

Time distribution: a key element of the inequality analysis

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Outline

- A. Introduction
- B. Time distribution and inequality
- C. The valuation of time-use and the System of National Accounts
- D. The contribution of time-use data to equality policies
- E. Conclusions



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Introduction

- Time is a finite resource, its use for certain activities inevitably means less is set aside for others. People use their time in different ways, depending on a number of sociocultural factors that adapt to the context they live and the roles they play.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, the production structure, gender roles and family arrangements have reinforced stark differences between men and women with respect to time distribution.
- This has led to inequalities in opportunities and outcomes for personal and professional development.



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The contribution of time-use survey data

Time-use survey data makes possible:

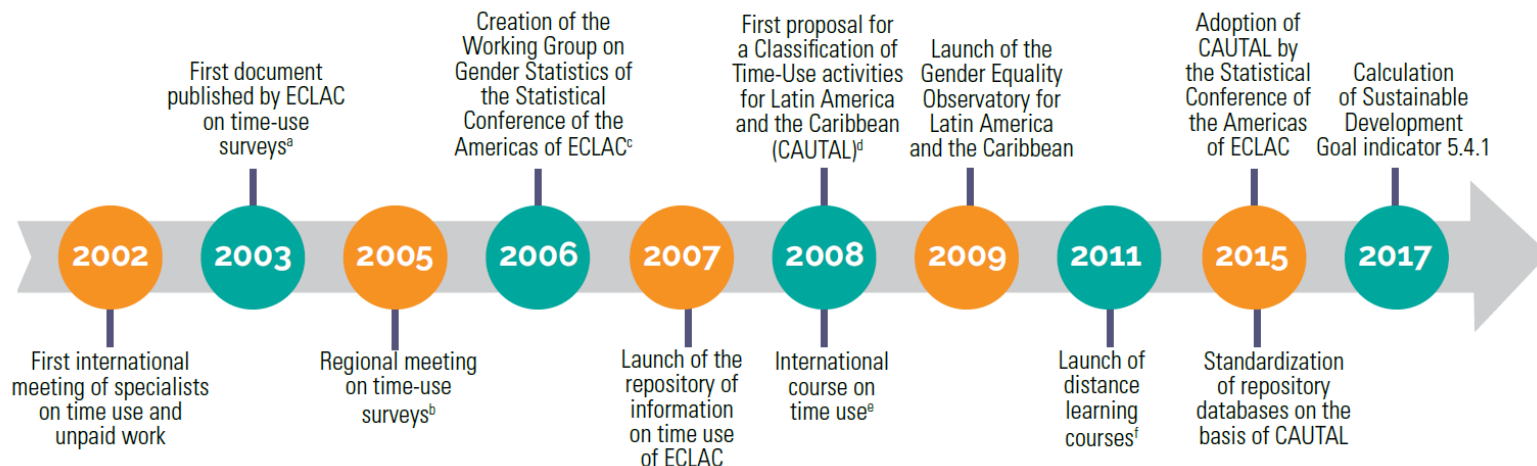
- Quantify time allocation to different types of work and activities.
- Calculate the economic value of unpaid domestic and care work done in households.

Information granted by time-use survey data:

- Allows to visualize patterns of inequality in time distribution and allocation for specific tasks according to the rules of the patriarchal system within families and the dominant gender system in the public arena.
- Provides inputs to design and evaluate public policies on the redistribution of time, to foster gender equality and women autonomy.

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

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



Source: Prepared by the authors.

^a M. J. Araya, "Un acercamiento a las encuestas sobre el uso del tiempo con orientación de género", *Mujer y Desarrollo series*, No. 50 (LC/L.2022-P), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2003.

^b Meeting of experts, "Lineamientos para armonizar las encuestas de uso del tiempo de América Latina y el Caribe", Santiago, 21-23 November, 2005.

^c Mexico is the coordinating country, the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC acts as the technical secretariat and the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) as advisory agencies.

^d M.E. Gómez Luna, «Guidelines to harmonize time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean», paper presented at the fourth International Meeting of Experts on Time-use Surveys, Mexico City, 10-11 July 2008 [online] <http://cedoc.inmujeres.gob.mx/documentos/download/.pdf>.

^e Course on redistribution of time: an indicator of equality, Santiago, May-June 2008.

^f First online course on gender statistics and indicators and time-use surveys.

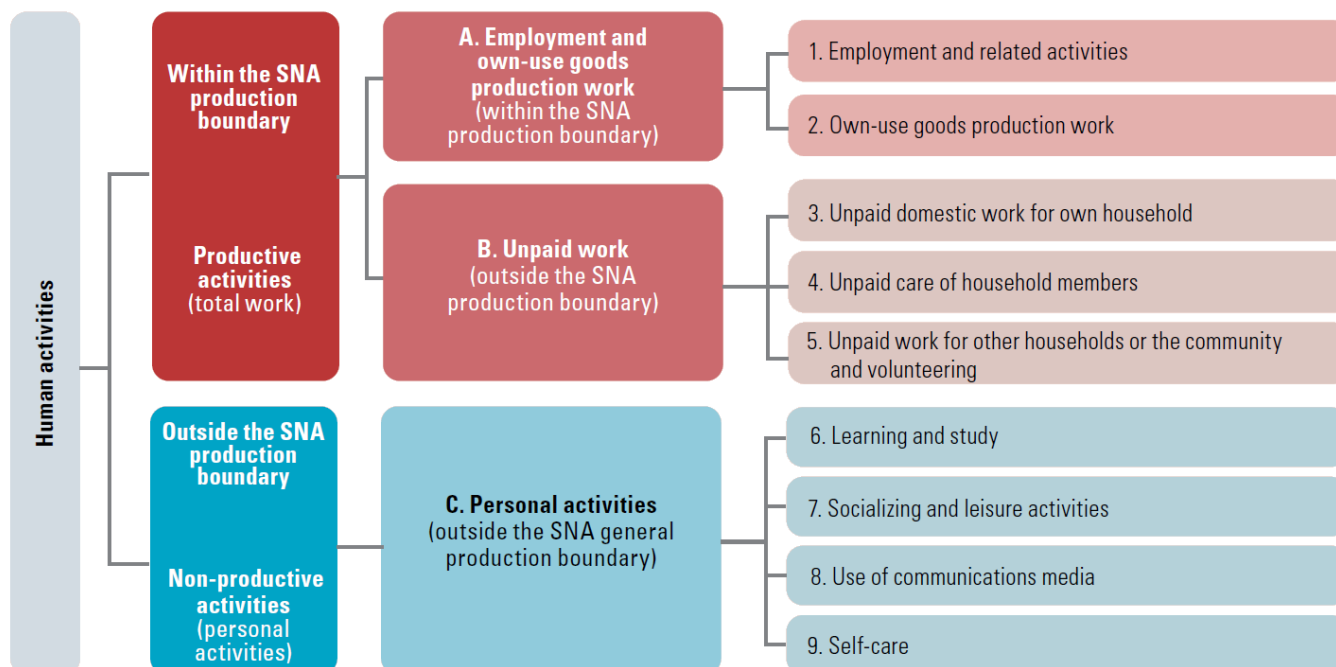
Time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean

| Countries | Date | Type of survey |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Argentina | 2013 | Module in the Annual Survey of Urban Households (EAHU) |
| | 2010-2011 (Rosario) | Survey on time use and volunteer work |
| | 2005 (Buenos Aires) | Independent survey |
| Bolivia (Plur. State of) | 2011, 2010 | Survey of time use in Households |
| | 2001 | Module in the Continuous Survey of Households |
| Brazil | 2009-2010 | Pilot survey in five States |
| | Since 1992 | Questions in the National Survey of Households (PNAD) |
| Chile | 2015 | National time-use survey |
| | 2008-2009 | Experimental survey on time use in Greater Santiago |
| Colombia | 2017, 2012 | National time-use survey |
| | 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 | Questions in the Comprehensive Survey of Households |
| Costa Rica | 2017 | National time-use survey |
| | 2011 | Survey of time use 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 | Survey administered in five provinces |
| | 1997, 1988, 1985 | National time-use survey |
| Ecuador | 2012 | Time-use survey (EUT) |
| | 2012, 2010, 2007, 2005 | Module in the National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment (ENEMDU) |
| El Salvador | 2017 | National time-use survey |
| | 2010-2011 | Module in the Multipurpose Household Survey |
| | 2005 | Short list of questions in the Multipurpose Household Survey (EHPM) |
| Guatemala | 2014 | Module in the National Survey of Employment and Income |
| | 2014, 2011, 2006, 2000 | Module in the National Survey of Living Conditions (ENCOVI) |
| Honduras | 2011, 2009 | Module in the Continuous Survey of Households |
| Mexico | 2014, 2009, 2002, 1998 | National Survey on Time Use (ENUT) |
| | 2010 | Module in the National Survey on Household Income and Expenditure |
| | 1996 | Module in the National Survey on Work, Contributions and Time Use (ENTAUT) |
| Nicaragua | 1998 | Module in the National Household Survey on Living Standards (ENHNMV) |
| 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 |
| Dominican Republic | 2016 | Module on time use in the National Multipurpose Household Survey |
| | 2006-2007 | Question in the Demographic and Health Survey |
| Uruguay | 2013, 2007 | Module in the Continuous Household Survey |

Classification of time-use activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL)

At the 8th meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2015, member States adopted CAUTAL to classify time-use activities with a focus on gender and suitable for the regional context, which is a milestone in the harmonization and standardization of time use surveys and the production of statistics regarding this theme.

