

Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective

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ECLAC



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Presiding Officers
of the Regional
Conference on Women
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Hybrid meeting, 11 and 12 October 2023

Cascading crises reveal structural challenges in achieving gender equality in the region

For every 100 men living in **poor households**, there are **118 women**
1 in 3 women have no income of their own



Women spend **three times as much time** on unpaid domestic and care work as men

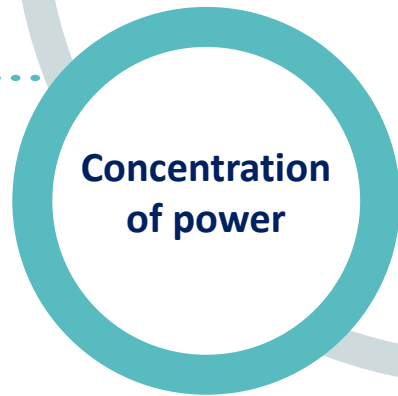
1 out of 2 women are in the labour market while 3 out of 4 men are in the labour market

Limit women's economic, physical, and decision-making autonomy

The proportion of **women ministers** in the region is **28,7%**

Women hold 26% of seats in local governments

4 out of 10 women are not connected and/or cannot afford connectivity

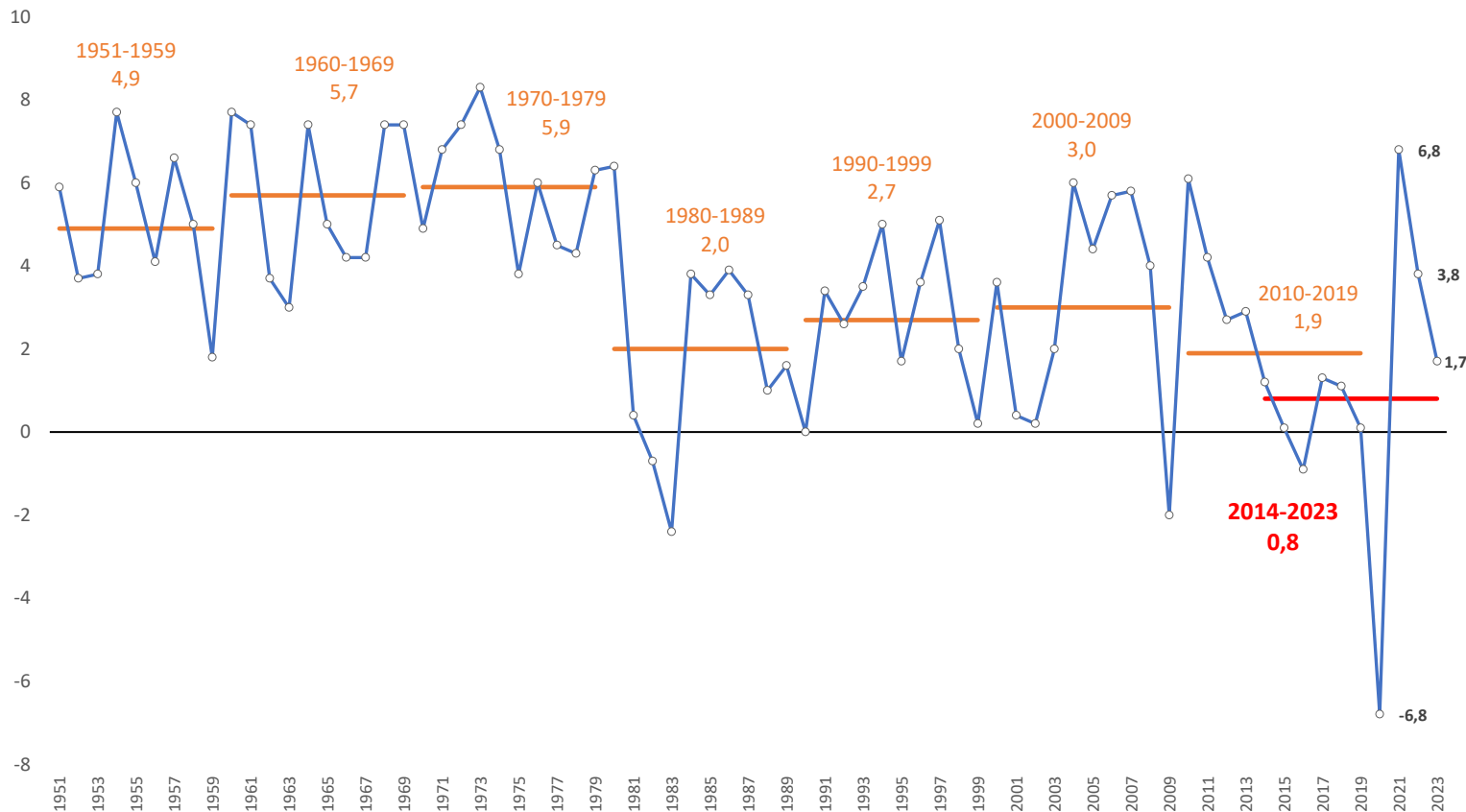


In 2021, at least **4,473 women from 29 countries** were victims of **femicide**

62,4% of women between the ages of 15 and 24 who are married or in a union are neither studying nor engaged in paid labour, compared to 24,1% of single women

Economic slowdown and a decade of low growth hinder progress towards sustainable development with equality

Latin America and the Caribbean: GDP growth, 1951-2023^a
(In percentages)

