



UN WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ACTION MODEL SUMMARY DOCUMENT



UN-WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ACTION MODEL SUMMARY DOCUMENT

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INTRODUCTION

1.1.

UN WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

UN Women is the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. As a global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on improving women's living conditions and meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women has a triple mandate of normative support to Member States, coordination across the UN System and implementation of operational activities. As stated in its Strategic Plan 2018-2021, *"UN Women's triple mandate endows it with a unique capacity to:*

(i) support the strengthening of global norms and standards; (ii) promote more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the UN system in support of commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment; and (iii) support Member States, upon request, to translate glo-

bal norms and standards into legislation, policies and development plans at the regional, national and local levels as part of its operational activities. It also enables the Entity to inform support for development of global norms and standards with country-level experiences."

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN Women operates through a regional office and a multi-country office for the Caribbean that cover 22 countries and territories, and 14 country offices.

UN Women implements programmes adapted to the different countries in close collaboration with governments, civil society organizations, in particular feminist and women's rights organizations, the private sector, the UN system and international cooperation organizations. The regional office also provides services to countries where UN Women does not have an office.

1.2.

THE ACTION MODEL FOR UN WOMEN'S EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Between 2017 and 2018, UN Women's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean developed an Action Model (AM) that addresses the challenges

and opportunities of a heterogeneous region in the context of the United Nations Reform.

1.2.1. Action Model Objective

The objective of the Action Model is to ensure UN Women, as an expert agency on gender equality and women's empowerment, offers appropriate programmatic actions to drive transformative changes for women and girls in the region, within the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Action Model is the result of an effort to consolidate and analyze knowledge generated by UN Women in the region since its creation in 2010. In this regard, and taking into account UN Women's experience and historical background in Latin America and the Caribbean, the following are the four thematic areas that led to the creation of its Action Model:

- Women's political participation and governance systems.
- Women's economic empowerment.
- Violence against women and girls.
- Women's rights, gender and the new urban agenda.

The purpose of this consolidation and analysis effort is to gain a better understanding of the different gender patterns that coexist in the so-called middle/high income countries¹, especially the structural factors that maintain or exacerbate gender inequalities, such as patriarchal norms expressed differently depending on country contexts.

¹ While most countries in the region are classified as middle-income countries (MICs), deep territorial and socioeconomic inequalities have led to very diverse realities and gender patterns coexisting in the same country.

1.2.2. Action Model Characteristics

The Action Model's structure has the following characteristics:

1. It is fully aligned with, and contributes to, the implementation and monitoring of the global and regional normative framework on women's rights, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women, (CSW), the Belém do Pará Convention², the Beijing Plat-
2. Its aim is to provide value to women and girls in the region, especially the most disadvantaged, following the principle of the 2030 Agenda of "leaving no one behind". The following figure shows the combination of value that UN Women provides to women and girls in LAC and can be applied worldwide:

form for Action, the 2030 Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

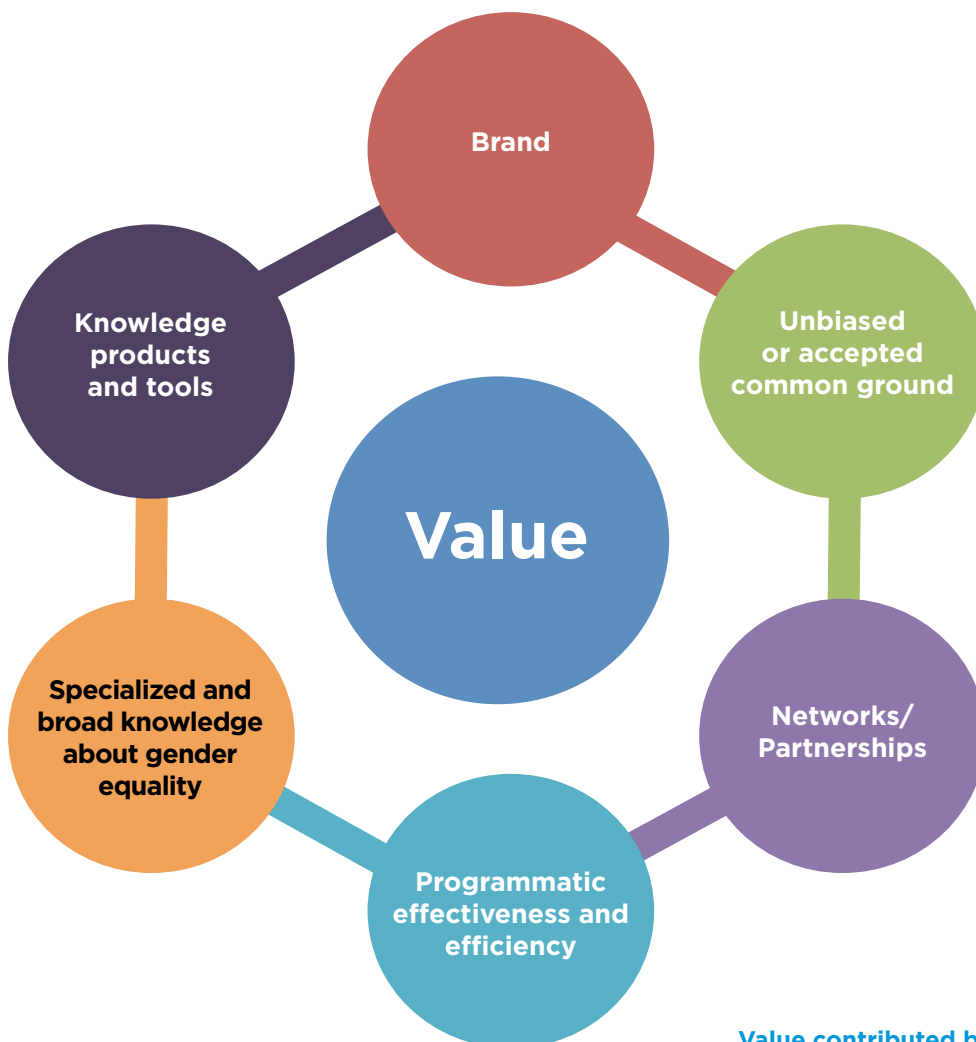


Figure 1:
Value contributed by UN Women

2 Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Belem do Pará Convention”, <http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-61.html>

3. It is based on an in-depth analysis of structural, economic, cultural and sociodemographic factors, inspired in an analysis of the *Progress of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Transforming Economies, realizing rights*, and expanded to include an analysis of violence against women and girls, women's political participation and governance, and women in the city. Each structural analysis is key to defining, assessing and defining the cost and pace of the legal and public policy actions for gender equality in middle or high-income country contexts.
4. It involves an intense knowledge management exercise where UN Women mapped its interventions in each of the four priority thematic areas to assess on which issues it has built a critical mass, identify lessons learned and incorporate recommendations for global, regional and national assessments.
5. It helps structure programmatic offers in each of the four priority thematic areas, aligning them with the SDGs.
6. It helps to determine the cost of the programmatic offer in a structured manner, so UN Women's technical assistance can be adapted to the reality of middle and high-income countries.

1.2.3. Action Model Components

The Action Model proposed includes six **components**³:

1. Understand the reality of the LAC region: This includes an updated analysis of the status of women in each thematic area based on an assessment of the structural factors of gender inequalities, regional trends, consultations with partners and UN Women's evaluations and lessons learned.
2. Whom we serve: It defines the different groups of people and organizations UN Women supports to achieve transformative changes among the region's most disadvantaged and excluded women and girls. Gender inequalities inter-

sect with other forms of inequality and social discrimination in the region, with persistent differences in the case of indigenous, Afrodescendant and rural women, in areas such as access to health, employment, income, education and housing, as a result of complex dynamics of social exclusion, poverty, adverse environmental factors, and cultural and behavioral factors.

For UN Women, other priority groups are those women and girls subjected to violence⁴, women with disabilities, women living with HIV⁵, displaced or forced migrant women and girls, LGB, women, women and girls who lack access to sexual and reproductive heal-

3 Inspired in Osterwalder A. and Pigneur Y (2010), Business Model Generation. Book Publisher: Wiley, and adapted at UN Women's regional retreat of August 2018.

4 Four out of ten girls between the ages of 15 and 19 have experienced violence by a partner at some point in their lives, and 1.1 million adolescent women between the ages of 15 and 19 have experienced sexual violence or have been forced into a sexual act.

5 AIDS prevalence in the general population in LAC is 0.4% on average. It has been estimated that 31% of adult people living with HIV in Latin America, and 52% in the Caribbean, are women. Reference: García P, Bayer A, Cárcamo C, 2014; "La cara cambiante del VIH en América Latina y el Caribe", García P, MD, MPH, PhD, 1,2 Ángela Bayer, MPH, PhD, 1,3 and César P Cárcamo, MD, MPH, PhD1.

th services and whose sexual and reproductive rights are violated, as well as girls and young women with limited access to education and health services and basic social infrastructure, such as drinking water, sanitation and electricity, but also to healthy foods and care infrastructure⁶.

3. Partnerships: A description of the network of partners and an explanation about how to establish partnerships to offer value propositions for women and girls.
4. Value propositions: Programmatic offers that create value for women and are aligned with the SDGs.
5. Communication: It describes how to communicate with and reach target audiences (partners, the media, the general public) to offer value propositions.
6. Cost structure: It describes the minimum costs for the implementation of the different programmatic offers depending on country characteristics.

During its implementation, the Action Model will continue to be driven by knowledge and, to become sustainable, it includes a set of core actions:

- i. an ongoing policy and political analysis to gather up-to-date information on the status of women in LAC in each of the four thematic areas;
- ii. monitor and evaluate results through the use of UN Women's corporate results management tools, as well as regional indicators based on programmatic offers to understand what works;
- iii. test the development of public policies considered as "accelerators" to achieve SDG 5 in interested countries, calculating the cost of these policies, identifying financial flows and sequencing their implementation.

1.2.4. Value propositions (Programmatic offers)

The main characteristics of the value propositions (programmatic offers) described in component 3 of the Action Model are that they: i) have demonstrated their impact on some of the SDG indicators; ii) have been designed and implemented in several countries; iii) have been budgeted taking into account country specificities; and iv) reflect expert knowledge accumulated and solid partnerships established, and are aligned with the results of UN Women's Strategic Plan.