Conceptual framework of the Classification of Time-use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL): sections and main divisions

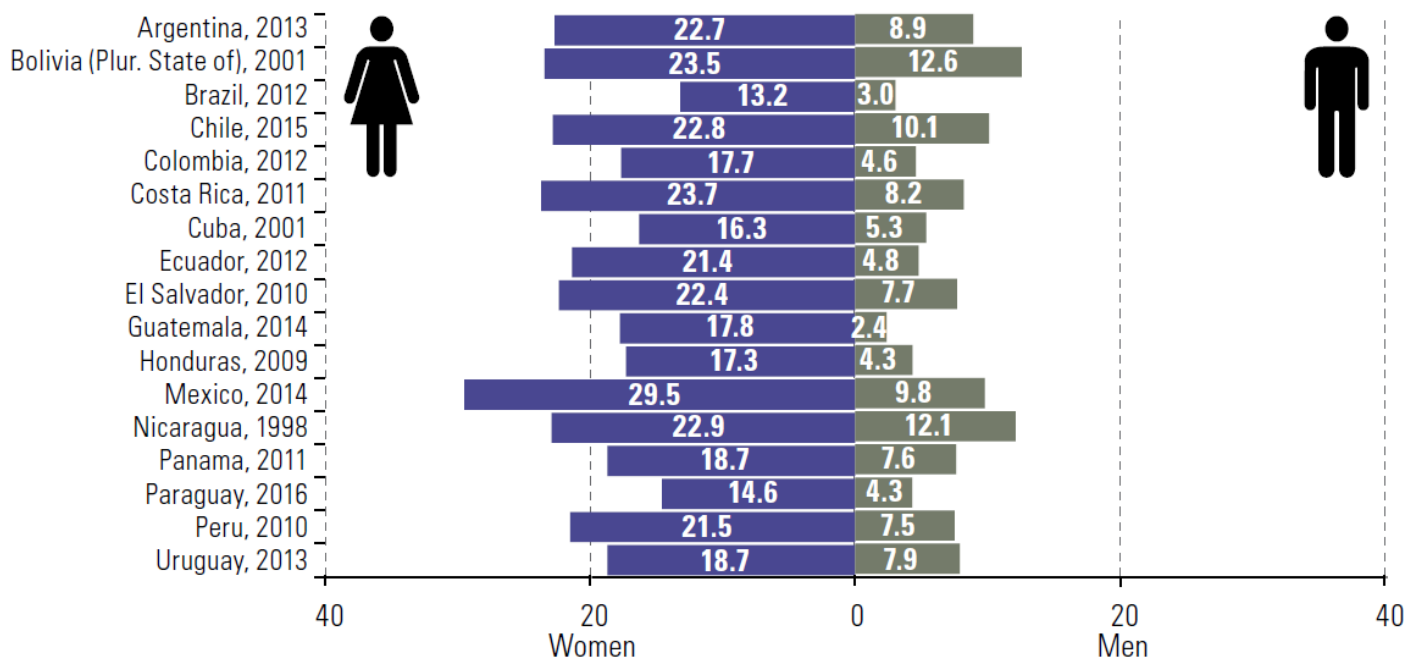


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/National Institute of Statistics and Geography/National Women's Institute of Mexico/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (ECLAC/INEGI/INMUJERES/UN-Women), *Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL)* (LC/W.679), Santiago, 2016 [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40170/S1600307_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.4.1)

This indicator considers activities related to unpaid domestic work inside home and unpaid care work outside home (Section B.3 and B.4 CAUTAL). It is calculated on the basis of the average number of hours dedicated to these two group activities for the population over 15 years of age.

Latin America (17 countries): time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex. (Percentages)



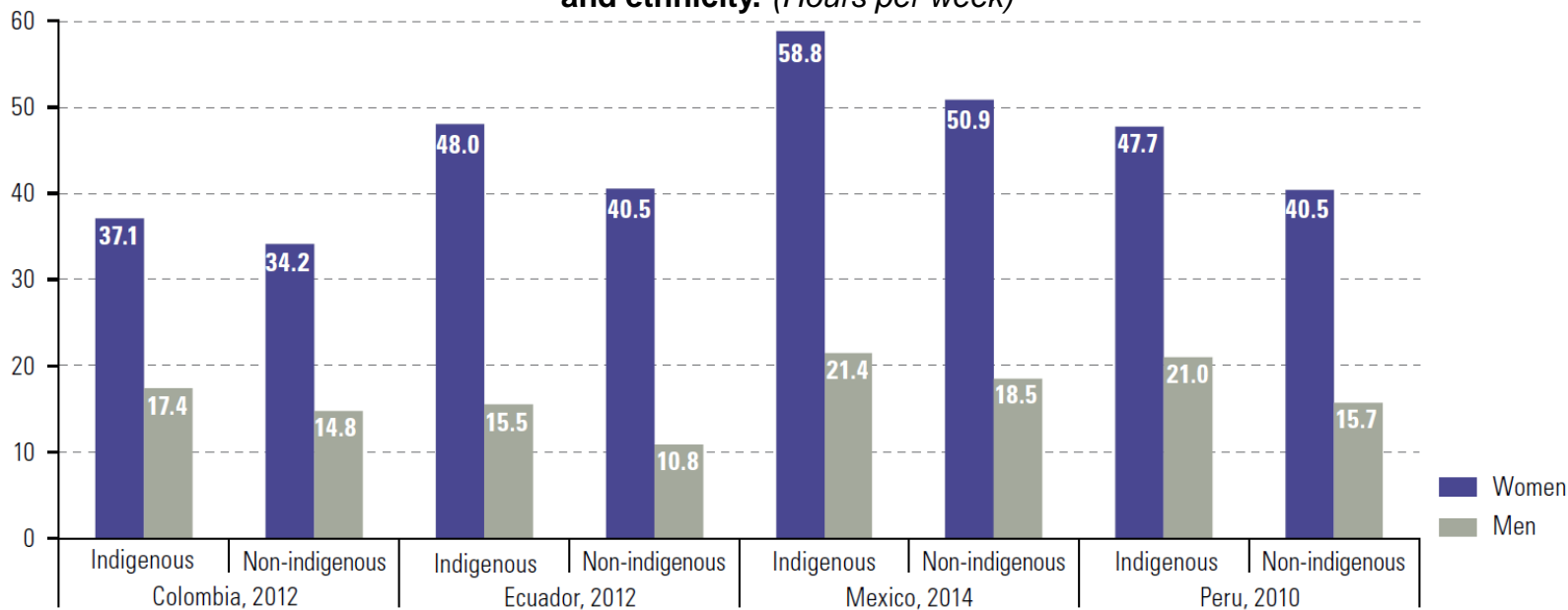
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

Note: Figures take into account time spent on domestic and care work in one's own household, in other households, in the community and volunteer work, except in the case of Brazil, where the survey only asks one question relating to domestic work in one's own household, and of Honduras, which only includes information on care of members of one's own household. The data correspond to the national total except for Costa Rica (Greater Metropolitan Area) and Cuba (Old Havana). The population examined was 15 years and older, except in Argentina (18 years and older) and Nicaragua (6 years and older).

Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work: disaggregation of data according to ethnicity

The gender gap on time distribution intensifies when disaggregating by ethnicity. Indigenous women may spend up to eight hours more per week on unpaid work than non-Indigenous women, as is the case in Mexico.

Latin America (4 countries): time spent on unpaid work by people aged 15 and older, by gender and ethnicity. (Hours per week)