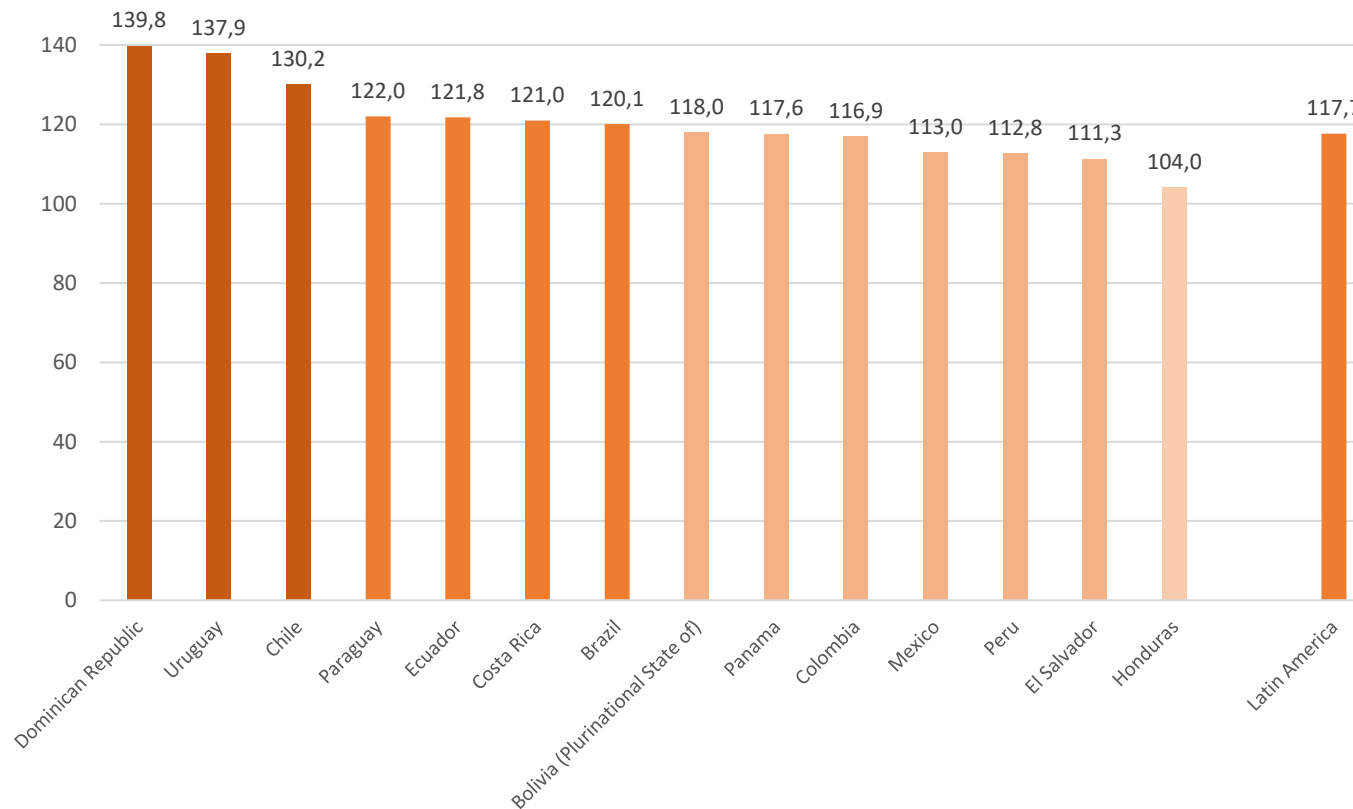


- Economic growth for 2014-2023:
 - 0.8% annual average,
 - the decade of slowest economic growth since 1951,
 - less than the "lost decade" of the 1980s, which reached 2%
- By 2023, ECLAC projects a GDP growth rate of 1.7% in LAC: 1.2% for South America, 3% for Central America and Mexico, and 4.2% for the Caribbean (excluding Guyana)
- This is in addition to the rise in inflation, which particularly affects the lower-income population

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on official figures.
a Figures for 2023 are projections.

In 2022, for every 100 men living in poor households in the region, there were 118 women in the same situation

Latin America (14 countries): Femininity index of poor households
National totals, around 2022.

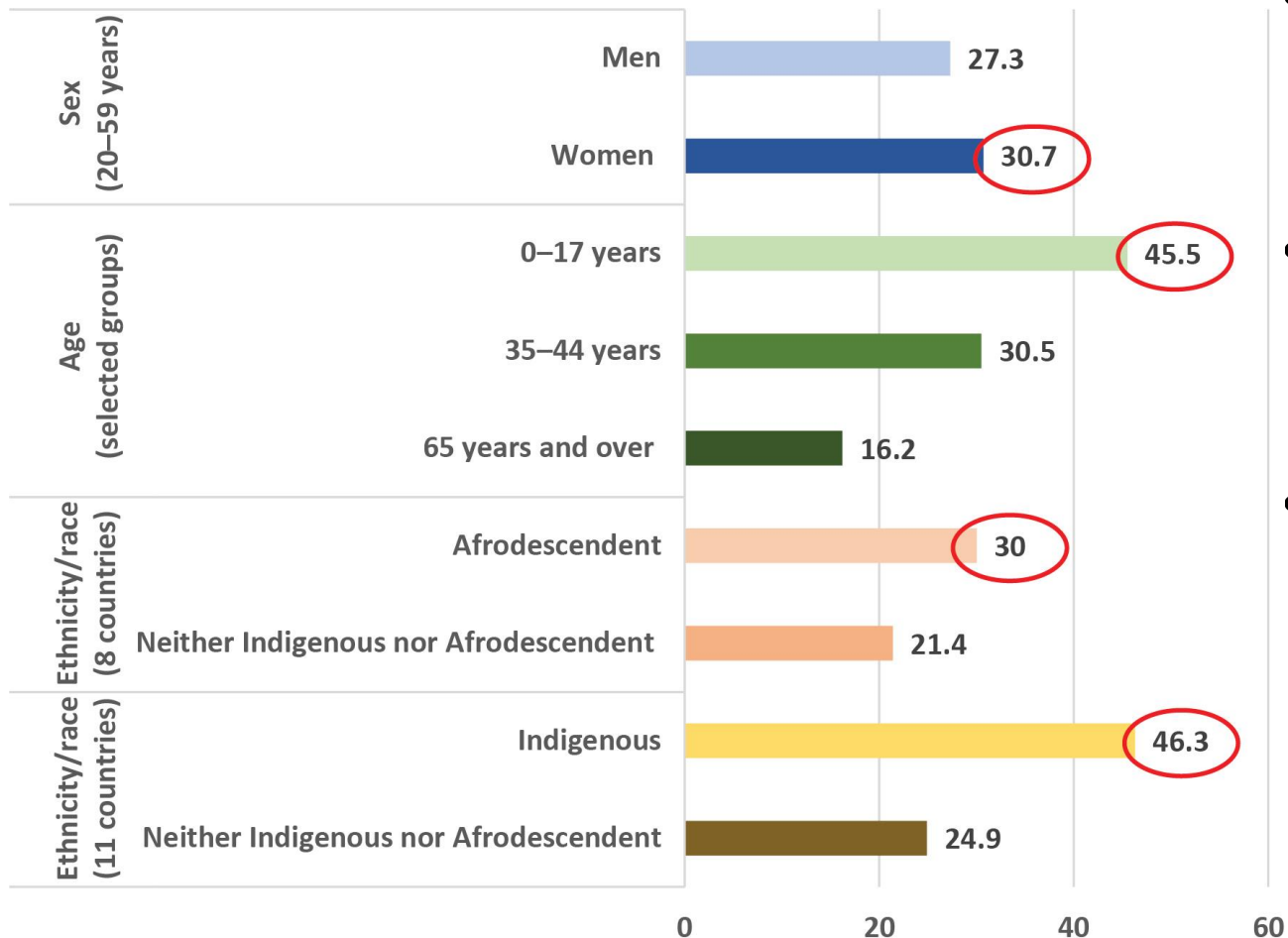


This situation is evidence of the **lack of economic autonomy of women**, who in the absence of other household income are more likely to be in poverty, a situation that is exacerbated in households with a greater presence of children.

