Population, development and rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

Draft second regional report on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

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Draft second regional report on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus: objectives, background and next steps

- Report on achievements, challenges and good practices
- **Draft annotated index** of the Second regional report presented at a virtual meeting on 21 June 2023; included countries' comments
- **Information sources**: censuses and surveys, 21 voluntary national reports, United Nations databases, studies
- **Comments** from countries on the draft report until 20 December 2023
- Contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean to the global review and appraisal of the **Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development**
- Final version will be presented at the **fifth Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**
Content of the Draft second regional report on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

Introduction

I. Demographic trends in Latin America and the Caribbean

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

III. Progress and challenges relating to the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the countries of the Caribbean

IV. Conclusions
Demographic Trends
In 2023, total population of Latin America and the Caribbean will reach 652 million. Population expected to peak in 2056.

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

The demographic dividend in the region is projected to end in 2027

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

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>United States Virgin Islands</td>
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Fertility in the region has fallen to levels below the replacement rate

World: total fertility rate (TFR), by region, 1950–2023

(Children per woman)

While the greatest global loss in years of life expectancy at birth during the pandemic was in Latin America and the Caribbean (-2.9 years between 2019 and 2021), longevity continues to increase.

World and major regions: estimated and projected life expectancy at birth, by region, 1950–2100 (Years)

Population growth in the Caribbean will become negative beginning in 2038.

The subregion’s population growth rate was 0.61% in 2000 and 0.37% in 2023.

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

(Percentages)

The Caribbean has the highest percentage of emigrants, followed by Central America.

Latin America and the Caribbean: ratio of immigrants and emigrants to total population, by subregion, 2020 (Percentages)

- The Caribbean: 20.9% Emigrants
- Central America: 9.0% Emigrants
- South America: 4.1% Emigrants
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 6.6% Emigrants

Latin America and the Caribbean is the second most urbanized region in the world: 81.9% of its population was urban in 2022.

World regions and subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean: urban share of population, 2010, 2020 and 2030

(Percentages)

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<th>Region</th>
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<th>2020</th>
<th>2030</th>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
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Source: ECLAC, on the basis of United Nations, World Urbanization Prospect 2018 Revision.
Regional follow-up of the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development
The COVID-19 pandemic worsened the structural problems of poverty and inequality

Latin America (15 countries): poverty rates by sex, population aged 20–59, around 2021

(Percentages)

- Between 2018 and 2021, increase in poverty (29.8% to 32.3%) and extreme poverty (10.5% to 12.9%)
- Emergency money transfers during the pandemic
- Programmes for specific population groups and territory-based approach

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

* Information for Chile, El Salvador and Mexico refers to 2020; information for Honduras refers to 2019.
Marked differences in the public institutional frameworks for population and development issues

- Depending on the country, **various institutions** may be in charge of population and development issues
- Variety of inter-agency **coordination mechanisms**
- Depending on the country, **civil society** participates: (i) in national coordination mechanisms, and/or (ii) through consultation, workshops, surveys, key informants
- Work organized around sectors or **topics** is the most highly consolidated; academia participated to varying degrees in the preparation of voluntary national reports
Infant mortality is down and a rapid and significant drop in adolescent fertility has been recorded; however, progress in the welfare and protection of children, adolescents and young people is insufficient.


After the pandemic, the employment of young people bounced back quickly, even though large gender inequalities persist. Youth unemployment is higher in the Caribbean than in Latin America.

Rapid population ageing has major public policy impacts

- **Number of people aged 60 and over** will increase from 14% of the total population in 2023 (91.6 million) to 25% in 2050.

- Urgent action needs to be taken, with a gender, intercultural and intersectional approach, **to realize the rights of older persons**

- Challenge of **ensuring that social protection provides sufficient income** to enable people to survive

- High level of **informality** means that very few employed people contribute to a pension system

- In 2021, 5.3% of GDP in Latin America and the Caribbean was allocated to **public spending on social protection**, much of it for older persons
Low contribution levels during working years translates into insufficient income in old age

Latin America (14 countries): persons aged 65 and over receiving inadequate pensions, by sex, around 2015 and 2021

(Percentages)

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

* Weighted average.
The exercise of sexual and reproductive rights remains a challenge, both in terms of regulation and practical implementation.

