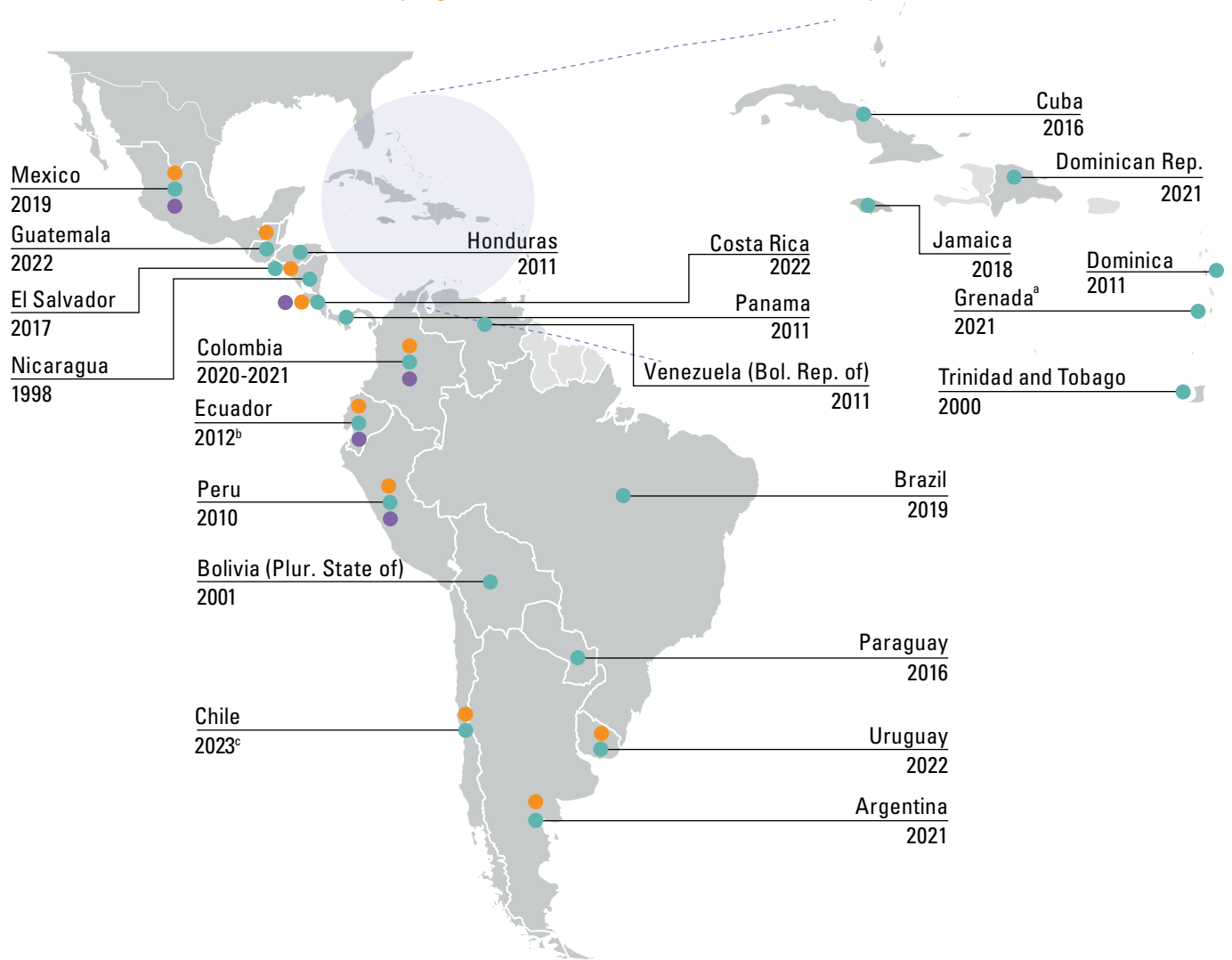
The definitions adopted at the 18th and 19th International Conferences of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) acknowledge productive household activities as work. At the 18th Conference, held in 2008, the Resolution Concerning the Measurement of Working Time was adopted, which contains a recommendation on measuring the work carried out in countries to design policies on labour and balancing economic activity and family life, and on preparing a technical guide on the best practices in measuring working time. The Resolution Concerning Statistics of Work, Employment and Labour Underutilization at the 19th Conference broadened the concept of work to any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use, independent of the legality, formality or means of payment for the activity carried out.



## Progress in measurements of time use and unpaid work

To date, 23 Latin American and Caribbean countries have carried out at least one time measurement focused on domestic and care work, while 10 have placed an economic value on unpaid household work and 5 have calculated the satellite account of unpaid household work, with official statistics. Although there are heterogeneities within this group of measurements, the adoption as a regional standard of the Classification of Time Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL), as well as the Methodological Guide on time use measurements in America Latin America and the Caribbean, constitute important milestones to promote the comparability of time use measurements in the region. Supported by these tools and information from the Repository, the OIG promotes exchange activities and technical assistance to promote the institutionalization and use of time use measurements.

### Latin America and the Caribbean: progress in measurements of time use and unpaid work, 1998–2021



**23** countries with time use measurements

**10** countries with economic valuation of domestic work and unpaid care work in households

**5** of them have a satellite account for domestic work and unpaid care work in households

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Note: The years specified correspond to the last time-use measurement available.

<sup>a</sup> At the time of finalizing this document, Grenada had carried out only a pilot survey on time-use information.

<sup>b</sup> The time use indicators are based on the Time Use Survey (EUT) 2012 and the economic valuation and satellite account estimates used are based on the data from the EUT 2012 and the modules of the National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (ENEDMU) until 2017.

<sup>c</sup> Field work survey, results will begin to be published in 2024.