Based on these elements, UN Women can establish packages of programmatic offers and multiannual partnerships financed by state institutions, donors and/or the private sector.

UN Women has systematized all the programmatic offers and knowledge products mapped for the Action Models in factsheets that are available to partners upon request.

6 United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean. Commitments and Roadmap for a Planet 50-50 by 2030. <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/digiteca/publicaciones/2017/04/compromisos-y-ruta-hacia-un-planeta-5050-al-2013>

1.3.

PURPOSE OF THIS SUMMARY DOCUMENT

The purpose of this summary document is to present, in an orderly and concrete fashion, the programmatic offers UN Women in Latin America and the Caribbean has available for countries.

While Action Models consist of six components, this document only focuses on three of them. For each of the four

thematic areas, we present a summary of the context analysis, identify potential partnerships and describe the programmatic offers, highlighting flagship products or services in each area. The information on whom we serve is included in the description section of the Action Model.



2

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

PHOTO: UN Women / Eduard Serra

2.1.

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Promoting parity democracy for the achievement of inclusive states

In the last two decades, the majority of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have passed **quota and/or parity laws**, to reduce gender inequalities in politics and ensure the realization of women's political rights. Consequently, women's political participation gap has been reduced, mainly in the legislative power. However, these achievements have not been homogeneous, and important intraregional and intra-country disparities, that are deeper in the case of indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural and young women, still persist.

Parity in political representation is an essential but not sufficient element for the construction of solid and egalitarian democracies. The shift in the approach, from the adoption of Temporary Special Measures (TSMs), such as laws on women's political participation quotas, to a more comprehensive approach that promotes **parity democracy**, is an opportunity to consolidate, in the long term, the exercise of women's political rights, inasmuch as it allows us to address the fundamental causes that have prevented, and continue to prevent, women from fully participating as citizens.

The concept of **parity democracy** proposes a new social contract based on responsibilities shared by the family, the State, societies and businesses. It is a catalyzing concept that involves deep qualitative and qualitative transformations in many areas, from governance

and political participation to reconciliation and joint responsibility in care and the economy, the eradication of violence against women, new masculinities, education and communication on values of equality between the genders, and the environment. It also involves all levels of the State's administration⁷.

Working with political organizations

Political parties and organizations are typically highly masculinized entities that promote discriminatory behaviors that prevent women from holding positions in them. The experience in the region shows situations ranging from rationales that prevent shared responsibility in family life as a result of the long hours of work common in political life, but conceived from a male perspective, to the lack of access to infrastructure, resources (logistic, economic or human) or the information necessary to materialize public management in practice, and even denying a person's legitimacy to hold a given position, all of which can constitute acts of violence in the political sphere.

Women are also faced with invisible limits that constitute a "glass ceiling"⁸ that limits access in equal conditions to higher-level positions in political power that would give them access to resources, networks and visibility to consolidate a political trajectory, based on the alleged need for overqualification or experience, an argument often made in the case of women⁹.

7 PARLATINO, with technical support from UN Women, 2015; Regulatory Framework to Consolidate Parity Democracy. <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/digiteca/publicaciones/2016/06/marco-paritario>

8 Valcárcel (2008): 98.

9 ONU Mujeres, 2018; Democracia paritaria: partidos políticos, impulsores de la igualdad sustantiva.

Addressing violence against women in politics

The hostilities experienced by women who join and participate in the public sphere, political parties or collective or individual political representation positions, have been referred to in the region as **violence and harassment against women in politics**. Despite the global phenomenon of violence, very few countries are legislating on the issue. Most countries are not addressing, discussing or bringing attention to the issue of violence, and no data is being produced. The first time the term “political violence” was mentioned was in a 2011 UN document that issued a call to investigate these crimes. Ever since then, there has been an avalanche of cases, complaints and examples, to the point where the United Nations Secretary-General commissioned a specific investigation into this form of violence which was conducted by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka Šimonović, who presented her report in August 2018.

One of the main aspects confirmed by that report is the veil of silence that shrouds the issue, with the resulting lack of data and evidence. Rapporteur Šimonović highlights that this form of violence is widespread and systematic, and has a shocking impact on the political careers of women in these positions, with intergenerational consequences for the full exercise of their political rights¹⁰.

The report also states that violence against women in politics is a form of

gender-based violence (GBV) and a human rights violation. It also concludes that this form of violence deters women from participating in political spaces, and public policies are affected by the lack of women in decision-making spaces.

Only a few countries in the region have tools to identify and address harassment and violence against women participating in politics. Bolivia is the only country in the world that has ratified a *Law against the Harassment of, and Political Violence against, Women* (Law 243), and Mexico has a *Protocol to address gender-based political violence against women* a reference for civic and interinstitutional action based on the OAS/CIM Inter-American Model Law on Political Violence against Women.

In 2015, MESECVI's Committee of Experts made a commitment to help build the capacities of States Parties to the Belém do Pará Convention to effectively address this form of violence, and initiated the process of drafting the OAS/CIM *Inter-American Model Law on Political Violence against Women*, which was adopted by MESECVI in 2016.

Consolidating achievements in the defense of women's rights

While women's political participation in the region has improved, we still find highly conservative narratives and increased resistance. We have also witnessed an increase in the political power and voice of fundamentalist and ultraconservative groups that denounce the dangers of the so-called “gender ideology” (which seeks to influence discus-

10 UN Women and Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, 2018; Violence against women in politics: Expert Group Meeting report and recommendations, March 8-9 2018, NY. p. 7. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/9/egm-report-violence-against-women-in-politics>

sions around gender identities and the associated rights already won). These attacks have increased the risk of a violent reaction against women's civic, political, social, economic and cultural rights.

In response to the reality that exists in the region, UN Women's contribution focuses on the area of political participation and governance systems, in four

- i. Ensure an increasing number of women of all ages participating, leading and fully involved in political processes and institutions.
- ii. Ensure an increasing number of national and local budgets, policies,

strategies and plans with a gender perspective.

- iii. Ensure an increased availability of disaggregated and higher quality data and statistics to promote and keep track of progress in gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as people in situations of vulnerability.
- iv. Ensure an increasing number of justice bodies accessible and available for women and girls in all contexts.

2.2.

MAIN ALLIES IN THE THEMATIC AREA

To promote women's leadership and political participation, as well as solid and inclusive governance systems, UN Wo-

men has identified the key allies described in the following table:

STATE INSTITUTIONS	Executive Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Women's Mechanisms • Sectoral and Planning Ministries (e.g. Justice) • Ministries of Finance • National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Institutions participating in National Statistical Systems (NSSs)
	Legislative Power (Parliaments)
	Local governments and municipal councils
	Electoral Authorities/Judicial Power: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral bodies • Ibero-American Network of Electoral Women Magistrates • Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies
POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS	Political parties, coalitions, political movements, political party women's forums, independent candidates, freely nominated candidates, civic organizations, indigenous peoples...
CIVIL SOCIETY	Women's and other civil society organizations
	Women candidates
MASS MEDIA	Mass media and ICTs
INTERGOVERNMENTAL MECHANISMS	Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) ParlAmericas Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) COMMCA
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (UNS) AND OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	Interagency programme (e.g. ATENEA)
	Ad hoc groups (e.g. Inter-American Task Force on Women's Empowerment and Leadership)

2.3.

FLAGSHIP PRODUCTS OR SERVICES

2.3.1. ATENEA Programme



Indicators 5.5.1 “Women in national parliaments and local governments” and 5.5.2 “Women in managerial positions”



Indicator 16.7.1 “Women in public institutions”

Output 4 of UN Women’s strategic plan

The ATENEA Programme is a **mechanism to accelerate women’s progress in parity political participation in Latin America and the Caribbean**, through legislative reforms that allow them to hold political leadership positions to represent and influence development in their localities.

It is a joint proposal developed by UN Women, UNDP and IDEA International, with the aim of giving a more strategic direction to their individual work and consolidating efforts to address the issue and produce long-term changes.

To date, the mechanism has been implemented at a national level in 8 countries (Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Honduras), and it is in its early stages of implementation in Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil and Córdoba (Argentina).

Its implementation includes 4 specific and interrelated strategies referred to as the “pillars” of the system:

i. Information: Political Parity Index calculation.

ii. A comprehensive analysis of the status of women’s right to political participation, in addition to specific recommendations to promote reforms.

iii. Communication through messages targeted to the public opinion, decision makers and organizations working on political advocacy.

iv. Coordinated actions between national stakeholders to change rules, structures and processes that prevent the effective exercise of women’s right to political participation.

These strategies are developed in the context of a process of dialogue facilitated by the national offices of participating organizations, with relevant political and institutional stakeholders in the area of political participation, who can then share information and experiences, provide feedback for analysis and disseminate findings, and are ultimately responsible for political action.

Within the context of the project, a **Network for Parity Democracy**¹¹ was created. This network is a space for exchange and dialogue around issues related to women’s political participation, parity democracy in Latin America, the reform of political parties, and addressing criticism from conservative and fundamentalist groups, among other things. The purpose of the Network is to have a multiplicity of influential stakeholders from all over the region to promote reforms in the area of political parity and a space to support civil society and women’s society movements promoting parity.

11 Webinar to launch the Network for Parity Democracy, <https://ateneaesparidad.com/video-lanzamiento-de-la-red-de-democracia-paritaria/>

2.3.2. Advocacy Framework to Consolidate Parity Democracy of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament



Indicators 5.5.1 “Women in national parliaments and local governments” and 5.5.2 “Women in managerial positions”



Indicator 16.7.1 “Women in public institutions”

Output 4 of UN Women’s strategic plan

This is a tool to encourage states to adopt a parity democracy model approved by the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) in 2015, with UN Women’s technical support and leadership.

The Framework Law consists of a strategy to drive major qualitative and quantitative changes in all spheres, and it involves all powers and territorial levels. It proposes the achievement of an ‘Inclusive State’ in the region where substantive equality and democratic parity are the backbone of governance.

