

# The importance of gender mainstreaming in statistics for the public policy development



UNITED NATIONS



**Iliana Vaca Trigo**  
[iliana.vaca-trigo@un.org](mailto:iliana.vaca-trigo@un.org)  
**Statistician**  
**Division for Gender Affairs**  
**ECLAC**



**OVERCOMING GENDER DATA GAPS IN THE CARIBBEAN TO  
ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs**

**WEBINAR 1: Integrating a gender perspective into statistics  
7 JULY 2020**

# Gender and public policy

---

Gender policies are the expression of a double intervention aimed at modifying the course of events within and outside the State, taking into account the **differentiated impact** on men and women. Gender mainstreaming does not replace actions specifically directed at women or girls or older women. In this sense, "specific policies and the promotion of gender mainstreaming constitute a double dimension of equity and equality policies".

In order to define specific information needs, it is necessary to start from both knowledge of national policy priorities and those arising from gender policies, as well as to consider the demands of women's social movements and the dynamics that may exist between them (synergy, opposition and conflict, lack of awareness, etc.)

# Why are gender statistics and indicators necessary?



Gender statistics are a powerful tool that makes visible the magnitude and intensity of the different expressions of gender inequality

Gender statistics are used in monitoring progress towards gender equality and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental rights by women and girls.

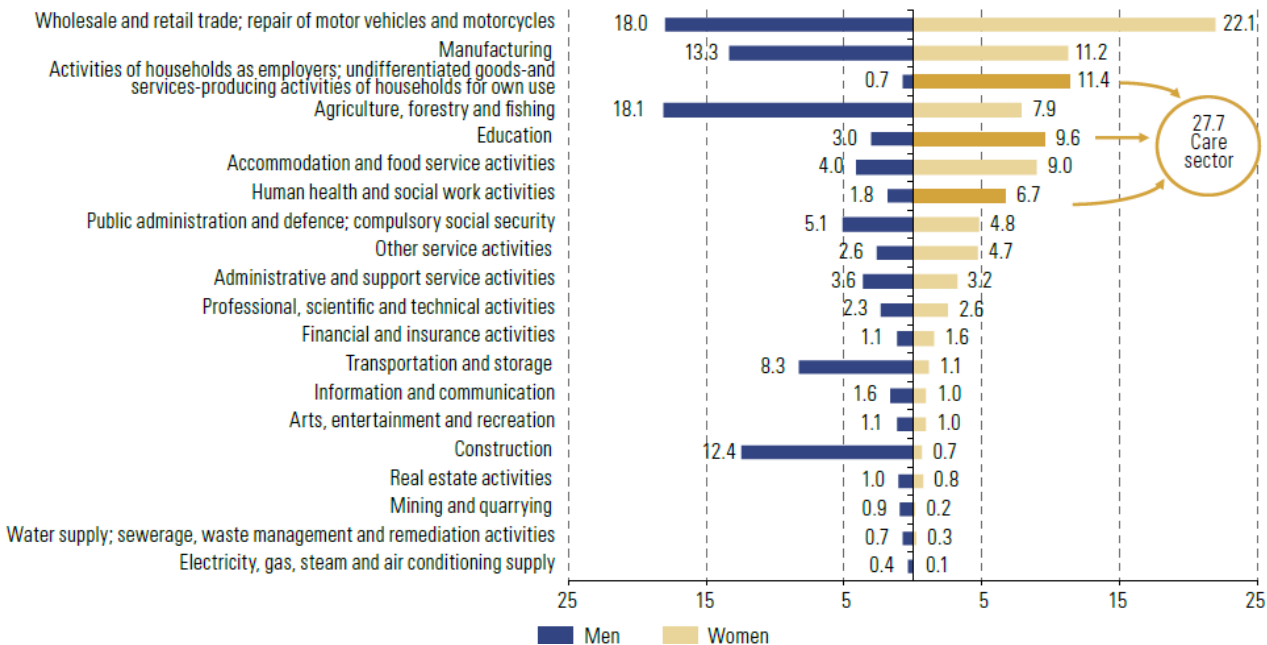
Gender statistics provide an evidence base for developing and monitoring policies and programmes oriented towards reduce gender inequality in access and use to all types of resources

Gender statistics made visible the magnitude of the contribution that women and men make in specific fields of human activity

Gender statistics have a crucial role in gender mainstreaming in development and poverty reduction policies and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the gender dimensions of poverty, which in turn can significantly change priorities in policy and programme interventions.

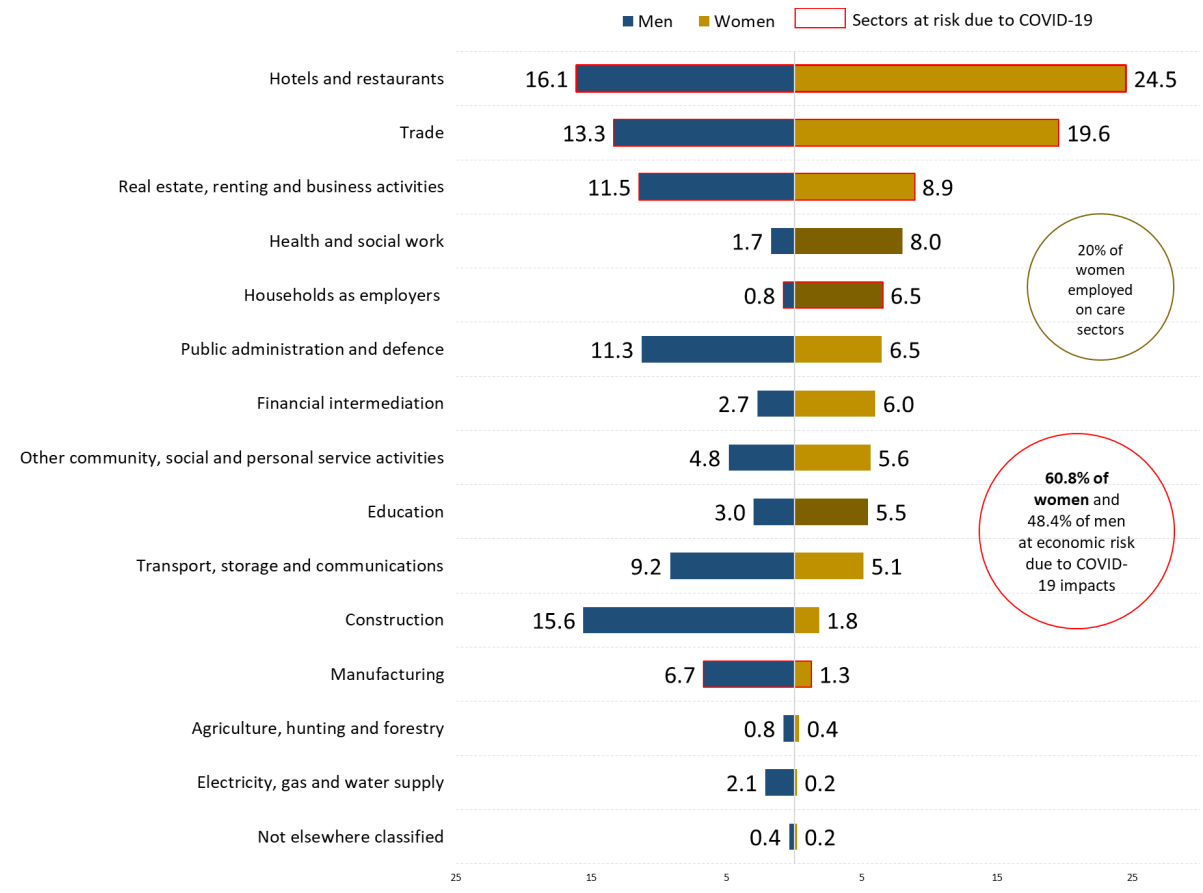
Gender statistics have an important role in developing and monitoring policies on the reduction of violence against women.