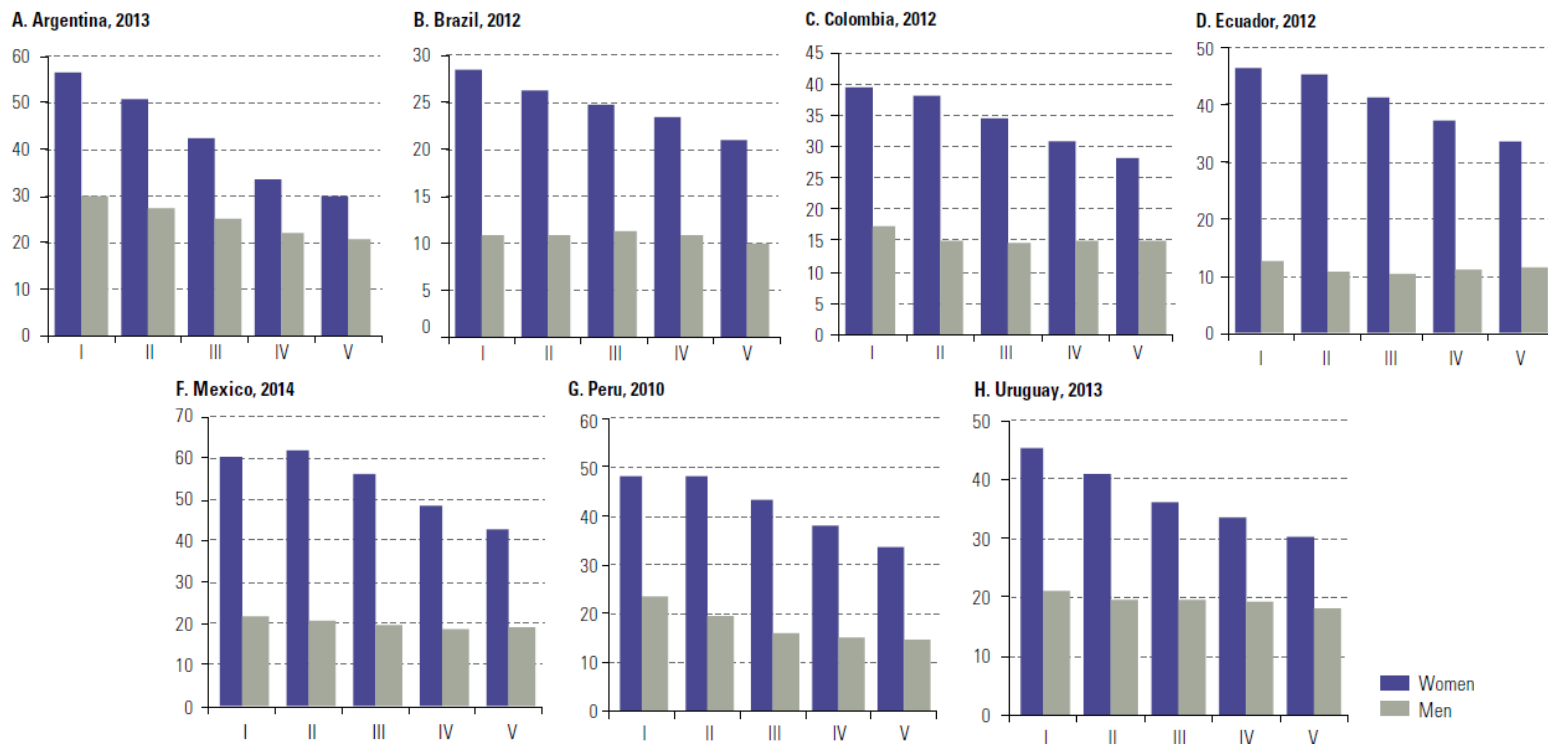
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

Note: In light of the heterogeneous nature of data sources, comparisons between countries are still not possible; hence, the aim of this figure is to show the trends within each country.

Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work: disaggregation by household income quintile

While in households in quintile I women spend an average of 46 hours per week on unpaid work, those in quintile V spend almost 32 hours. Meanwhile, the differences in the amount of time spent on unpaid work between men in quintile I and V households are not significant; they are generally less than one hour per day.

Latin America (7 countries): unpaid work by population aged 15 and older, by sex and household income quintile. (Hours per week)



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

Note: In light of the heterogeneous nature of data sources, comparisons between countries are still not possible; hence, the aim of this figure is to show the trends within each country.

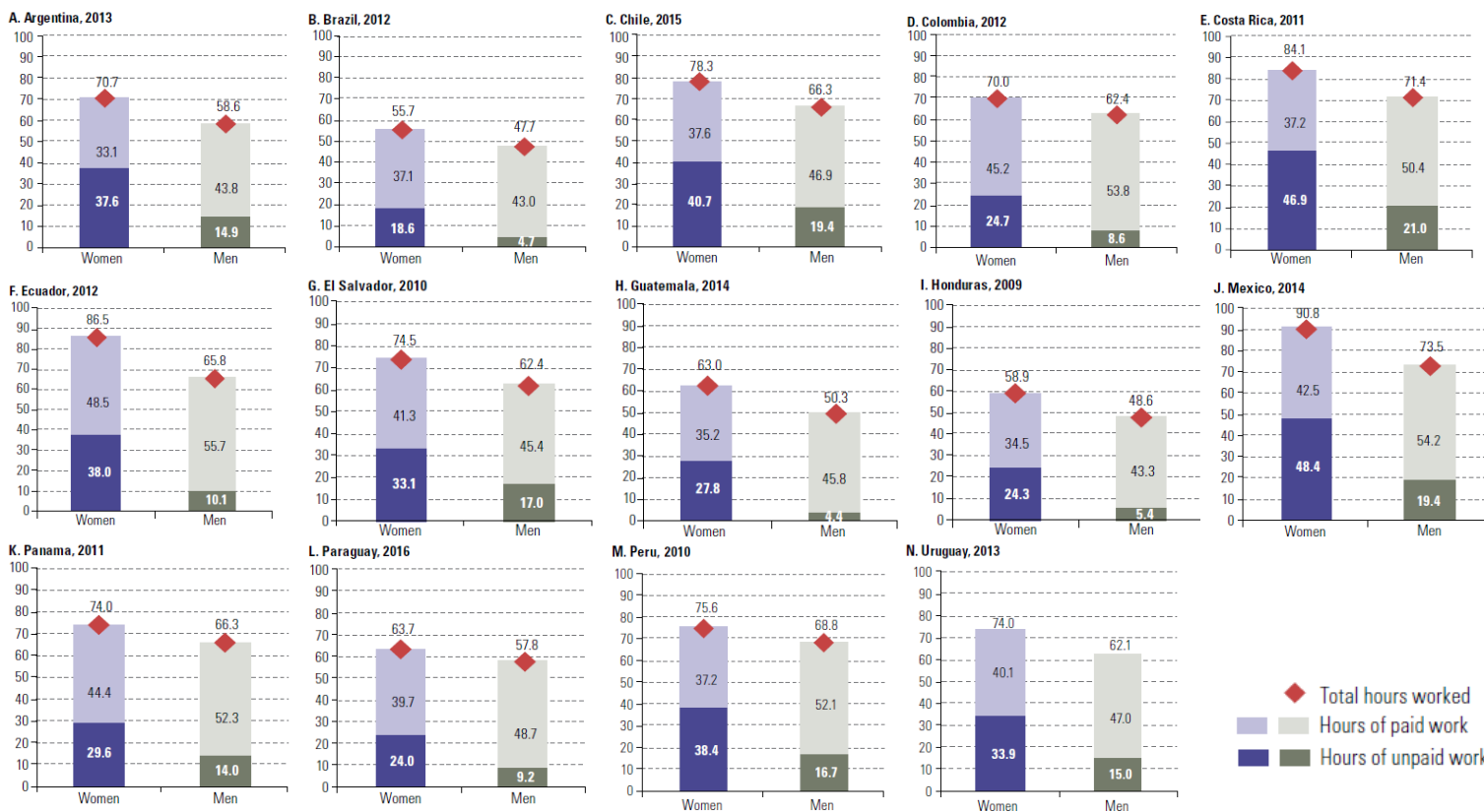
Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work: disaggregation by household income quintile

- Monetary poverty and lack of time sustain a vicious circle that is very difficult to break down.
- Some conditions that sustain this vicious circle are that women in poor households:
 - (1) Have the highest number of dependents,
 - (2) Are unable to acquire goods and services that could save them time on domestic work.
 - (3) Lack of good quality public services providing care for children, older persons, person with disabilities and chronic illnesses.
- To stop this vicious circle, public policies must be elaborated with gender perspective in order to eradicate the structural factors of the feminization of poverty in the lowest-income households. And in this exercise, policies on the redistribution of time are indispensable.

Time spent on paid and unpaid work

In all countries, women are overrepresented in the unpaid work category, they are underrepresented in the paid work category. By adding both, women have a heavier total workload even when their contribution to the economy is invisibilized.

Latin America (14 countries): total paid and unpaid work of the employed population aged 15 and older, by gender. (Hours per week)



