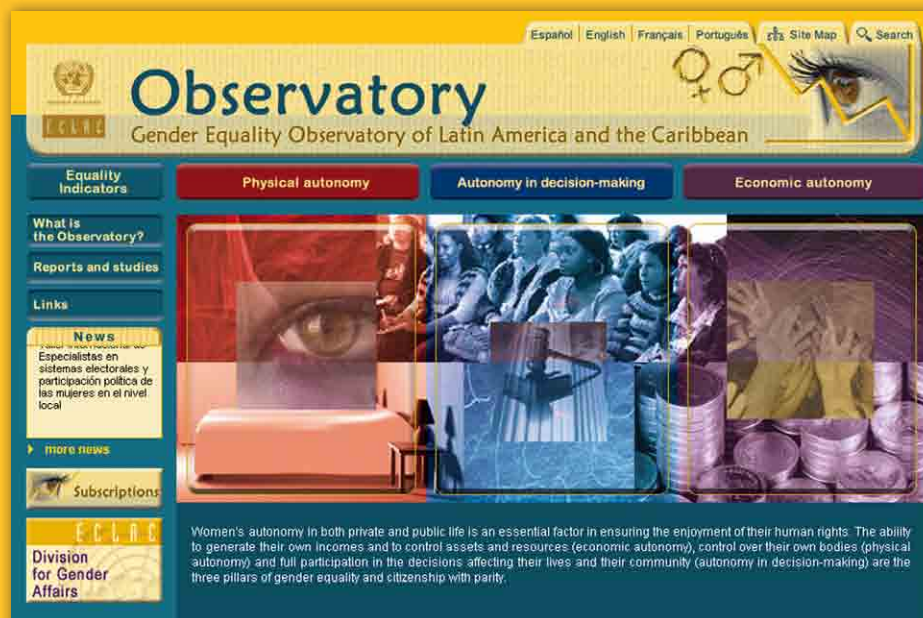




User Manual for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean



**User Manual for the
Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean**

This document was prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Division for Gender Affairs, under the supervision of Sonia Montaña, Officer-in-Charge of the Division. Alejandra Valdés, Coordinator of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, was responsible for overseeing the preparation of the document.

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User Manual for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

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Introduction

Fifteen years after approval of the Beijing Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and following nearly 30 years of developments in gender policy, there have been undeniable and important advances in the region. The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is an instrument that identifies these advances, while also pointing to areas in which the countries' progress has failed to keep pace with their commitments.

The major accomplishments of this period include the formal institutionalization of machineries for the advancement of women in the 39 countries of the region. In Latin America, 35% of countries now have ministries, or entities of ministerial rank, to address gender equality, while 20% have created gender equality councils or institutes that report to the office of the president, and 45% have established such bodies as part of ministries. In the Caribbean subregion, 90% of the entities designed to deal with gender equality report to a ministry. There is a smaller group of countries that have not yet fulfilled their Beijing commitment to create high-level institutions to implement policies to promote gender equality.

Significant advances have been made in securing gender equality in political representation and with regard to the exercise of power. Women's participation in decision-making, though it varies from one country to another, is now part of regional agendas. The percentage of women parliamentarians ranges from 40% in Argentina and Costa Rica to less than 10% in Guatemala. Particularly noteworthy is the case of Chile, where the presidency of Michelle Bachelet embraced an agenda of gender parity and social protection in which women played a pivotal role.

At the time that the creation of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean was approved, there was a conviction that there was a need for more and better evidence (both quantitative and qualitative) of achievements and advances, the ability to identify challenges and generate appropriate responses, and tools that Governments could use to provide timely response to trends and to detect emerging phenomena.

The Observatory is a tool for monitoring and tracking public policy, anticipating emerging social developments, and gaining empirical evidence, based on official data, regarding the status of women, and their inequalities in relation to men. The Observatory requires countries to implement information systems to provide data on these realities.

The manual

This manual is designed to ensure that the information generated by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean will be widely accessible and usable. It provides a sort of road map, and contains seven chapters.

The first chapter, entitled **The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean**, is primarily descriptive, dealing with issues such as the institutional context in which the Observatory emerged, its principal objectives, and its structure and functioning.

The second chapter, **The Content of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean**, describes the Observatory's principal components, and indicates the different categories of information to which it provides access.

Chapter three, entitled **Conceptual Framework**, briefly covers the principal concepts in gender theory, which are associated with the Observatory's equality indicators.

Chapter four, **Methodological Considerations**, outlines the Observatory's methodological features and approach, which are designed to increase the amount of available information and make it more usable.

The last three chapters describe ways of accessing and using the indicators in each of the Observatory's main thematic areas: chapter five focuses on **indicators of physical autonomy**, chapter six on **indicators of decision-making autonomy** and chapter seven on **indicators of economic autonomy**.

The presentation of the equality indicators includes the corresponding technical notes, as well as information on what elements they measure, their relevance, the data sources used to calculate them, and the international norms on which they are based.

The manual is derived, in large part, from the *Technical Assistance Guide for the Production and Use of Gender Indicators* (ECLAC, 2006) and *Statistics for Gender Equity: Magnitude and Trends in Latin America* (Milosavljevic, 2007), both prepared by the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC (now the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC), and from *Millennium Development Goals 2006: a look at Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2007), a publication coordinated by the Unit.

I. The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

- **The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean website**
- **Background**
- **Objectives**
- **Participating organizations**
- **Composition of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean working group**

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean website

Women's autonomy is fundamental in ensuring that they can exercise human rights under conditions of full equality. Control over their own bodies (physical autonomy), income generation and ownership of their personal financial resources (economic autonomy), and full participation in decisions that affect their lives, individually and as a group (decision-making autonomy), are three pillars for building greater gender equality in the region.

The website of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is built around precisely this concept of women's autonomy. It offers users of both sexes a variety of alternatives for accessing information on each of its thematic areas and provides relevant indicators, legislation, best practices and institutional links.

The different thematic areas, and their indicators, can be accessed from anywhere on the website, thus underlining the integral and complementary nature of the distinct areas.

The top menu on the Observatory's homepage has three tabs to facilitate initial navigation through the website. One tab is for the three language options in which the site can be viewed; the second provides a site map with an overview of the Observatory's content; and the third —represented by the customary magnifying glass icon— allows users to search the site.

The second-from-the-top menu (directly below the one just described) reflects the Observatory's thematic structure. It provides the primary access to the site (via the gender equality indicators window), as well as links to each of the three thematic categories in which the Observatory's information is organized —physical autonomy, decision-making autonomy and economic autonomy— each with its own indicators. Each of the three areas is identified by a colour: red for physical autonomy, blue for decision-making autonomy and purple for economic autonomy.

Thus the homepage provides links to all of the content on the **Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean** website.



ECLAC

Observatory

Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean



Equality Indicators

Physical autonomy

Autonomy in decision-making

Economic autonomy

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Reports and studies

Links

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Especialistas en sistemas electorales y participación política de las mujeres en el nivel local

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Women's autonomy in both private and public life is an essential factor in ensuring the enjoyment of their human rights. The ability to generate their own incomes and to control assets and resources (economic autonomy), control over their own bodies (physical autonomy) and full participation in the decisions affecting their lives and their community (autonomy in decision-making) are the three pillars of gender equality and citizenship with parity.



Background

The major landmarks in the creation of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean are the following:

- ✓ **The Quito Consensus** (August 2007), an agreement reached at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, at which the participating countries “request[ed] the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, together with other organizations in the United Nations system, to collaborate with member States that request them to do so in following up on the fulfilment of the agreements that have been adopted through the creation of an equality observatory that will help strengthen national gender machineries”.
- ✓ **The fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC** (Santiago, July 2007), at which it was agreed that promoting and developing gender statistics would be strategic objectives. ECLAC was designated to serve as the technical secretariat for a new working group, coordinated by Mexico, which was created “to encourage efforts to systematize national statistical information with a gender perspective (...) and promote in all countries the implementation of the time use survey or the inclusion in household surveys of a module to measure women’s unpaid contributions, and the systematic and regular submission to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the relevant statistical information for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (...)”.
- ✓ The Programme of Action of the seventeenth **Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government** (Santiago, November 2007), which was based on the Quito Consensus. It instructed the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) to collaborate closely with the member States on creating a gender equality observatory that would help strengthen national entities that promote gender equality and to assist in efforts to monitor and foster pro-equality policies for any requesting countries.