Latin America (16 countries<sup>a</sup>): distribution of the employed population, by sector of economic activity, around 2017<sup>b</sup>(Percentages)



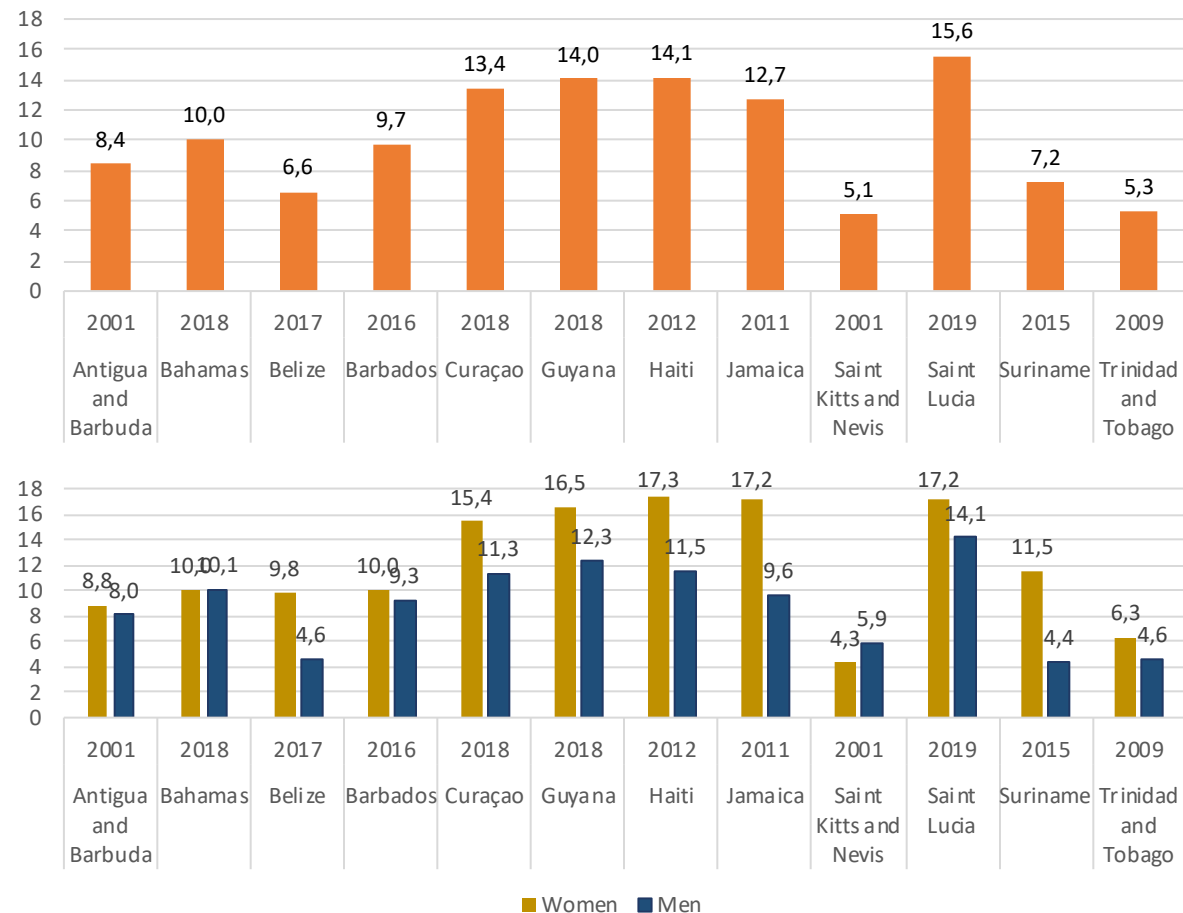
Source: : Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).  
<sup>a</sup> Weighted average of the following countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.  
<sup>b</sup> Data refer to 2017, except in the case of Honduras and Mexico, for which they refer to 2016, and in the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Guatemala and Nicaragua, for which they refer to 2014.

Aruba (2011) distribution of the employed population, by sector of economic activity (Percentages)



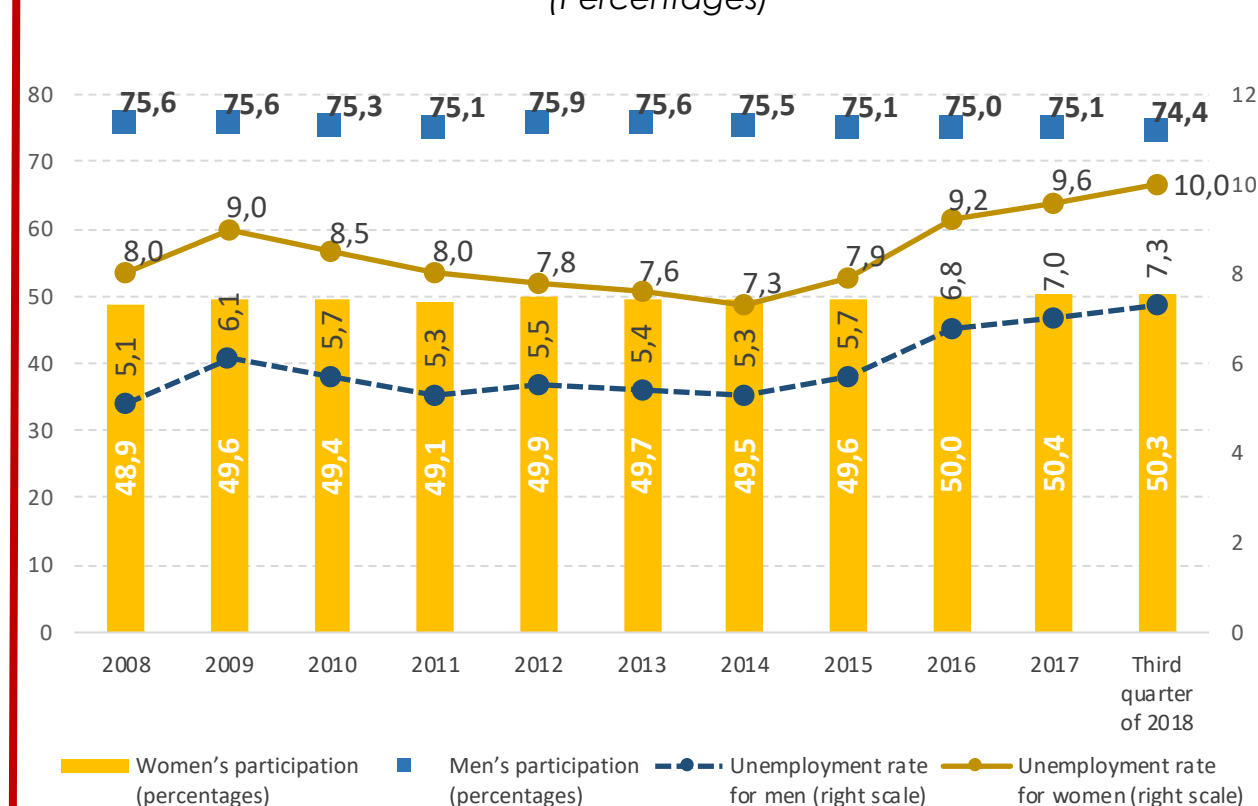
Source: International Labour Organization. (2020). ILOSTAT database [database]. Available from <https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/>.

### The Caribbean (12 countries): Unemployment rate (Percentages)



Source: International Labour Organization. (2020). ILOSTAT database [database]. Available from <https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/>.