This Framework also **tasks UN Women** with the planning of dissemination activities and the adaptation of laws in member States, as well as the systematization, monitoring and evaluation of the Advocacy Framework implementation process, in coordination with other agencies of the UN System and other regional or national organizations specialized in the matter.

2.3.3. Training programme for women politicians in Latin America and the Caribbean



Indicators 5.5.1 “Women in national parliaments and local governments” and 5.5.2 “Women in managerial positions”



Indicator 16.7.1 “Women in public institutions”

Output 4 of UN Women’s strategic plan

UN Women works to build the political advocacy, empowerment and leadership capacities of women (including indigenous and Afro-descendant women) and women’s networks involved

in decision-making processes, through training programmes for women at the local/municipal level.

It also works to build individual and collective competencies for women’s political participation in the region by sharing knowledge, instruments and good practices on related topics, in order to influence the implementation of women’s political agendas with a rights-based approach.

UN Women also promotes partnerships to promote governance and parity democracy at the local and municipal level in the region.

2.3.4. Work with electoral systems and processes and political organizations



Indicators 5.5.1 “Women in national parliaments and local governments” and 5.5.2 “Women in managerial positions”



Indicator 16.7.1 “Women in public institutions”

Output 4 of UN Women’s strategic plan

UN Women’s work in this area includes different actions:

- Tools to verify compliance with equality: UN Women supports observatories of electoral bodies through the use of databases, guides and guidelines for monitoring and analysis, and support for the incorporation of provisions on gender equality and women’s rights in electoral bodies. It produces and disseminates tools to verify that political parties fulfill their obligations (multi-partisan rankings), supports the development and implementation of training courses for interpretation of electoral laws from the perspective of gender equality and women’s rights, and promotes and provides technical input for strategic litigation.
- Recording, monitoring, assistance and punishment of violence against women politicians: UN Women works on the conceptualization and definition of violence against women in politics. It also promotes the adoption of legislative measures by different stakeholders (parliaments, political parties, electoral bodies) and supports systems to keep records of cases, in addition to follow-up, monitoring and situation reports. It organizes and promotes awareness raising activities to eradicate the social tolerance of violence against women in politics.
- Education on women’s political rights: UN Women leads training courses for women candidates with a specific focus on indigenous, Afro-descendant and young women candidates, and produces online training tools for women candidates and elected women politicians. One particular example is UN Women’s development, together with CAPEL-IIDH¹² of a proposal of online training modules for magistrates and electoral officials on issues related to women’s political participation and exercise of citizenship. The purpose of these training courses is to increase the level of knowledge of women magistrates and electoral officials about the challenges of women’s political and electoral rights in contemporary democracies, with the aim of getting electoral bodies to incorporate competencies developed into their institutional work and monitor the measures public institutions and political parties are required to implement to advance women’s political rights.
- Campaigns with a gender perspective: UN Women develops and leads training courses for political communicators, as well as training campaigns and guides targeted at mass media, on topics related to governance, political participation and violence against women in politics. UN Women also produces lists of arguments for the conduction of successful electoral campaigns for equality and inclusion.

12 Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL) of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IHR).

- Work with political organizations: Information, training and facilitation of spaces for dialogue: UN Women has a methodology for the creation and operation of inter-partisan working groups, and develops and promotes organizational, electoral and programmatic roadmaps towards equality based on political party rankings. It designs and leads training courses for political orga-

nizations with a gender equality approach; it promotes proposals to amend bylaws for the incorporation of the principle of parity into partisan organic structures and promotes fair resource allocation and the creation of follow-up indicators. UN Women also promotes the political affiliation and political participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women.

2.3.5. Production of gender-sensitive data and statistics



All indicators



Indicator 17.18.1 “Sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation”

Output 6 of UN Women’s strategic plan

Latin America and the Caribbean is the region leading UN Women’s gender statistics, as shown by the following actions:

- Production and reporting of gender indicators and statistics: UN Women provides technical inputs in the form of guides for the development and reporting of gender indicators and statistics, and catalogues of instruments and measurements (censuses, time-use surveys, MICS). It also provides technical assistance for the implementation of gender observatories and the coordination of the Global Center of Excellence in Gender Statistics of Mexico’s

National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). It supports governments in the implementation of the SDGs by providing assistance for SDG localization processes with a gender approach (UN Women is the custodian of indicator 5.5.1b of the SDGs, on women and local governments), and assists in the preparation of national voluntary reports.

It also works as an observer, together with UNFPA and UNICEF, in the **Statistical Committee of the Americas**, coordinated by ECLAC, and is an active part of the task force on statistics of the regional SDG group for the **definition of regional SDG indicators** that must be monitored by Member States in the region as part of the agreement of the Statistical Committee of the Americas. Together with INMUJERES and INEGI, both from Mexico, and ECLAC, it organizes the **International Meeting on Gender Statistics** in Aguascalientes (since 2000), and the International Meeting of Experts on Time Use Surveys and Unpaid Work (since 2002), which are part

of the **workplan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA-ECLAC)** It also organizes awareness raising activities for civil society on the importance of their participation in SDG oversight.

- Knowledge and data production and management: UN Women does advocacy work and provides technical assistance to National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and institutions that are part of National Statistical Systems for the production and analysis of gender-sensitive data, with a focus on: i) keeping records of cases of political violence; ii) the analysis of the sociodemographic, political and ideological trends of Latin American parliamentarian elites (PELA project, in collaboration with the Salamanca University); iii)

advocacy for the development of a methodology for the production of data on indigenous and Afro-descendant women; iv) the analysis of the relationship between gender and corruption, and v) data and assessments of the ATENEA Platform (parity index). It also provides support for the adaptation of the Report on Progress of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and UN Women's Global Report Turning promises into action: *Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in countries*.

- ATLAS: UN Women provides support for the preparation of the gender ATLAS by reviewing and submitting recommendations.

2.4.

OTHER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

2.4.1. Increasing women's participation and involvement in political processes and institutions



Indicators 5.5.1 “Women in national parliaments and local governments” and 5.5.2 “Women in managerial positions”



Indicator 16.7.1 “Women in public institutions”

Output 4 of UN Women's strategic plan

Normative approach

- i. Training on, and promotion of, political institutionality for equality: UN Women promotes and supports the creation and/or consolidation of women's political lobbies and commissions for equality through the systematization and dissemination of good practices and the promotion of exchange opportunities. It also encourages the participation of women in meetings, conferences, forums and national and/or regional spaces, and the participation of male allies in Parliaments.
- ii. Legislative framework for equality: UN Women produces and provides technical inputs (lists of argu-

ments, studies, databases) for the consolidation of parity democracy in legislative terms, with a focus on international standards, regional legislative frameworks ratified by States, and laws on quotas and parity. It promotes legislative reforms for the legal classification of harassment and violence against women in politics, as well as the regulation of prevention, assistance and sanction mechanisms, and disseminates existing laws and protocols on harassment and violence against women in politics. It promotes affirmative actions for the integration of women in the different branches of government at all levels, in addition to monitoring and supporting legislative alert systems to analyze the impact on women's human rights and gender equality. It also provides technical support for legislative reforms to repeal discriminatory legislation through the promotion and dissemination of tools and comparative studies of discriminatory legislation in the region.

2.4.2. National and local budgets, policies, strategies and plans with a gender perspective



Indicator 5.c.1 “Countries with systems to track gender equality”

Output 5 of UN Women’s strategic plan

- i. Gender-responsive planning and budgeting roadmap: UN Women supports the integration of the gender approach into national development plans and budgets, as well as all public, national and territorial plans and budgets, with a focus on: 1) Equality plans; 2) Elimination of violence; 3) Economic empowerment; 4) Political empowerment; 5) Particularly vulnerable women (rural, indigenous, African-descent, sticky floors, young, etc.). It also supports the development of tools for the formulation of budgets with a gender approach (Budget classification system).
- ii. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies: UN Women has developed toolkits that compile good practices and guidelines for the design of indicators, and provides inputs and technical assistance for the integration of civil society into planning and evaluation participatory processes.
- iii. Guidelines: UN Women has up-to-date databases, studies and comparative data on gender mechanisms available online, as well as guidelines on the role played by National Women’s Mechanisms (NWMs) in the process of gender mainstreaming within the State (territorialization). It also builds the capacities of the staff working for NWMs, with a focus on planning, monitoring and evaluation. It assists NWMs in the preparation of CEDAW reports, UPRs, etc., and promotes and supports the participation of women ministers and high-level women’s authorities in key intergovernmental spaces such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Regional Conference on Women.

2.4.3. Justice bodies accessible and available for women and girls



Indicator 5.5.2 “Women in managerial positions”



Indicator 16.7.1 “Women in public institutions”

Output 7 of UN Women’s strategic plan

Administration of the justice system

- i. Tools to rule with a gender perspective: UN Women provides support for justice reforms with a gender perspective and organizes training courses for formal and informal justice actors; it promotes guidelines and specific provisions to bring justice to indigenous, Afrodescendant

and rural women, and promotes strategic litigation (e.g. Sepur Zarco). It provides technical assistance for the systematization of sentences and resolutions in terms of equality. It promotes the generation of judicial statistical information to gain a better understanding of the exercise of rights by women, the obstacles they face and the response of authorities thereto, with the aim of influencing policy design. It also has a protocol for the investigation of threats against women human rights defenders.

Facilitating access to justice

While the section on violence against women and girls of this document covers more actions in the area of justice implemented by UN Women in the region, the following are two areas of work relevant to this section.

- i. Awareness raising and promotion of women's human rights to increase access to justice: UN Women supports and promotes the development of studies and new regional conceptualizations (parity democracy, depatriarchalization) in collaboration with think tanks and women's organizations. It also has lists of arguments to deconstruct the gender "ideology" and promote equality. It provides technical inputs for the implementation of campaigns to promote women's access to justice.
- ii. Legal assistance for women in preventive detention: UN Women works together with law firms to provide legal assistance to women held in pre-trial detention, collects data on women in that situation and raises awareness of the importance of gender equality and women's rights among justice and prison authorities and bodies.



3

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

PHOTO: ONU Mujeres / Ryan Brown

3.1.

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, women have gained unprecedented access to economic resources and autonomy in the last 25 years¹³, but attitudes and cultural norms associated with traditional gender roles and stereotypes still persist and question their rights. Depending on the country context and gender inequality patterns, economic opportunities for women vary and require differentiated public policy packages to ensure women's economic inclusion and equal conditions.