Under the mandate of the Quito Consensus, two important events were subsequently held, in October 2008:

- ✓ **The technical meeting of gender statistics experts to analyse the indicators of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean** (Aguascalientes, Mexico), at which it was resolved to concentrate efforts on a limited number of highly significant strategic indicators as a means of carrying out the Quito Consensus mandate.
- ✓ **The technical meeting on establishing the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean** (Port of Spain), at which there was debate on recommendations regarding the strategic indicators for the Caribbean subregion, and on the functions of each indicator.

Objectives

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean was conceived as a tool for following up the Quito Consensus, helping Governments analyse regional realities, monitor public gender policy and compliance with international agreements, and provide technical support and training to the machineries for the advancement of women and national statistical institutes for requesting countries.

Its main objectives are to:

✓ **Analyse and provide visibility for the achievement of specific gender equality goals and objectives in the region**

To meet this objective, the Observatory makes available to Governments a series of gender equality indicators and analytical tools for policy formulation, provides updated monitoring of issues relevant to gender equality and best practices in gender policy, and offers a technological platform for accessing systematic and easy-to-use information through a website.

✓ **Provide technical support and training**

Given that technical assistance is one of its major activities, the Observatory will seek to strengthen the relationships among national statistical institutes, machineries for the advancement of women, and other public entities participating in the formulation of gender equality policies.

✓ **Provide an assessment of the inequalities between women and men**

Each year, the Observatory is to publish a report analysing changes in the indicators, with an examination of a particular issue. In addition, existing policies related to the Quito agenda will be re-examined.

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean not only plays an important role in monitoring public policy, but also encourages civil society initiatives to promote citizens' ability to monitor their countries' commitments and policy achievements in the area of gender equality.

Participating organizations

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is an inter-agency project involving the following United Nations system organizations and international cooperation agencies, through financial and technical support.

- ✓ **INSTRAW**, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, supports development of gender equality indicators and of data bases on women's access to local decision-making and the degree of coordination in carrying out related activities.
- ✓ **PAHO**, the Pan American Health Organization, supports the development of gender equality indicators and the preparation of publications, and provides technical cooperation.
- ✓ **UNIFEM**, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, offers support in the form of publications, research, technical advice and training.
- ✓ **UNDP**, the United Nations Development Programme, provides funding for the compilation of best practices in gender equality policy.
- ✓ **UNFPA**, the United Nations Population Fund, supports the development of indicators and research, and offers technical assistance.
- ✓ **AECID**, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development, provides overall financial support for the activities of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, concentrating specifically on research, training and advisory services.
- ✓ **SEGIB**, the Ibero-American Secretariat, supports the Observatory's activities in the areas of research, technical advice and horizontal cooperation.
- ✓ **ECLAC**, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, serves as the technical secretariat, and is responsible for implementing the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and for coordinating its activities.

Composition of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean working group

The organizational structure of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is as follows:

- ✓ **Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.** This is the Observatory's policymaking body. It defines the priorities and thematic orientation, studies and approves the annual work plan developed by the technical secretariat, evaluates the performance of activities and products, formulates suggestions and observations, and receives periodic information on activities being conducted. It also makes requests for statistical, documentary and programmatic information from the statistical institutes of the region's countries, in order to obtain and update data for indicators, compile information on best practices, and update the Observatory's thematic areas.
- ✓ **Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.** This is a key body for the production of gender statistics in the region. It acts as a consultative technical group in efforts to improve the statistical quality of indicators, and it issues recommendations on data collection and processing. In addition, it formulates recommendations on the Observatory's work plan, and is an important forum for consultation and technical cooperation among national statistical institutes and mechanisms for the advancement of women.
- ✓ **Programme of Action of the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government.** In order to comply with the provisions of agreement 3 of the Quito Consensus, the Programme of Action instructed SEGIB, along with organizations in the United Nations System and member States, to collaborate on creating the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthen national bodies overseeing gender equality and women's advancement, and carry out monitoring and promotion of pro-equality policies in requesting countries¹.
- ✓ **Inter-Agency Working Group.** This group is composed of organizations within the United Nations system that support the Observatory, donor organizations, AECID and SEGIB. Its functions are to provide technical assistance on mechanisms for the advancement of women, help national statistical institutes develop specific indicators, plan inter-agency activities, and provide financial and technical resources.
- ✓ **Technical secretariat (ECLAC).** The responsibilities of the technical secretariat include producing indicators and databases, coordinating the contributions of participating organizations, facilitating horizontal cooperation among countries, and providing technical assistance to Governments. In addition, it reports to the Presiding Officers on activities being carried out, and provides it with information on the content and procedures of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. The Programme of Action of the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (Santiago, 8-10 November 2007) was based on the terms of the Quito Consensus.

II. Content of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

- **Central thematic areas**
- **Equality indicators by thematic area**
- **Equality indicators by country**
- **Regional indicators**

Central thematic areas

Women's autonomy is the common thread linking the three thematic areas that are the focus of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and that are the basis for identifying indicators that reveal critical inequalities. The thematic areas are as follows:

- ✓ **Physical autonomy**, measured through two dimensions that reflect major social problems in the region: women's reproductive rights and gender-related violence.
- ✓ **Decision-making autonomy**, in terms of women's involvement in decision-making at various levels of the different branches of government, and as reflected in measures designed to promote women's full participation under conditions of equality.
- ✓ **Economic autonomy**, in the sense of women's capacity to generate income and personal financial resources, based on access to paid work under conditions of equality with men. This parameter takes account of time use, and of women's contribution to the economy.

The various thematic areas and indicators of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean reflect the regional agenda that emerged from the Quito Consensus, which encompasses the public and the private lives of women and men.

Equality indicators by thematic area

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean has developed a small number of important indicators that are compatible with meeting the Millennium Development Goals and with fulfilment of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. They provide a synthetic and comparative view of countries' progress and of the obstacles they have encountered in achieving greater gender equality, with the aim of providing guidance on public policy designed to promote these objectives.

The indicators are as follows:

✓ **Physical autonomy**

- Women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner
- Teenage maternity
- Unmet demand for family planning
- Maternal mortality

✓ **Decision-making autonomy**

- Executive power
- Legislative power
- Judicial power
- Local power (women mayors)
- Local power (women councillors)
- Countries that have signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Level within the governmental hierarchy of national machineries for the advancement of women

✓ **Economic autonomy**

- Population without incomes of their own, by sex
- Total work time



ECLAC

Observatory

Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean

Home Site Map Search



Equality Indicators

Physical autonomy

Autonomy in decision-making

Economic autonomy

What is the Observatory?