Source: ECLAC based on household surveys of the countries. Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

The incidence of poverty is higher among women, Afro-descendants, indigenous people, children and adolescents

LATIN AMERICA: INCIDENCE OF POVERTY BY DIFFERENT SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, 2021
(Percentages)

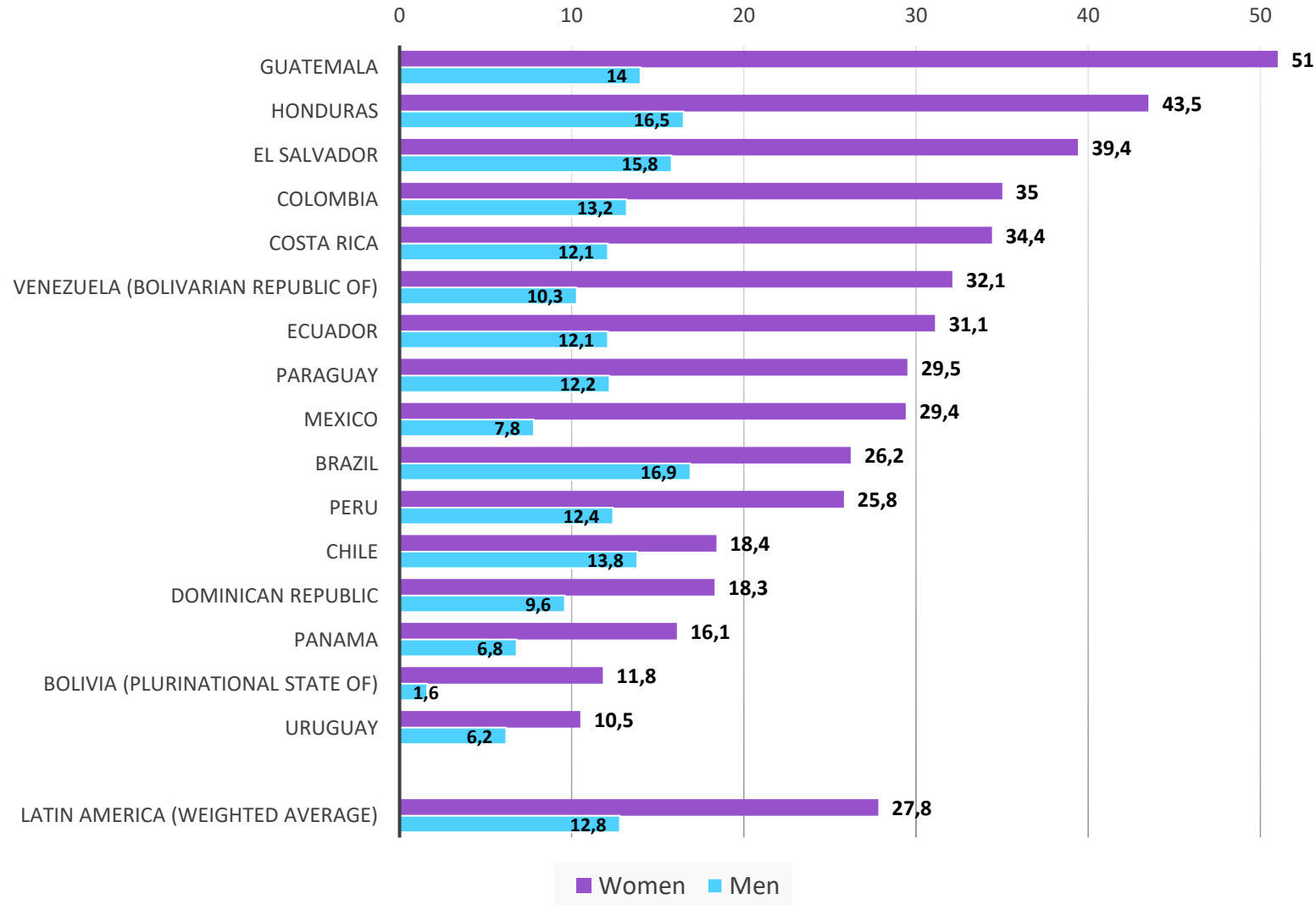


- The poverty rate of **women** aged 20 to 59 years is higher than that of men in all countries of the region
- **Children adolescents** face a higher incidence of poverty than other age groups.
- Poverty is considerably higher for the **indigenous and Afro-descendant populations**

Source: ECLAC, Social Panorama 2022, based on Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

1 in 3 women in Latin America do not have an income of their own

Latin America (16 countries): People without incomes of their own by sex. Around 2021.



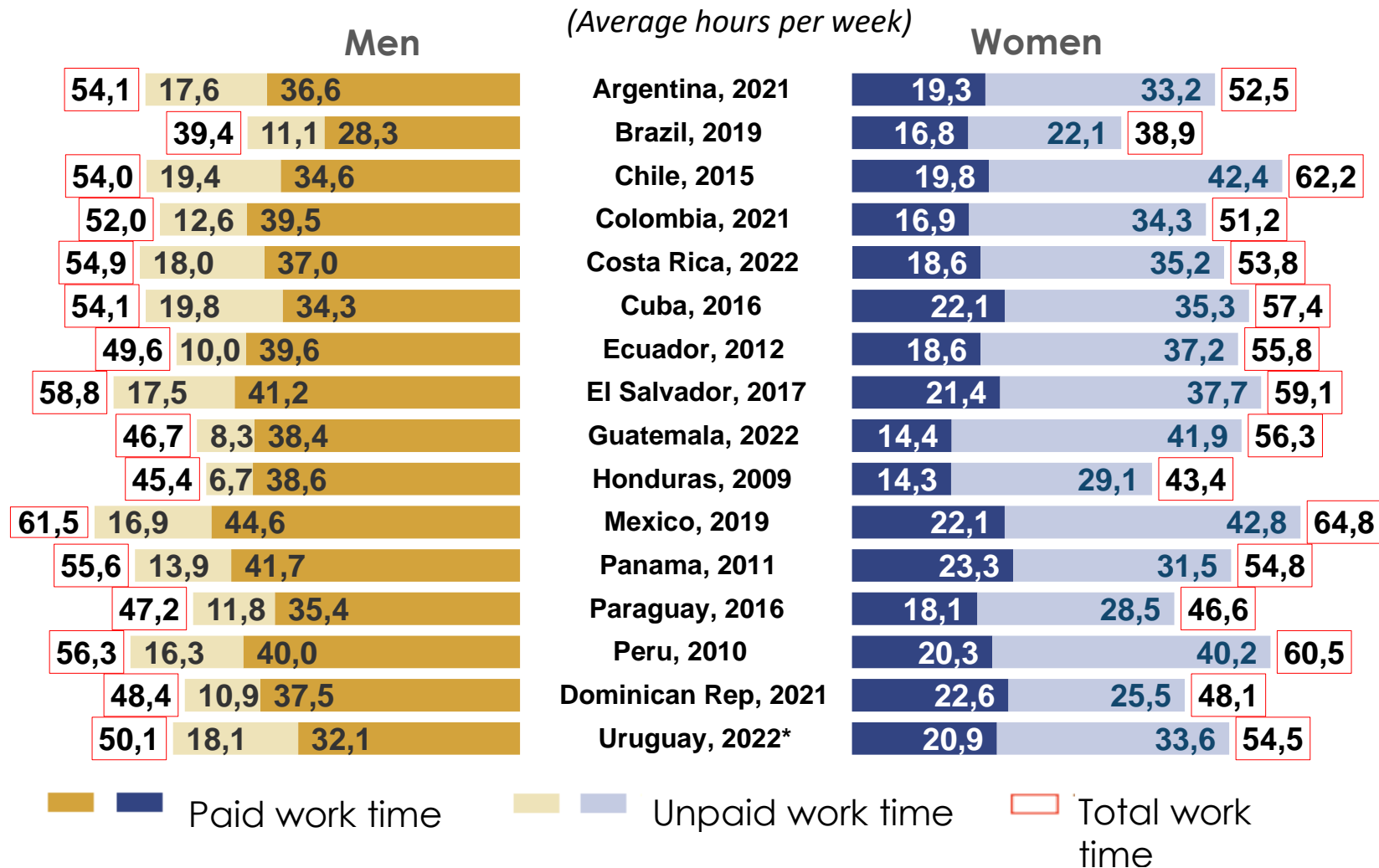
The main source of income for people in the region is labour income.