The Latin America and the Caribbean region has the largest growth in women's participation in the global labor market, from 57% in 1997 to 68% in 2017¹⁴. However, this positive trend is tempered by several factors.

First, the autonomous integration of women into the labor market continues to be highly stratified among women from different socioeconomic levels.

Second, while the proportion of women with no income of their own has declined, almost one third of women in the region rely on somebody else's income to live, a situation that makes them vulnerable and economically dependent.

Third, 79% of working women are employed in low productivity sectors and the informal sector, with limited access to social protection. Women's participation in the labor market is limited by a division of labor where men have not increased their participation in unpaid work. In the case of labor policies, despite the adoption of a series of measures to address salary equality in 15

countries, men earn more than women at any age, level of education or type of job, especially in the highest-paid occupations.

Women are more affected by poverty due to persistent gaps in labor market participation, employment, unemployment and salaries, as well as the increasing number of women headed households.

In the rural sector, the proportion of agricultural land managed by women has grown significantly since the 1990s, but the size of plots cultivated or managed by women tends to be smaller and of lower quality than those of men.

Women's unequal economic empowerment, which could grow even more as a result of the current context of increasing austerity, combined with widespread discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes, affects women's equal participation in all the spheres of public and private life, the exercise of their rights, and their access to justice and opportunities to live a life of dignity.

Bearing in mind this general context, we identify four critical aspects that limit women's economic empowerment and wellbeing and on which we must act:

- i. Structural barriers: Women will not be able to achieve economic empowerment as long as they continue to dedicate a significant part of their time to unpaid work. The only alternatives to overcome these barriers, in addition to sharing responsibilities with men and state

13 UN Women, 2017; Progress of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean 2017 <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/digiteca/publicaciones/2016/12/el-progreso-de-las-mujeres-america-latina-y-el-caribe-2017>

14 UN Women, 2018; Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018>

care services, are delaying or avoiding motherhood or paying for childcare services, all of which are alternatives conditioned by income levels.

- ii. Discrimination: Even in those cases where women can overcome the above-mentioned structural barriers, discrimination in the labor market and social policies represent an additional limit to their economic empowerment.

Unemployment rates are systematically higher among women compared to men in most countries in the region, and women's salaries are lower for work of equal value. Informal and unpaid work in family businesses or small rural farms is also a lot more common among women than men. Glass ceilings (promotions and upward mobility) and glass walls (types of work, positions and horizontal mobility) are also ubiquitous for women. Discrimination is also present in access to credit, real estate and social security benefits. Women's work is not only undervalued from the standpoint of salaries, but also in terms of social rights.

- iii. Difference in levels of power in the household and family support:

Women have less power when it comes to financial decisions in the household, because they have a more fragile position with less support. When they separate from their partners, they are more likely to continue to care for and live with their children; and they are also the ones paying the highest opportunity cost in relation to the labor market.

- iv. Social and cultural norms: Women carry out unpaid work and typically apply for lower-paying jobs due to deeply-rooted cultural norms (such as the maternal mandate imposed by patriarchy and the notion of "natural" care skills), but also due to the existence of structural barriers and discriminatory practices.

The decision to engage in informal jobs is often due to the need for flexible schedules to take care of the family. Choosing less demanding careers is often the result of glass ceiling considerations, and choosing certain types of jobs is often the result of invisible barriers, such as the lack of facilities for women (for example, restrooms) or the likelihood of experiencing sexual or workplace harassment.

3.2.

MAIN ALLIES IN THE THEMATIC AREA

To promote women's economic empowerment, UN Women has identified five groups of key allies that are described in the table below:

CIVIL SOCIETY	Women's organizations: feminist organizations, rural women's organizations, businesswomen's organizations, women's economic cooperatives, domestic service unions, women's organizations affiliated with trade union movements, female students' organizations.
	Other civil society organizations: trade union organizations, environmental organizations...
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL SYSTEM	National Women's Mechanisms
	Institutions linked to economic policy: Ministries of Finance and Development, Ministries of Labor, Social Security, agencies supporting the development of rural businesses, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises...
	Institutions linked to social policy: Ministries of Health, Labor, Social Security
	Congress and political parties
PRIVATE SECTOR	Companies, female entrepreneur and businesswomen's organizations, Global Pact, and networks of private sector institutions.
MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL DONORS	United Nations System: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, ECLAC and ILO, among others.
	Multilateral financial institutions: IMF, World Bank, IDB, CAF
OTHERS	Mass media and academia

3.3.

FLAGSHIP PRODUCTS OR SERVICES

3.3.1. Care systems



Indicators 1.2.2 “Women living in poverty in all its dimensions”, 1.3.1 “Population covered by social protection, by sex”, and 1.b.1 “Proportion of public spending to sectors that benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups”



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex” and 5.4.1 “Unpaid domestic and care work, by sex”



Indicators 8.3.1 “Proportion of informal employment, by sex” and 8.8.2 “Compliance of labor rights at the national level, by sex”



Indicator 10.2.1 “People living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex”

Output 8 of UN Women’s strategic plan

UN Women has implemented diverse actions and strategies to place care services on the social, economic and political agenda of countries in the region, including the following:

- Seminars, workshops and initiatives for political dialogue with key partners.
- Production of media campaigns.
- Research for the production of a detailed map of programmes and policies related to care services.
- Estimation of costs, benefits and coverage of national care systems or care components in specific social services.
- Design of service models and standards adapted to the specific realities of each country, taking into account available and potential human resources, infrastructure and service providers (both public and private).

3.3.2. Time-use surveys



Indicator 5.4.1 “Unpaid domestic and care work, by sex”



Indicator 17.18.1 “Sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation”

Output 6 of UN Women’s strategic plan

UN Women provides advice and supports and, in some cases, leads the development of time-use surveys. It also provides technical assistance for data analysis and presentation. In this regard, it implements actions such as the following:

- Research and design of customized guidelines to conduct time-use surveys.
- Survey design and adaptation to other national instruments.
- Technical assistance for implementation and data collection.
- Development of data sets, analyses and reports.
- Support for the development of platforms and data sets integrated with other relevant national information.

3.3.3. Female domestic workers’ rights



Indicators 1.2.2 “Women living in poverty in all its dimensions”, 1.3.1 “Population covered by social protection, by sex”, and 1.b.1 “Proportion of public spending to sectors that benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups”



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex” and 5.4.1 “Unpaid domestic and care work, by sex”



Indicators 8.3.1 “Proportion of informal employment, by sex”, 8.5.1 “Average hourly earnings of female employees”, and 8.8.2 “Compliance of labor rights at the national level, by sex”



Indicator 10.2.1 “People living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex”

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UN Women develops tools and products to improve the working conditions of people, mainly women, engaged in domestic work, in line with ILO Convention 189¹⁵, including:

- Socioeconomic analyses of the status of female and male domestic workers.
- Legal analyses of legal and regulatory frameworks on domestic work, and analysis of gaps with regard to ILO Convention 189.
- Training and capacity-building tools for domestic workers' associations.
- Cost calculation of formal and decent work initiatives for domestic workers.
- Formulation of individual contracts and inspection protocols on decent work in domestic labor.

3.3.4. Social protection systems with a gender perspective



Indicators 1.2.2 “Women living in poverty in all its dimensions”, 1.3.1 “Population covered by social protection, by sex”, and 1.b.1 “Proportion of public spending to sectors that benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups”



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex” and 5.4.1 “Unpaid domestic and care work, by sex”



Indicators 8.3.1 “Proportion of informal employment, by sex” and 8.8.2 “Compliance of labor rights at the national level, by sex”



Indicator 10.2.1 “People living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex”

Output 8 of UN Women’s strategic plan

UN Women develops tools for the transformation of social protection systems, with a gender approach, that include highly structured and proven methodologies, including the following:

- Evaluation of social protection policies and systems with a gender approach.
- Evaluation of beneficiaries with a gender approach.
- Costing of gender-sensitive social protection systems and identification of finance sources.
- Gender-sensitive budget analysis.
- Strategies and methodologies for participatory mechanisms: civil society and commitment to the community.

15 ILO, C189. Convention on decent work for domestic workers, https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/es/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID,P12100_LANG_CODE:2551460,en:NO

3.3.5. Promotion of equal pay for work of equal value - EPIC Initiative



Indicator 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”



Indicators 8.5.1 “Average hourly earnings of female employees”, and 8.8.2 “Compliance of labor rights at the national level, by sex”



Indicator 10.2.1 “People living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex”

Output 8 of UN Women’s strategic plan

The Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC), promoted by the International Labor Organization (ILO), UN Women and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), was launched worldwide in September 2017 in the context of the United Nations General Assembly, with the goal of achieving equal pay for work of equal value and, thus, reduce the pay gap between men and women.

It is based on the recognition that no single actor can solve this challenge, and efforts can be accelerated through leveraging expertise across a diverse range of stakeholders. EPIC acknowledges the fundamental importance of country ownership, alignment with na-

tional priorities, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability among partners.

UN Women, in collaboration with the Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Panama, supports the implementation of the regional work plan to promote equal pay for work of equal value in the public agendas of countries in the region, including proposals and specific actions from a dual and complementary perspective:

- i. Political advocacy: This perspective includes actions to promote equal pay between women and men in the regional political agenda as a means to achieve the active participation of country governments and the rest of actors involved.
- ii. Communication and specific tools to fulfill the commitment of promoting equal pay for work of equal value: a website for dissemination and communication, an information document, a tool to measure salary gaps for reasons of gender in organizations, and a catalogue of measures to promote equal pay for different types of entities.

3.3.6. Women's Empowerment Principles: A roadmap to promote equality in businesses



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex” and 5.5.2 “Women in managerial positions”



Indicators 8.5.1 “Average hourly earnings of female employees”, and 8.8.2 “Compliance of labor rights at the national level, by sex”

Output 9 of UN Women's strategic plan

Women's Empowerment Principles, an adaptation of the Calvert Women's Principles, are a set of good business prac-

tices to promote equality between women and men in all management areas. This initiative, promoted by UN Women in partnership with the Global Pact, proposes the creation of development opportunities for women within public and private businesses, their participation in leadership and decision-making, equal pay for equal work, and the generation of opportunities for continuous education, training and professional development.