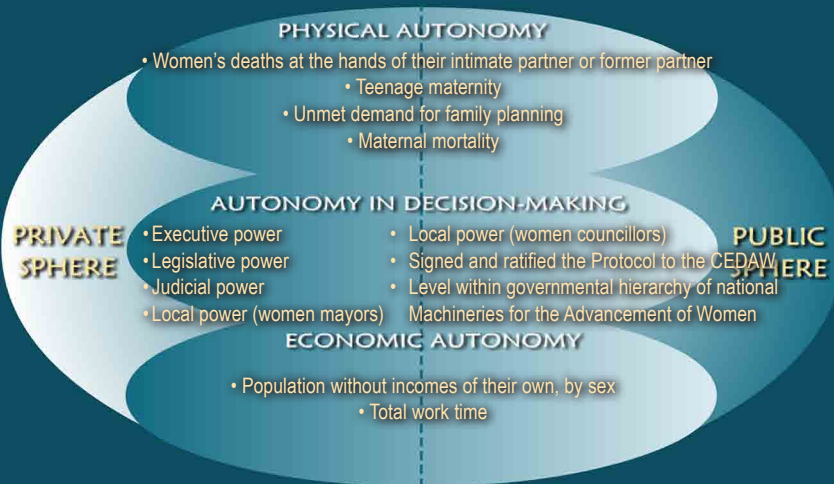
Reports and studies

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Conceptual basis

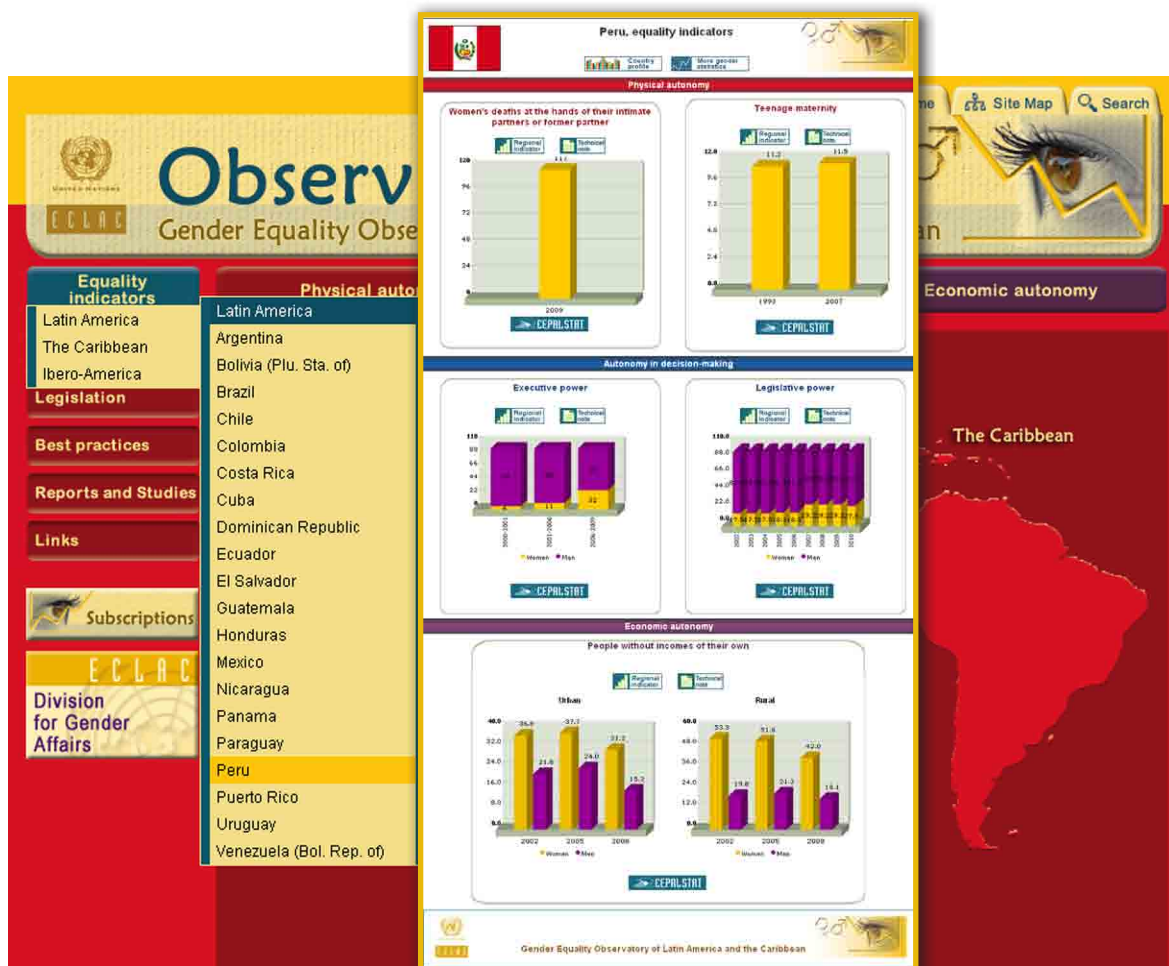


Division for Gender Affairs / contact

Equality indicators by country

A general overview of gender equality by country can be obtained by clicking on the “Equality Indicators” button on the home page and on each thematic-area page. Selecting a country opens a page which shows all the national indicators by thematic area and allows national-level analysis of the behaviour of each indicator for the past decade. These indicators can also be reached by choosing a country on the map.

This page also has two links to additional information from the statistics page of the Division for Gender Affairs website: “Country profile” and “More gender statistics”.



The Country Profile link

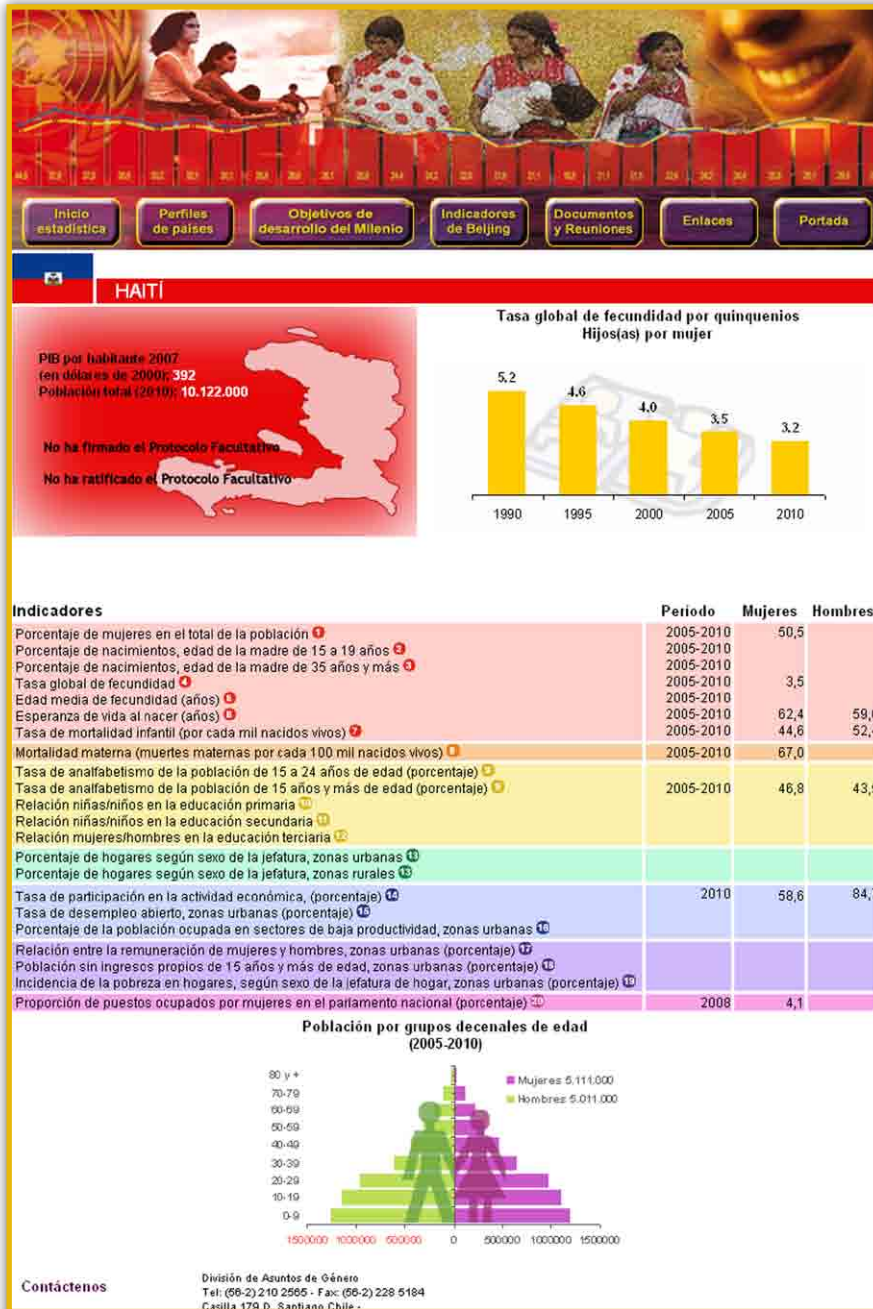
The individual country profiles presented by the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs provides a basic set of indicators of the status of women and of gender equality, through contextual data of an economic and demographic nature, such as gross domestic product, percentage of the population living in poverty, degree of urbanization, fertility patterns, number of births to adolescent mothers, average age of the mothers when these births occur, etc. In the area of education, information is provided on access and illiteracy rates. Because of its persistence and preventability, maternal mortality is a key indicator in the health sector. In the area of work and income, information is provided on changes in participation in economic activities, unemployment, percentage of working women employed in low-productivity jobs, and income gaps. The percentage of women lacking economic autonomy is revealed in figures on individuals who do not have their own income. Their vulnerability is reflected in the greater incidence of poverty in households headed by women, while the proportion of parliamentary seats women hold reflects their low level of representation in elective office and in positions of power.