Latin America and the Caribbean: (21 countries): percentage of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education, by category

(Percentages)

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of United Nations, "Regional data bank for statistical follow-up to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean", 2023.

SDG indicator 5.6.2. The indicator is a percentage (national laws and regulations are in place to ensure full and equal access) and shows a country's status and progress with regard to such laws and regulations. It only measures the existence of laws and regulations, not their application. The indicator is the arithmetic mean of its 13 components. Similarly, the value of each section is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the data making up its components. Each component is independently calculated and equally weighted.
Different levels of progress on access to sexual and reproductive health services and setbacks on maternal mortality

- **Antenatal care** is key to reducing maternal mortality, but the coverage gaps are significant.
- **Proportion of births attended by trained health care personnel**: 96% in 2022.
- **Unmet demand for family planning using modern methods**: 82.8% in 2018, rising to 83.3% in 2023.
- Successful strategies to integrate HIV programmes with sexual and reproductive health services.
- In 2022, 31% of the countries had regulations on induced abortion.

### Latin America and the Caribbean (32 countries and territories):

**maternal mortality rate, by subregion, 2013–2020**

*(Deaths per 100,000 live births)*

In 2020, more than 9 deaths per 100,000 live births

In 2022, 9 countries had *quota laws* for representative elections and 9 countries had enacted constitutional reforms, electoral reforms or laws to *foster parity*.

Over the most recent three terms of office, the proportion of women cabinet ministers has increased.
Latin America and the Caribbean (26 countries): women and girls aged 15 years and older who have been subjected to physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, 2018 (Percentages)


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

Inclusion of international migration and the regularization of migration in regional and national development agendas and strategies

- Irregular migration is a key challenge. Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is to “enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration”.

- **Informal work** is more accessible for migrant workers.

- The importance of **regularization of migration** has been widely recognized in regional and national agendas and strategies.

- Regularization of migration has been described in the voluntary national reports of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

- Regional intergovernmental forums on migration: Regional Conference on Migration, the South American Conference on Migration and the Quito Process.
Migrants are highly vulnerable and face significant remittance costs

**Latin America (16 countries): trafficking in persons, by country, 2020**

(Number of detected victims)

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

(Percentages)

Enormous shortfalls in housing, basic services and functioning of cities

- **Territorial inequality** remains high, with no signs of abating.
- **Urban gaps** are severe, and almost a fifth of the urban population in the region lives in informal settlements or substandard housing.

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

The environment is still under threat from unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and from climate change.

- The region has **ecosystems that are vital** for the environmental sustainability of the planet.
- Decades of **damaging human activities and practices** have led to severe environmental degradation.
- Climate change increases the **risk of disasters**.
- There is **rising concern and a growing body of legislation** to safeguard environmental sustainability.
- **Progress**: reductions in atmospheric pollution in cities.

**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)

In 2022, there were an estimated 58.5 million Indigenous Peoples in Latin America, accounting for 10.4% of the subregion’s total population. Poverty rates are persistently high, with large gaps tied to ethnicity.

Latin America (9 countries): poverty rates among Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, 2015, 2020 and 2021

(Percentages)

Source: ECLAC, CEPALSTAT on the basis of processing of household surveys from the respective countries.
Decline in adolescent motherhood among Indigenous adolescents, but ethnicity-related gaps remain

- Access to **reproductive health services** increased among Indigenous women: **antenatal check-ups and births attended by health care professionals** over 80% in most of the countries.
- Greater use of **modern contraceptive methods**, less use of traditional methods.

**Latin America and the Caribbean (13 countries): young women aged 15–19 who are mothers, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, year closest to 2013 and latest year available** (Percentages)

Source: ECLAC, regional database on maternity (MATERNILAC), on the basis of processing of census microdata from Colombia (2018), Chile, Guatemala and Mexico and from demographic and health surveys (DHS) and multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS), for the rest of the countries and years.
Higher poverty rates for the Afrodescendent population and ethnicity-related gaps are maintained or have worsened

- Afrodescendent population of Latin America: **153.7 million** people (23.7% of the total).
- Some progress on **recognition** of the Afrodescendent population in terms of institutional frameworks.
- A little progress on public policy (health, culture and to a lesser degree education), **human rights and combating racism**.