However, 1 in 3 women have no income of their own, which is directly linked to the barriers imposed by the sexual division of labour for their entry into the labour market.

Source: ECLAC based on household surveys of the countries. Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

In Latin America, women spend on average 3 times as much time as men on unpaid care and domestic work

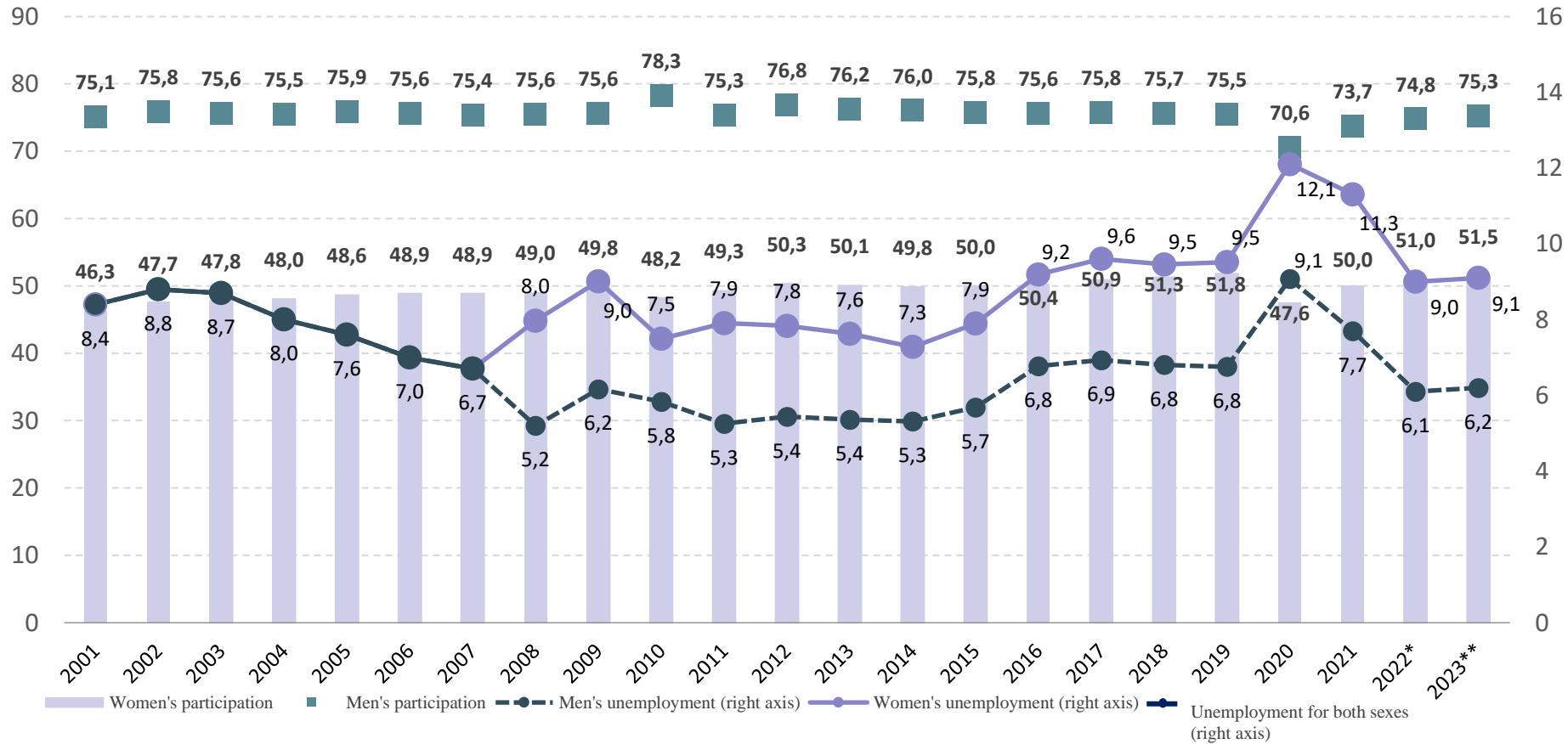
Latin America (16 countries): Average time spent on paid and unpaid work of the population aged 15 and over, by sex and country. Latest available data



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on the Repository of Time Use Information for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Large gaps in labour participation between men and women due to the overburden of domestic and care work for women

Latin America and the Caribbean (24 countries, weighted average)^a: participation and unemployment rates evolution, by sex, 2001-2023
(In percentages)



The pandemic caused a nearly 20-year setback in women's participation rate.

Failure to close the historical gap between men and women.

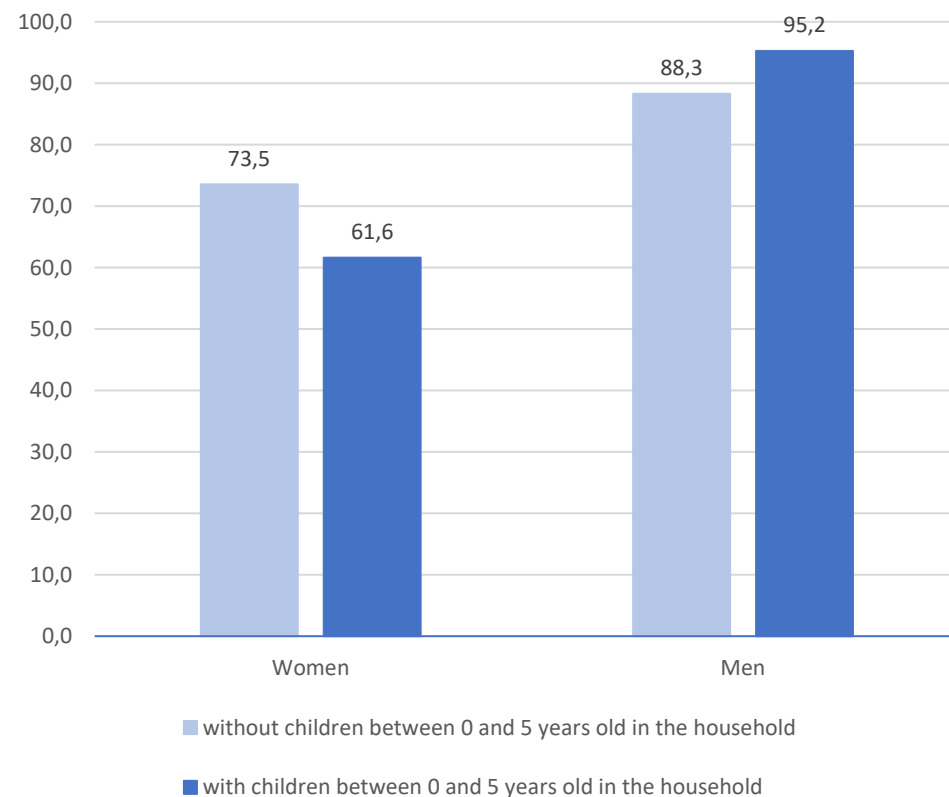
The main obstacle to women's full insertion in the labour market is related to the overburden of unpaid domestic and care work.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on official country figures and projections.