The “More Gender Statistics” link

This link connects users to the gender statistics and indicators site of the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs. The tabs on this site provide access to:

- ✓ **Country profile:** as explained above.
- ✓ Reports on regional progress in meeting the third **Millennium Development Goal**. This includes three official indicators showing the degree of gender equality in education, work and political participation. Also provided is access to national reports on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in each of the countries, along with information on the relevant reference documents.
- ✓ **Beijing indicators** by thematic area, with the corresponding strategic objectives, methodology used for calculations, source on which the selected indicators are based, and bibliographical references.
- ✓ **Gender statistics documents published by ECLAC** between May 1999 and July 2009, with information on technical meetings on the subject, as well as methodological guides, specialized bulletins, and surveys conducted on particular indicators such as violence against women and time use, among others.
- ✓ **Links** with gender indicator projects carried out by ECLAC, national mechanisms for the advancement of women and national statistical institutes in the region, as well as organizations within the United Nations system involved in gender statistics.

The Country Profile link



The "More Gender Statistics" link

Estadísticas e indicadores de género		
Introducción		
Población	Población total, según sexo	
	Población, por áreas urbana y rural, según sexo	
	Distribución porcentual de la población en áreas urbana y rural, por sexo	
	Distribución de la población por sexo y grupos de edad	
	Tasa global de fecundidad	
	Tasa de crecimiento de la población, por sexo y según grupos de edad	
	Relación de dependencia demográfica, por grupos dependientes, según sexo	
	Tasa de mortalidad infantil, por sexo (CELADE-NU)	
Esperanza de vida al nacer, según sexo		
Hogar y familia	Población y hogares	Distribución de la población por tramos de edad y sexo, según estado conyugal, zonas urbanas (Serie encuesta)
		Distribución de la población por tramos de edad y sexo, según sexo del jefe de hogar (Serie encuesta)
		Distribución de la población por tramos de edad y sexo, según posición familiar o parentesco (Serie encuesta)
	Jefatura y hogares- Distribución porcentual	Tipos de hogares particulares urbanos, según sexo del jefe de hogar (Serie encuesta)
		Distribución de los hogares encabezados por mujeres y hombres, según la presencia de cónyuge (Serie encuesta)
		Distribución de la jefatura femenina y masculina, según tipología de hogar (Serie encuesta)
		Distribución de los hogares encabezados por mujeres y hombres, según estado conyugal y presencia de hijos en el hogar (Serie encuesta)
	Jefatura y hogares- Composición porcentual	Porcentaje de hogares con jefatura femenina, según tipología del hogar (Serie encuesta)
		Distribución de los hogares encabezados por mujeres y hombres, según tramos de edad (Serie encuesta)
		Porcentaje de hogares donde una mujer es la principal aportante de ingresos, según tipología de hogar (Serie encuesta)

CEPALSTAT
Estadísticas de América Latina y El Caribe

English version

División de Asuntos de Género

Contáctenos

División de Asuntos de Género
Tel: (56-2) 210 2565 - Fax: (56-2) 228 5184
Casilla 179 D, Santiago Chile -

Regional indicators

Access from each thematic area of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean provides information on the equality indicators from a dual perspective – regional and by country. The indicators are the same in both cases, but they are presented differently: in terms of averages, when there is comparability, and with breakdowns in cases where country-specific information on gender equality is at issue.

Access to the information offered by the regional indicators is of practical use, since in addition to providing an overall view of the situation that each indicator measures, and a disaggregation by sex, it makes inter-country comparison possible and shows the challenges that each country faces in efforts to overcome gender inequality.

A user on a specific country page can also click on the country profile (or “more gender statistics”) tabs to access statistical information from ECLAC and from its Division for Gender Affairs.



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Observatory

Gender Regional indicator

Home Site Map Search



Equality indicators

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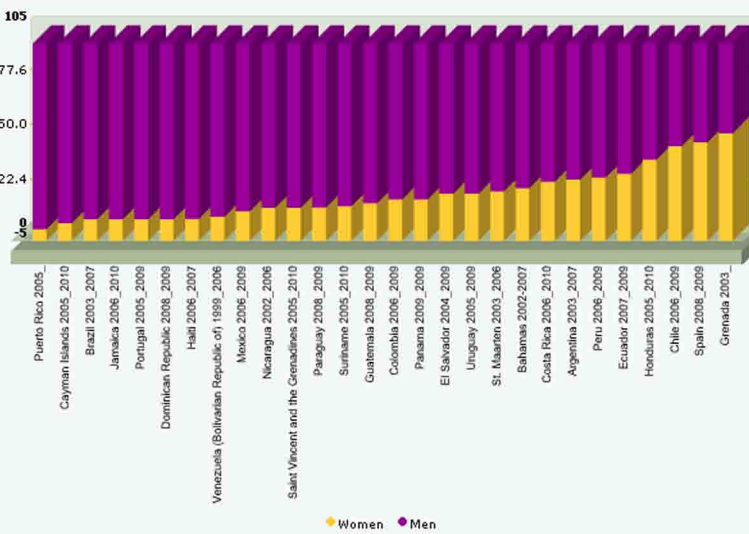
ECLAC

Division for Gender Affairs

Executive power: percentage of women in ministerial cabinet positions

Technical note

CEPALSTAT



III. Conceptual Framework

- **Gender perspective**
- **Women's autonomy**
- **Public and private spheres**
- **Productive and reproductive work**
- **Reproductive rights**
- **Violence against women**

Gender perspective

The concept of gender reflects the social construction of relations between the sexes, which is incorporated in the process of socialization. These relations change over time. There are also vast differences between cultures, and even within cultures. Gender is an indispensable analytical category for understanding inequality in contexts that were once considered gender-neutral, such as the family, education or the labour market, particularly as related to philosophy, political science and the foundational principles of democracy.

Use of the gender perspective in analyzing real situations helps to clarify and recognize the way in which gender relations operate in the different areas of personal and social development, as well as the existence of hierarchical or unequal relationships between men and women. It also aids in understanding the role of existing gender-neutral factors in public policies, and the effects that these policies have on the target populations.

The gender perspective is the conceptual framework which, when incorporated in the analysis of men's and women's status in different dimensions and experiential areas of social life, makes it possible to detect inequalities between the sexes. It also serves as a basis for formulating and implementing measures and policies to ensure that women are able to fully exercise their rights as citizens and secure their political, economic and cultural rights, under conditions of equality with men.

Thus, the gender perspective is a theoretical and methodological approach that invokes a particular way of analyzing reality and assessing the status of men and women, designing and implementing new interventions, and evaluating and assessing how effective the interventions have been.

Women's autonomy

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994, represented a paradigm shift, from a strictly demographic approach to a new view of women's rights and development. The dividing line in the debate, which led to the Programme of Action that was ultimately approved, made it possible to build an unprecedented global consensus on women's autonomy, a concept that was subsequently incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals.

