



1 NO POVERTY



SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms, for all people in Latin America and the Caribbean¹

Key regional statistics on SDG 1

- Between 2002 and 2014, the proportion of people living in poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean declined by more than one third, and extreme poverty by more than a quarter, but both increased from 2015, stabilizing at around 30% and 10%, respectively. It is estimated that 182 million people were living in poverty and 63 million in extreme poverty in 2018 in the region.
- According to estimates based on data from 18 Latin American countries from 2016, without the pensions of those in the over-65 age group, poverty in that group would increase from 15.2% to 46.7%, while extreme poverty would rise from 4.3% to 24.2%.
- Despite the significant progress in the region in terms of the coverage of contributory pension systems (an additional 58.7 million people received coverage between 2000 and 2014), there are still 142 million economically active persons who are not covered, which is more than half of the economically active population.
- Extreme poverty rates in the Caribbean fell between 2002 and 2017, dropping to rates of 3% or less in several countries.
- Children and young people in the Caribbean are disproportionately affected by poverty. The average child poverty rate was 33%, compared with 21% for adults, in the data between 2003 and 2012. This means that a third of all children were living in poverty in this period.
- There are still many older persons below the respective national poverty lines in the Caribbean. According to data for 10 countries, the poverty rate averaged 17% among those aged over 65.

¹ The analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) presented here is the outcome of the discussions held within the framework of the third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and Caribbean on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, from 24 to 26 April 2019.



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Santiago
24–26 April
2019



SDG 1

Key messages from the region on the issues addressed by SDG 1 and its targets

- The incidence of poverty and extreme poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean is highest among the most vulnerable people, particularly children, adolescents and young people, women, people living in rural areas, indigenous peoples and Afrodescendent populations.
- All analyses of poverty and exclusion, regardless of the indicator used, show that indigenous peoples and the Afrodescendent population are in a disadvantaged position (around 150 million people in the region). An intercultural approach that promotes coexistence, integration and inclusion must be at the heart of how these challenges are addressed.
- The region has made enormous efforts to reduce the poverty rate. To successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, no one must continue to live in extreme poverty. The only acceptable figure is zero. This would particularly benefit women and the 165 million young people who need support to have a better future.
- Extreme poverty is concentrated in the rural population, which is overwhelmingly affected, a situation that is increasingly exacerbated by violent conflict and climate change.

Challenges and opportunities for the implementation, follow-up and review of SDG 13 and its targets

Opportunities

- Labour policies and labour market institutions have been central to reducing poverty, leading to a decline in unemployment, increased formalization of employment, better labour income and a higher minimum wage in many countries.
- Pension systems play a fundamental role in promoting full enjoyment of the right to social security and protection amid rapid population ageing in the region.

Challenges

- There is a risk that this progress may be reversed in the current economic climate, marked by weak growth, labour market deterioration and tighter fiscal space in many countries.

Lessons learned and good practices with respect to SDG 1 and its targets

- In Honduras, mobile technology is used to pinpoint the location of 4 million users, georeference their needs and direct them towards dozens of government programmes —a qualitative leap forward in the country's capacity to reduce multidimensional poverty. Technology has also made it possible to produce detailed maps of child undernutrition and is helping to design more effective public policies to leave no one behind.
- The use of measures of multidimensional poverty has spread gradually across the world, and Latin America is no exception. Countries such as Mexico and Colombia have pioneered national multidimensional poverty indices.



- In Mexico, the methodology followed to measure multidimensional poverty includes two fundamental areas, economic well-being and social rights, and takes into account monetary, social and territorial aspects. In addition, some of the indicators related to social rights are linked to the environment.
- Chile complements income measurement with a multidimensional approach. Data from a survey on the “voices of poverty” and from the National Socioeconomic Survey (CASEN) were used to select key dimensions of well-being from a total of five dimensions: education, health, labour and social security, housing and the environment, and networks and social cohesion.
- In the Dominican Republic, an innovative approach was used to link poverty and the environment through social indicators. The *Sombrilla* national programme, whose goal was to reduce the vulnerability of poor rural households, which are particularly affected by extreme climate events, focused on integrating climate change adaptation policies with social protection strategies.
- With the support of ECLAC and the regional office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), *Fundación América Solidaria* launched a youth competition to discover and disseminate proposals for eradicating child poverty in the region. Young people between the ages of 15 and 17 were invited to submit proposals, linked to the SDGs, for ending poverty in their neighbourhood, city or country or in the region as a whole.