### Latin America and the Caribbean (26 countries): activity and employment rates, by sex, 2008–2018<sup>a</sup> (Percentages)



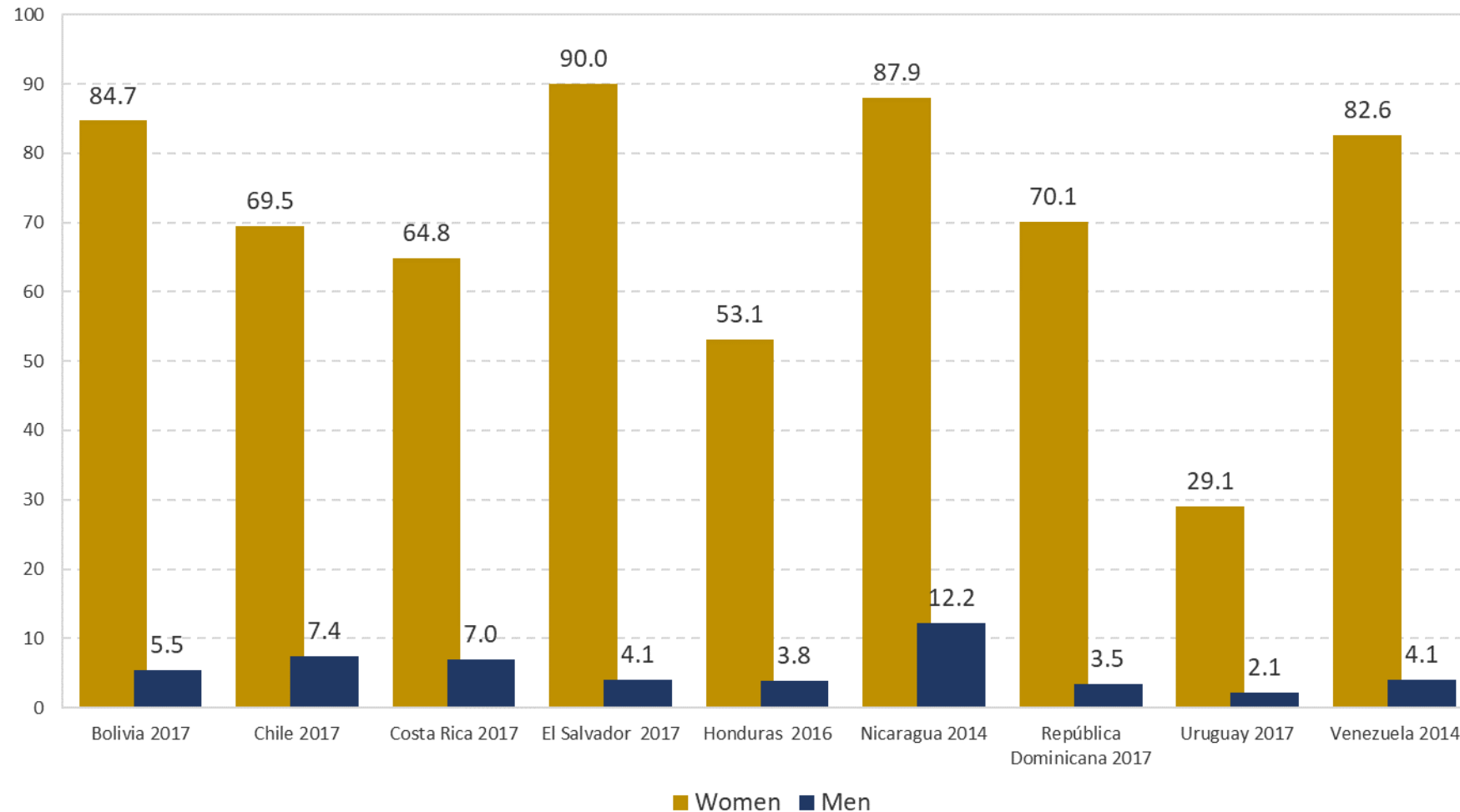
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of International Labour Organization (ILO), 2018 Labour Overview of Latin America and the Caribbean, Lima, 2018.

<sup>a</sup> Weighted average of the following countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. Excludes hidden unemployment in Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica and Panama. Weighting factors used are International Labour Organization (ILO) projections of the total labour force and by sex.

Unemployment rates are calculated based on data from on Labour force surveys except for Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis where rates are based on data from the population census; Haiti which is based on data for a Living conditions survey; Suriname which is based on data from the continuous household survey and Trinidad and Tobago which data come from the Continuous Sample Survey of the Population

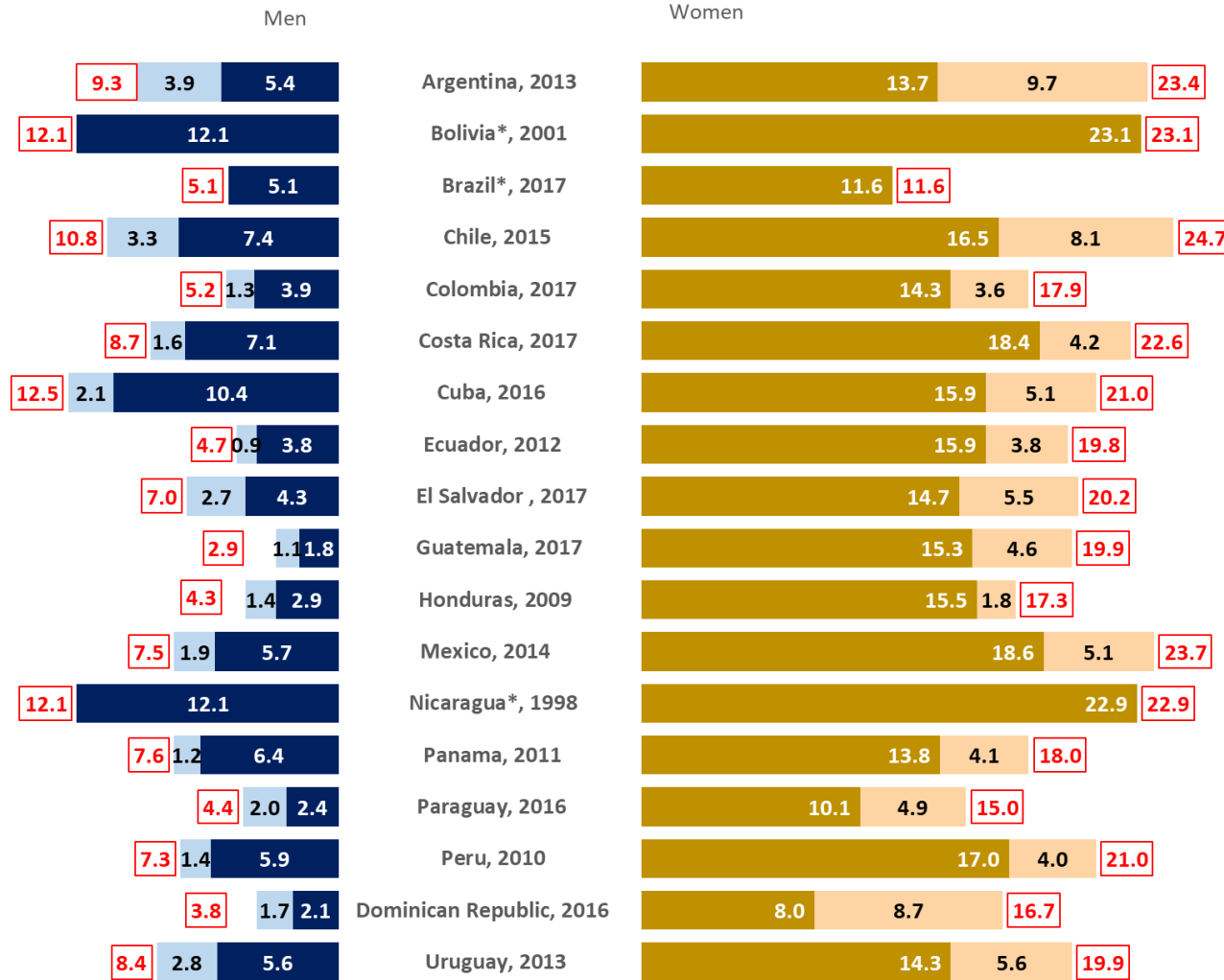
They help to identify the various underlying causes that may be influencing the manifestations of inequality, enabling action to be taken on them in order to promote change

### Latin America (9 countries): population aged 15–64 outside the labour market for family reasons, around 2017 (Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the Household Survey Database (BADEHOG)

