Population, Development and Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

Second regional report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

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Fifth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Cartagena de Indias, 3 and 4 July 2024
Second regional report on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus: objectives and background

- Progress in implementation of priority measures
- Achievements, challenges and good practices
- Information sources: 22 voluntary national reports and 1 technical note; Virtual Platform for Follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development; censuses and surveys; databases of United Nations agencies; studies
- Regional contribution to the global review and appraisal of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014: fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development, 29 April to 3 May 2024
Contents of regional report

Introduction
I. Demographic trends in Latin America and the Caribbean
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28 countries in region report, through Virtual Platform for Follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, implementation of 1,436 policy actions between 2018 and 2023

Latin America and the Caribbean (28 countries): policy actions undertaken, by chapter of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, 2018–2023 (Number)

Population of Latin America and the Caribbean is 670 million in 2024; expected to peak at 752 million in 2056

Latin America and the Caribbean: total population at midyear, estimated and projected, by age group, 1950–2100, (Millions of people)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Demographic Observatory, 2023 (LC/PUB.2023/26-P/Rev.1), Santiago, 2024, p. 13.
Latin America and the Caribbean recorded world’s sharpest drop in fertility between 1950 and 2024 (down 68.4%)
In Latin America, life expectancy is increasing, but reflected world’s largest decrease during pandemic (2.9 years between 2019 and 2021).

**World: life expectancy at birth, by region, 1950–2024**

(Years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>1950</th>
<th>2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>73.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>79.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>80.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>75.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>63.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population ageing and labour force, of which women account for increasingly larger share

Latin America (20 countries): structure of total population and labour force, by sex and age, 1980, 2024 and 2050

(Percentages)

Region’s demographic dividend forecast to end in 2029

Latin America and the Caribbean (38 countries and territories): beginning, end and duration of the demographic dividend (Years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>1970-2013</td>
<td>2029</td>
<td>59 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>1980-2025</td>
<td>2029</td>
<td>45 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Demographic dividend
- Green indicates the period of demographic dividend.
- Yellow indicates no demographic dividend.

### Sources
Population growth in the Caribbean fell from 0.61% in 2000 to 0.37% in 2023 and subregion expected to experience negative population growth from 2038.

The Caribbean, Latin America and North America: annual population growth, 1950–2100

(Percentages)

Caribbean countries have the highest percentages of emigrants relative to their national populations, followed by Central America.

**Latin America and the Caribbean: immigrants and emigrants as a proportion of total population, by subregion, 2020**

(Percentages)

![Bar chart showing percentages of immigrants and emigrants in different subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Caribbean has the highest percentage of emigrants at 20.9%, followed by Central America at 9.0%, South America at 4.1%, and Latin America and the Caribbean at 6.6%.]

Regional follow-up of the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

Fifth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Cartagena de Indias, 3 and 4 July 2024
Marked heterogeneity of public institutions in the area of population and development

Latin America and the Caribbean (24 countries): branch of government or department to which the population and development institution reports

Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the voluntary national progress reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and the survey for the update of the Virtual Platform for Follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
Civil society participation in the national institutional framework on population and development

Latin America and the Caribbean (22 countries): participation modality of civil society organizations

Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the voluntary national progress reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and the survey for the update of the Virtual Platform for Follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
Despite reduction in childhood mortality and rapid and significant drop in adolescent fertility, insufficient progress in the welfare and protection of children, adolescents and young people.
General and comprehensive policies for children, adolescents and young people promote, protect and ensure their rights

Latin America and the Caribbean (14 countries): comprehensive laws and policies on children, adolescents and young people, 2018–2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Law or policy</th>
<th>Institution responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina*</td>
<td>National Youth Bill (S-1565/19)</td>
<td>. . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Act 21 430 on Guarantees and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Development and Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>National Child and Adolescent Policy 2018–2030</td>
<td>National Family Welfare System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Public Policy for Young People 2020–2024</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture and Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Comprehensive Child, Adolescent and Youth Policy</td>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Organic Act on Young People</td>
<td>Governing body for social policy: Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Growing Together Act</td>
<td>National Council for Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>National Child and Adolescent Policy 2019–2038</td>
<td>Child, Adolescent and Family Affairs Directorate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>National Youth Programme 2021–2024</td>
<td>Mexican Youth Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Programme for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (PRONAPINNA) 2021–2024</td>
<td>National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Public Policy for Young People 2022–2027</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master Plan for the Health of Pre-school and School-age Children and Adolescents 2018–2025</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>National Population Policy 2021–2040</td>
<td>Ministry of Internal Affairs, Planning Office of Suriname and Statistical Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>National Youth Policy 2020–2025</td>
<td>Ministry of Youth Development and National Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Child Policy 2020–2030</td>
<td>Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


