

High-level panel: Towards a care society for recovery with gender equality and sustainability

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September 29, 2021



UNITED NATIONS

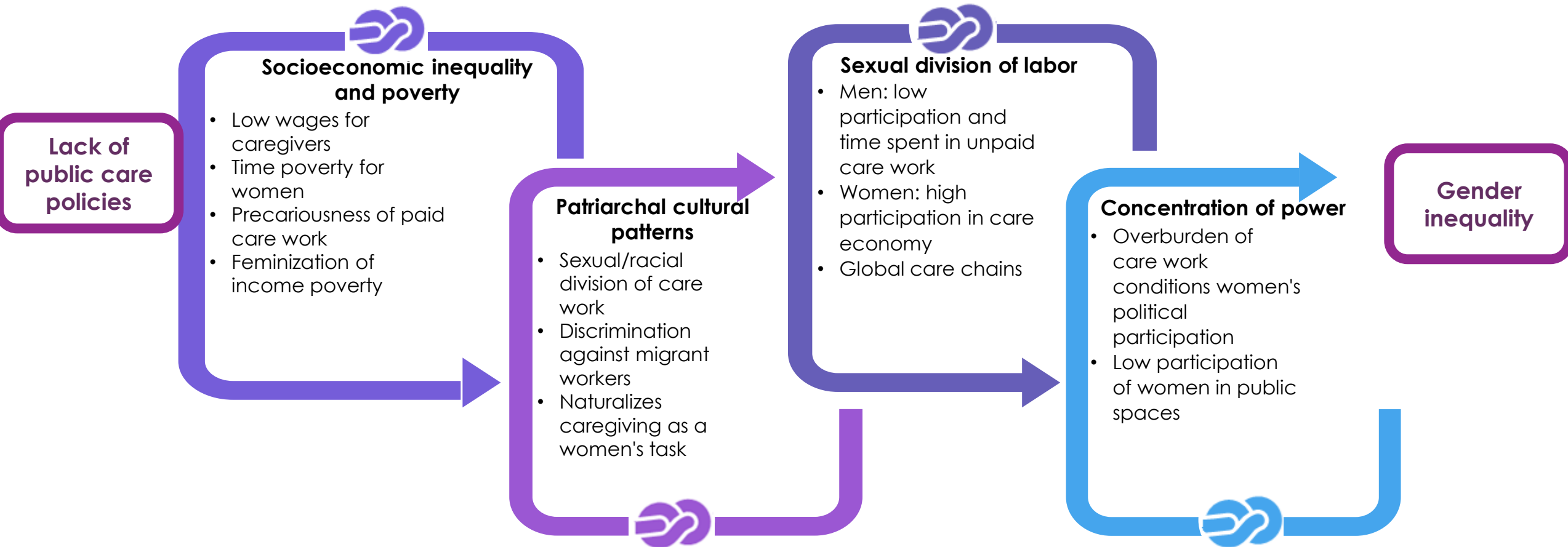


Meeting of the
**Presiding Officers
of the Regional
Conference on Women**
in Latin America and the Caribbean
29–30 September 2021

Key messages

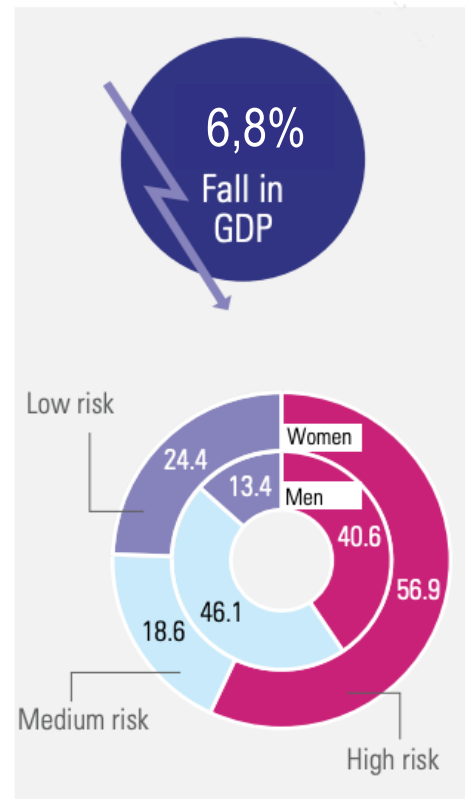
1. The COVID-19 pandemic has left the region with the **worst economic contraction and social crisis in recent years**.
2. This crisis **strongly affected women: increased unemployment, loss of income and increased burden of care**. This is exacerbated in lower income households.
3. **Governments are taking steps to respond to the care crisis** deepened by the pandemic but challenges remain.
4. The **care economy is key to a sustainable economic recovery**. This implies investment, job creation and opportunities for women to participate in the economy.
5. A **new fiscal pact** is needed that expands revenue collection progressively and **strategically directs spending and investment** towards a **transformative recovery** with equality between men and women.
6. The **Regional Gender Agenda** is the road map for **promoting mitigation and transformative recovery strategies** from a gender perspective at the regional level.