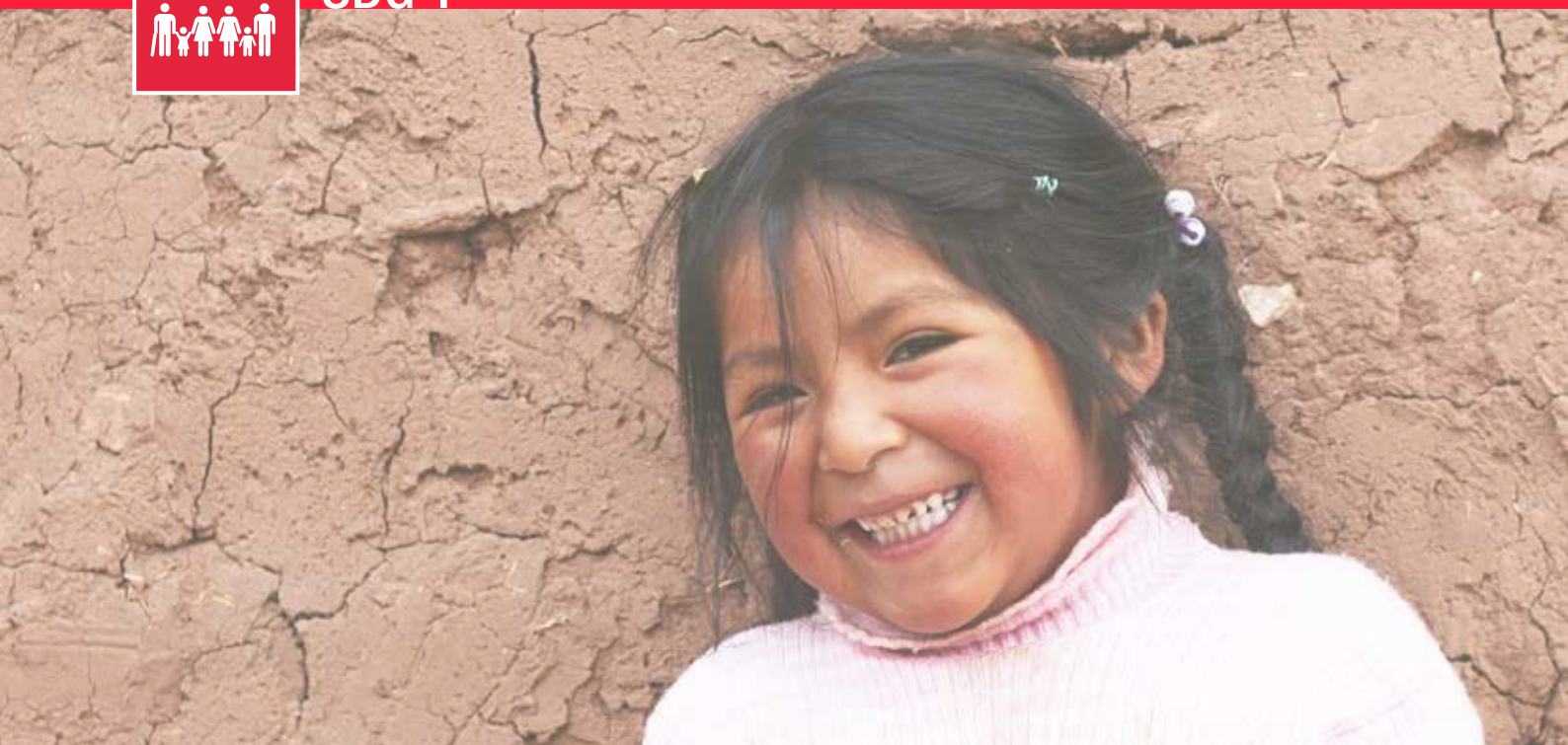
Recommendations from Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve SDG 1 and its targets

- To ensure its legitimacy, a multidimensional poverty index must involve a democratic and participatory process engaging the different stakeholders, including academic institutions, the public and civil society.
- To reduce inequality and to leave no one behind, SDG 1 must be linked to SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), through sustained economic growth, the reduction of labour informality and application of redistributive policies, such as promoting decent work (SDG 8) and comprehensive social protection systems.
- In order to ensure that public policies observe the principles of comprehensiveness and of leaving no one behind, they must be developed and designed taking into account the points of view of all stakeholders involved in implementing them or who benefit from or are affected by them.
- Resilience —understood as the ability of a community to resist, absorb, adapt to and recover from various adverse effects— should be built into social protection systems, in order to address the effects of climate change and natural and human-made disasters on human security and poverty.
- Public policies in the complementary areas of labour inclusion and social inclusion are fundamental to ending poverty in all its forms in Latin America and the Caribbean.





SDG 1



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
www.eclac.org