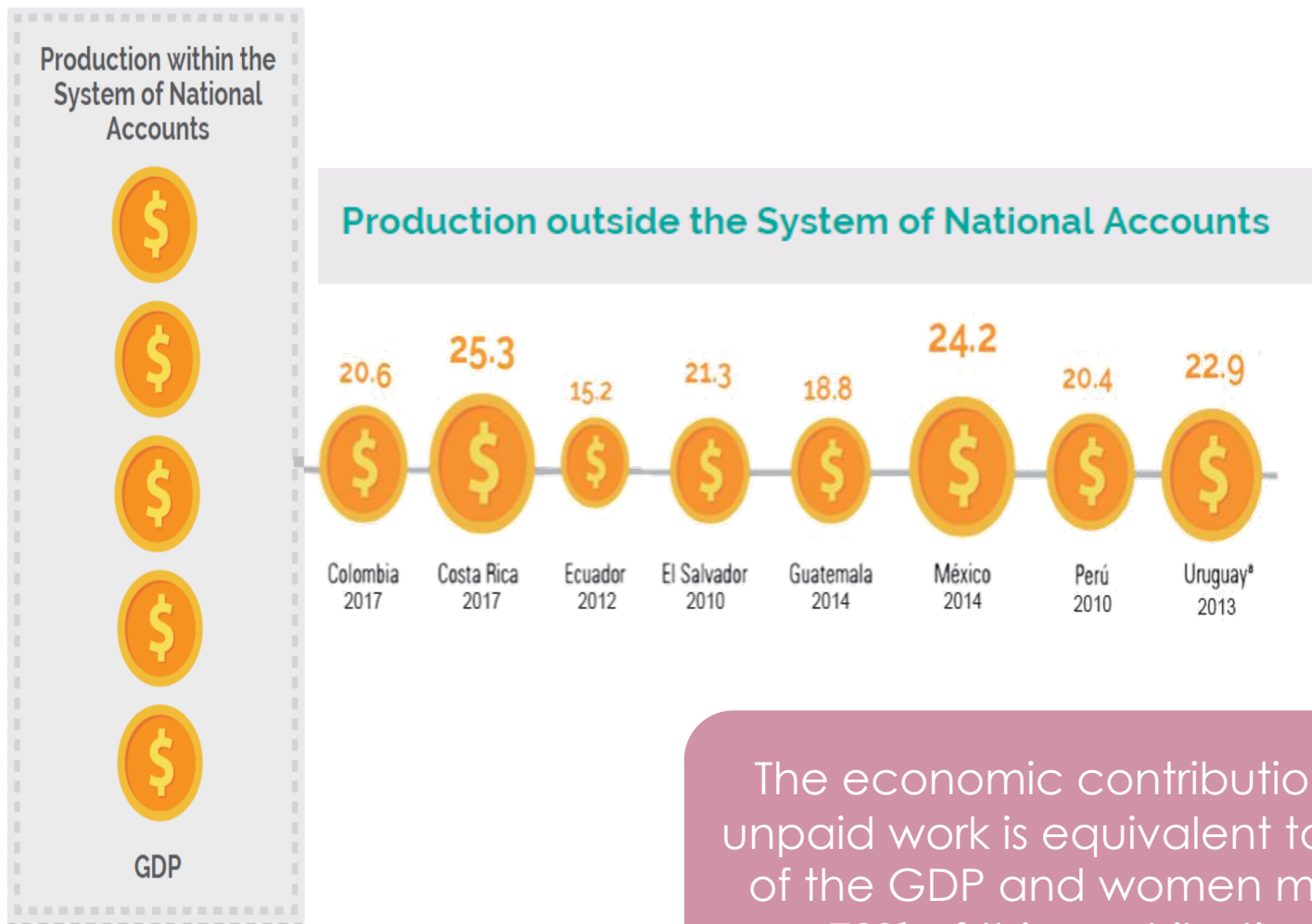
# Latin America (18 countries): time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex and type of unpaid work (SDG indicator 5.4.1), latest available year (Percentages)



■ Domestic work
 ■ Care work
    Total of domestic and care work

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, Repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en/infographics/repository-information-time-use-latin-americaand-caribbean>.

**Note:** The heterogeneity of the data sources does not allow for comparability between countries. The aim of this graph is to show the trends within each country. Domestic work refers to the activities of producing goods and services for consumption by members of the household or other households. Care refers for all activities of direct support to members of the household or other households. The population considered is 15 years of age or over, except in the case of Argentina, which considers the population of 18 or over, and Cuba, which considers the population aged between 15 and 74.  
 a Does not allow for domestic work to be distinguished from care work.



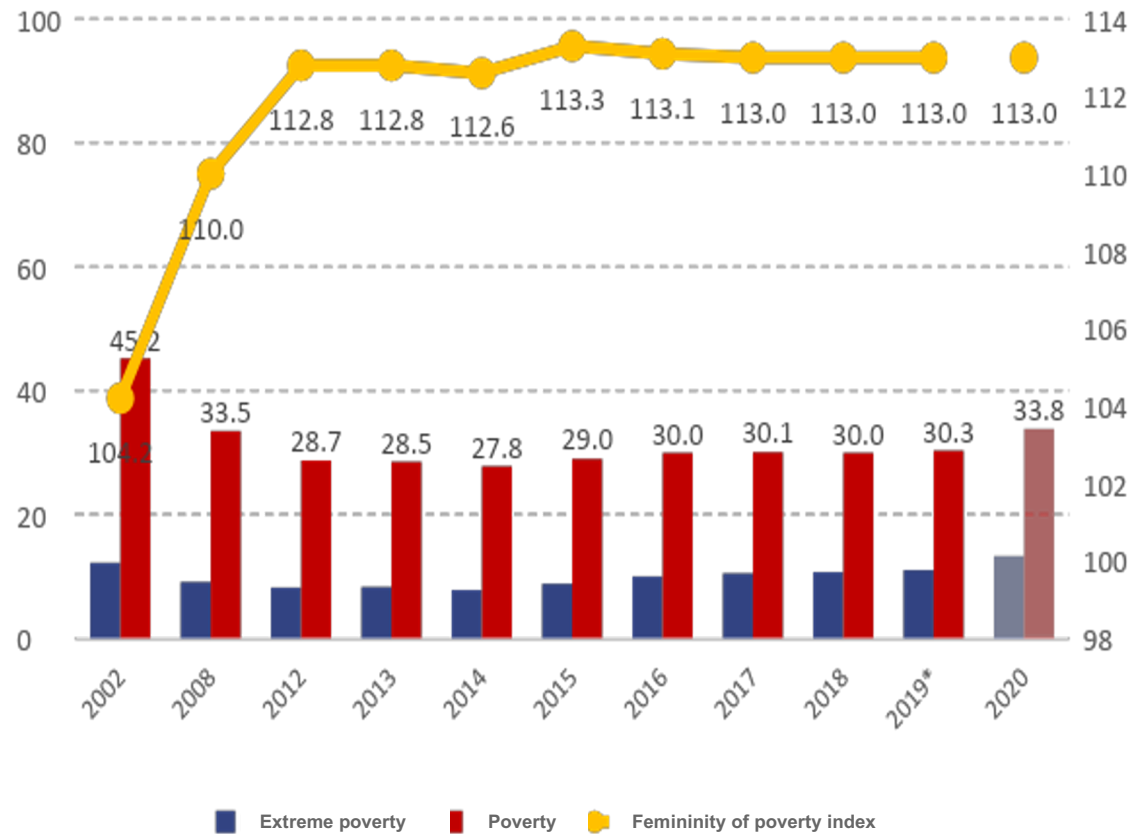
SDG 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

The economic contribution of unpaid work is equivalent to 20% of the GDP and women make 70% of this contribution