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

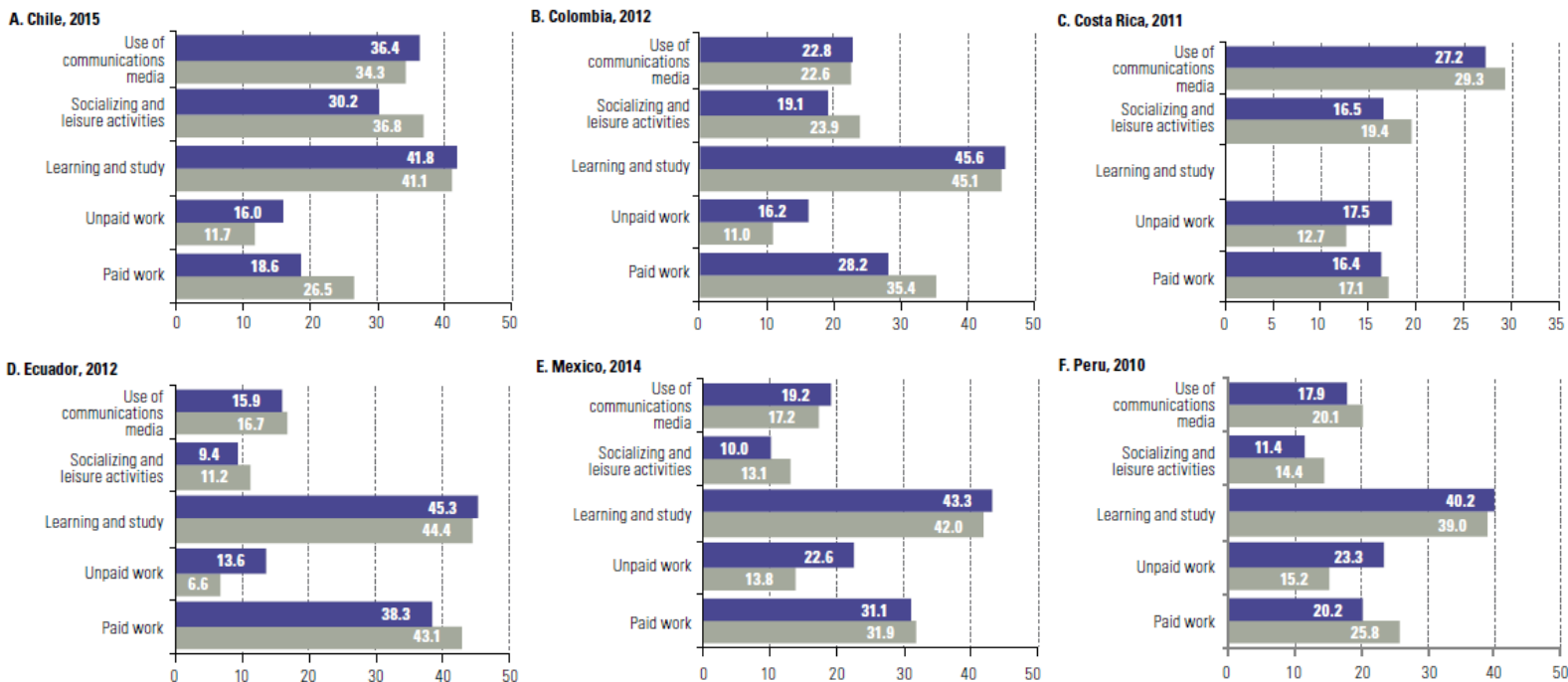
Note: In light of the heterogeneous nature of data sources, comparisons between countries are still not possible; hence, the aim of this figure is to show the trends within each country. Data correspond to the national total except in the case of Costa Rica (Greater Metropolitan Area).

Time at different stages of life cycle:

Childhood and adolescence

There are no significant gaps between men and women in terms of the amount of time spent on studying and learning. Nonetheless, when considering the amount of time spent on work, paid or unpaid, the difference between genders is clear. In all countries, the average time spent by boys on paid work exceeds that of girls. Meanwhile, the average time spent by girls on unpaid work exceeds that of boys.

Latin America (6 countries): time spent by population aged 18 or younger on paid and unpaid work and personal activities, by gender. (Hours per week)



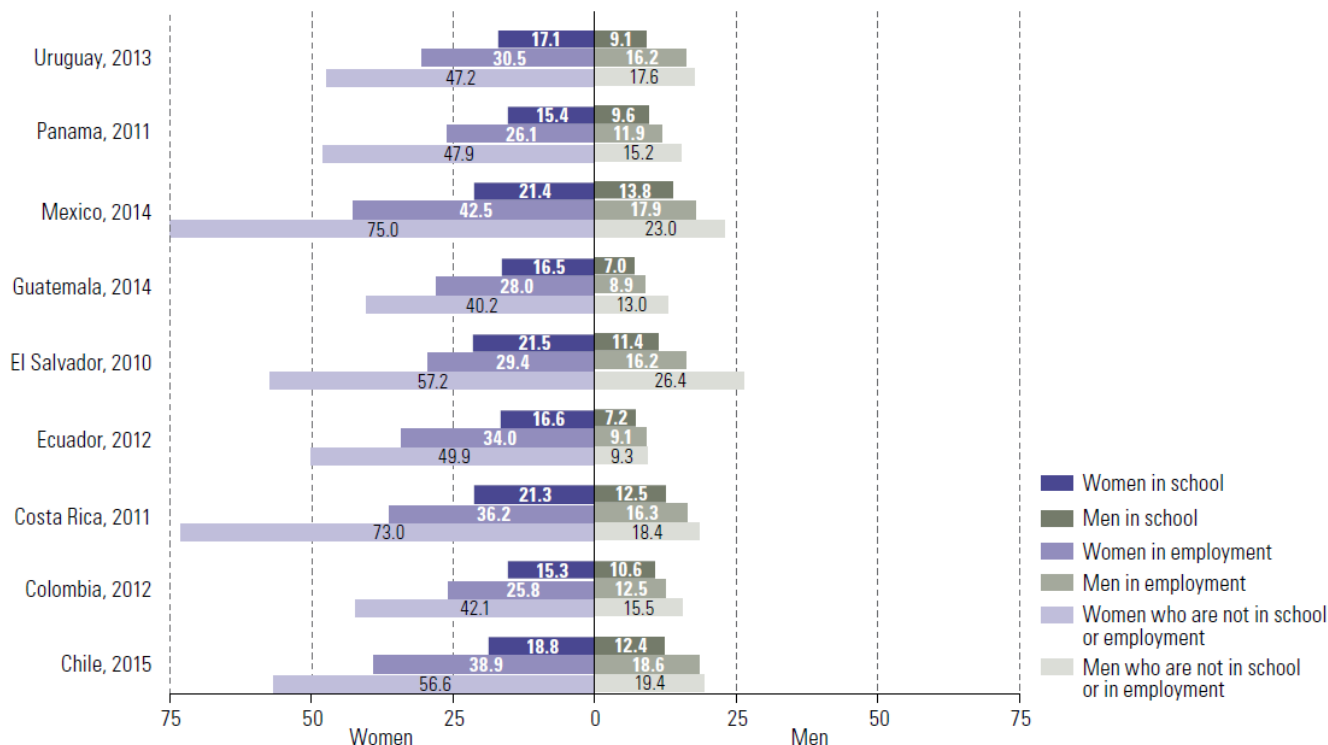
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

Note: In light of the heterogeneous nature of data sources, comparisons between countries are still not possible; hence, the aim of this figure is to show the trends within each country. Data correspond to the national total except in the case of Costa Rica (Greater Metropolitan Area).

Time at different stages of life cycle: Young people

In some countries, young girls who are not in school or in employment spend more than 70 hours on unpaid work. This use of time for household work limits their possibilities for development in educational activities, opportunities for generating income and participation in public life and decision-making.

Latin America (9 countries): unpaid work by population aged 15 to 29 by activity and gender. (Hours per week)



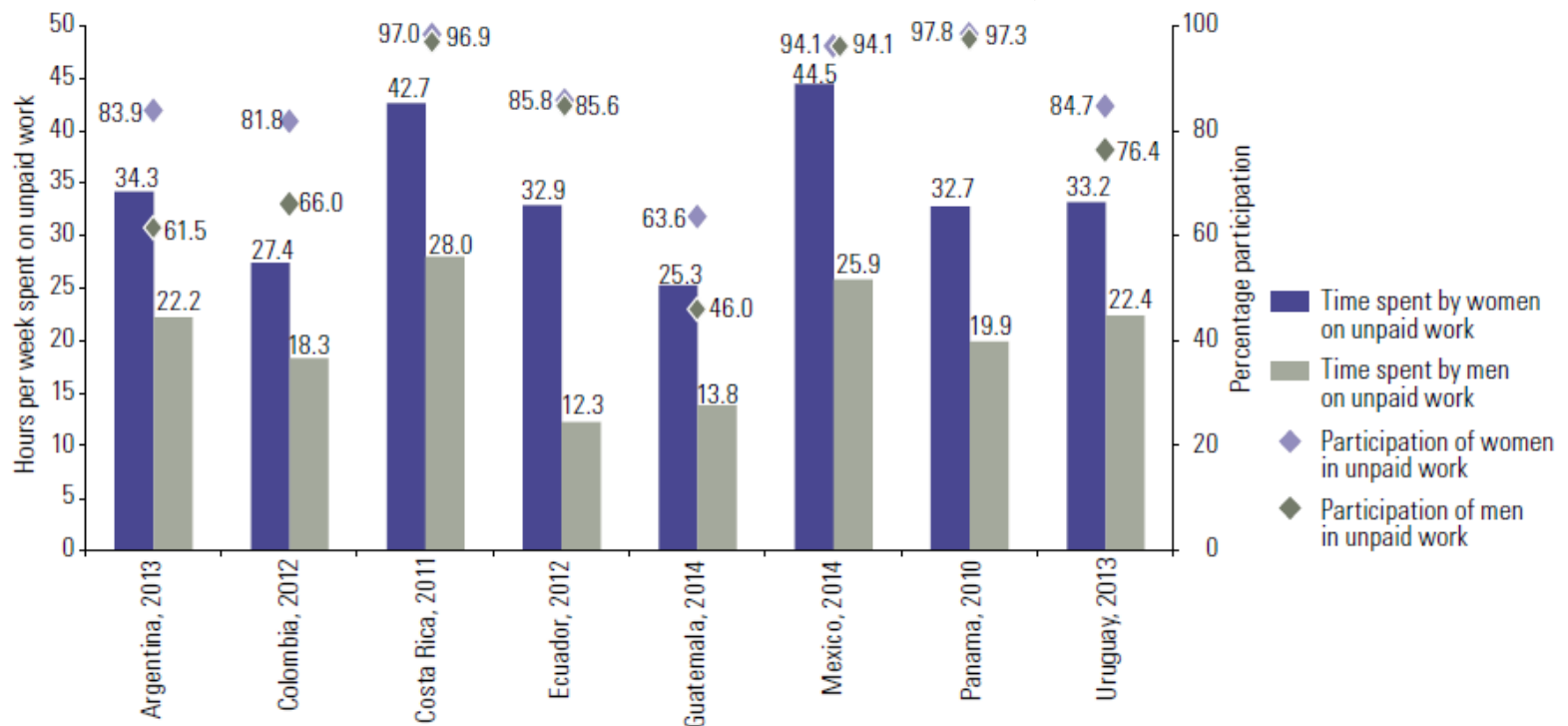
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

Note: In light of the heterogeneous nature of data sources, comparisons between countries are still not possible; hence, the aim of this figure is to show the trends within each country. Data correspond to the national total except in the case of Costa Rica (Greater Metropolitan Area).