## Latin America and the Caribbean: surveys, modules or questions for measuring time use, 1985-2023

| Countries                          | Date  | Type of survey  |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Argentina                          | 2021  | National time-use survey  |
|                                    | 2016  | Time-use survey of the City of Buenos Aires <sup>1</sup>                                      |
|                                    | 2013  | Module in the Annual Survey of Urban Households (EAHU)  |
|                                    | 2005  | Module in the Annual Survey of Urban Households (EAHU) of the City of Buenos Aires            |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of)   | 2001  | Module in the Continuous Survey of Households   |
| Brazil                             | 2012-2019 <sup>2</sup>                      | Set in the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (PNAD-C)                               |
|                                    | 1992-2015                                   | Questions in the National Household Sample Survey (PNAD)                                      |
| Chile                              | 2023 <sup>3</sup>                           | II National time-use survey   |
|                                    | 2015  | I National time-use survey  |
|                                    | 2007-2008                                   | Experimental survey on time use in Greater Santiago   |
| Colombia                           | 2012-2013, 2016-2017, 2020-2021             | National time-use survey  |
|                                    | 2007-2021                                   | Questions in the Great Integrated Household Survey  |
| Costa Rica                         | 2022  | National time-use survey  |
|                                    | 2017  | National time-use survey  |
|                                    | 2011  | Time-use survey in the Greater Metropolitan Region  |
|                                    | 2004  | Module in the Multipurpose Household Survey   |
| Cuba                               | 2016  | Section on time use and care in the National Survey on Gender Equality                        |
|                                    | 2001  | Time-use survey <sup>4</sup>  |
|                                    | 1997  | Time Budget Confidence Survey   |
|                                    | 1985-1988                                   | National time-use survey  |
| Dominica                           | 2001 and 2011                               | Question in the Population and Housing Census   |
| Dominican Republic                 | 2016 and 2021                               | Module on time use in the National Multipurpose Household Survey                              |
|                                    | 2006-2007                                   | Question in the Population and Housing Census   |
|                                    | 1995  | National time-use survey  |
| Ecuador                            | 2012  | Time-use survey (EUT)   |
|                                    | 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2017 | Module in the National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment (ENEMDU)        |
|                                    | 2003 and 2004                               | Set of questions in the National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (ENEMDU) |
|                                    | 2017  | National time-use survey  |
| El Salvador                        | 2010-2011                                   | Module in the Multipurpose Household Survey (EHPM)  |
|                                    | 2005  | Questions in the multipurpose Household Survey <sup>5</sup>                                   |
|                                    | 2021  | Set of questions in the Labour Force Survey <sup>5</sup>                                      |
| Guatemala                          | 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022             | Module in the National Survey of Employment and Income (ENEI)                                 |
|                                    | 2000, 2006, 2011 and 2014                   | Module in the National Survey of Living Conditions (ENCOVI)                                   |
| Honduras                           | 2009  | Set of questions in the Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey                               |
| Jamaica                            | 2018  | Module in the Living Conditions Survey  |
| Mexico                             | 2015  | Set of questions in the Intercensal Survey  |
|                                    | 2009, 2014 and 2019                         | National Survey on Time Use (ENUT)  |
|                                    | 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018       | Set of questions in the National Survey on Household Income and Expenditure                   |
|                                    | 2005-2020                                   | Set of questions in the National Occupation and Employment Survey (ENOE)                      |
|                                    | 1998-2002                                   | Module in the National Household Survey on Living Standard Measurement (ENHMNV)               |
|                                    | 1996  | Module in the National Survey on Work, Contributions and Time Use (ENTAUT)                    |
| Nicaragua                          | 1998  | Module in the National Household Survey on Living Standards (ENHMNV)                          |
| Panama                             | 2011  | National time-use survey  |
|                                    | 2006  | Module in the Multipurpose Survey   |
| Paraguay                           | 2016  | Time-use survey (EUT)   |
| Peru                               | 2010  | National time-use survey  |
|                                    | 2006  | Questions included in the Continuous Household Survey   |
| Trinidad y Tobago                  | 2000  | Module in the Population and Housing Census   |
| Uruguay                            | 2021-2022                                   | Survey on Time Use and Unpaid Work (EUT)  |
|                                    | 2007, 2013                                  | Module in the Continuous Household Survey   |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 2011  | Time Use Survey   |
|                                    | 2008  | Time use measurement <sup>6</sup>   |

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of information from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries; R. Aguirre and F. Ferrari, "Las encuestas sobre uso del tiempo y trabajo no remunerado en América Latina y el Caribe: caminos recorridos y desafíos hacia el futuro", Asuntos de Género series, No. 122 (LC/L.3678/Rev.1), Santiago, ECLAC, February 2014. Information updated on 5 September 2023.

**Note:** The surveys carried out by the official organizations in charge of carrying out the surveys of the country or the city in the case of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires are listed.

<sup>1</sup> Surveys carried out by the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, an institution that coordinates and directs the services that make up the city's statistical system, in addition to carrying out censuses and surveys within the geographical scope of the city.

<sup>2</sup> The results begin to be published in 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Field work survey, results will begin to be published in 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Survey carried out in rural and urban areas of five municipalities in Cuba: Pinar del Río, San Juan y Martínez, Old Havana, Bayamo and Guisa.

<sup>5</sup> Until the date of the Guide's conclusion, it had not been confirmed whether the data collected in said survey would be used as official statistical information. For this reason, this experience is mentioned in the pilot surveys box of the Methodological Guide on Time Use Measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>6</sup> In the case of these measurements, it was not possible to find details about the type of survey, the collection mode, the reference period or other aspects. For this reason they are named "time use measurement", without providing specifications.