It provides a tool for the evaluation of gender equality in the workplace, markets and communities, data and figures, good practices and tools to help businesses implement the principles.

3.4.

OTHER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

3.4.1. Women's access to decent employment



Indicators 1.2.2 “Women living in poverty in all its dimensions”, 1.3.1 “Population covered by social protection, by sex”, and 1.b.1 “Proportion of public spending to sectors that benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups”



Indicator 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”



Indicators 8.3.1 “Proportion of informal employment, by sex”, 8.5.1 “Average hourly earnings of female employees “, and 8.8.2 “Compliance of labor rights at the national level, by sex”



Indicator 10.2.1 “People living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex”

Output 8 of UN Women's strategic plan

Most of UN Women's work in the region on women's access to decent work is related to female domestic workers and rural and indigenous women, but it also includes initiatives targeted to self-employed women or women working in small businesses.

It also promotes initiatives to facilitate

dialogue between Ministries of Labor and Women's Mechanisms in countries like Ecuador, Uruguay and Chile.

In the case of maternity leaves, UN Women not only promotes them, but also works on analysis and political advocacy in that field.

3.4.2. Women's access to productive and financial assets and resources

Promotion of women's entrepreneurial spirit



Indicator 1.b.1. “Proportion of public spending to sectors that benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups”



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”, 5.a.1 “Ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex”, and 5.a.2 “Laws that guarantee equal rights to land ownership”



Indicators 8.3.1 “Proportion of informal employment, by sex”, and 8.8.2 “Compliance of labor rights at the national level, by sex”



Indicator 10.2.1 “People living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex”

Output 9 of UN Women's strategic plan

Access to markets, credit, education and capacity building can help women working in precarious and low productivity sectors to create innovative businesses and cooperatives.

UN Women works in the region to promote women's empowerment through

workshops and training, facilitating access by women entrepreneurs to goods and services, and also through analyses and recommendations to change regulatory frameworks related to access to ownership and credit.

Innovative finance and financial inclusion



Indicator 1.b.1. “Proportion of public spending to sectors that benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups”



Indicator 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”



Indicator 10.2.1 “People living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex”

Output 9 of UN Women's strategic plan

Women often face important obstacles to access financial tools, resources and credit. They are often denied access to loans, either because they do not have properties in their name or do not have a steady salary. And not having a bank account makes things even more complicated. Finally, the majority of the women who try to open a business face discrimination in credit and financial markets, despite the fact that, in general terms, women are better at paying off debts than men.

UN Women works at the regional level by supporting the design of financial

inclusion strategies and promoting policies, programmes and projects to show that a different financial model that does not discriminate against women is possible. For example, the project *Fondo Mujer*, (“Women’s Fund”), developed in El Salvador, involved the creation of a microfinancing model that gave women in rural areas access to credit. It also included a financial training course for a group of women on topics such as sales strategies, customer service, use of social media to increase sales, business plans, image, and government sales strategies.

Rural women’s access to land and productive resources



Indicators 1.2.2 “Women living in poverty in all its dimensions”, and 1.b.1 “Proportion of public spending to sectors that benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups”



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”, 5.a.1 “Ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex”, and 5.a.2 “Laws that guarantee equal rights to land ownership”



Indicators 8.3.1 “Proportion of informal employment, by sex”, and 8.8.2 “Compliance of labor rights at the national level, by sex”



Indicator 10.2.1 “People living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex”

Rural women have limited access to land and other productive resources due to historical discrimination, legal frameworks and customary practices. UN Women works in the region to reverse this situation by empowering women, implementing productive projects and addressing the legal and material causes of that inequality. To this end, it carries out actions such as the following:

- Support to rural women entrepreneurs for the development of business plans, building leadership skills and building financial and management capacities (e.g., a project developed in three municipalities of the Cinti Valley in Bolivia).
- Research on the legal and institutional barriers and gaps, as well as the financial constraints that affect rural and indigenous women, and recommendations to overcome them (e.g., Report prepared with the support of UN Women and OXFAM in Paraguay).
- Promotion of indigenous women’s economic empowerment through a space managed by women themselves to promote the creation of networks, build leadership skills and provide training on economic empowerment topics (e.g., *Originarias* Programme in the north of Chile).

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4

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

4.1.

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Violence against women and girls (VAWG), in its different expressions, is one of the world's most widespread human rights violations. This form of violence, a visible sign of gender inequality and widespread patriarchy, occurs in all spaces and spheres of human interaction, whether public or private, including the family, communities, public spaces, the workplace, leisure, politics, sports, health services, schools and on-line environments.

Regional framework for the elimination of violence against women and girls

The Latin America region has been a pioneer in the adoption and implementation of international instruments and mechanisms to prevent and address violence against women and girls in states in the region.

The **Inter-American Convention on the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women**, also known as the Belém do Pará Convention, approved in 1994, was the first international human rights treaty to address violence against women specifically. The Convention establishes the obligation of the OAS states parties to the Convention to implement and systematically evaluate national initiatives for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women. Their commitment is supervised by two mechanisms: the Follow-up Mechanism to the Convention (MESECVI), which consists of a systematic and permanent multilateral evaluation based on exchange and technical cooperation between the states parties to the Convention and a Committee of Experts, and the Inter-American Human Rights

System, which is activated through individual complaints. Several complaints filed by women that have led to outstanding decisions by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (CIDH), as well as others filed with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Corte IDH), have resulted in jurisprudence on the Belém do Pará Convention for the definition of the states' obligations to eliminate violence against women.

International instruments and resolutions issued at the Inter-American level have also had an impact at the national level in the form of trials and legal and political reforms. These resolutions include the Sepur Zarco ruling in 2016, a decision that set a historical precedent upon considering, for the first time, sexual violence as a war crime in a domestic court, in this case, in Guatemala.

The regional framework has been complemented with political instruments, such as the **Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and the Montevideo Strategy for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

The legal framework is one of the pillars of the Strategy that considers the passing of laws and comprehensive and specific regulations on gender equality and women's human rights, including laws on the right to a life free from all forms of gender-based violence, ensuring their full and effective application.

Several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have also enhanced the legal framework that establishes the obligation to protect, investigate, prosecute, punish and provide restitution to women subjected to gender violence. The 2017 UNDP-UN Women re-

port¹⁶ states that the region has made progress in the development, adoption and implementation of first-generation laws¹⁷ (in 24 of 33 countries analyzed), more comprehensive second-generation laws¹⁸ (in 9 of 33 countries), and laws that define the crime of femicide/feminicide, the most extreme form of gender-based violence (in 16 out of 33 countries), in addition to policies and multi-sectoral action plans.

Situation of violence against women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean

Despite the region's leadership in the area of international legislative achievements, as well as the creation and adoption of legal frameworks in many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the issue of violence against women and girls still persists, and high rates of gender violence continue to pose a major challenge.

Demographic and Health Surveys¹⁹ and Reproductive Health Surveys²⁰ conducted in all the countries in the region show violence against women by a partner is widespread: between one fourth and one half of the women surveyed re-

ported having experienced violence by their partner at some point²¹.

According to UNICEF, the region still faces high levels of early sexual initiation among girls –associated with sexual violence in their domestic environment and relationships between girls and older men– and alarming levels of adolescent pregnancy. The situation is compounded by the fact that one out of four girls in the region gets married before the age of 18.

A gender analysis of the 2016 Small Arms Survey's database on violent deaths showed that, among the 25 countries with the highest rates of femicide worldwide, 14 were from Latin America and the Caribbean²².

Official data from the Observatory on Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean for 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries shows a total of 2,559 women victims of femicide or femicide in 2017. Data for 2016 and 2017 show that El Salvador (with a rate of 10.2 femicides per 100,000 women), Honduras (5.8), Belize (4.8), Trinidad and Tobago (3.0), Guatemala (2.6) and the Dominican Republic (2.2) are the countries with the highest prevalence of femicides in the region.

16 UNDP and UN Women, 2017; From Commitment to Action: Policies to Eradicate Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Regional analysis document <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/digiteca/publicaciones/2017/11/politicas-para-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-america-latina-y-el-caribe>

17 Laws that establish measures to protect women from violence experienced in the private (family, household, domestic and intimate) sphere.

18 Laws that address violence against women more broadly, including the public and private spheres, and recognize the rights of women victims/survivors..

19 These surveys have been conducted in Haiti, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Bolivia since 2005. Information available at <https://dhsprogram.com/>

20 These surveys have been conducted in Guatemala, Jamaica, Paraguay, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Honduras since 2001. Information available at <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/series/reproductive-health-survey-rhs>

21 Pan American Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012; Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries. https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8175:2013-violence-against-women-latin-america-caribbean-comparative-analysis&Itemid=41342&lang=en

22 Small arms survey, 2016; Firearms and violent deaths. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/about-us/highlights/2016/highlight-rn60.html>

Women's disappearances are typically associated with femicides/feminicides or other forms of violence against women. However, while information on homicides tends to be more reliable and accurate compared to other crimes²³, feminicides, including those that involve sexual violence, are often undetected or are not classified appropriately by the authorities for many reasons, including the different legal definitions used in each country.

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, violence against women and girls is exacerbated by a series of transnational trends, such as the high levels of impunity for perpetrators of homicides, migratory flows, and conflict or post-conflict scenarios. In addition to all these factors, in many countries in the region, laws to address violence against

women are simply inexistent, inadequate and/or applied incorrectly.

The application and enforcement of existing laws and policies has not been evaluated sufficiently. Funds for the implementation of national action plans on VAWG, on the other hand, are inconsistent and inadequate; there are high levels of impunity for all forms of violence against women; no harmonized and comparable data for evidence-based policy is collected, and there is a need to address the continuity of violence from conflict to post-conflict scenarios, as well as citizen security.

To this, we must add growing conservatism and the violent reaction against women's rights that are affecting the region.

23 This is the result of several factors, including the fact that most homicides are reported and recorded by different public services (police, health services, civil registries and vital statistics registries), and other crimes, such as intimate partner violence or sexual violence, are often not reported and, therefore, not recorded.