* The bill is still before the legislature.
Rapid population ageing raises significant public policy challenges

- In Latin America and the Caribbean, expected increase in percentage of persons aged 60 years and over from 14.2% of the total population in 2024 (94.9 million) to 25% in 2050 (188 million).
- Social protection measures to guarantee a minimum level of income for sustaining life.
- In 2018–2022, in 6 out of 10 countries, fewer than 40% of employed persons paid into a social security system.
- Urgent action is needed to ensure the rights of older persons, incorporating gender, intercultural and intersectional perspectives.
Ageing will lead to increased spending on pensions, health care and long-term care

Latin America and the Caribbean (16 countries): public and private spending on pensions, health and long-term care, 2020 (estimations) and 2050 (projection)

(Percentages of GDP)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of N. Aranco and others, Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: social protection and quality of life of older persons, Washington, D.C., Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), 2022.
Incidence of disability is higher among older persons, in particular women

Latin America and the Caribbean (5 countries): population aged 60–79 years and 80 years and over with disabilities, 2020 census round

(Percentages)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of census microdata processing.
Exercise of sexual and reproductive rights remains a challenge, both in regulatory terms and in terms of implementation of specific measures.

Latin America and the Caribbean (7 countries): proportion of women aged 15–49 (married or in another form of union) who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care, 2023

(Percentages)

- Own informed decisions in all three dimensions: 72%
- Sexual relations: 90%
- Contraceptive use: 91%
- Reproductive health care: 91%


a Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras and Panama.

b Women are only considered to make their own decisions in the three dimensions if they respond “yes” on all three.
Progress made in access to modern methods of contraception, including emergency contraception

Latin America (4 countries): use and availability of modern contraceptive methods, 2019–2023

- **Argentina** (2019): Resolution 2922 on including long-term contraceptives in the compulsory medical programme.
- **Chile** (2021): Protocol for the provision of emergency contraception.
- **Mexico** (2022): Technical guidelines for the prescription and use of contraceptives in Mexico.
- **Honduras** (2023): Executive Order No. 75-2023 approving the use of the emergency contraceptive pill.

Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of national voluntary reports on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
Persons with disabilities face significant sexual and reproductive health challenges

- **Stereotyping** of persons with disabilities as asexual or infantilizing them.
- **Insufficient training for health-care personnel** in providing care for persons with disabilities.
- **Inadequate physical accessibility** at hospital facilities.
- **Lack of** sign language interpretation or informative braille signage enabling access to sexual and reproductive health information.
- **Vulnerability** to sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy.
- Persons with disabilities may be subject to **coercive medical procedures**, such as forced contraception, sterilization or abortion.
Persistent scourge of gender-based violence reflected in femicides, child marriages and early unions, and violence against the LGBTIQ+ community requires special attention

Latin America and the Caribbean (26 countries): women and girls aged 15 years and over who have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former intimate partner in the past 12 months, 2018 (Percentages)

Latin America and the Caribbean (23 countries and territories): prevalence of femicide or feminicide, latest year with information available (Absolute numbers and rates per 100,000 women)


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, “Indicators” [online] https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators.
On average, women spend triple the amount of time on unpaid work that men spend in Latin America and the Caribbean (16 countries): time spent on paid and unpaid work by the population aged 15 years and over, by sex, latest year available

(Average number of hours per week)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, “Indicators” [online] https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators.
Migrants face high levels of vulnerability and remittance costs

- Migration in the region has become more intense, diverse and complex in recent decades.
- Mixed flows, irregularity, forced migration, trafficking in persons.
- Xenophobia, racism, discrimination.

Latin America and the Caribbean (18 countries): average cost of sending US$ 200, as a share of remittance, by country, 2021 (Percentages)

Regularization, though insufficient, is necessary for migrants to access formal employment and labour inclusion and to contribute to sustainable development.

**Latin America (7 countries): employed population by category of work and gender, 2019–2021**

(Percentages)

**Source**: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).
Housing shortages, lack of basic services and inefficient functioning in cities

Latin America and the Caribbean (14 countries): proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing, 2016, 2018 and 2020 (Percentages)

- Territorial inequality remains high, with no signs of diminishing.
- Serious deficits in cities have left nearly one fifth of the region's urban population living in informal settlements or inadequate housing.

Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and climate change continue to pose a threat to the environment

- The region’s ecosystems are crucial for the **environmental stability of the planet**.
- Harmful human activities, overexploitation of natural resources and lack of controls on human settlements **degrade the environment**.
- Climate change increases **disaster risk**.
- Growing concern about and more **legislation** governing environmental sustainability.
- Progress in **reducing air pollution**.

**Latin America and the Caribbean (31 countries and territories): annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in cities, population weighted average, 2017–2019**

(Micrograms per m³)

**Source**: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of World Health Organization (WHO), "Indicators", Global Health Observatory [online] https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators.

Nota: Los valores estimados para el Caribe corresponden a un promedio simple.
In 2022, the estimated population of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America was 58.5 million (10.4% of the total population); despite progress in poverty reduction, high poverty levels and wide ethnic gaps persist.

Latin America (9 countries): poverty rates of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, around 2015, 2020 and 2022 (Percentages)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CEPALSTAT, on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys from the respective countries.
Decline in childbearing among Indigenous young women but ethnic disparities persist

Latin America and the Caribbean (14 countries): young women aged 15–19 who are mothers, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, closest year to 2013 and latest year with information available (Percentages)

- Increased access to reproductive health services among Indigenous women: in most countries, more than 80% have prenatal check-ups and professional care in childbirth.
- Increased use of modern contraceptive methods and decrease in use of traditional contraceptive methods.
- Unmet demand remains high and significant ethnic disparities persist.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), regional database on maternity (MATERNILAC), on the basis of special tabulations of census microdata from Colombia (2018), Chile, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama and demographic and health surveys (DHS) and multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) for the other countries and years.
Incipient decline in poverty among Afrodescendent populations, but ethnic gaps persist and Afrodescendent women are the worst off

• The Afrodescendent population of Latin America is estimated at **153.3 million people** (23.7% of the total population).

• Some progress in **constitutional and legislative recognition** of the Afrodescendent population and **institucional frameworks**.

• Some progress in **policies targeting development, human rights and racism**.

**Latin America (6 countries): poverty rates in the Afrodescendent and non-Afrodescendent populations, 2015, 2021 and 2022**

(Percentages)

*Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of CEPALSTAT [online database]
Higher levels of teenage pregnancy, higher unmet demand for family planning services and lower prevalence of modern contraceptive use among Afrodescendant women compared with non-Afrodescendant women

Latin America and the Caribbean (12 countries): proportions of adolescent girls aged 15–19 who are mothers or pregnant, Afrodescendants and non-Afrodescendants, latest year with information available

(Percentages)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of demographic and health surveys (DHS), multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) and population and housing censuses; and Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), “Síntese de indicadores sociais: uma análise das condições de vida da população brasileira”, Estudos e Pesquisas, No. 36, Rio de Janeiro, 2016 [online] https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv98965.pdf, for Brazil.

Note: The Afrodescendant population does not include the Indigenous population.

* In the cases of Colombia (2018), Guatemala (2018), Mexico (2020) and Peru (2017), the figures do not include pregnant adolescents but only those who are mothers, since they are taken from population and housing censuses.
Satisfied demand for family planning has increased in Caribbean countries

The Caribbean (19 countries and territories): demand for family planning satisfied with any method among women aged 15–49, married or in a union, 1993–2023

(Percentages)


Note: The figures are weighted by population size for 19 countries and territories in the Caribbean and 21 in Latin America.
Recommendations of the regional report (1)

- Eradicate poverty and integrate population dynamics into sustainable development.
- Advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people.
- Expand older persons' social protection system coverage and access.
- Guarantee the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights.
- Urgently address the structural challenges of gender inequality.
- Overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities of migration flows for sustainable development.
Recommendations of the regional report (2)

• Address *spatial inequalities* and natural disasters.
• Foster intercultural exchange and the territorial rights of *Indigenous Peoples*.
• Combat racism in all its forms in order to guarantee the rights of people and communities of *African descent*.
• Ensure equal opportunities and rights of *persons with disabilities*.
• Address population and development issues in the *Caribbean*.
• Consolidate *information* for implementation of the Montevideo Consensus and accountability.
11 years on from the adoption of the Montevideo Consensus and 30 years on from the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

- **The Montevideo Consensus** has brought to light the region's vast inequalities.
- It has helped to consolidate the human rights-based approach with gender, intercultural and intersectional perspectives (e.g. prevention of adolescent pregnancy).
- It has raised awareness of the importance of the population and development agenda.
- **The Programme of Action** emphasizes the need to ensure the realization of the rights of all persons with disabilities, and their participation in all aspects of social, economic and cultural life.
- **Civil society organizations** have played a vital role in the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus, enhancing government accountability.
Thank you