Time at different stages of life cycle: Old age

“While the career of employees (mainly men) is perceived as a long-term, individual, ascendant project that culminates in retirement, for women, the trajectory of unpaid domestic and care work represents a collective project that includes their families and does not end until old age or their death (Durán, 1986)”

Latin America (8 countries): time spent on unpaid work and participation rate among retirees, by gender. (Hours per week and percentages)



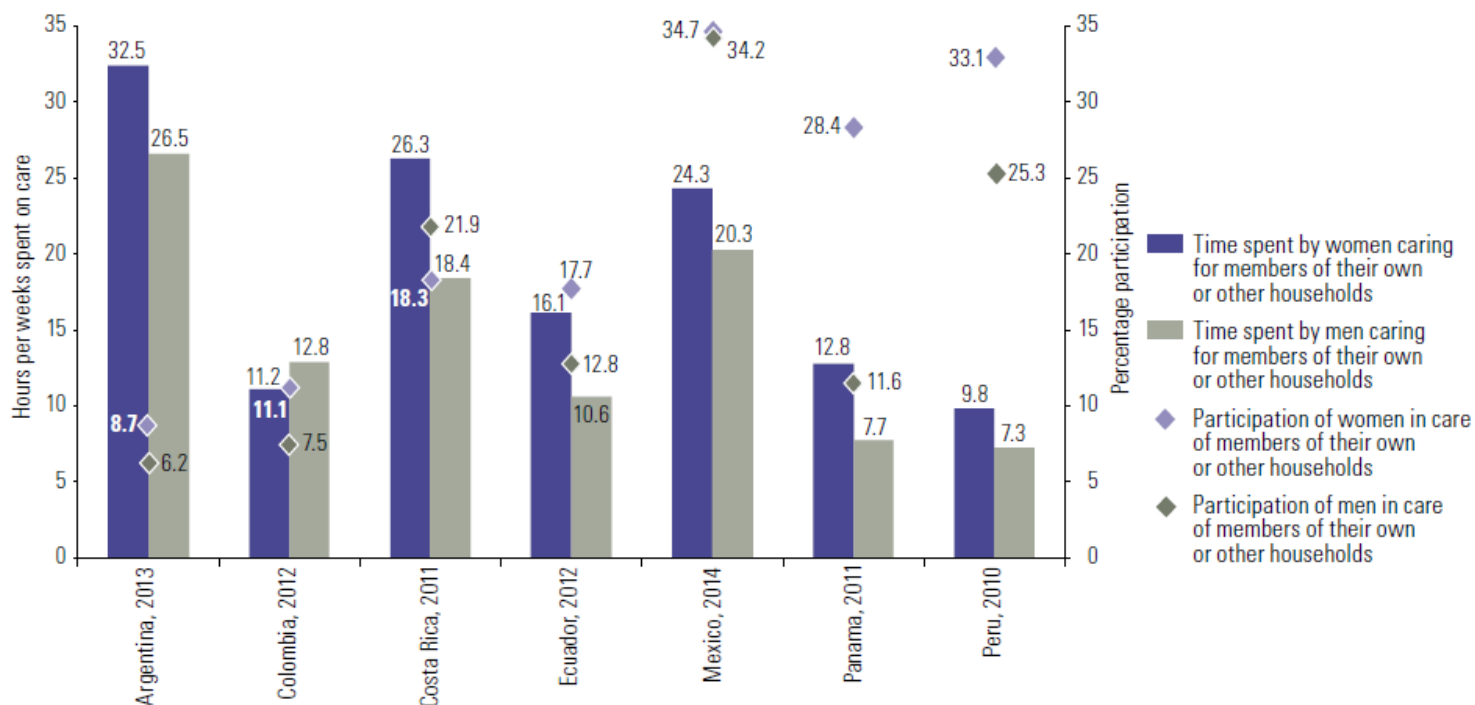
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

Time at different stages of life cycle:

Old age

Longer life expectancy and greater participation of women in the labour market, has led to families arranging different care structures at home. Grandmothers and older women taking care for younger generations so that other women can join the labour market, is one of this arrangements.

Latin America (6 countries): care provided by persons aged 65 or older to members of their own or other households, by gender. (Hours per week and percentages)

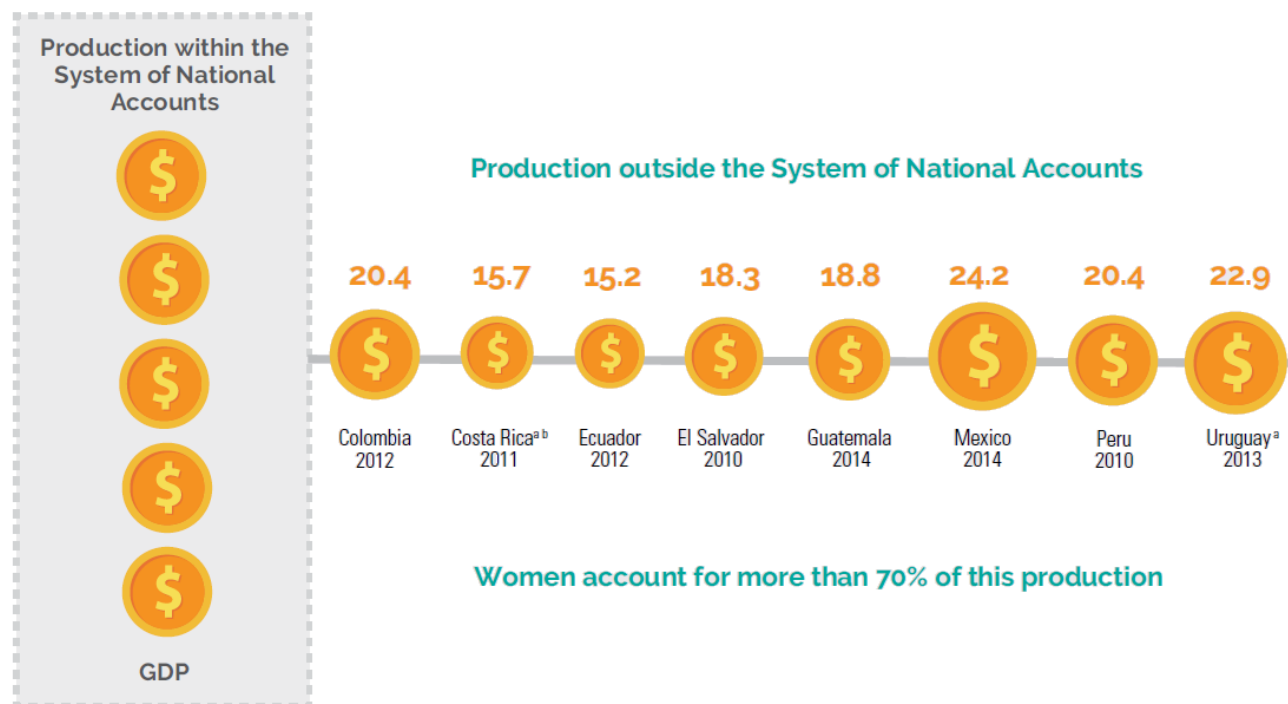


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

The valuation of unpaid work and the System of National Accounts

The valuation of unpaid work in the framework of SNA provides a more precise measurement of what society produces (shedding light on a part of the economy that had remained hidden) and allows the contribution of this type of work to be incorporated into macroeconomic analysis and decision-making. Moreover, it aids the analysis of the interaction between the household and market economies.