4.2.

MAIN ALLIES IN THE THEMATIC AREA

UN Women's programmatic offers in the area of violence against women and girls are developed in close collabora-

tion with a variety of stakeholders at all levels, including the following:

CIVIL SOCIETY	Women and girls, including indigenous and Afro-descendant women and girls, women from rural areas, women human rights defenders...
	Feminist and women's rights organizations, and organizations that represent women who experience intersectional (multiple) discrimination
	Civil society organizations: human rights organizations, faith-based organizations
STATE INSTITUTIONS	Executive Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Women's Mechanisms • Ministries, in particular, Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Transportation, Ministries of Education and the entire education network • National Statistical Institutes • Police • Forensic medicine institutes • National Security Mechanisms • Immigration services • Ombudsman's offices
	Legislative Power (Parliaments and groups of women parliamentarians)
	Judicial power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme courts • National prosecutors
	Statistical units in the State's different areas of action related to gender-based violence (National Statistical Institute, judicial power, police, prosecutors, health systems, etc.)
	Local governments
ACADEMIC CIRCLES	Academia
MASS MEDIA	Mass media and ICTs
PRIVATE SECTOR	Itaipú Binacional, Fundación Avon, International Olympic Committee, Fundamorgan, SUMARSE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	Regional/subregional organizations: CARICOM, SICA/COMCA and Mercosur
	Regional mechanisms specifically working on violence within the Organization of American States (OAS), such as MESECVI
	International Cooperation Agencies: USAID, AECID, EU, Swiss Cooperation
	United Nations System: UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNODC and PAHO, among others

4.3.

FLAGSHIP PRODUCTS OR SERVICES

4.3.1. Inter-American model law for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violent deaths of women (femicide/feminicide)



Indicators 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”



Indicator 16.1.1 “Intentional homicides, by sex”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

With support from MESECVI’s Technical Secretariat and UN Women, MESECVI’s

Committee of Experts approved the document on the model law at its 15th Meeting held in December 2018.

The purpose of the Model Law is to serve as a basis for the creation of a legal framework on this issue in the region. It seeks to reinforce actions for effective prevention, protection, care, investigation, prosecution, punishment and comprehensive reparation to guarantee the right of all women and girls to a life free of violence and stereotypical patterns of behavior, in accordance with the principle of due diligence and other international human rights obligations.

4.3.2. Development of legislation, policies and national action plans on VAWG



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex” and 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”



Indicator 16.1.1 “Intentional homicides, by sex”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

UN Women provides support in processes for the adoption of national legislation on violence against women and girls, during the stages of preparation, promotion and passing of laws, including technical assistance to parliamentary commissions and relevant ministries. It also promotes opportunities for dialogue and consensus between institutions, the feminist movement and civil society organizations involved in the process. For example, UN Women provided support for the adoption, in 2017, of a Comprehensive Law that guarantees a life free of gender-based violence for women in Paraguay and Uruguay.

It also assisted in the process of drafting a bill for the eradication of violence against women that has been a significant contribution for the adoption of a Comprehensive Organic Law on the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence against women, passed in Ecuador in February 2018.

UN Women provides technical support and guidance for the design of national action plans in different Caribbean countries, as well as Mexico and Uruguay. It also supports initiatives for the design of public policies and legislation on violence, such as the integration of the gender perspective into Paraguay's National Public Security Strategy.

4.3.3. Joint interagency programme to end child marriage and early unions in Latin America and the Caribbean: 2018-2021



Indicators 3.1.2 “Births attended by skilled health personnel”, and 3.7.2 “Adolescent birth rate”



Indicator 4.3.1 “Participation of youth and adults in education, by sex”



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”, 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”, and 5.6.1 “Proportion of women and girls who make informed decisions regarding their reproductive health”

- i. Align national legislation with international frameworks by raising the minimum age for marriage to 18, without exceptions.
- ii. Promote policies and services in the areas of health, education, violence, social protection, gender equality, child protection and economic development, designed to prevent and address child marriage and early unions.
- iii. Promote the empowerment of girls and more egalitarian relationships in their immediate environment (peers, family, household and communities).
- iv. Create a regional platform of allies that, through the generation of evidence, knowledge and lessons learned, can mobilize cooperation between countries and each other, and expand the initiative to more countries.

Output 11 of UN Women's strategic plan

This programme is a joint effort between agencies of the United Nations System, UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF, and governments and strategic partners. The programme expects to achieve four results²⁴

Five countries from Latin American and the Caribbean are part of the first phase: Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Other countries that will benefit from regional activities are expected to join the initiative.

²⁴ UN WOMEN, UNFPA, UNICEF, 2018; Accelerate actions to end child marriage and early unions in Latin America and the Caribbean
<https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reports/accelerate-actions-end-child-marriage-and-early-unions-latin-america-and-caribbean>

4.3.4. Latin American model protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide)



Indicators 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”



Indicator 16.1.1 “Intentional homicides, by sex”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

The femicide/feminicide Model Protocol is a practical tool designed to be applied by the people responsible for carrying out the investigation and prosecution of these acts. It was developed together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

(OHCHR), within the context of the United Nations Secretary-General’s UNITE Campaign to end violence against women. Its main objective²⁵ is to provide general guidance and lines of action to improve the practice of public servants working in the justice system, forensic experts and other specialized personnel, including those acting in a crime scene, interrogations of witnesses or suspects, case analysis, the formulation of indictments or before courts.

UN Women has also assisted in the adaptation of this protocol to the legal and procedural frameworks of countries like Brazil and Argentina, and it is currently in the process of being adapted in Guatemala.

4.3.5. Programme on Essential Services for women and girls subject to violence²⁶: Training and capacity-building for the security and justice sector to improve the application of the law



Indicators 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”



Indicator on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

UN Women’s work in the region falls within the scope of the global joint programme on essential services implemented by UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC and PAHO. The objective of this programme is to provide standards and tools to guarantee services for all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence. Essential services include those provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors, and intersectoral coordination mechanisms.

²⁵ OACNUDH, UN Women; Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide)

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2014/8/modelo-de-protocolo-latinoamericano>

²⁶ <https://www.unfpa.org/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN Women has a long history of supporting intersectoral coordination mechanisms for the provision of essential services and working with the police and justice sectors.

Ongoing training and capacity-building for judges, prosecutors and police are necessary to ensure both the strict enforcement of laws on violence against women and the application of procedures that take into account gender

aspects to assist victims, avoiding their revictimization and protecting their right of access to justice.

UN Women's offer in this area includes products for the creation and strengthening of the institutional structure responsible for dealing with violence against women, including protocols, guides and training manuals. The entire offer in this area will be aligned with the standards of the programme on essential services.

4.3.6. Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”, 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”



Indicators 11.2.1 “Access to public transport, by sex”, 11.7.1 “Proportion of open public spaces in built-up urban areas, by sex”, and 11.7.2 “Victims of physical and sexual harassment, by sex”



Indicator 16.1.1 “Intentional homicides, by sex”, and 16.2.3 “Sexual violence against girls”



Indicator 17.18.1 “Sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation”

Output 12 of UN Women's strategic plan

This is the first global programme for the development, implementation and evaluation of tools, policies and comprehensive approaches to prevent and address sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in different environments.

The programme has four interrelated intervention categories²⁷ implemented by local and/or national authorities, women's organizations and other relevant actors in the community.

- i. Generate evidence, build partnerships for change. Initial scoping studies provide specific and often unique data to ensure a deep understanding of sexual harassment and violence in public spaces. Key stakeholders reflect on the findings, which become the basis for further action.
- ii. Develop and implement comprehensive laws and policies. The-

²⁷ UN Women, 2017; Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces: Global results report <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/10/safe-cities-and-safe-public-spaces-global-results-report>

se must be specifically oriented around preventing and responding to sexual violence in public spaces. Capacity-building and awareness raising help local authorities, women's groups and community partners advocate for legislation and monitor its application, including through the allocation of adequate resources.

- iii. Invest in the safety and economic viability of public spaces. A gender approach to urban planning means systematically accounting for the different needs of women and men. Greater safety for women and girls may come through specific investments in public infrastructure, such as for safe wa-

ter and better lighting. Economic development strategies expand opportunities for women.

- iv. Transform social norms to prevent sexual harassment and violence. Transformative activities in schools, communities and other settings raise awareness of gender equality and promote respectful gender relationships and safety in public spaces.

Several programmes are currently being implemented in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. The initiative has already been implemented in El Salvador and Honduras.

4.3.7. Spotlight Initiative



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”, 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”



Indicator 16.1.1 “Intentional homicides, by sex”



Indicator 17.18.1 “Sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation”

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Organization (UN) have launched a new global initiative to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: the Spotlight initiative. In Latin America, Spotlight focuses on preventing and eradicating femicide violence in 5 countries (Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico). In addition, the regional component of the Spotlight Initiative seeks to strengthen national programmes through regional and subregional actions and partnerships.

The Spotlight regional programme in Latin America

The Spotlight regional programme focuses on the prevention, response to and punishment of violence against women and girls and its most extreme manifestation: femicide/feminicide.

Output 11 of UN Women's strategic plan

Through a comprehensive and intersectional approach, the European Union, in collaboration with 3 UN agencies –the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (**UN Women**); the United Nations Development Programme, (**UNDP**); and the United Nations Population Fund, (**UNFPA**), promotes the adoption of political commitments at the highest level to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without leaving no one behind.

Spotlight has also built a critical mass of civil society organizations (feminist, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, youth, persons with disabilities, etc.), including social and non-traditional actors such as the private sector and independent journalists, and women human rights defenders, to prevent, address and eliminate Violence against Women and Girls and femicide/feminicide. With a particular focus on Central America and Mexico due to the high prevalence of violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicides, the Regional Programme will conduct an assessment of the compounding factors present in these countries, such as migration and human trafficking, conditions of violence and fragility, organized crime/mara gangs and disappearances.