The inadequacy of public care policies and the prolonged crisis due to COVID-19 deepen the structural challenges of gender inequality

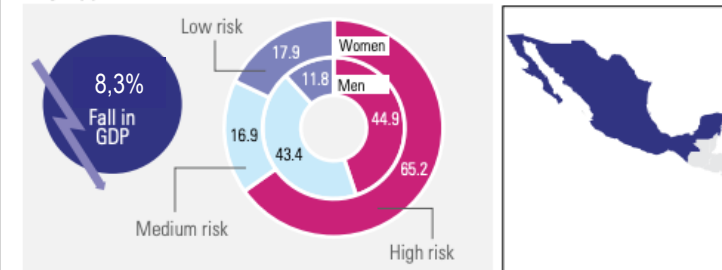


In all subregions, women have higher labour participation in high-risk sectors.

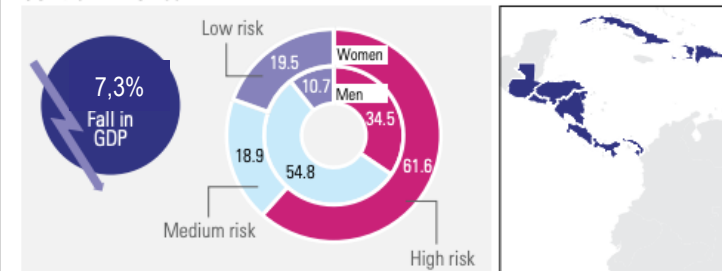
Latin America



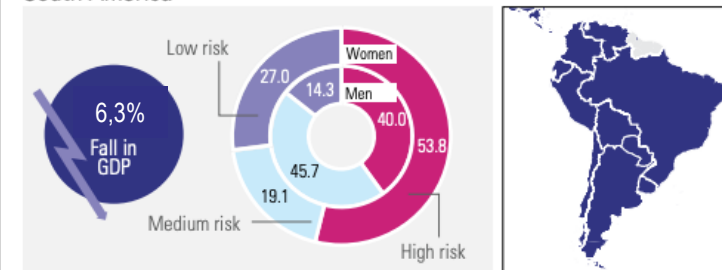
Mexico



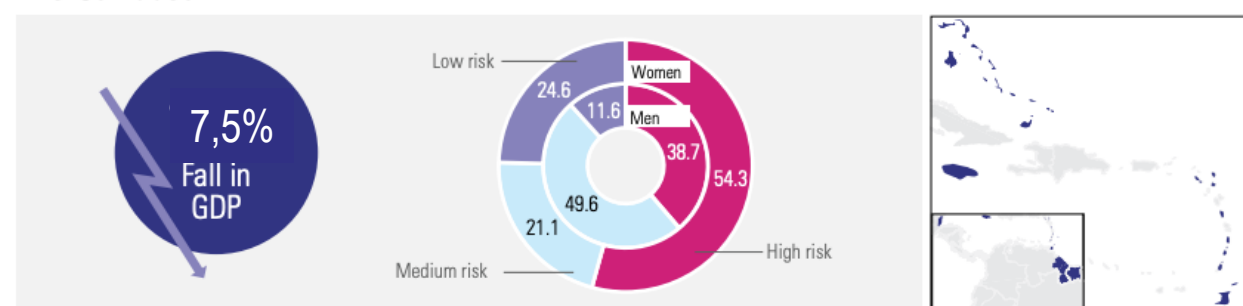
Central America



South America



The Caribbean

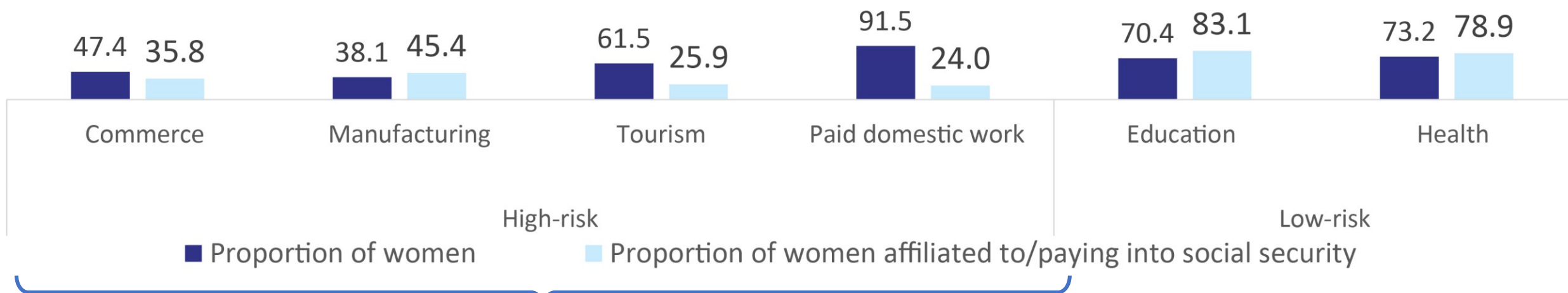


6 out of 10 employed women in the region were employed in high-risk sectors at the onset of the crisis