The report *Millennium Development Goals 2006: a look at Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* defined the autonomy of women as their "degree of freedom to act according to their own choices rather than those of other people. There is therefore a close link between women's autonomy and their individual and collective empowerment" (United Nations, 2005, p. 114). In other words, autonomy for women means a greater ability to freely make the decisions that affect their lives, and the presence of concrete conditions that make this possible.

For women to achieve greater autonomy, they must be freed from exclusive responsibility for reproductive and care work. This involves safeguarding their reproductive rights, putting an end to gender violence and adopting all of the measures needed for women to participate in decision-making on an equal basis.

There are inequalities and discriminatory practices in each of the elements referred to above, and States must respond with consistent public policies to make women's physical, economic and physical autonomy a reality.

The public and private spheres

One of the central elements of gender theory is its critique of the division made between the public sphere (historically associated with the political, the economic and, in general, with activities considered to be in the male domain) and the private sphere (the family and domestic and personal affairs, considered to be female activities).

This dichotomy has had serious consequences for women, since it served, and provided a basis for, the differing legal status assigned to women and men in society, with men being considered full citizens possessing full rights to participate in decisions of the State and in public life, and women's role being relegated to the private, principally domestic, sphere.

Another negative consequence of this distinction lies in the fact that work related to the public sphere is paid, while work in the private sphere is not. In addition, domestic work (a part of the private sphere) falls mostly on the shoulders of women, despite the fact that they are increasingly active in the public sphere (politics and organizational and economic activity). In practical terms this means a double or triple work day.

Although women have succeeded in refuting the rationale behind making the public sphere one of essentially male activity and the private sphere a female one, and despite the significant advances women have made in gaining equality as full citizens, this has not yet translated into equal access to power and decision-making.

Productive and reproductive work

The division between productive work, which is associated with obtaining, processing and exchanging goods (traditionally activities assigned to men) and reproductive work (defined culturally as a female responsibility) is based on the division between the respective experiences of men and women and the way in which their experiences are perceived.

Reproductive work includes two fundamental types of activities: biological reproduction (gestation, birth and nursing) and social reproduction (all of the work needed to maintain the home and reproduce the family group, including child-rearing, education, and feeding and caring for all members of the family, as well as transmission of the social group's customs and values).

Productive activities are socially valued and impart status and power to those conducting them. This is not true of reproductive work, which is not equated with economic contribution or social value.

As a result of the differences in the position and social value assigned to these two types of work, gender relations become instruments of power and domination —principally of men over women.

As long as the traditional divisions between the public and the private, the productive and the reproductive, remain in place —in other words, as long as society maintains a dichotomous approach to assigning cultural roles to men and women— these divisions will continue to reproduce sexual inequalities, even in the wake of an expansion in women's social roles and scope of action.

Reproductive rights

Reproductive rights are those associated with free and informed decision-making regarding one's own reproductive life, and with voluntary and safe control of fertility, free of discrimination, coercion or violence. This implies a right to enjoy the very highest levels of sexual and reproductive health, in the sense of "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies people being able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and having the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so" (paragraph 7.2 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development).

In practical terms, this means the right of every couple, both man and woman, to individually, freely and responsibly make decisions regarding how many children to have, and at what time intervals. These rights should be incorporated as general human rights, with special emphasis on women's right to reproductive health. This in turn implies an integrating vision of the right to reproductive health – not limited to the individual rights of women and their intimate partners, but extending also to the social and cultural environment of which they are a part, so as to ensure that procreation takes place in the context of greater individual and collective security.

This concept of reproductive health means acceptance of each woman's right not to die as a result of preventable factors related to pregnancy or birth, as well as her right to personal integrity, to live a life free of violence and sexual exploitation, to engage in intimate relationships and a private life, to enjoy equality and be free of gender-based discrimination, to marry and create a family, to gain an education (including sexual and reproductive education, and adequate and timely information in all areas of life), to change the customs that discriminate against women, and to enjoy the fruits of scientific progress in the area of human reproduction, including the right not to be the subject of experimentation.

Violence against women

The term “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results, or is likely to result, in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (Article 1 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women).

The violence from which many women suffer is a reflection of a widespread situation that does not distinguish on the basis of race, class, religion, age or any other factor. It is recognized as a violation of human dignity, and as a manifestation of the historically unequal power relationships between men and women.

The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has accumulated recommendations over the last several years. It urges the States to adopt measures to eliminate violence perpetrated against women merely for being women, and forms of violence affecting women disproportionately. This includes acts that create physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats to commit such acts, coercion and other forms of deprivation of liberty.

The Committee has stressed that discrimination and violence against women are two sides of the same coin. Its General Recommendation No. 19 states that violence against women is a form of discrimination that prevents them from exercising their rights and freedoms on an equal basis with men. It also states that protecting women from violence requires the States parties to assume, among other obligations, their duty to ensure that there is social education regarding the equality of men and women.

In this way, the Governments of the countries participating in the tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (held in Quito, 6-9 August 2007), represented by ministers and delegates from mechanisms for the advancement of women, established in item 19 of the Quito Consensus their rejection of “structural violence, which is a form of discrimination against women and acts as an obstacle to the achievement of equality and parity in economic, labour, political, social, family and cultural relations, and which impedes women’s autonomy and their full participation in decision-making”.

The spread of women’s human rights and of the commitments made by Governments in international forums to make these rights a reality, has generated an increasing demand for information to help quantify and describe the different manifestations of gender violence, as well as to monitor progress in efforts to eradicate it.

IV. Methodological considerations

- **Gender indicators**
- **Gender statistics**
- **Information sources**
- **Updating of data**
- **Technical notes on indicators**
- **CEPALSTAT**

Gender indicators

Gender equality indicators are tools built on a recognition of the disparities between women and men in the contexts of family, society, the economy, politics and culture. They measure the gap between the sexes in these areas, and thereby make it possible to compare men's and women's realities in a given time period and area of social life, highlight the inequalities, and measure changes in gender relationships.

Thus, gender equality indicators serve to identify the principal disparities between the sexes within a given context and society, and to establish the distance that must still be covered to achieve equality. From this perspective, the indicators show the positions of women and men with respect to a particular phenomenon at a given time.

Developing quantitative indicators of gender equality requires reliable figures and a systematic disaggregation of data by sex. The situation of women in each country must be measured in relation to that of men, or in relation to the situation of women in other social, age or ethnic groups. Indicators of equality, viewed in light of social equity, must be quantitative in nature, in order to provide a clear view of how much progress must still be achieved to bring about equality.

Gender equality indicators are crucially important, since they:

- ✓ Make the inequalities between men and women visible, along with the impact that such inequalities have on opportunity and access to the benefits of development.
- ✓ Increase awareness of these inequalities and help in designing public policies and measures to overcome them.
- ✓ Generate and make available a source of unbiased information on which plans and policies can be based.
- ✓ Ascertain the existence or absence of statistics on specific gender problems, create mechanisms for feedback between countries, and develop uniform criteria, for the purpose of improving recording methods and producing statistics that can be used for making inter-country comparisons.
- ✓ Monitor, evaluate and conduct citizen oversight of the effects of policies and measures.

Gender statistics

This information is produced to highlight the status of women, as compared to that of men, in different aspects of a country's social, economic, cultural and political life. For gender statistics, information that reflects these realities for each of the sexes must be collected.

Applying the gender perspective in statistical work means taking account of the fact that society assigns different roles, functions, tasks and responsibilities to men and women. This, in turn, means that:

- ✓ Statistical instruments must capture and provide information that reflects the specific realities of men and women. Questionnaires (as information sources) must therefore incorporate both questions and response options that are compatible with the realities of both sexes.
- ✓ Field personnel must be trained to appreciate the different experiences and realities of men and women, so that, in conducting interviews, they do not incorporate biases that interfere with an accurate determination of the inequalities between men and women.
- ✓ The sex of the person must be considered during all of the steps involved in handling the information – validation, processing, classification, imputation or estimation – so as to avoid making assumptions that obscure or neutralize the differences between men and women.
- ✓ Findings must be disaggregated by sex, and the magnitudes of the differences between the sexes must be calculated.