### Latin America (6 countries): poverty rates among Afrodescendent and non-Afrodescendent populations, 2015 and 2021

(Percentages)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of CEPALSTAT.
Afrodescendent women still face higher rates of pregnancy in adolescence, more unmet demand for family planning services and less frequent use of modern contraceptives than non-Afrodescendants.

Latin America and the Caribbean (6 countries): unmet demand for family planning among married women (Percentages)

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of demographic and health surveys (DHS) and multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS), and population and housing censuses.

Latin America and the Caribbean (9 countries): proportion of adolescents aged 15–19 who are mothers or are pregnant, Afrodescendent and non-Afrodescendent (Percentages)

Source: 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, Rio de Janeiro, 2016 [online] https://biblioteca.ibge.gov.br/visualizacao/livros/liv98965.pdf, for Brazil.

Note: The non-Afrodescendent population does not include the Indigenous population. Figures for Colombia (2018), Guatemala (2018), Mexico (2020) and Peru (2017) come from population and housing censuses and therefore do not include pregnant adolescents, only those who are mothers.
Conclusions
A. Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development

The countries have reported integration of population dynamics into sustainable development plans and policies, but a deeper understanding is needed of the close links.

Guarantee continuity of government bodies in charge of population and development issues. Strengthen coordination with other sector-specific government bodies and participation by civil society organizations.

B. Children, adolescents and young people

Significant progress in reducing infant mortality and adolescent fertility, despite the pandemic, based on policies and strategies promoted by the Montevideo Consensus.

Continued violations of rights and higher levels of poverty, which should be addressed by consolidating implementation of the Consensus.
C. Ageing and social protection

Expand coverage and access for older persons to **health services, care systems** (including long-term and palliative care) and contributory and non-contributory **pensions**, while ensuring financial sustainability and focusing on closing the gender gap.


D. Access to sexual and reproductive health services

Different levels of progress on **universal access to sexual and reproductive health services**. Family planning and contraceptive, antenatal, childbirth and post-partum services and care during and after induced abortion or miscarriage **disrupted by the pandemic**.

Increase long-term resilience of health systems, prioritizing a **preventive, holistic approach to** primary care services, including sexual and reproductive health services.
E. Gender equality

Address the structural obstacles of gender inequality and take emphatic and determined action on the problem of violence against women and girls.

Effort from countries to develop national care systems. Further progress needed, while recognizing the importance of care for the sustainability of human life.

F. Migrants

International migration is a key issue for the region. Address the structural factors that drive migration, so that people are not forced to migrate.

Data is needed on migration flows and living conditions of migrants, to formulate evidence-based policies.
G. Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability

Guarantee **decent housing** and access to **basic services** in all territories and design and implement policies on **informal settlements**.

Climate change has exacerbated **socioenvironmental disasters**, with substantial material losses and loss of life. This calls for public policies on risk management and social protection.

H. Indigenous Peoples

Most of the countries have made progress on implementing laws and rules and establishing bodies that apply the minimum standards of the **Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of ILO** and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Land rights**: progress with programmes and policies on protection and restitution of land has been slow in the region. Gaps in legal protection of land remain.
I. Afrodescendants

Progress on constitutional law and regulations to recognize the Afrodescendent population. However, greater investment and participation are needed in designing and implementing policies and in decision-making.

Comprehensively and systemically combat racism and discrimination based on ethnicity or race, with participation by governments, civil society organizations and communities.
10 years on from adoption of the Montevideo Consensus

• Raise awareness of the **considerable inequalities** in the region tied to dimensions such as socioeconomic level, age, place of residence, gender identity, ethnicity and race, sexual orientation, migration status or disability.

• Momentum and foundation for implementation of **public policies with rights-based, gender-based, intercultural and intersectional approaches**.
Thank you

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