Latin America (17 countries): characteristics of selected high- and low-risk sectors with a high presence of women, weighted averages, circa 2019.

(In percentages)

**Sectors of the care economy
21.9% of employed women**

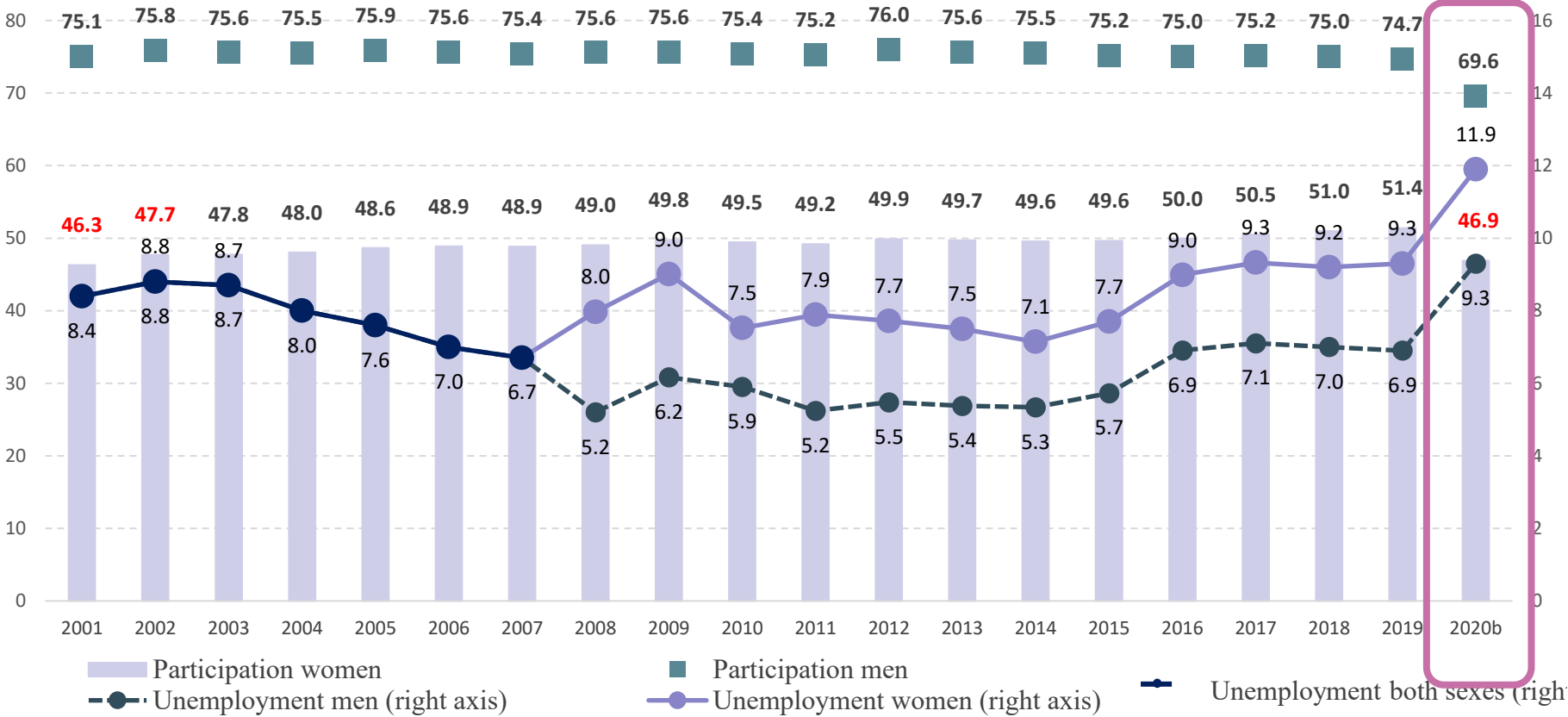


**56.9% of employed women in sectors at higher risk of job loss
High rates of informality, low salaries and low level of qualification.**

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

The pandemic had a strong impact on the employment and income of women in the region.