Surveys and censuses are the principal sources of information for producing statistics for purposes of gender equality indicators.

Information sources

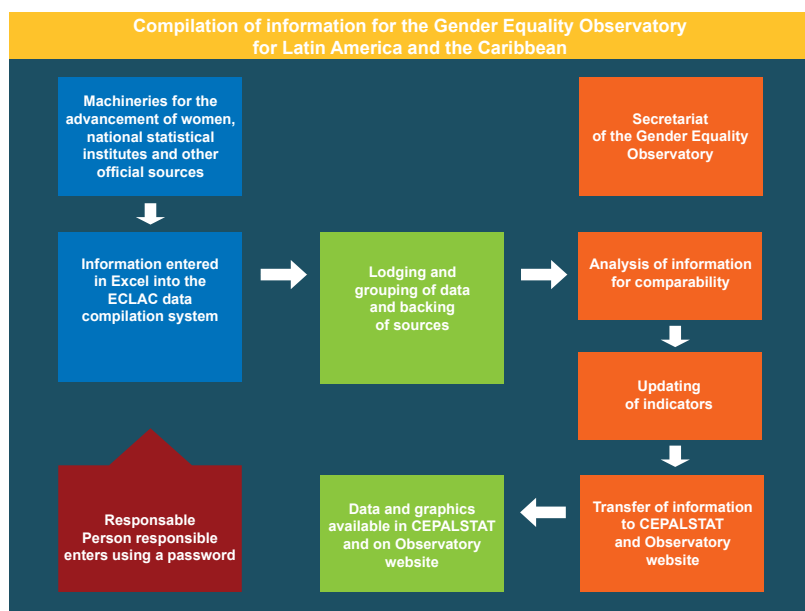
The information sources used by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean are the same ones used to generate internationally comparable gender statistics. They are part of the ongoing work programme of national statistical institutes. This provides for increased stability and permanence of information over time, and establishes a high degree of harmonization, validation and consensus at the international level, thus making it possible to conduct follow-up and monitoring based on gender equity criteria that are common to the countries.

The principal sources of data used to generate the information in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean are as follows:

- ✓ **Population and housing censuses**, normally conducted every 10 years, represent countries' largest-scale statistical operations. They constitute the broadest and most important primary source of statistical information.
- ✓ **Household surveys** are one of the most flexible data collection mechanisms, since they make it possible to study almost any issue, while concepts and level of detail can be adapted to particular research needs. Due to the extensive economic and social data needed for policymaking, these surveys have expanded enormously in the last several years.
- ✓ **Administrative records**, although more heterogeneous and subject to gaps in information, are useful, since they provide information on vital statistics (births and deaths), sectoral realities (education, health, labour), thematic areas (migration, business development) and the electoral process (voters' rolls and election results).
- ✓ **Demographic and health surveys** are conducted in a number of the region's countries. Their objective is to gather information on population, health and nutrition, in order to calculate a broad range of indicators for evaluation and monitoring.
- ✓ **Surveys on violence against women (or gender-based violence)** provide information on domestic violence and violence between couples in all of its forms: physical, psychological and sexual. They serve as the starting point for prevention and treatment, and for combating violence against women.
- ✓ **Time use surveys** are designed to measure how much time people devote to their different daily activities, such as paid work, domestic tasks, care of persons, etc. These instruments provide a better and more visible picture of all types of paid and unpaid work carried out by men and women, both within and outside the home.

Updating of data

The procedure used to update the data of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is based on a circuit that begins with the delivery or validation of the data by each country's official entity, in other words the mechanism for the advancement of women or the national statistical institute.



Starting in 2010, the relevant agencies in the various countries will each have a username, enabling them to enter data in the Observatory's information collection system, where it will be stored, classified and backed up. All of the data is entered in an Excel format on a standardized technical note. The information is obtained through e-mail requests to the authorities of the respective countries' mechanisms for the advancement of women.

The Technical Secretariat of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is responsible for incorporating individual indicator data in the databases, analyzing

the information, and updating the indicators. This information is then transmitted to the CEPALSTAT database and to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean website, where the data and charts remain available to interested members of the public².

². CEPALSTAT is the site for accessing statistical information that ECLAC collects, systematizes and disseminates on the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Technical note on indicators

All of the equality indicators tracked by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean are accompanied by corresponding technical notes. The purpose of these is to ensure that the entities providing information are familiar with the methodology used to construct each indicator, and that they are familiar with the design of the Excel form used to enter information into the data collection system, which has been specially designed to store, group and back up the data provided by each official source.

The technical notes generally contain the following information:

- ✓ **The definition** of the indicator, including the specific population that is the object of study.
- ✓ **The unit of measurement**, which for many gender indicators is a ratio, percentage, gap or rate. It is defined in terms of the unit of measurement of the variables used in constructing it or in a way that makes the figures easy for users to understand and interpret.
- ✓ **The methodology used for calculation**, including the variables used to construct it and the way in which, or the formula by which, they are related. In addition, levels of disaggregation and explanatory notes are provided.
- ✓ **The information source**, including the specific origin of the information used to update the indicator, which may be primary or secondary, the entity providing the information (in most cases, national mechanisms for the advancement of women) and the entity producing the information.
- ✓ **Dimensions and disaggregations**, including countries, periods reported on, age brackets, and criteria used to collect the information for the indicator in each country.
- ✓ **Comments and additional information**, explaining the rationale for use of the indicator, additional data, information on legislative or regulatory context, and access to additional data.



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Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean

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Equality indicators

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ECLAC

Division for Gender Affairs

Regional indicator

Teenage maternity: percentage of girls aged 15-19 who are mothers

Technical

CEPALSTAT



Additional informat

CEPALSTAT
Latin America and The Caribbean Statistics

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Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean

Physical autonomy

Teenage maternity: percentage of girls aged 15-19 who are mothers

Definition	Percentage of girls aged 15-19 who are mothers																																																																				
Unit of measurement	Percentages																																																																				
Sources	ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean For Latin America and the Caribbean: Source: CELADE, based on special analyses of census microdata bases. Sources for Spain and Portugal: Spain: López A. and others (2005), Informe Juventud en España 2004; Madrid, INJUVE; table 1.49 (approximate estimate). Portugal: United Nations Economic Commission For Europe (UNECE), Fertility and Family Survey (FFS) 1997; table 12, standard country tables.																																																																				
Methodology	V1: Number of girls aged 15 to 19 who are mothers. V2: Total number of female 15- to 19-year-olds. Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 who are mothers = (V1/V2)*100. Note on methodology: all teenage maternity calculations were based on census microdata. "Decline to answer" (NS/NR) was systematically attributed to nulliparity (zero children born alive). In Peru, cases outside of range in 1995 were excluded. Cuba has not included questions on children born alive in recent censuses. Census microdata for Haiti are not yet available through CELADE. Results for Colombia covering the 2004-2005 period and 2007 results for Peru are based on information obtained from the web pages of DANE and INEI, respectively.																																																																				
Dimensions and disaggregations	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: 0.8em;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Years</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Argentina 1991</td> <td>Argentina 2001</td> <td>Belize 1990</td> <td>Belize 2000</td> <td>Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 1992</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 2001</td> <td>Brazil 1991</td> <td>Brazil 2000</td> <td>Chile 1992</td> <td>Chile 2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colombia 1993</td> <td>Colombia 2004_05</td> <td>Costa Rica 1984</td> <td>Costa Rica 2000</td> <td>Ecuador 1990</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ecuador 2001</td> <td>El Salvador 1992</td> <td>El Salvador 2007</td> <td>Spain survey 2004</td> <td>Guatemala 1994</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guatemala 2002</td> <td>Honduras 1988</td> <td>Honduras 2001</td> <td>Mexico 1990</td> <td>Mexico 2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nicaragua 1995</td> <td>Nicaragua 2005</td> <td>Panama 1990</td> <td>Panama 2001</td> <td>Peru 1993</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peru 2007</td> <td>Paraguay 1992</td> <td>Paraguay 2002</td> <td>Portugal survey 1997</td> <td>Dominican Republic 2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trinidad and Tobago 1990</td> <td>Trinidad and Tobago 2000</td> <td>Uruguay 1985</td> <td>Uruguay 1995</td> <td>Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 1990</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 2001</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Years					Argentina 1991	Argentina 2001	Belize 1990	Belize 2000	Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 1992	Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 2001	Brazil 1991	Brazil 2000	Chile 1992	Chile 2002	Colombia 1993	Colombia 2004_05	Costa Rica 1984	Costa Rica 2000	Ecuador 1990	Ecuador 2001	El Salvador 1992	El Salvador 2007	Spain survey 2004	Guatemala 1994	Guatemala 2002	Honduras 1988	Honduras 2001	Mexico 1990	Mexico 2000	Nicaragua 1995	Nicaragua 2005	Panama 1990	Panama 2001	Peru 1993	Peru 2007	Paraguay 1992	Paraguay 2002	Portugal survey 1997	Dominican Republic 2002	Trinidad and Tobago 1990	Trinidad and Tobago 2000	Uruguay 1985	Uruguay 1995	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 1990	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 2001					Age					15	16	17	18	19	Total				
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CEPALSTAT