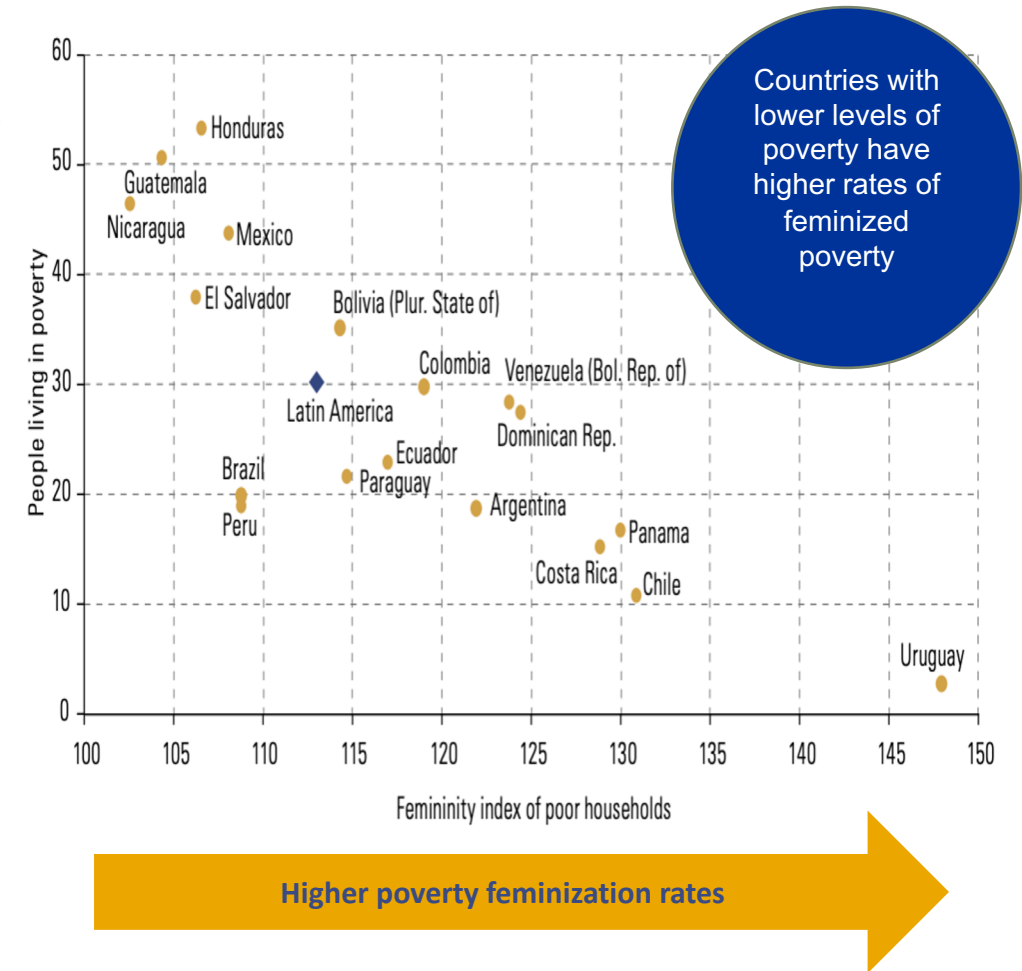


# Gender statistics have a crucial role in gender mainstreaming in development and poverty reduction policies

**Latin America (average 18 countries): poverty and extreme poverty rate and femininity index of poverty 2002-2020**  
(Percentages)



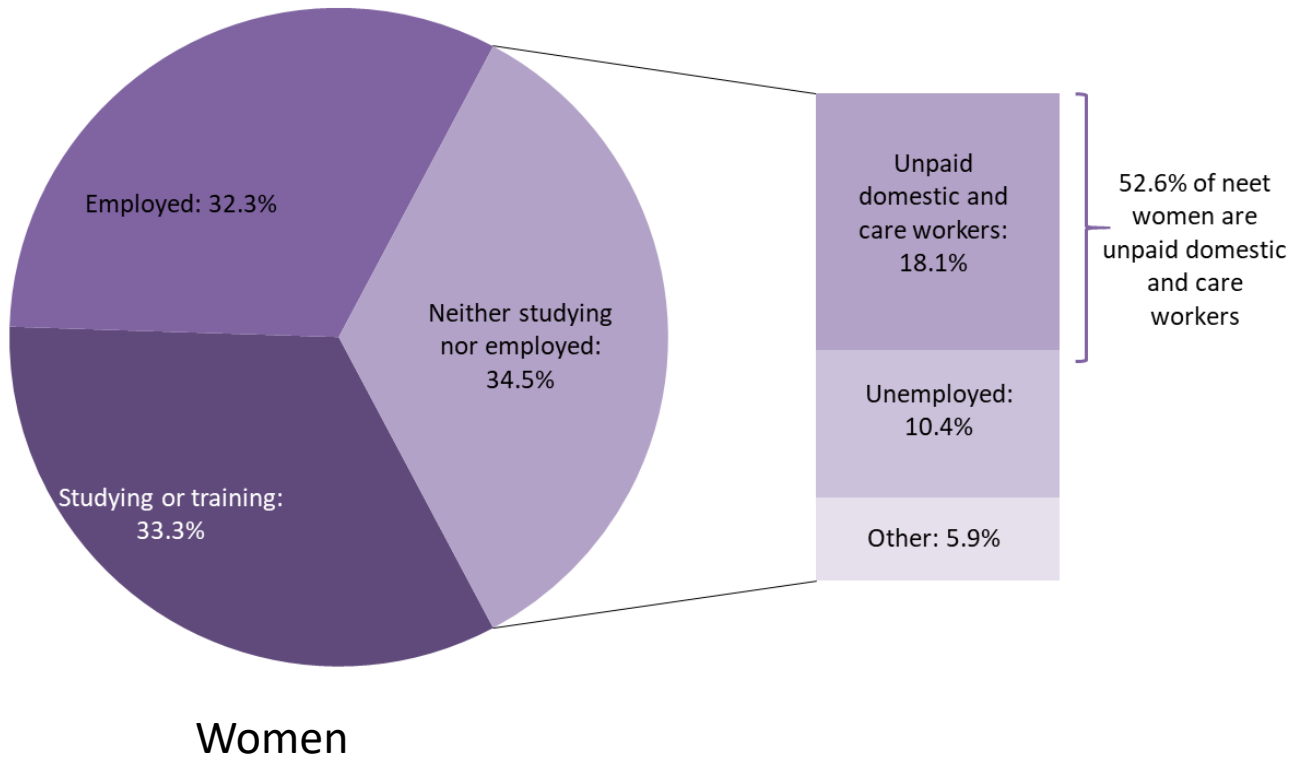
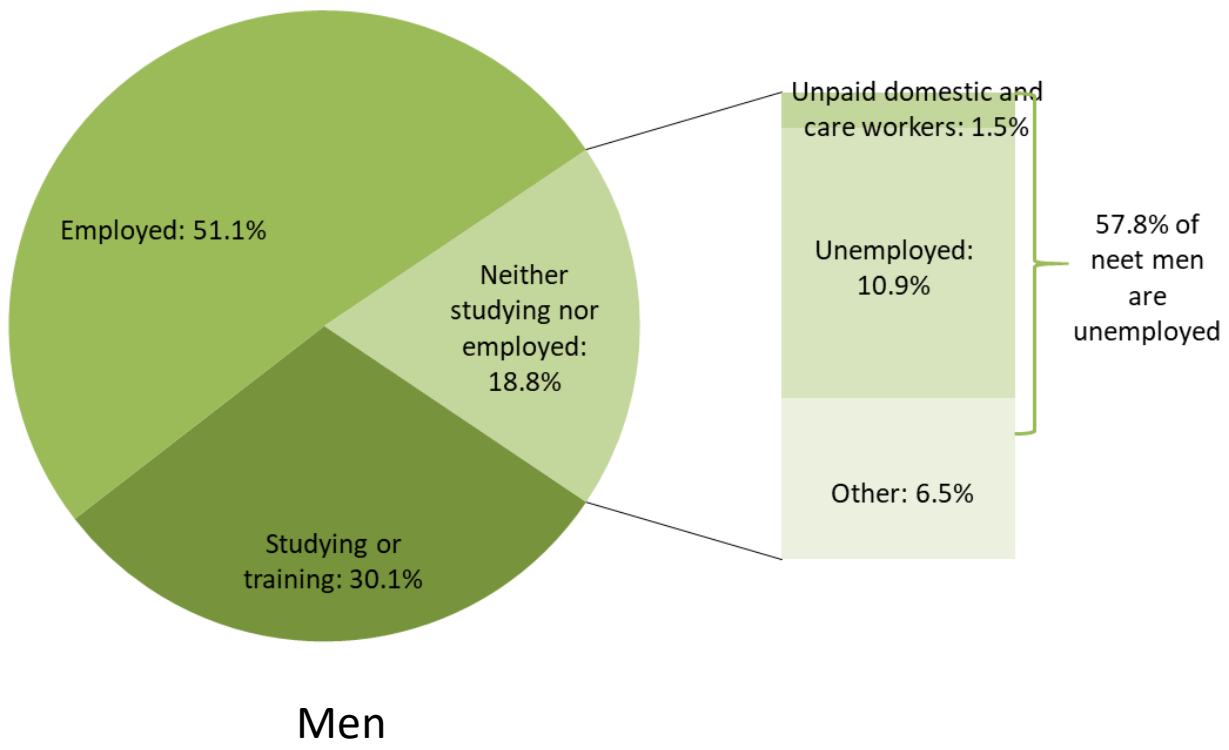
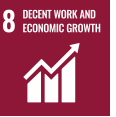
**Latin America (18 countries): people living in poverty and femininity index of poor households, around 2017**  
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the Household Survey Database (BADEHOG)

The dissemination of gender statistics to a large audience is crucial in reducing both gender stereotypes and the misrepresentation of the roles of women and men and their contribution to society and in promoting a new gender balance in the distribution of roles within the family, at the workplace and in positions of decision-making.