Latin America and the Caribbean (weighted average of 24 countries): evolution of the labour participation rate and unemployment rate, by sex, 2003-2020 (Percentages)

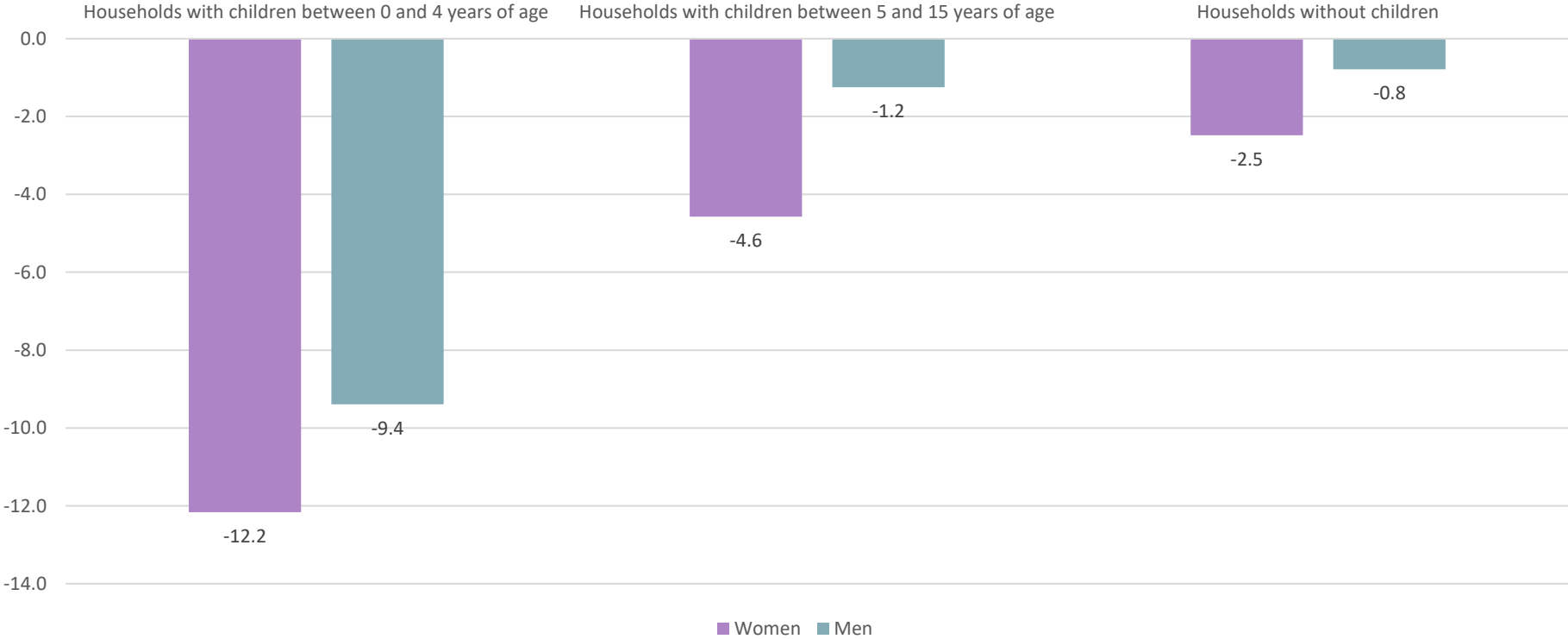


Decrease in women's participation in the labour market

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on household surveys of the respective countries. * Preliminary figures a The data from 2003 to 2007 correspond to 20 countries for the participation rate and 22 countries for the unemployment rate.

The **overburden of care** due to the closure of educational centers and care services resulted in a strong exit of women from the labour market, especially in households with children under 5 years of age.