CEPALSTAT is a portal that affords access to the statistical information on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that is compiled, systematized and disseminated by ECLAC.

The provision of access to CEPALSTAT from each of the equality indicators facilitates more in-depth analysis and offers the option of generating real time tables and graphics that combine data from different series, countries or periods in Excel or HTML format.

The lower right-hand box offers a default results table, which shows the indicator's technical note. Information about the use of this tool is also available via a help button.


CEPALSTAT
 Latin America and The Caribbean Statistics

Versión español

[Website](#)

Subject
 Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean

Area
 Physical autonomy

Variable / indicator
 Unmet demand for family planning: Percentage of women in couples who do not want any more children or who would delay the birth of t

Disaggregations

Countries	Header	Years	Horizontal axis
1995	Vertical axis		
1996			
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Output by default (design dragging disaggregations)

Technical note 

Excel
 HTML
 Notes
 Sources

V. Indicators of physical autonomy

- **Indicator 1: Women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner**
- **Indicator 2: Teenage maternity**
- **Indicator 3: Unmet demand for family planning**
- **Indicator 4: Maternal mortality**

Women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner

This indicator reflects the annual number of women aged 15 and over who die at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner, this being one of the most extreme and widespread forms of gender-based violence and a manifestations of male-female inequality.

The recognition of the right to live a life free of violence has been ratified in international legal instruments on women's rights, highlighting the need to give special attention to all forms of gender-motivated violence and to its basic causes, including the reproduction of a culture of violence.³

Although there is awareness of the need for appropriate measures to address physical and sexual violence against women within and outside the home, such violence is measured in different ways around the region – and in some cases is not measured at all.

This indicator is based on processing information from a small number of countries regarding women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner and constitutes a practical demonstration of the dramatic importance and gravity of the problem. At the same time, it shows methodologically how countries create standards for recording this type of information, their registration methods and how such information sources can be used.

The Observatory's website also provides access to the texts of laws on violence against women and on intra-family violence.



3. Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979; Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), 1994; fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1991; Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, Quito Consensus, 2007.

Technical note: Women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner

Definition: Women aged over 15 who are killed by their partners or former partners: absolute number and rate per 100,000 inhabitants.

Unit of measurement: Absolute number and rate per 100,000 inhabitants.

Methodology used

for calculation: V1: total number of deaths of women due to gender violence; V2: total population of country.

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{V1 \times 100}{V2}$$

Sources: Information on the absolute number of deaths of women due to gender violence is requested annually from authorities at national agencies for the advancement of women, who obtain the information from judicial institutions, national police or other relevant entities in the country.

Comments: Deaths at the hands of an intimate partner or former partner are measured differently in each country, making the data non-comparable.

Costa Rica records the total number of women murdered, and (since May 2007) breaks out the number murdered by intimate partners, as well as providing the number of gender-motivated murders of women.

Chile records the total number of women murdered and the number of gender-motivated deaths, the number of women murdered by intimate partners, and the number of women murdered by other perpetrators.

Spain maintains a record of deaths due to gender violence, along with figures on the total number of victims and the victims' relationship with the perpetrators: former intimate partners (or intimate partners in the process of separating) and intimate partners.

Peru defines deaths due to gender violence as murders of women, and the variables used are murders by intimate partners and murders by other perpetrators.

The Dominican Republic records total number of murders of women, murders of women by intimate partners, and murders of women by other perpetrators.

Deaths at the hands of an intimate partner or former partner have been given increasing attention in recent years owing to their increasing incidence. Since the absolute number of women who die at the hands of their intimate partners is recorded according to different criteria in different countries, the information is not presently comparable. The information processed for this indicator comes from the few countries that have begun to process information on deaths of women at the hands of their intimate partners. As the countries process and transmit the information, the indicator will be updated by the Division for Gender Affairs at ECLAC. In the case of countries in which this information is not recorded, statistics specialists and gender studies experts from national statistical institutes, in combination with representatives from mechanisms for the advancement of women, who participated in the technical meeting of experts on gender statistics involved in analysing the Gender Equality Observatory's indicators (Aguascalientes, Mexico, 2-3 October 2008), agreed to begin collecting data based on the annual number of homicides perpetrated by intimate partners or former partners, and offered the following recommendations:

Mechanisms for the advancement of women: Explore the state of the art of information in each country, and promote awareness within the institutions that generate the relevant administrative records, so as to ensure that information for this indicator is generated.

National Statistical Institutes: Create a single form for the judicial, police and health care systems which identifies the alleged perpetrator of intentional homicides of women; create partnerships or develop inter-agency agreements between those responsible for creating the records and statistical institutes, using health records as an input for constructing the indicator.

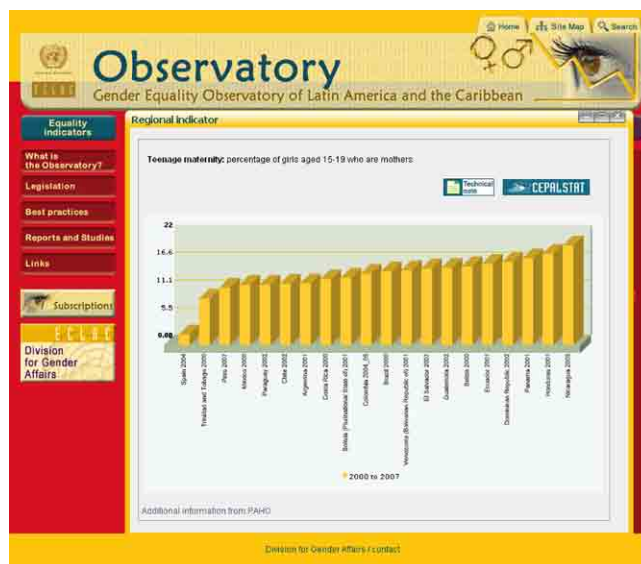
Teenage maternity

This indicator measures the percentage of girls aged of 15 to 19 who are mothers.

The inclusion of this indicator in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is particularly important: although maternity indices in the region's countries have trended downward in all other age groups, they continue to rise among adolescents. Early motherhood is more common in lower-income sectors, where, in personal and societal terms, being a poor, single teenage mother is a predictor of future problems for both mother and child.

This indicator not only shows the magnitude of the problem in individual countries, but also reveals the insufficient access to reproductive health services among young people of both sexes, as well as the persisting patriarchal cultural practices that prevent adolescents from exercising control over their own bodies.

The indicator shows that, despite the fact that many countries have significantly reduced maternal mortality through policies to provide access to health services, even teenagers living in societies with relatively high educational levels and better access to information and knowledge have not yet been given the care they need. This has serious consequences for young mothers, especially those in lower-income sectors, who are frequently compelled to leave school and thus find their personal and social development, as well as their advancement economically and as citizens, limited.