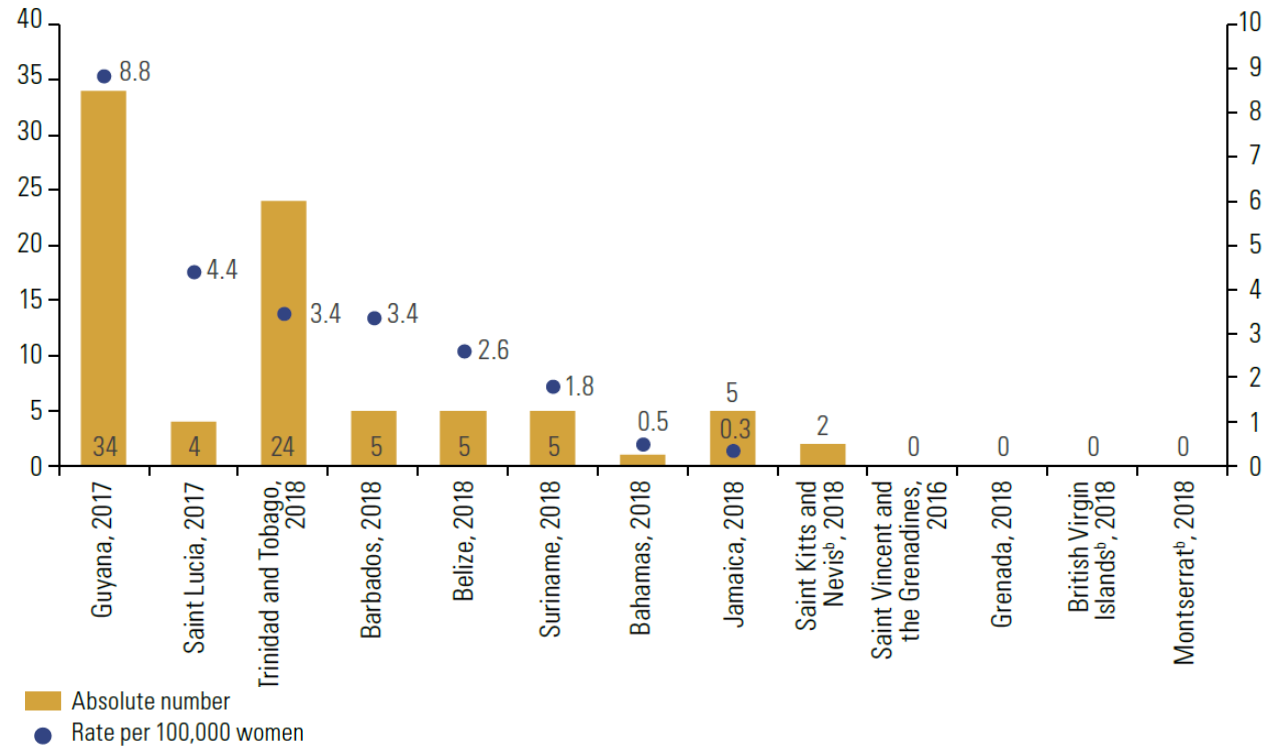
**Latin America and the Caribbean (18 countries): activity status of young people aged 15 to 24 years by sex, latest available year.**  
(Percentages)



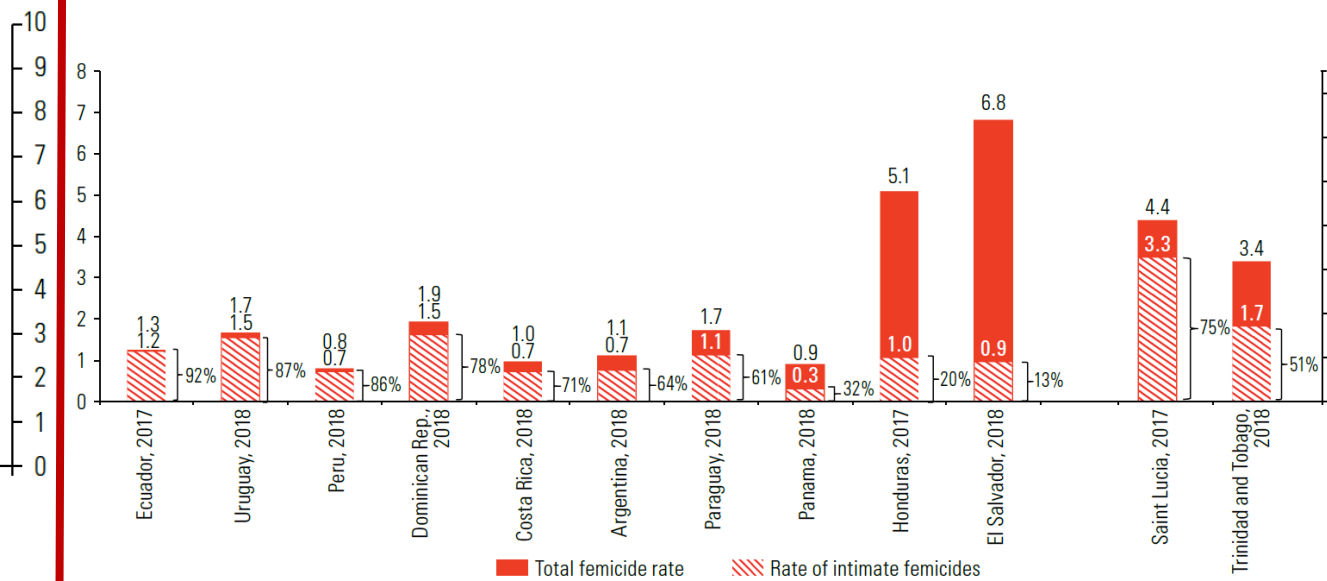
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the Household Survey Database (BADEHOG)



**The Caribbean (13 countries): femicide, latest year available<sup>a</sup>**  
*(Absolute numbers and rates per 100,000 women)*



**Latin America and the Caribbean (12 countries): total femicides and intimate partner femicides<sup>a</sup>, latest year available**  
*(Rates per 100,000 women and percentages)*



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en>.

<sup>a</sup>The data refer to femicide, except in the case of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, which only report on cases of intimate femicide (committed by a current or former partner).