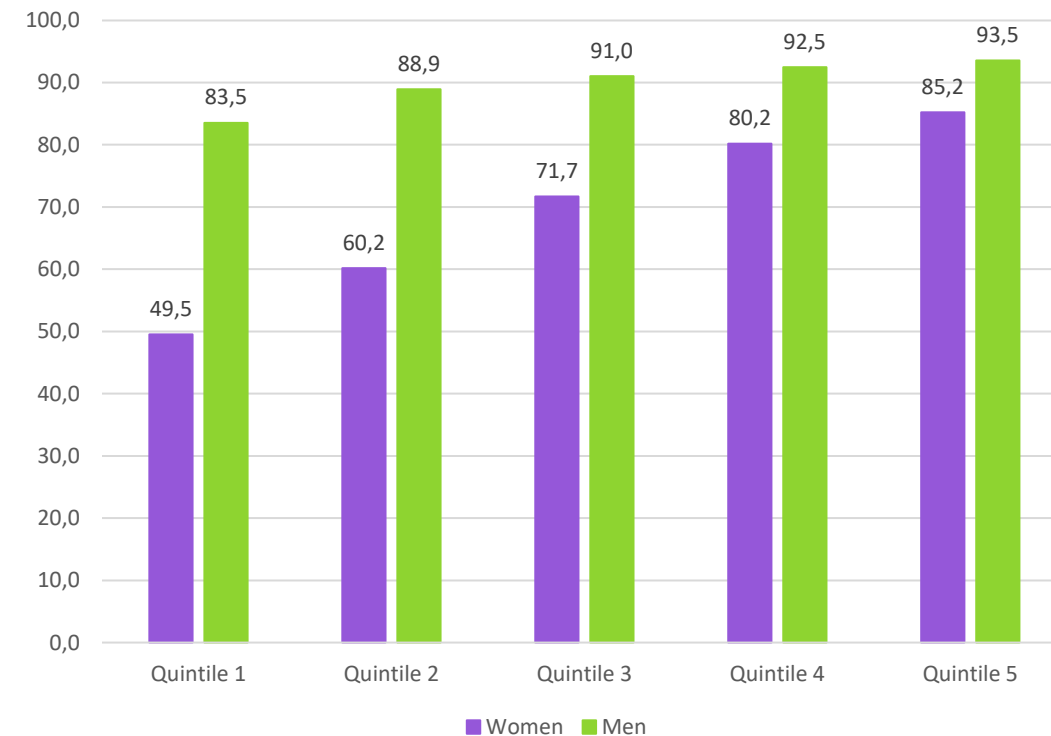
a: Countries considered: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Figures for 2019 do not include the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. *Figures for 2022 correspond to estimates from the Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC 2022. ** Figures for 2023 are projections.

Increased burden of care work is the main barrier to women's labour force participation

Latin America (15 countries): **Participation rate** of people between ages 20 and 44, **by sex and presence of children** between 0 and 5 years old in the household. Around 2022.



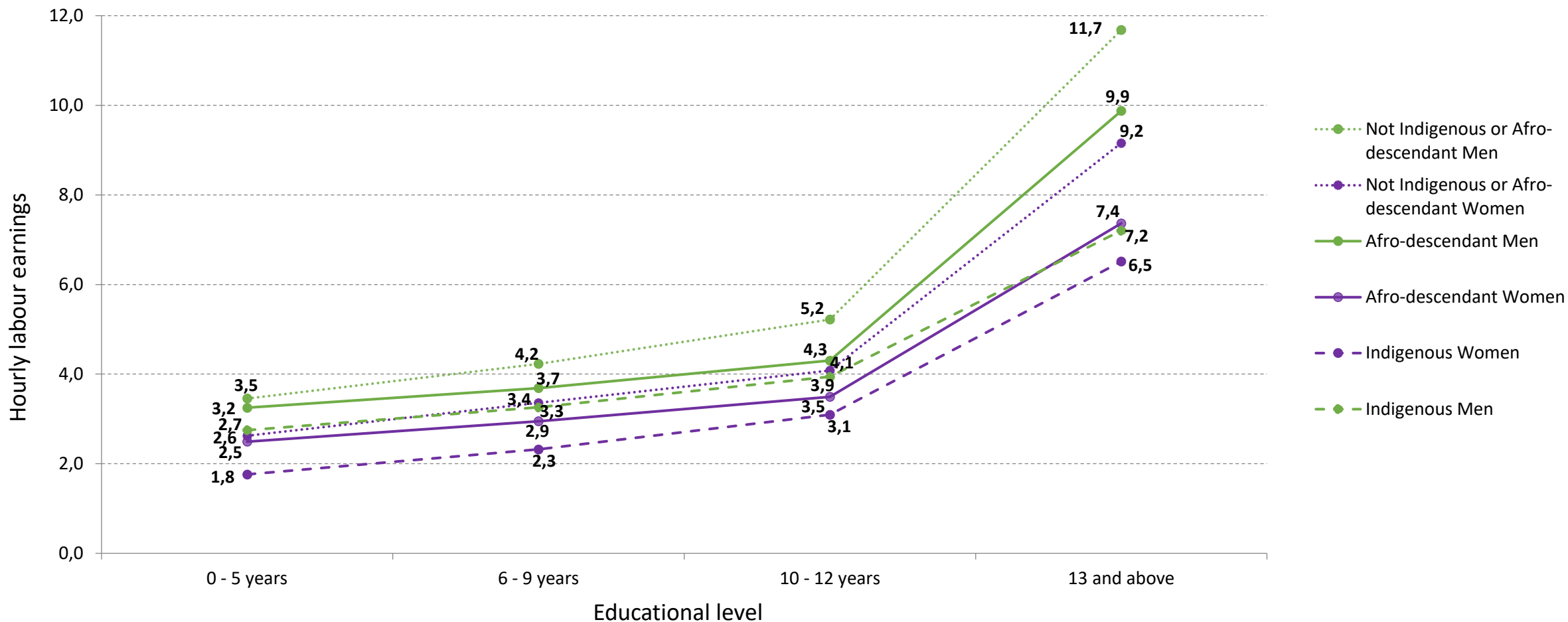
Latin America (15 countries): **Participation rate** of people between ages 20 and 44, **by sex and household income quintiles**. Around 2022.



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

Conditions in employment have gender and racial-ethnic biases, the effects of which are deepened by intersectionality

Latin America (weighted average, 9 countries): **hourly earnings** of the employed population aged 15 and over **by sex, years of schooling and ethnic-racial condition**, around 2022



Source: ECLAC on the basis of household surveys in the countries. Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

Child, early, forced marriage and unions impact girls and women autonomy

Latin America and the Caribbean (24 countries): Women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 18, latest available year.