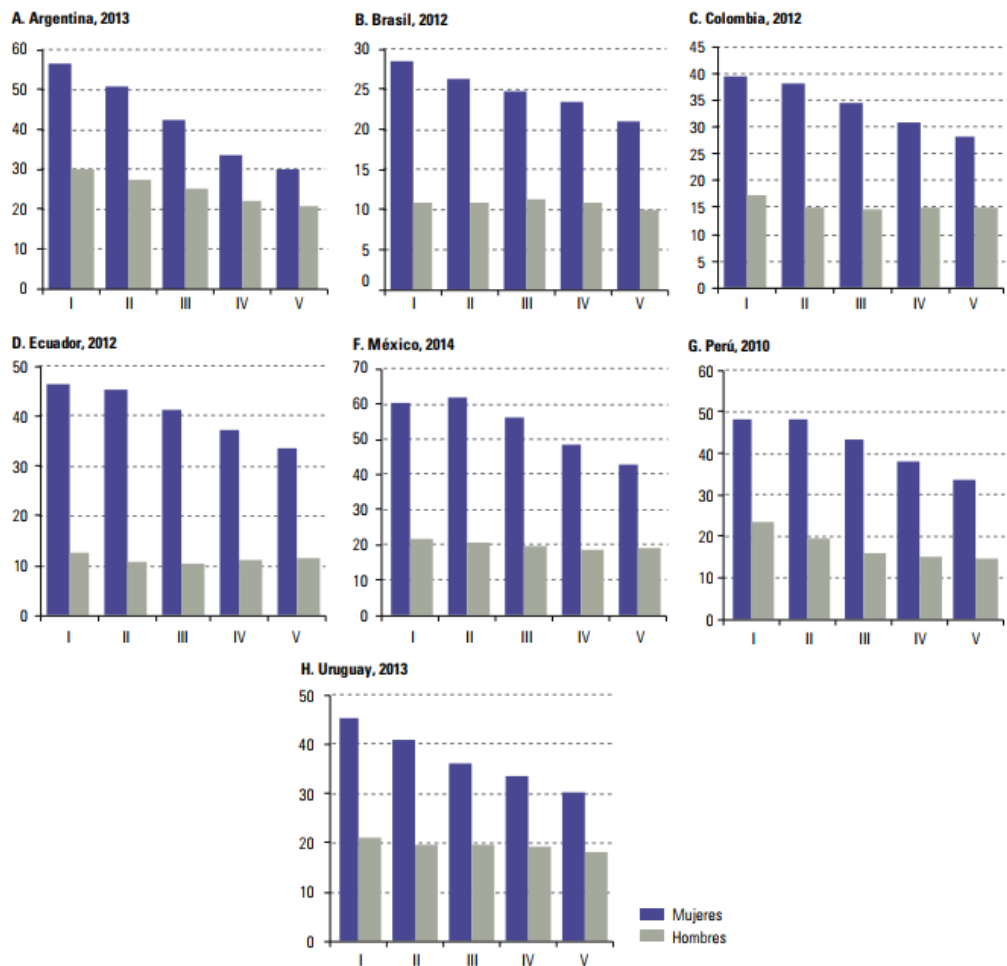
Latin America (8 countries): economic value of unpaid household work in relation to gross domestic product (GDP). *(percentages of GDP)*



The contribution of time-use data to equality policies

Policies for overcoming poverty

Latin America (7 countries): unpaid work by population aged 15 and older, by sex and household income quintile. (Hours per week)



- Monetary poverty and lack of time sustain a vicious circle very difficult to break without policies focused on strengthening women's economic autonomy.

- To eliminate poverty in all its forms, there is a need for public policies that can eliminate the structural factors of the feminization of poverty in the lowest income households.

- In addition to monetary income redistribution policies, there is a need for policies targeting time redistribution, which is indispensable to eradicating poverty and achieving development.

The contribution of time-use data to equality policies

Policies for care

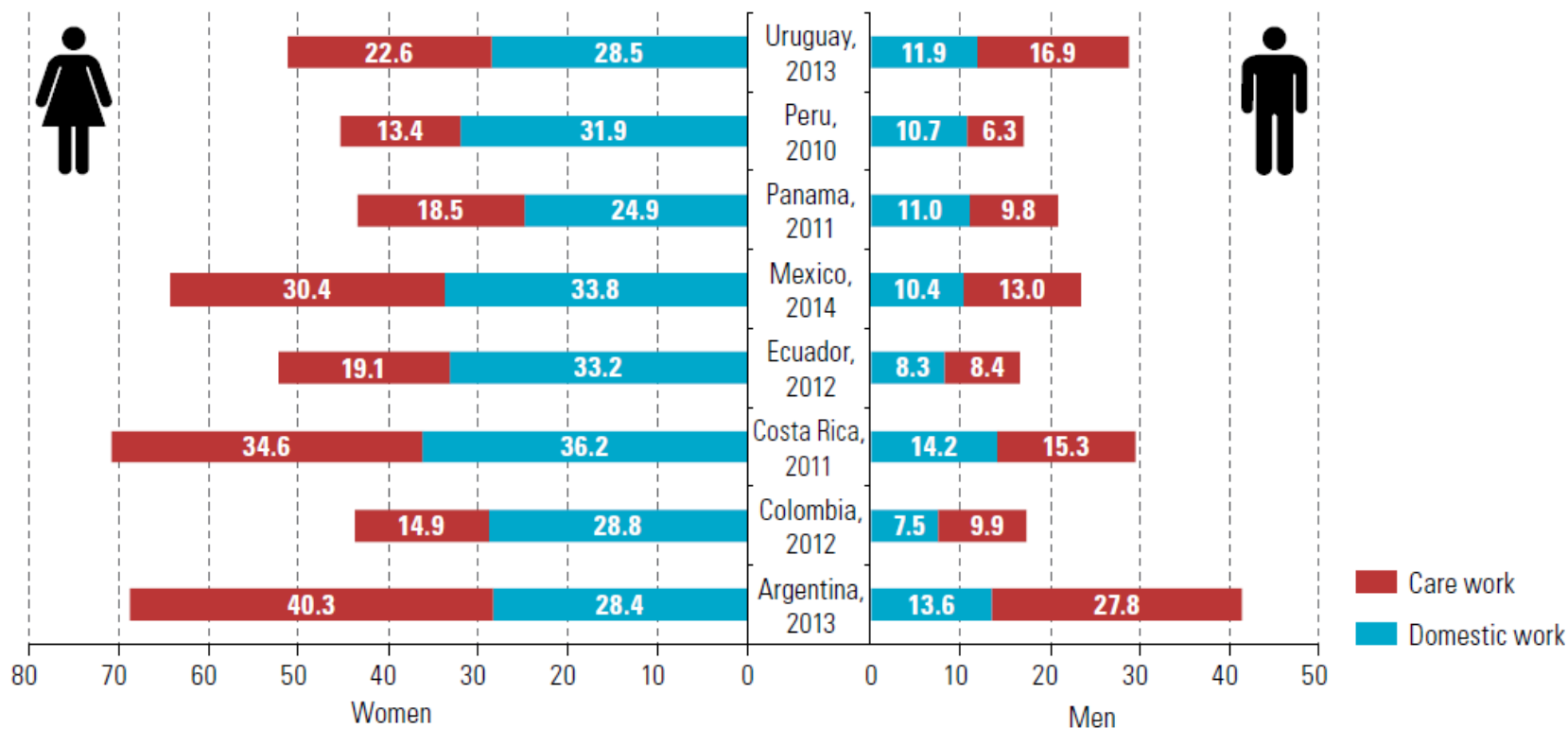
Public policies should recognize care work as an essential development activity that must be guaranteed by society and promote:

Corresponsability of care between men and women

More flexible working hours

Better quality public services of care

Latin America (8 countries): time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by population aged 15 and older in households where care is required, by gender . (Hours per week)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries

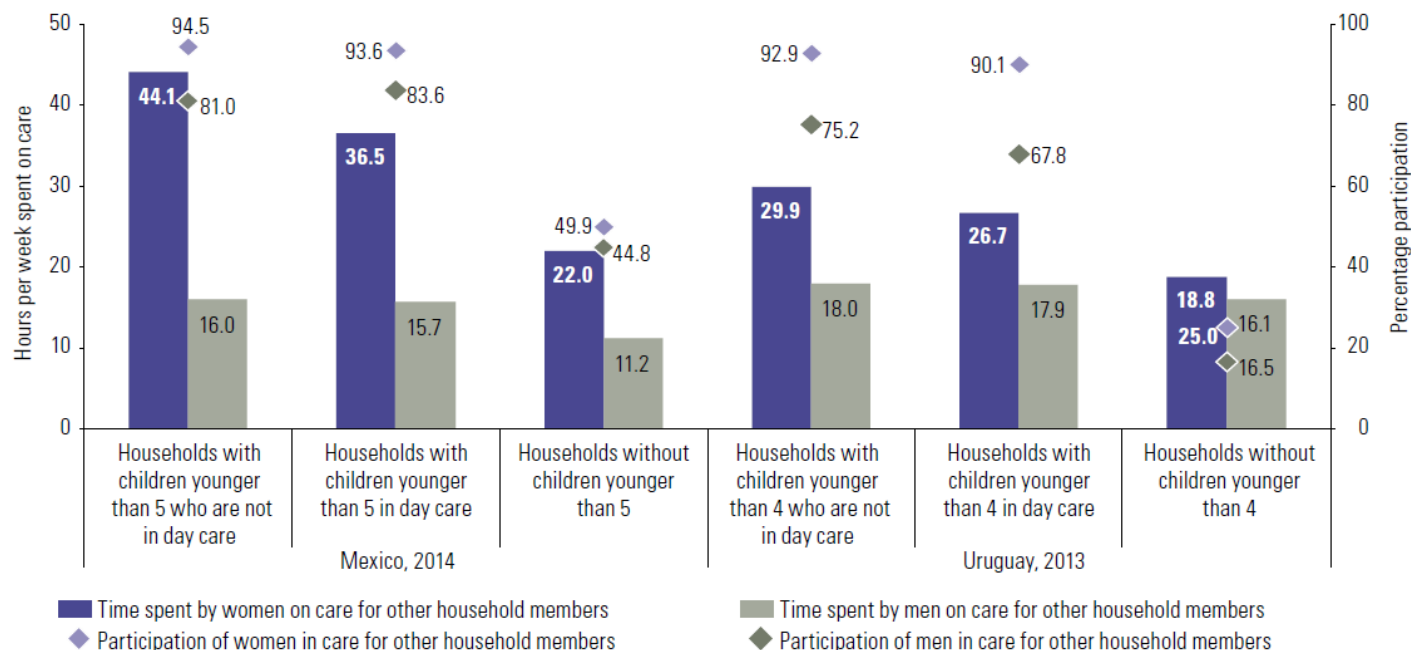
The contribution of time-use data to equality policies

Policies for care

(a) Care for young children

Women in households where children are in day care spend less time on care than women in households where children are not. There is no significant difference when comparing men in the two groups, as the activities that fathers carry out with their children (playing, going for walks, transporting them from place to place) are not affected by the hours that children spend at home.