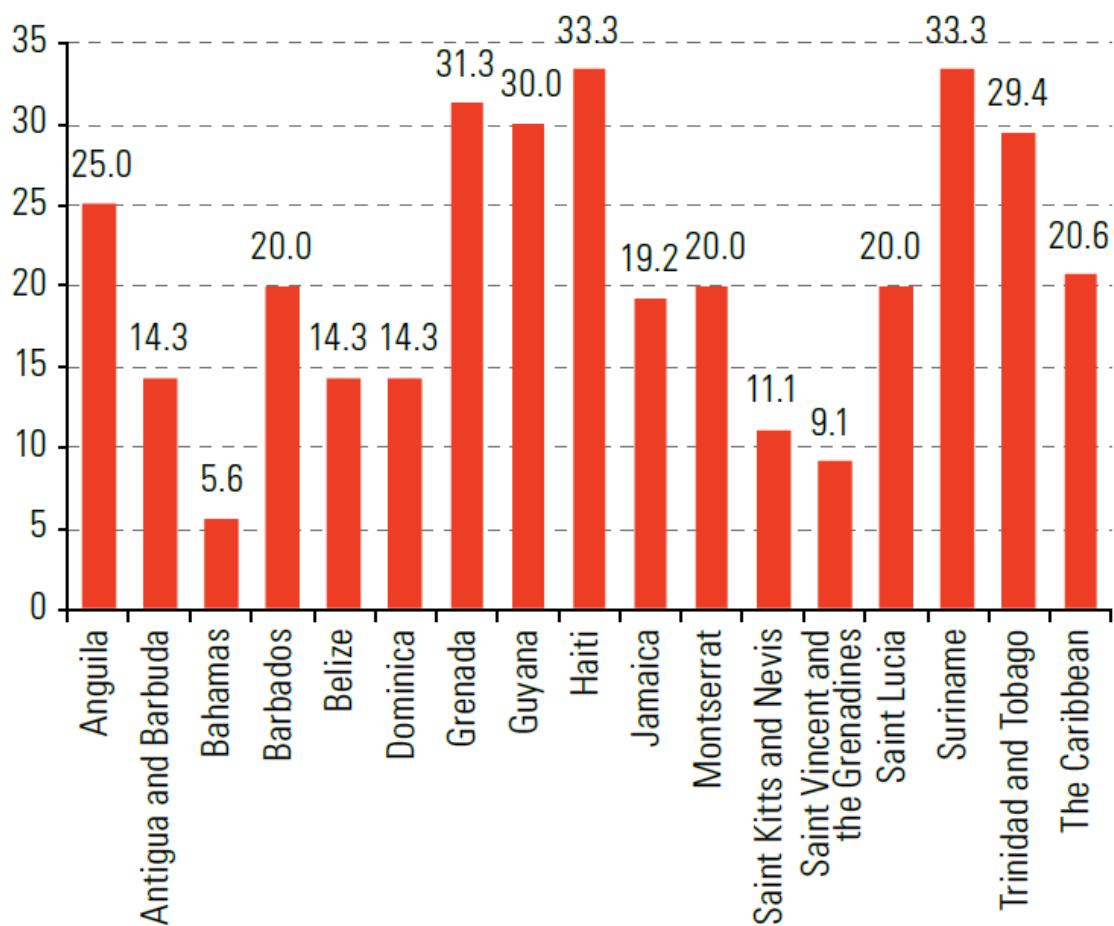
<sup>b</sup>The calculation of the rate per 100,000 women for the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Saint Kitts and Nevis is not possible owing to the lack of population estimates. The British Virgin Islands and Montserrat reported no femicides in the most recent year for which data are available (2018 and 2017, respectively), while Saint Kitts and Nevis recorded two femicides in 2018.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en>.

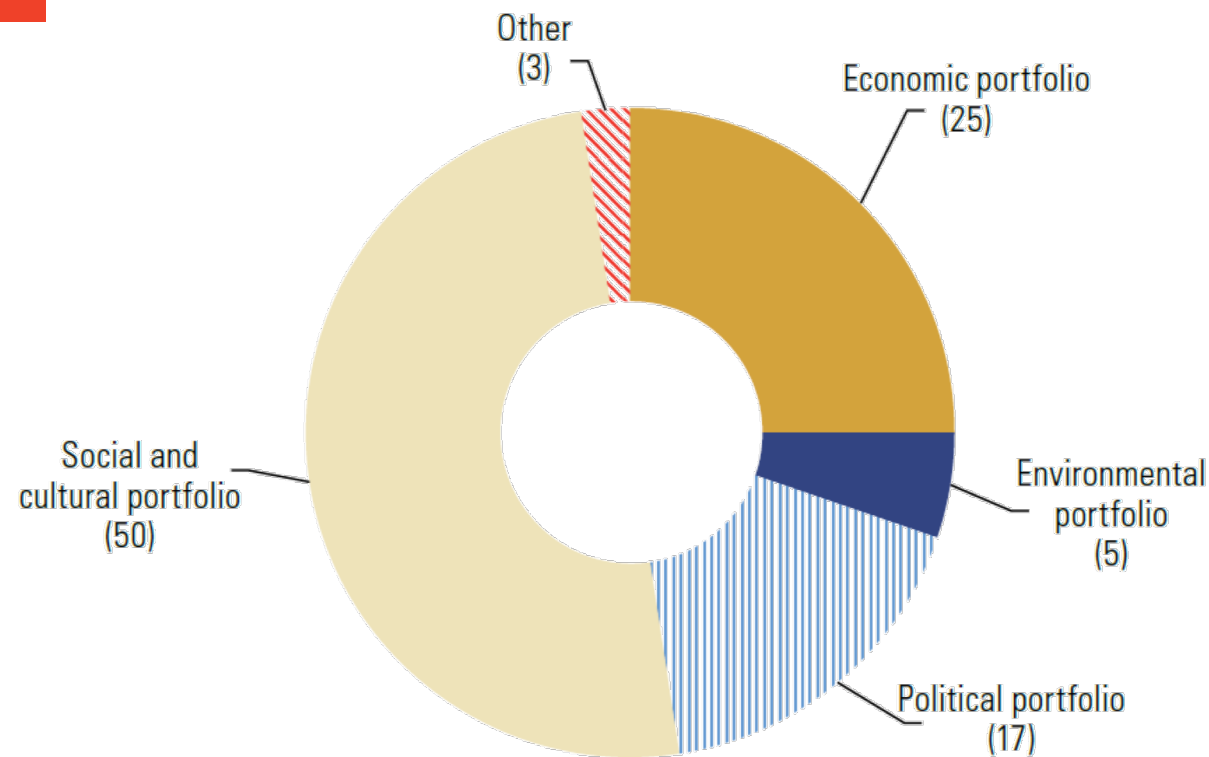
<sup>a</sup>This concept refers to femicide committed by the victim's current or former partner.

# Gender statistics allow the monitoring of women participation at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

The Caribbean (16 countries): women in ministerial cabinet positions, 2018<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)



Latin America and the Caribbean (35 countries): women in ministerial cabinet positions and breakdown by portfolio, 2018<sup>a</sup>  
(Percentages)



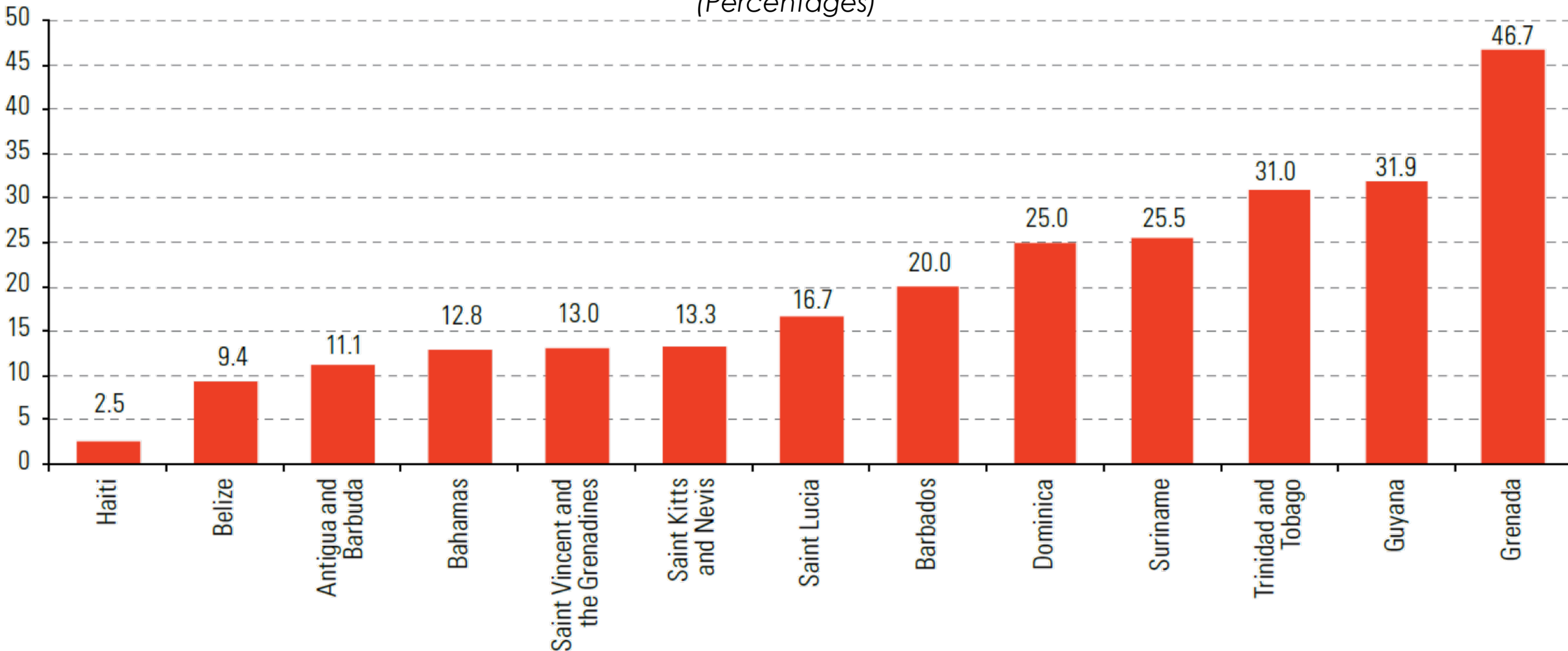
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en>.