The regional programme addresses 3 pillars of the Spotlight global programme:

- **Improve laws and policies to avoid discrimination and violence against women and girls and femicide/feminicide (Spotlight pillar No. 1)**
 - Promote the application of the femicide/feminicide model law and the Latin American model protocol for the investigation of femicide/feminicides;
 - Build the capacities of civil society organizations in the area of strategic litigation and

increase access to free legal counseling;

- Formulate guidelines for the reform of legal frameworks on migration, citizen security, human trafficking, disappearances of persons and their relationship with VAWG-F and organized crime, and
 - Establish a Regional Community of Practice to improve the institutional response to VAWG-F.
- **Promote social norms, attitudes and behaviors to prevent violence, particularly at the community level (Spotlight pillar No. 3)**
 - Build the capacities of civil society and women's organizations and increase their visibility in efforts against VAWG-F;
 - Strengthen the implementation of international standards on Comprehensive Sexuality Education as a violence prevention strategy;
 - Build, and create awareness among, networks of actors from mainstream and non-mainstream media (including journalists, publicists and the private sector) to improve the VAWG-F approach and prevention strategies, and
 - Generate evidence at the regional level to advocate for comprehensive models and strategies to transform social norms and practices that promote violence.
 - **Generate quality, comparable and disaggregated data on different forms of VAWG, collected, analyzed and used to formulate laws, policies and programmes (Spotlight pillar No. 5)**

- Design and promote the use of a single methodology to gather data on VAWG+F from different sectors, including the harmonization and analysis of administrative records;
- Increase knowledge about the relationship between VAWG+F and other variables (disappearances, migratory contexts, organized crime/mara gangs, poverty and social exclusion, among others);
- Design and pilot-test a training course, targeted to Statistical Institutes and other stakeholders, on the generation of data on femicides and feminicides, and
- Prepare a regional femicide/feminicide map with relevant indicators to understand the phenomenon and highlight differences in rates and types of femicide/feminicide within territories.

4.3.8. UNiTe Campaign to end violence against women



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”, 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

The United Nations Secretary-General’s UNiTe campaign is a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls around the world, launched in 2008. UN Women is the campaign’s managing agency.

UNiTe calls on governments, civil society, women’s organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

The campaign builds on existing international legal and policy frameworks, and works to synergize the efforts of all UN offices and agencies working to end violence against women. The campaign designated the 25th of every month as the Orange Day, with November 25, the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women, marking the launch of 16 days of activism.

The campaign was renewed in 2018 with the following objectives:

- UNiTe for the 2030 goals.
- Increase social awareness, commitment and resources to end violence against women and girls.
- Call on high-level decision makers to undertake transformative actions and fulfill the commitments of the 2030 Agenda.

4.3.9. Foundations programme. Strengthening prevention approaches to address gender-based violence in the Caribbean.



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”, 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

This programme, designed for young people aged 13 to 24, is aimed at the prevention of gender-based violence. Foundations is based on the premise that violence is intentional, and that abusive behaviors are chosen methods for gaining control over persons and situations. Its specific objectives are to²⁹:

- i. Train young people to understand gender-based violence and its genesis in gender inequalities and gender-based discrimination.
- ii. Promote an understanding of the

consequences of gender-based violence.

- iii. Endow young people with knowledge, skills and attitudes for addressing conflict and responding to stress and stressors that arise in relationships.
- iv. Establish an atmosphere of respect within group relations.
- v. Promote self-sufficiency among young people in taking steps towards improving their relationships and their lives.
- vi. Create a network of young people who will advocate for non-violent relationships.

The programme consists of 12 training modules that include a step-by-step guide for the implementation of each module, a facilitator’s manual, an operational manual and a programme follow-up and evaluation guide.

4.3.10. “One Win Leads to Another” Initiative (girls’ empowerment through sports)



Indicators 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.6.1 “Proportion of women and girls who make informed decisions regarding their reproductive health”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

The initiative “One Win Leads to Another”, a partnership between UN Women

and the International Olympic Committee, leverages sports to empower girls.

Investing in girls’ leadership through sports is an effective methodology to prevent gender-based violence and change community perceptions, attitudes and behaviors. Practicing sports has also shown to have additional educational benefits, considering it improves cognitive functions, academic performance and school behavior, all

29 UN Women, Programme Brochure

<http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20caribbean/attachments/resources/2018/foundations%20-%20brochure-web.pdf?la=en&vs=4247>

of which increase the likelihood of graduating.

In this regard, the “One Win Leads to Another” initiative combines quality sports programmes with sessions to build the leadership skills of adolescent girls, as well as their capacity to influence the decisions that affect their lives. It consists of a 9-month curriculum that addresses issues of personal, social and economic empowerment, and the practice of sports. The programme provides life-skills training to adolescent girls (leadership, gender-based violence prevention, economic empowerment,

sexual and reproductive health and rights) within a sport context, and creates safe spaces for girls to develop.

Once girls “graduate” from the first year, those who demonstrate interest and exhibit leadership qualities are invited to become ‘champions’. Champions can participate in thematic sports camps during the second year, in which they further develop their leadership skills and participate in digital storytelling workshops, where they gain additional skills to reflect on and share their personal stories of resilience and empowerment.

4.3.11. Partnership for Peace



Indicators 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

This is a standardized court-based violence intervention programme, promoted by the Caribbean multi-country office since 2009.

It uses a psycho-educational approach to work to prevent men who are in the court system as perpetrators of domes-

tic violence from repeating the patterns of violence against women, prioritizing the safety and protection of women who are victims of violence.

In the process of the 16-week programme, men confront harmful ideas about women and about masculinity, examine unequal power relationships that fuel violence and accept personal responsibility for ending their violent behavior. The programme is facilitated by a mixed-sex team, including professionals in the areas of psychology and social work, and human rights attorneys.

4.3.12. Surveys on prevalence of violence against women and girls



Indicators 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”



Indicator 16.1.1 “Intentional homicides, by sex”



Indicator 17.18.1 “Sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

UN Women, in collaboration with the IDB, supports the regional adaptation of the original WHO model for VAW surveys adopted by CARICOM as the Regional Model applied and analyzed

in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Countries in the region made the commitment to apply it in the Caribbean to generate standardized data.

UN Women provides support for the design and analysis of surveys on the prevalence of violence against women, such as those conducted in Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador and Bolivia. In the Caribbean region, it also supports qualitative research for surveys to provide a more in-depth perspective of the quantitative survey, such as the one conducted in Trinidad and Tobago.

As already explained in the section on women’s political participation and governance systems, UN Women provides support for the preparation of the Gender ATLAS through the review and submission of recommendations, including information on violence against women.

4.3.13. Caribbean Gender Advocates training programme



Indicators 5.2.1 “Women and girls subjected to violence by an intimate partner”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”

Output 11 of UN Women’s strategic plan

This is a training programme, promoted by the multi-country office for the Caribbean, to build the capacities of those working together with UN Women, governments and civil society to support strategic interventions aimed at eliminating gender-based discrimination and (more specifically) gender-based violence.

It consists of a 9-week online course

that introduces and applies key concepts and tools on feminism, gender, masculinity and sexuality to address gender relationships and inequalities in Caribbean societies. In particular, the participants apply conceptual, theoretical and analytical gender tools introduced during the course, to address the following topics: Caribbean families; the media and pop culture; sexuality, bodies and LGBTQI activism in the Caribbean; gender-based violence; Christianity, gender equality and gender-based violence; education; and the State: an approach to political participation, laws and policies.

4.4.

OTHER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

UN Women works to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean, with interventions organized into 5 strategic pillars.

- i. **LEGISLATION AND POLICIES** - Establish and enforce comprehensive and integrated legislative frameworks and mechanisms to prevent and reduce gender-based violence incidents against women and girls in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ii. **ESSENTIAL SERVICES** - Strengthen national systems and institutions that provide essential services to address the issue of violence against women and men.
- iii. **PREVENTION** - Engage with communities and individuals for the adoption of respectful gender-equitable social norms and gender relationships.
- iv. **DATA** - Produce, analyze and share quality, disaggregated and comparable data on VAWG, and manage qualitative and quantitative research and knowledge about VAWG.
- v. **CIVIL SOCIETY** - Support women's groups, civil society organizations (CSOs) and human rights defenders (HRDs).

In addition to the flagship products and services already described in the previous section, UN Women carries out other initiatives to achieve its objective of eradicating violence.

In the area of prevention, it carries out actions to engage men and children, as well as progressive faith-based organizations, in the prevention of violence against women. It also promotes initiatives to prevent violence against women and girls in emergency contexts, such as disasters, which increase levels of insecurity and specific VAWG risks; and collaborates in projects to eradicate trafficking of women and girls across borders.

In the area of data and statistics for the analysis and identification of factors related to violence against women and girls, UN Women conducts needs assessments and quantitative and qualitative research for the formulation of adequate public policies and effective laws; it assists in the production of statistics, methodologies and administrative data, and supports media follow-up studies and analysis.

Finally, UN works with civil society to monitor public policies and government accountability, and develops tools and materials to build the capacities of civil society organizations and human rights defenders.



5

WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GENDER AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

5.1.

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

LAC is the world's most urbanized region, with more than 80% of its population living in cities³⁰. Since the beginning of the 20th century, and in particular since the 1950s, cities have grown steadily. It is in these complex, extensive and diverse territories that women live their productive and reproductive, political, social and cultural daily lives, and social and cultural transformations and demographic shifts. It is also in these cities where we find the greatest social, economic and cultural inequalities, which are expressed in the region in the form of territorial injustice that results from the unequal application of resources in people's daily lives.

The conditions in these territories can facilitate or hinder the empowerment and emancipation of millions of people, in particular women and children, for the exercise of their citizenship. Women are the ones most affected by the material conditions of the territory, its characteristics and size, the quality of its urban offer, distances and costs in time and money, and mobility in cities. The issue is compounded by the persistence of the forms of violence they experience, as well as those they perceive. Violence in public spaces, in cities, has been one of the programmatic areas led by UN Women for almost two decades in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. One initiative currently underway is the **Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Pro-**

gramme, which builds on the Safe Cities Programme, whose objective is to prevent, address, punish and eliminate sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces.

While addressing the issue of violence must be a priority, it is not enough. It is necessary to address issues related to the daily life of women, an area of opportunity to transform urban planning practices deeply-rooted in a neutral conception of society that disregards different social groups, particularly women. This new urbanism seeks to place life in territories at the center of urban decisions, taking into consideration the diversity of individuals, ages, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, etc. It also aims to analyze and bring attention to gender roles and how they influence and have implications for the use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements.