Mexico and Uruguay: time spent on care and participation rate, by gender and presence of children in the household. (Hours per week and percentages)



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

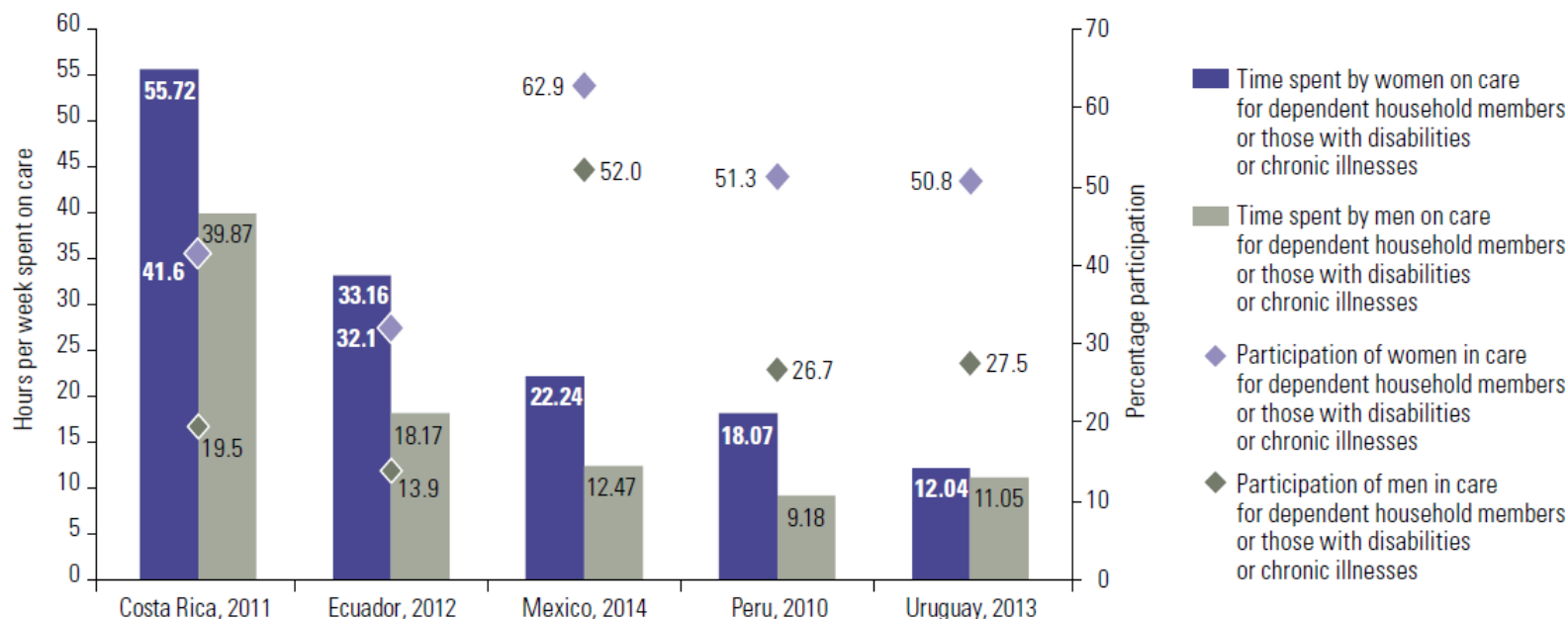
The contribution of time-use data to equality policies

Policies for care

(b) Care for persons with disabilities

Care provided by women for dependent persons with disabilities and the average time they spend caring for this population segment exceed that of men in all countries which identify this type of activity.

Latin America (5 countries): time spent on care of dependent household members or those with disabilities or chronic illnesses and participation rate of population aged 15 and older, by gender.
(Hours per week and percentages)



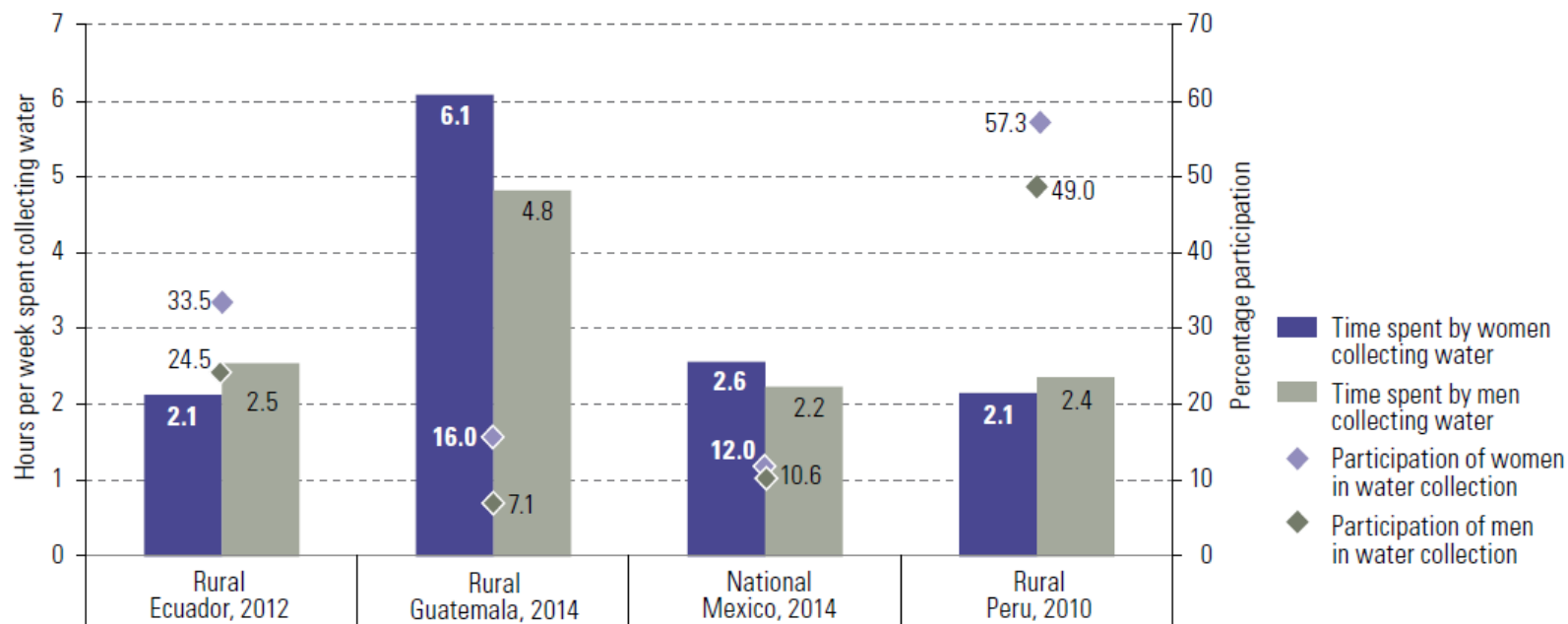
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

The contribution of time-use data to equality policies

Policies for natural resources and rural development

Access to better drinking water sources is key to reducing the burden of unpaid work, as it would decrease the time spent collecting water, a task often carried out by women and girls.