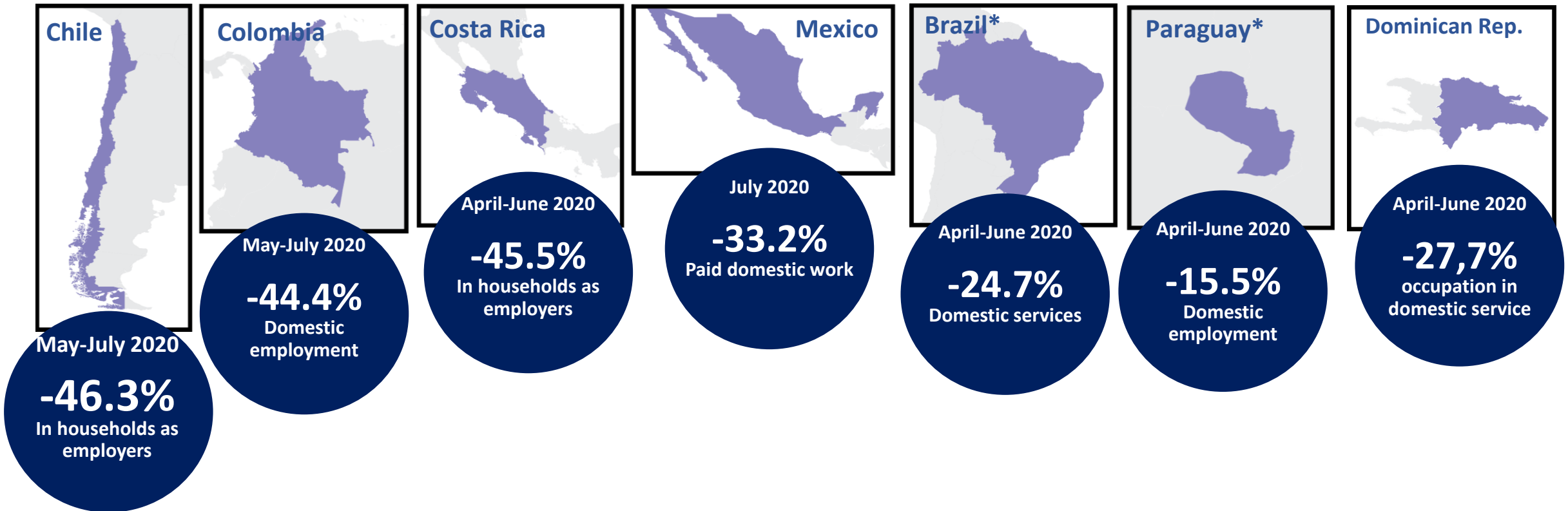
Latin America (12 countries): 2019-2020 change in the number of employed persons by sex and presence of children in households by sex for the population aged 20-59 years, circa 2019 and 2020.
(In percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on household surveys in the respective countries.

Paid domestic work: a sector strongly affected by job losses and the impossibility of teleworking

Latin America (7 countries): Variation in paid domestic employment, around the second quarter (2020 vs. 2019)
(Percentages)



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

*In the case of Paraguay and Brazil, the variation in employment corresponds to both sexes.

Proposals for a transformative recovery with gender equality

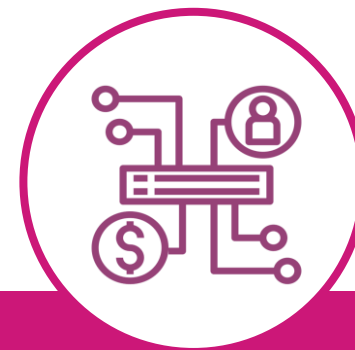
Mainstreaming the gender perspective in all recovery policies is necessary but not sufficient. Decisive affirmative actions are required in the areas of taxation, employment, productive, economic and social policies to protect women's rights achieved in the last decade, to avoid setbacks and to confront gender inequalities in the short, medium and long term.



Promote a transformative economic recovery with employment for women in strategic sectors.



Investing in the care economy as a dynamic sector and moving towards a care society.



Ensuring the closing of the digital divide and consolidating an inclusive digital transformation



Move towards a new fiscal pact with gender equality that expands income, equalizes opportunities and opens spaces for participation.

ECLAC calls for accelerating the pace towards economic, climate and gender justice and **moving towards a care society that:**

- ✓ **prioritizes sustainability of life and care for the planet**
- ✓ **guarantees the rights of people in need of care and of caregivers**
- ✓ **counteracts the precariousness of jobs in the care sector**
- ✓ **makes visible the multiplier effects of the care economy in terms of well-being and as a driver for a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability.**

This crisis is an opportunity to affirm the commitment and will of society as a whole and to move towards a new style of development based on equality and sustainability in order to achieve an equitable distribution of power, resources and time between women and men.



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