The **Sustainable Development Agenda**³¹ established, for the first time, a global objective related to cities, SDG 11 –“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

Along the same lines, the **New Urban Agenda**³² (NUA) defines the **Right to the City** as “the ideal of a city for all, in terms of equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, seeking to promote integration and ensure that all inhabitants, both of present and future

30 CELADE, América Latina estimaciones y proyecciones de población urbana y rural según sexo y grupos quinquenales de edad. Período 1950-2100. Revisión 2017 CEPAL.

31 UN. The Sustainable Development Agenda
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

32 <http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

generations, without discrimination of any kind, can create cities and human settlements that are just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable”.

The NUA also seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ensuring women’s full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making, by ensuring decent work and equal pay for equal work, or

work of equal value, for all women; and by preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women and girls in private and public spaces.

Through its programmatic interventions, UN Women seeks to integrate gender planning into the implementation of local agendas to fulfill the commitments of the Sustainable Development Agenda (the 2030 Agenda) and the New Urban Agenda.

5.2.

MAIN ALLIES IN THE THEMATIC AREA

UN Women plays a facilitating role in the consolidation of partnerships between a broad range of local, regional, national and international actors such as those described in the following table:

GOVERNMENTS	Local level: different sectoral policies (e.g., urban planning, transportation, health, police, economic development) for the development of public policies that incorporate urban planning with a gender perspective
	National level: Key Ministries, National Women's Mechanisms, Ombudsman's Offices and national statistical institutions
CIVIL SOCIETY	Local level: women's and other organizations
	Regional level: organizations or networks working on the issue of cities and women, such as Red Mujer and Habitat (Red Mujer and Habitat in Latin America and the Caribbean), Mujeres del Sur (AFM)
	International level: Women in Cities International, the Huairou Commission, the UIM's Union of International Municipalists, WICI (Women in the Cities), Punt 6 Barcelona, GAP, Global Platform for the Right to the City (CGLU, Polis, HIC, HC, WHN, and others)
ACADEMIA, RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS	Organizations such as FLACSO, CLACSO, universities or other institutions that influence decision-making and generate knowledge
MEDIA	Feminist communication networks, local mainstream and non mainstream media
PRIVATE SECTOR	Businesses and the private sector
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNICEF and UNOPS, among others
MULTILATERAL OR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	Examples: Latin American Development Bank (CAF), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank (WB)

5.3.

FLAGSHIP PRODUCTS OR SERVICES

This area is not directly related to any of the outputs of UN Women's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 but, considering the high percentage of population in the region living in urban areas (80%), the experience of UN Women at the municipal level in Latin America and the Caribbean and its participation in recent developments in global legal frameworks (Global Urban Agenda), as well as the need to ensure women can

effectively enjoy, just like men, the right to the city, UN Women developed a new thematic area under the Action Model, with a focus on women and the urban agenda³³.

For this reason, this area includes programmes that are not directly related to the outputs of UN Women's Strategic Plan; however, they are innovative experiences within the organization.

5.3.1. Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme



Indicators 5.1.1 “Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”, and 5.2.2 “Sexual violence against women and girls”



Indicators 11.2.1 “Access to public transport, by sex”, 11.7.1 “Proportion of open public spaces in built-up urban areas, by sex”, and 11.7.2 “Victims of physical and sexual harassment, by sex”



Indicators 16.1.1 “Intentional homicides, by sex”, and 16.2.3 “Sexual violence against girls”



Indicator 17.18.1 “Sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation”

This programme has been described in detail in the thematic area of VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (section 4.3.6).

33 UN Women ACRO; UN Women's Strategic Note 2019-2021.

5.3.2. City 50-50 Programme



City 50-50 arises from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the initiative “Planet 50-50 in 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality”, launched by UN Women to promote gender equality and the achievement of all the SDGs.

Promoted by UN Women Brazil, its **objective** is to translate international commitments (SDGs) into concrete actions to eliminate discrimination against women, which is often worsened by factors such as age, ethnicity, education, income, geographical location, disability status, immigration status, displacement status, stateless status, and other needs for international protection. Its aim is to create positive changes in the lives of women and girls “right there”, where things actually happen, that is, in the places where they live, work and play, in the cities where they grow up to become empowered women who can fully enjoy their rights. In this regard, the **commitment of local governments** is crucial, and it is necessary to work with cities/municipalities to achieve the SDGs with a gender perspective.

City 50-50 recognizes the importance of municipal public policies for the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment in cities, the public and

private spheres, the economy, politics, the workplace, health, education, culture, leisure, mobility, public transport and other areas that affect citizens.

City 50-50 aims at achieving the following results:

- i. Legal frameworks, policies and national and subnational strategies, as well as electoral processes, incorporate and promote the representation of women and parity democracy at all levels.
- ii. The political and institutional environment is appropriate for the implementation, financing and effective follow-up of the SDGs from a gender perspective.
- iii. Citizens, government bodies, public and private organizations, recognize the City 50-50 approach as a flagship strategy for the promotion of gender equality.

In this context, UN Women supports political candidates, elected officials and public administrations in the implementation of a set of gender equality priorities, divided into seven areas:

- i. Governance and planning.
- ii. Economic empowerment.
- iii. Political participation.
- iv. End violence against women.
- v. Inclusive education.
- vi. Health.
- vii. Urban environment and mobility.

As part of this programmatic offer, UN Women has developed the following tools:

- Observatory: A monitoring tool that relies on civil society methodolo-

gies to analyze the political environment, legislation, budgets and democracy as a whole, with a gender perspective. It provides civil society, academia and alternative media with a framework that sheds light on how the implementation of the SDGs in 50-50 Cities contributes to governance and parity democracy.

- Guide for the Implementation of Municipal Gender Equality Agendas: Participating cities / administrations receive guidance through a comprehensive methodology to assess needs and design and implement Gender Equality Agendas, based on the 7 Areas (commitments),

to ensure solid planning and access to financing.

- 50-50 Platform: A collaboration tool that provides information about the programme and the progress of participating cities. It is an open channel for citizens to follow up on progress made in their own cities.
- Urban interventions and communications: Use of social media to increase the visibility of the project and share the progress made by participating cities, success stories and cases, and implement “urban interventions” to raise awareness about gender issues.

5.3.3. Equitable Cities Programme



lives in the different scales of urban territory (neighborhood, city, metropolis), make them visible and influence policies and actions to improve their quality of life and increase their autonomy, empowerment and the exercise of their civic rights, questioning the division between the public and the private and the neutrality of city planning and policies.

The programme has 5 strategic areas that can be addressed as a whole to implement transformative actions, either in the territory or individually, designed to achieve concrete results, such as knowledge generation or raising awareness.

1. Generate information and knowledge

- Statistical data and qualitative information and analysis that explain who they are and the territorial and financial resources available to women. The purpose is to align this knowledge with the SDG indicators, the New Urban Agenda

The general objective of this programme is to **promote and strengthen women's right to the use and enjoyment of cities**.

To achieve that, it is necessary to know more about the quality of women's daily

and the instruments that define women's rights, including international (CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action and others) and regional, national or local instruments.

UN Women has developed a tool known as the "Women's Map" to generate knowledge about the living conditions of women, where they are located in the territories, what they have and who they are.

ii. Develop the Programme's baseline to identify what exists in each of the cities participating in the intervention, in the following dimensions:

- 1.** The agenda of the public (governments, their capacities), the operational and budgetary structures of city governments, and the conditions and mechanisms in each city to promote equal opportunities and women's rights.
- 2.** The territory (services, transport, equipment and public spaces, depending on the intervention area).
- 3.** Raising awareness to identify the conditions of the urban offer in territories.

2. Identify promising/good practices at the regional and international level to promote women's right to the city and their empowerment and autonomy

- i.** Promote the generation of knowledge about intervention experiences in the territory, including awareness raising experiences or government instruments to promote women's right to the city.
- ii.** Share these good or promising experiences in favor of women's right to the city through publications, forums, congresses, seminars, webinars and others.

iii. Encourage outreach efforts to build a critical mass around Women's Right to the City by leveraging UN Women's comparative advantages and experiences and initiatives in cities in the region and other regions of the world.

iv. Encourage the expansion and consolidation of partnerships for the promotion and exchange of good, promising, evaluated and proven experiences with the World Bank (WB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the United Nations System (UNS).

3. Influence urban policies and interventions in the territory for the empowerment of women and the exercise of their right to the city

Develop multi-stakeholder actions and proposals for coordinated implementation in each of the action areas, by:

- i.** Enhancing the agenda of the public (build the capacity of city governments) in operational and budgetary government structures, to promote equal opportunities and women's rights.
- ii.** Developing proposals to improve conditions in the territory to guarantee the proximity of services, transport, infrastructure, public spaces (depending on the intervention area) and improve women's living conditions.
- iii.** Increasing awareness among the population through awareness raising campaigns and actions related to the conditions of the urban offer in territories.

4. Produce and develop instruments, regulations and proposals for government action at the local level to promote an urban policy in favor of equal opportunities and women's rights

Based on the knowledge about the public agenda, the capacities of city governments, their operational and budgetary structures, and the conditions and mechanisms that exist in each city to promote equal opportunities and women's rights, UN Women provides technical assistance to:

- i.** Identify specific instruments for gender planning, and develop new instruments for each particular dimension.
- ii.** Build capacities in the operational and budgetary structures of city governments, in order to promote equal opportunities and women's rights, training and education.
- iii.** Promote actions in the territory: proximity services, transport, infrastructure and public spaces designed for women and girls and diversity (depending on the area of intervention).
- iv.** Develop instruments to ensure gender is taken into consideration in urban planning and policies, such as gender-sensitive land use plans or instruments to monitor planning policy with a gender perspective.

5. Develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the issue of women in urban agendas

Raise awareness and share knowledge to build capacities and increase knowledge among the population: UN Women provides its expertise for the organization of broad social awareness campaigns, programme branding, resource mobilization with stakeholders, and dissemination of results and tools through social media and platforms and regional and international seminars, among others.

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