<sup>a</sup> Most recent term of office for which data are available. The countries included are: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en>.

<sup>a</sup> Most recent term of office for which data are available.

The Caribbean (13 countries): proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments  
(SDG indicator 5.5.1a), 2019  
(Percentages)



# Challenges and opportunities

- Improve data collection instruments to ensure:
  - Data is collected and presented by sex as a primary and overall classification
  - Data reflect gender issues
- Advance data comparability and harmonization of methodologies
  - Agree on concepts and definitions
  - Develop classifications and methodologies
- Ensure periodicity and budget for gender-specific surveys such as time-use surveys, violence against women.
- Harness the power of technology to leverage new sources of data, without overlooking the quality, confidentiality and reliability of the integrated information
- Promote use of information to guide the implementation of public policies

that adequately reflect the diversity of women and men and capture all aspects of their lives



Recognizes the cross-cutting nature of gender issues and asks that the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas mainstream the gender perspective into their work, along with other cross-cutting elements of statistical work such as classifiers;

# Thank you

## Division for Gender Affairs

<https://www.cepal.org/en/acerca-de-asuntos-de-genero>

## Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

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

## SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean: Statistical knowledge management hub

<https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/index.html>

## Regional progress report on the Montevideo Strategy for implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the sustainable development framework by 2030

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44957-regional-progress-report-montevideo-strategy-implementation-regional-gender>

## COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/covid-19>



**Time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean**

"Information systems: transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions".  
Plan of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030

**What are time-use surveys?**

Time-use surveys are methodological tools for data collection that allow the activities carried out by people in a certain context and the amount of time they spend on each of them to be measured and recorded.

Thanks to the information provided by these surveys, a thorough analysis can be carried out on the time spent on different activities, including domestic activities related to domestic and care work, paid work, community work and volunteering, as well as personal activities.

Latin America has a wealth of experience in the conceptual and methodological development of time-use measurements.

Over the last ten years, the Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean has shown a gradual development of these measurements. In addition, since it was established in 2006, the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has had extensive methodological progress in this area.

**What are time-use surveys used for?**

Time-use surveys are extremely important because they provide input for the design, formulation, monitoring and evaluation of economic and social equality policies and measures that boost statistical capacity for different areas of research:

- analysis of the overall division of labour and gender inequality;
- studies on the link between necessary primary income and the distribution and allocation of time;
- analysis on the relationship between paid and unpaid work, including domestic and household production measurements of working;
- national, regional and international assessments for data on unpaid work measurements of all forms of work.

In Latin America, time-use surveys have been useful for the discussion on recognizing and valuing unpaid work and have guided the formulation of public policies that address the social needs of care through social responsibility, by transferring responsibilities from the State to the public and private sector spheres and beyond.

**Measuring femicide: challenges and efforts to bolster the process in Latin America and the Caribbean**

November 7, 2019

**Gender Equality Observatory**  
An initiative of the Division for Gender Affairs

**Understanding femicide as "gender-based killing of women"** (Hershey, 2014) is a large effort, on the evidence of acts deriving from detailed and reliable records that identify characteristics of the victim, the perpetrator, the relationship between the two, their environment, motivations and patterns of behaviour, among other factors.

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean has made progress in measuring femicide in the region and has gathered reliable, verifiable and comparable information from the countries, with a view to using it to design, implement and evaluate public policies on prevention for victims of violence, prevention of femicide, reparation for dependent collateral victims, and punishment of perpetrators.

Given that regional comparability is a major problem, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is encouraging the development of a femicide registration system in Latin American and Caribbean countries, to improve the quality of national data with a view to deepening the analysis of femicide and strengthening comparability.

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

**Regional femicide indicator**

Corresponds to the annual total of gender-based killings of women. According to national laws, it is referred to as femicide, femicide/aggravated femicide, due to gender violence, etc.

The process of building the regional femicide indicator began in 2009 with consultations on "women's deaths at the hands of their current or former intimate partner".

At the time, only five countries had notified femicide data (the Bolivian Republic of Bolivia and Costa Rica in most countries and Guatemala in 2008).

Agreements to move forward in the development of the femicide indicator were adopted at the following meetings:

- Meeting of Technical Experts on Gender Statistics for the Indicators Initiative for the Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean (Agosto, Mexico, October 2009).
- Forty-second meeting of the Heads of Offices of the Regional Commissions of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, December 2009).
- By the end of 2015, most Latin American countries had notified femicide and adopted criminal code reforms. While parliamentary debates took place, the countries made progress in measurement, which allowed the Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean to generate and disseminate national data for 15 Latin American countries and 3 Caribbean countries that year.

## The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the care crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean



**Repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean**

"Information systems: transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions".  
Plan of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030

The repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) comprises data provided by the countries of the region and the necessary resources to analyse this information for the purposes of comparability and the analysis and dissemination of information. Data are harmonized to the extent of the Classification of Time Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (ALU).

Time-use surveys are a source of information for different research areas, including gender analysis, studies on unpaid work and the distribution and allocation of time, domestic, regional and international measurements to design or support work and the evaluation of this work, as well as for the labour market's near real-time requirements. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, the focus for gender after ECLAC has been increased in the conceptual and methodological reflection on the measurement of time use and the relation of unpaid work to the household. Highlighting the importance of measuring time spent from a gender perspective.

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

2006: ECLAC launches the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

2009: Meeting of Technical Experts on Gender Statistics for the Indicators Initiative for the Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean (Agosto, Mexico).

2009: Forty-second meeting of the Heads of Offices of the Regional Commissions of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, December).

2015: ECLAC publishes the Manual for the Measurement of Unpaid Work in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima).

2019: ECLAC launches the Repository of Information on Time Use in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda**

**Gender mainstreaming in the statistical monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals**

January, 2020

**Gender equality at the centre of the 2030 Agenda**

Gender equality is one of the main objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is present in the Declaration on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets and in the means of implementation, as well as in the proposed indicators for these targets.

Along with SDG 5, specific aims at advancing gender equality and empowering all women and girls, 15 other SDGs (1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 17) contain clear commitments towards gender equality and women.

**Mainstreaming gender in the production of statistics for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals**

The 2030 Agenda provides a great opportunity for producing gender-equality information, however, it also poses challenges in terms of the quality and coverage of statistical production at the regional level. Ensuring that we can use better response methods for monitoring the SDGs will also benefit the region and that we also identify the main gender gaps in all dimensions of sustainable development.

In light of the vast quantity of data needed and the multiplicity of data sources, the production of regional-level statistics and the necessary information must be organized to facilitate the integration of data from various sources. This means that better use must be made of traditional sources of data, such as censuses, surveys, administrative records and vital statistics, and also through the development of new methods, such as the use of big data, without overlooking the quality, confidentiality and reliability of the respective information.

**17 Sustainable Development Goals**

**169 targets**

49 targets for SDG 1, 23 targets for SDG 2, 76 targets for SDG 4, 21 targets for SDG 5, 17 targets for SDG 10, 17 targets for SDG 11, 17 targets for SDG 13, 17 targets for SDG 14, 17 targets for SDG 15, 17 targets for SDG 16, 17 targets for SDG 17.

**232 global indicators**

**Remaining challenges:**

- Improving the quality and coverage of statistical production at the regional level.
- Ensuring that we can use better response methods for monitoring the SDGs.
- Identifying the main gender gaps in all dimensions of sustainable development.

Source: Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (2020).