Latin America (4 countries): time spent collecting water and participation rate of population aged 15 and older, by gender. (Hours per week and percentages)



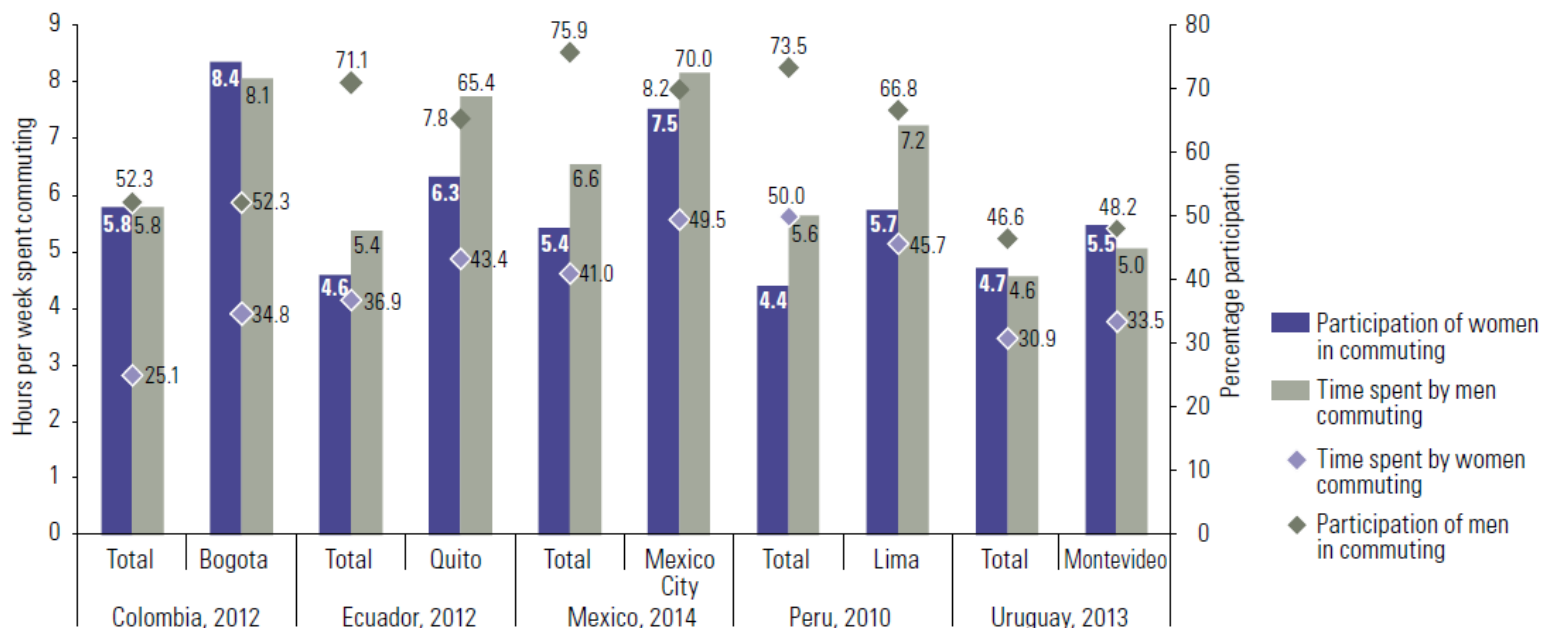
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

The contribution of time-use data to equality policies

Policies for urban development and transport

The availability and quality of transport, condition of public spaces, and safety while moving around and accessing urban services and the workplace or school are crucial factors in the lives of women and therefore affect their chances of increasing their autonomy comprehensively.

Latin America (5 countries): time invested in commuting to and from work and participation of population aged 15 and older, by gender. (Hours per week and percentages)



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

The contribution of time-use data to equality policies

Policies for the labour market

Women have to face long hours working and commuting and constant demands of caring for family members. With insufficient public supply of care and men's limited participation on these activities, they often have to:

Reduce their time
at work

Abandon the
labour market

Avoid the roles of
caregiver

Turn to other
women in family
and social
networks to
provide care

Delay having
children

Reduce the
number of
children they have

To avoid the reinforcing of gender roles, public policies must consider:

Reinforcing maternity
and paternity leave

Implementing leave
for care of older
persons or with some
form of disability or
chronic illness

Households' demand
for goods and
services

Shortening the
working day

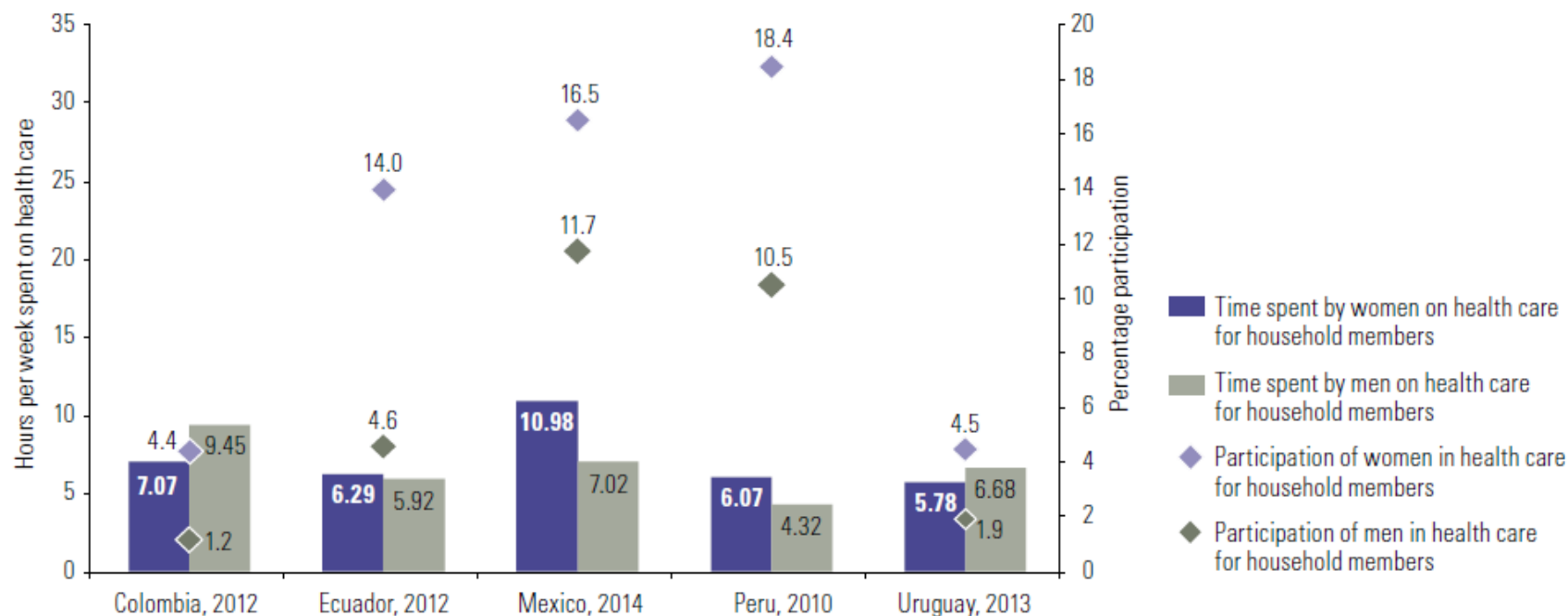
The limited access of
social protection of
women who
participate in the
informal sector

The contribution of time-use data to equality policies

Policies for health

In Latin America the responsibility of health care for household members is often taken by the family. Time-use surveys analysis reveals a clear gender gap in the time dedicated to health care, women's declared participation is three to nine percentage points higher that of men.

Latin America (5 countries): time spent providing health care to family members and participation rate of population aged 15 and older, by gender. *(Hours per week and percentages)*



Conclusions

The redistribution of unpaid work is one of the four fundamental pillars of achieving gender equality and moving towards development patterns based on human rights, women's autonomy and sustainability.

Time-use data should be used to guide the implementation of public policies for equality

The region must take advantage of the progress made in the past few years in the production of statistics with a gender perspective. But we still have challenges in this area:

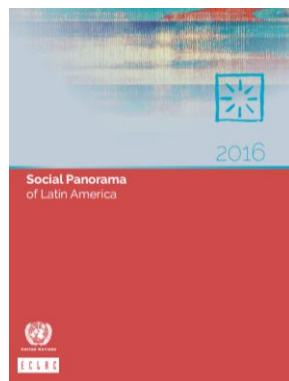
Fine-tune data-collection instruments

Include surveys such as those focusing on time in national statistical offices' planning

“Transform data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions”

Montevideo Strategy

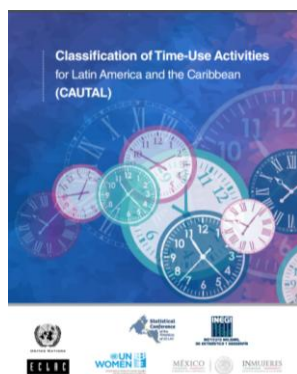
Relevant publications



Social Panorama of Latin America 2016

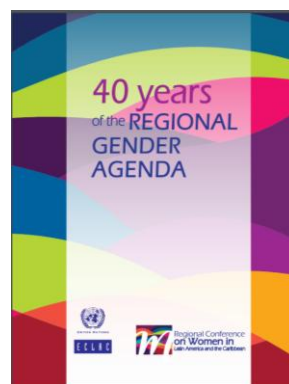
Available in:

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/41599-social-panorama-latin-america-2016>



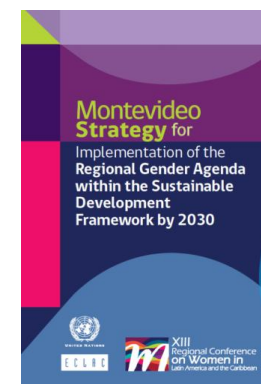
Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL)

http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40170/1/S1600307_en.pdf



40 years of the Regional Gender Agenda

http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40675/4/S1601247_en.pdf



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

http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/41013/1/S1700033_en.pdf

Thank you

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