(SDG Indicator 5.3.1)

(Percentages)

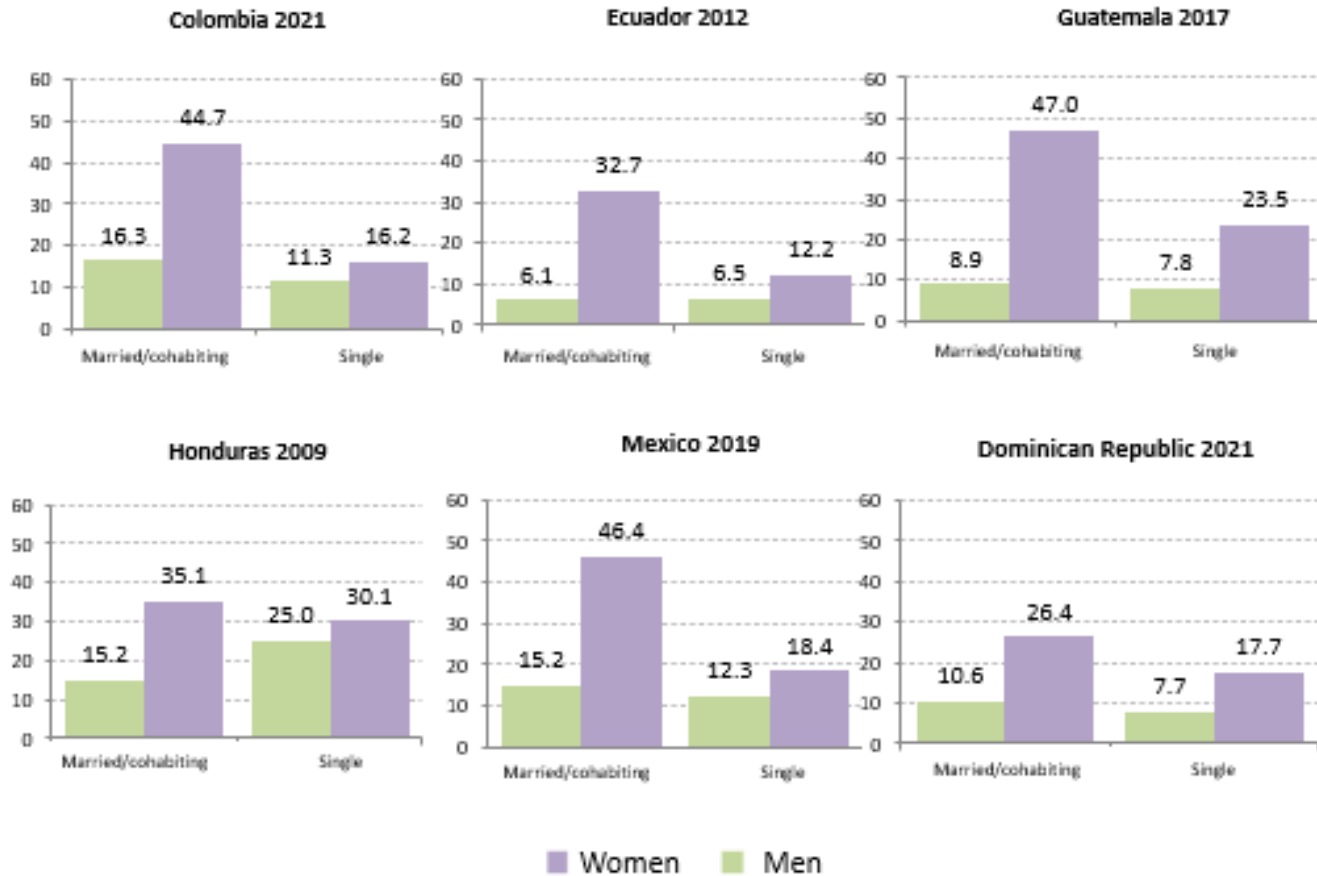


1 in 5 girls are in a child marriage or an early union (2020)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Ending violence against women and girls and femicide or feminicide: key challenge for the construction of a caring society, Santiago, 2022.: https://oig.cepal.org/sites/default/files/c2300196_boletin_1_violencia_ing_web_0.pdf

The sexual division of labour is established from an early age and is exacerbated among girls who are married or in a union

Latin America (6 countries): Time spent in unpaid work by the population aged 18 and under, by sex and marital status (average hours per week)



Structural challenges of inequality



Girls who are married or in a union spend more time in unpaid work than girls who are not

Reproduction of poverty

Sexual division of labour

In some countries, they spend the equivalent of a full working day



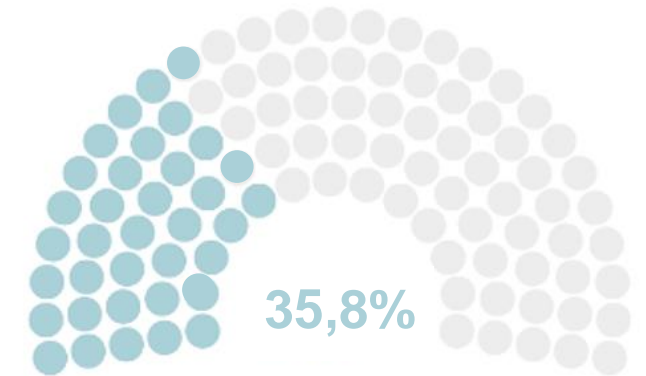
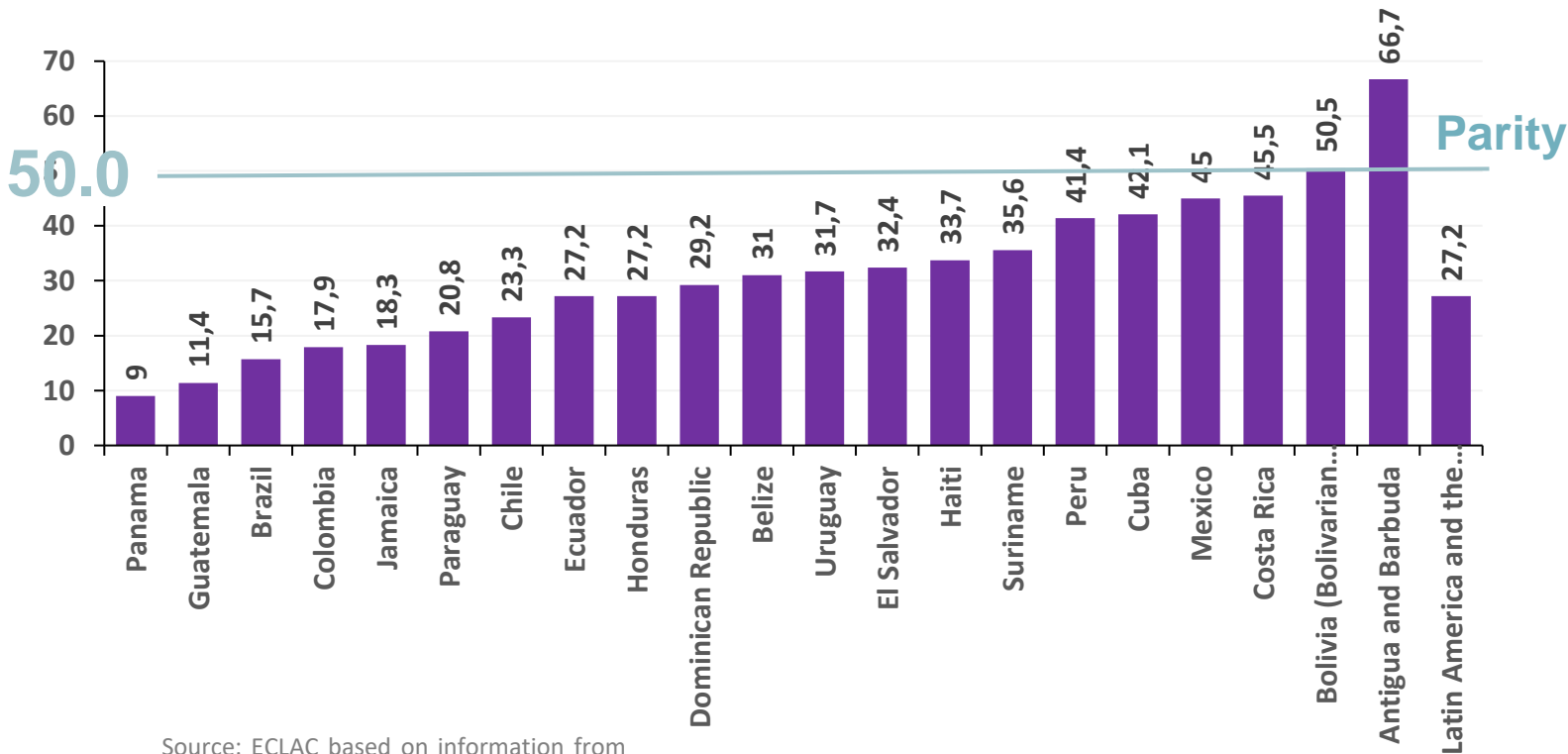
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on the Repository of Time Use Information for Latin America and the Caribbean.

High concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere

27,2% of elected seats in local government deliberative bodies are held by women (2023)

It is estimated that at this rate, it will take more than 40 years to achieve parity in national parliaments

Latin America and the Caribbean (21 countries): Proportion of seats held by women in local government, SDG indicator 5.5.1.b. (Percentages)



35,8% seats in national parliaments in the region are held by women (2023)

Source: ECLAC on Regional Databank for monitoring the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

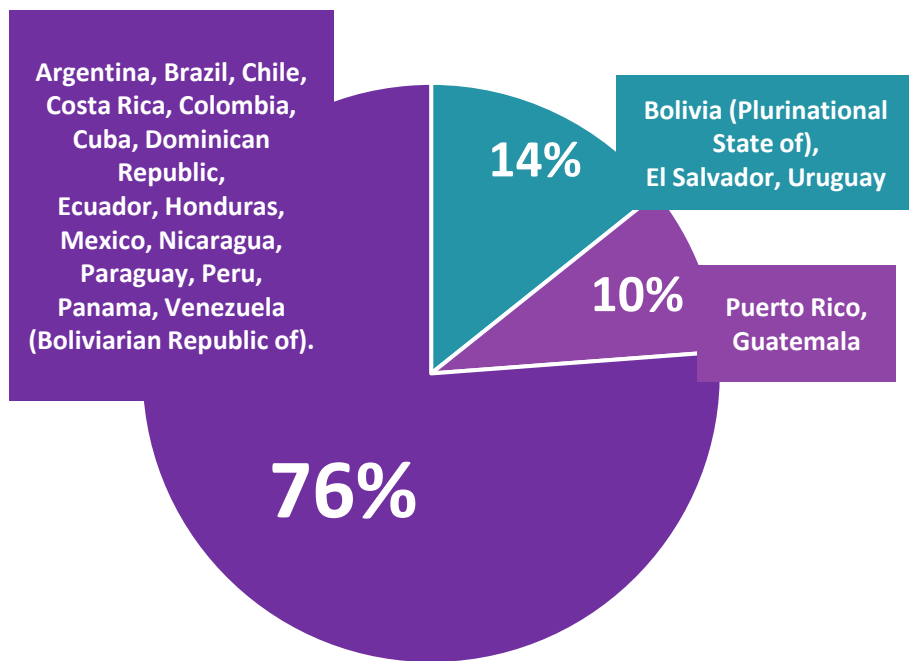
Source: ECLAC based on information from the Observatory for Gender Equality

Institutionality for gender equality in the state: what is the hierarchical rank of the Machineries for the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean?

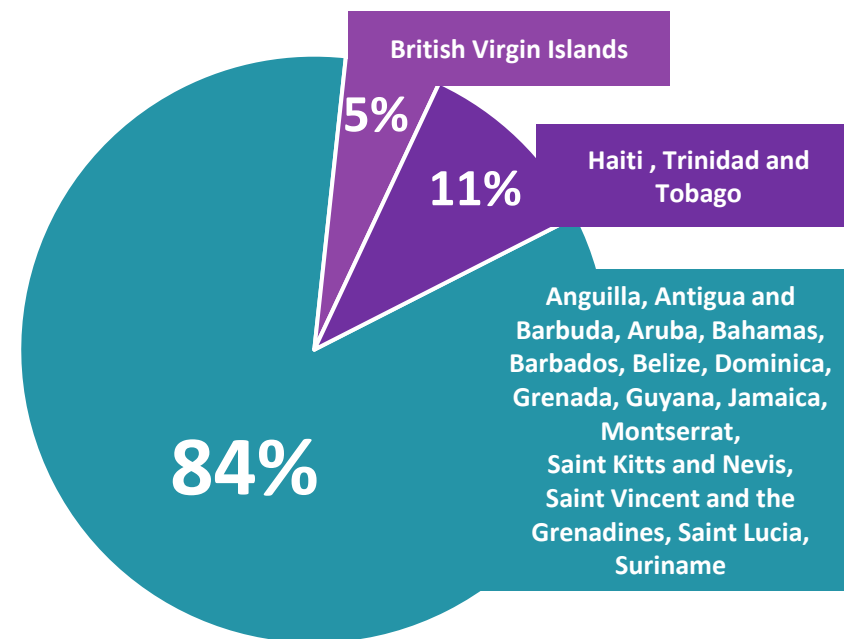
Hierarchical level of Machineries for the Advancement of Women

(Percentages)

Latin America (20 countries)

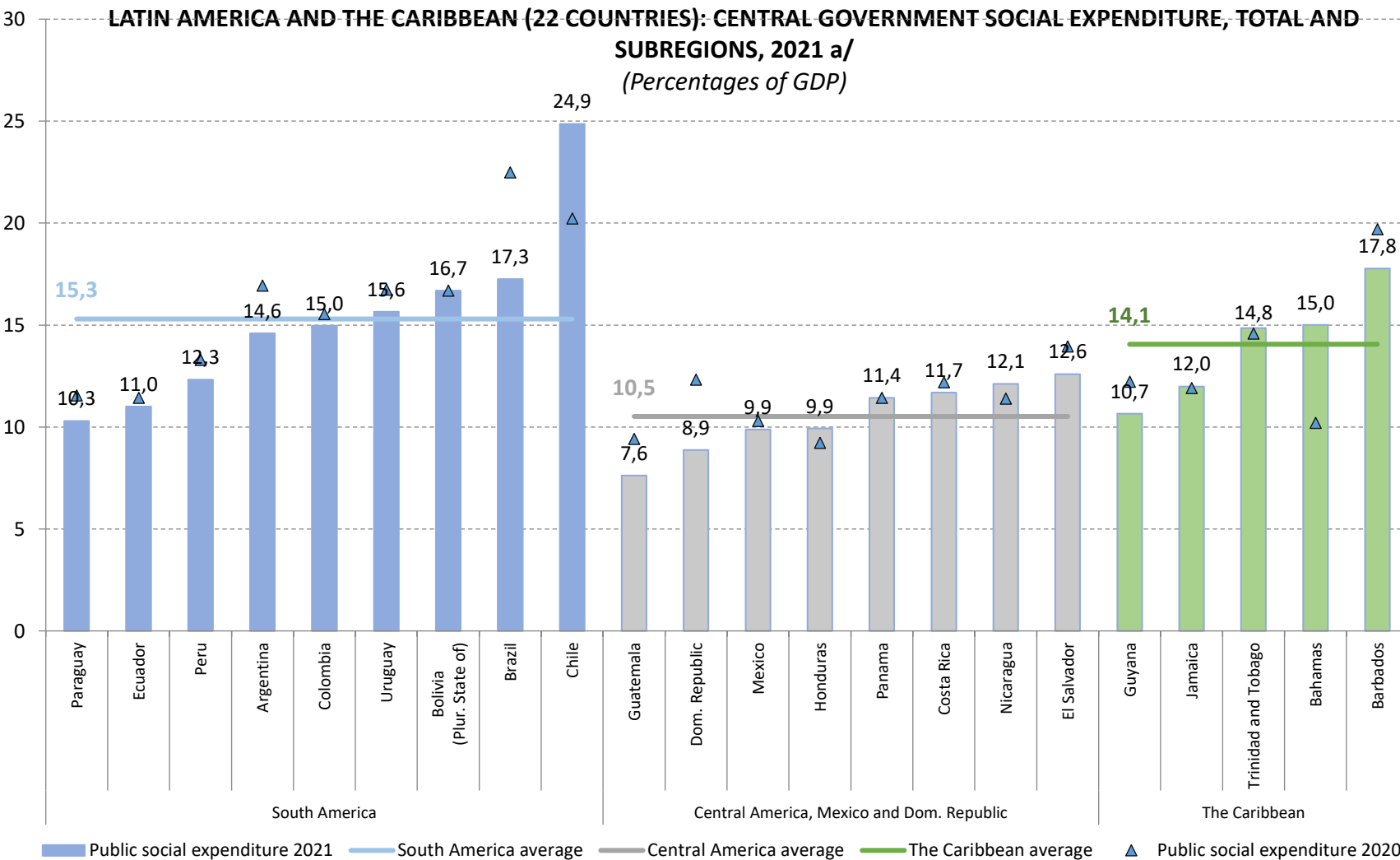


The Caribbean (18 countries)



- Entity attached to a ministry
- Entity attached to the presidency or machinery whose holder is directly accountable to the presidency
- Ministry or body with ministerial rank

Social expenditure remains highly heterogeneous across countries and sub-regions: some countries exceed 17% of GDP, others less than 10%.

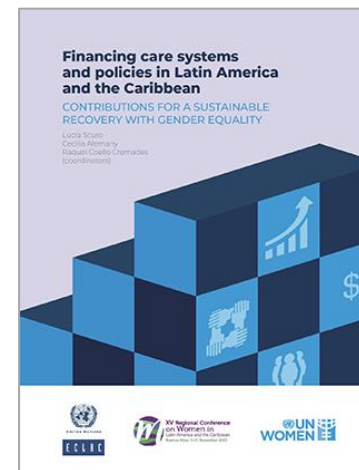
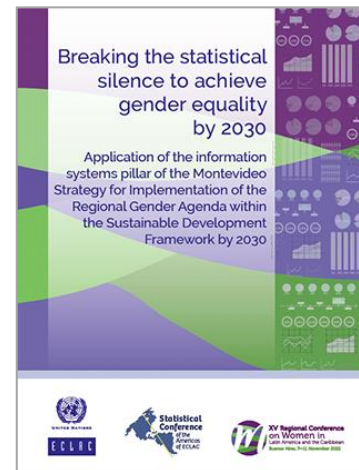
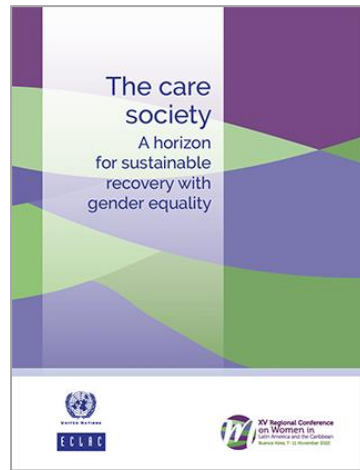
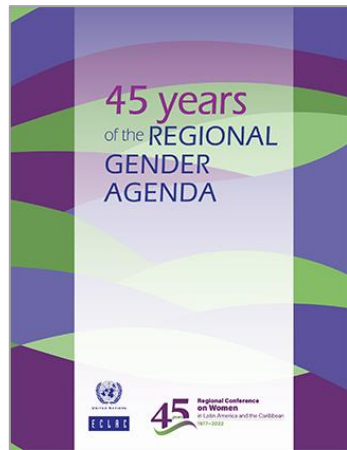


- **South America** is the sub-region with the **highest average social expenditure (15.3% of GDP)** and greatest heterogeneity
- In **Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic** average social spending reached 10.5% of GDP and in the **Caribbean** 14.1% of GDP.
- The **average per capita social expenditure** reached:
 - In **South America** at US\$1,529, 2.1 times the per capita expenditure of **Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic** (US\$745).
 - In the **Caribbean** countries at US\$2,140, they remain with the **highest average social expenditure per person.**

(ECLAC), on the basis of official information from the countries.a/ Data for Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Nicaragua are for 2018. Data for Panama are for 2017. Coverage for Bolivia (Plurinational State of) corresponds to central administration and for Peru to general government. Data for Uruguay do not include data from the Banco de Previsión Social.b For comparison purposes, the 2018 levels of public social spending published in the 2019 edition of the Social Panorama of Latin America (ECLAC, 2019) are included as a reference.

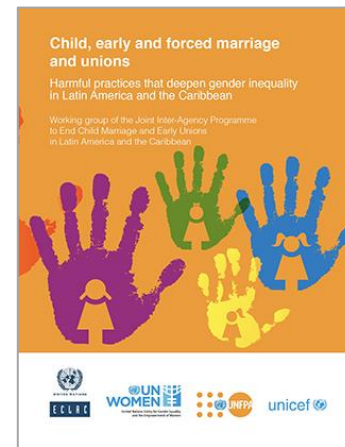
To advance towards sustainable development with equality, the region needs to implement the Regional Gender Agenda and overcome the structural challenges of inequality

We invite you to take a look at our documents and resources



Gender Affairs ECLAC

<https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/gender-affairs>



Gender Equality Observatory

<https://oig.cepal.org/en>



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