Technical note: Teenage maternity

Definition: Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 who are mothers.

Unit of measurement: Percentage.

Methodology used

for calculation: V1: Number of girls aged 15 to 19 who are mothers; V2: Total number of female 15- to 19-year-olds.

$$\text{Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 who are mothers} = (V1/V2)*100$$

Sources: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC. The information is obtained by special processing of census microdata.

Sources for Spain and Portugal – Spain: López A. and others (2005), *Informe Juventud en España 2004*, Madrid, Instituto de la Juventud (INJUVE), table 1.49 (estimate). Portugal: Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Fertility and Family Survey (FFS) 1997; table 12, standard country tables. The data for Colombia (2004-2005) and Peru (2007) come from processing online data from the websites of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI).

Note on

methodology: All of the data on teenage maternity were obtained by processing census microdata. The responses “Don’t know/No response” were systematically imputed to zero (no live-born children). In Peru, values beyond the range were excluded in 1993. Cuba’s recent censuses do not include a question on live-born children. CELADE – Population Division of ECLAC does not yet have microdata from the Haiti censuses.

Unmet demand for family planning

This indicator shows the number of married women or women in consensual unions who do not want more children, or who would prefer to delay the birth of their next child but who are not using a method of family planning, as a proportion of all married women or women in consensual unions. It shows a country's response to the population's needs in this regard, along with the conditions that allow people – especially women – to exercise their right to decide freely, on the basis of adequate information, about the number of children they wish to have.

Reproductive rights are an important factor in empowering women and securing their autonomy. Until women in all socioeconomic strata have access to family planning methods, levels of undesired fertility will continue to be high, affecting these rights as well as women's autonomy with respect to their own bodies.

The unmet need for family planning is the result of rising demand, limitations on the provision of reproductive health services, absence of support by communities and couples, lack of pertinent information, financial costs and transportation constraints.

The International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, assigned special priority to meeting this demand more effectively, with this being a

guiding principle in ensuring that births occur as a result of voluntary and well-founded choices. This indicator is part of the effort to provide follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals.



Technical note: Unmet demand for family planning

Definition: Percentage of women in couples (married or not) who do not wish to have more children, or wish to postpone the next birth, but who are using no family planning method.

Unit of measurement: Percentage.

Methodology used

for calculation: V1: Number of women in couples who do not wish to have more children, or wish to postpone the next birth, but who are using no family planning method; V2: Total number of women in couples (married or not).

$$\text{Percentage} = (V1/V2)*100$$

Disaggregation: Total, by age (15-19 and 20-34), women's level of schooling and area of residence.

Sources: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC (demographic and health surveys; disease control centres; in Mexico, the INEGI, or National Institute of Statistics and Geography, website and the System of Indicators for Monitoring the Situation of Women). Online at <http://celade.cepal.cl/cgi-bin/RpWebEngine.exe/PortalAction?&MODE=MAIN&BASE=ELCAIRO&MAIN=WebServerMain.inl>.

Maternal mortality

Maternal mortality is defined as the death of a woman during pregnancy or within 42 days after the end of pregnancy (whatever the duration and place of the pregnancy) due to complications in pregnancy, delivery or in the postnatal period, but not to accidental or incidental causes.

The indicator shows maternal mortality as incidence per 100,000 live births, and is a sentinel event for the quality of health systems in the world's countries. Calculations for the region have been conducted based on the databases for the Millennium Development Goal indicators, and on estimates/projections of maternal mortality for 2000 and 2005 by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO, 2004).

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development issued countries a clear call to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality to levels that no longer constitute a health problem, increase maternity services within the context of primary health care (with support from the international community) and adopt measures to prevent, detect and treat high-risk pregnancies and births, especially among adolescents and older parturients. Millennium Development Goal 5a, clearly expresses the objective to “reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio between 1990 and 2015.”



Technical note: Maternal mortality

Definition: The maternal mortality ratio is the number of women who die from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes), during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of the termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, per 100,000 live births.

Unit of measurement: Rate per 100,000 live births.

Methodology used

for calculation: Calculated as a quotient between the number of maternal deaths (numerator) and the total number of newborns alive (denominator), during a period of time, multiplied by 100,000.

Sources: United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Development Goals database [online] <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>; World Health Organization (WHO), 2000 and 2005 Estimates of Maternal Mortality.

VI. Indicators of decision-making autonomy

- **Indicator 1: Executive power**
- **Indicator 2: Legislative power**
- **Indicator 3: Judicial power**
- **Indicator 4: Local power (women mayors)**
- **Indicator 5: Local power (women councillors)**
- **Indicator 6: Countries that have signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**
- **Indicator 7: Level within the governmental hierarchy of national machineries for the advancement of women**

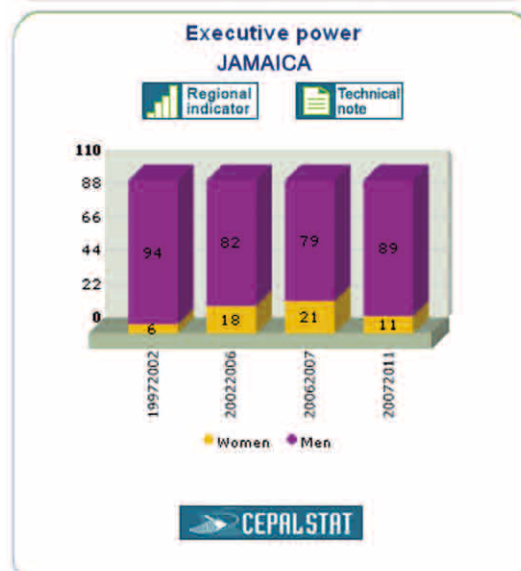
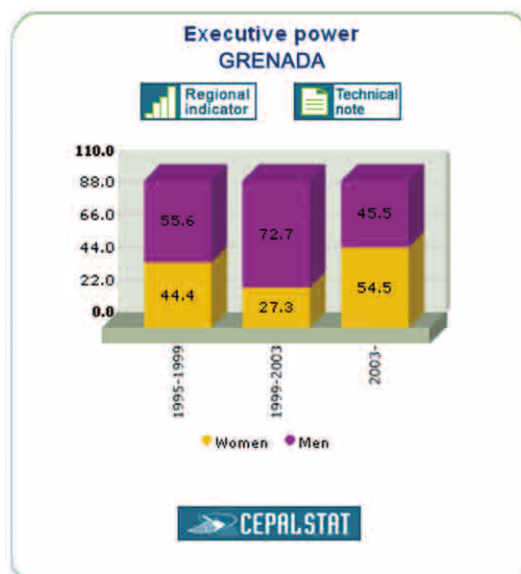
Women in the executive power

The executive power indicator tracks the changing access of women to decision-making posts at the highest level of the executive branch in government. It provides a gauge of the Government's policy decisions regarding the participation of women in senior decision-making positions, and shows the types of ministries to which they are assigned.

This equality indicator shows the percentage of cabinet-level ministries headed by women, and reflects progress in equality between the sexes with regard to women's political participation and autonomy, as well as tracking cultural changes in how people view women's ability to function in positions of power and to influence decisions. It also points to conditions more conducive to adopting equality as a regional objective.

Women acquired the vote in most of the region's countries following strenuous and unremitting struggles led by pioneering women's suffragists, dating from the beginning of the last century to the acquisition of full citizen rights. Although the right to vote was in place by the 1950s, the presence of women in State positions of power, or in elective office, continues to be very low (around 10%), despite the fact that they represent approximately 50% of the electorate.

Article 7b of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women establishes that the States parties are to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in their nations' political and public life and, in particular, to ensure conditions in which women and men have an equal right to participate in formulating and implementing government policy, occupy public positions and exercise all public functions in every area of government.



Technical notes: Executive power

Definition: Percentage of women in ministerial cabinet positions.

Unit of measurement: Percentages.

Methodology used

for calculation: V1: Number of women holding ministerial portfolios in presidential cabinets; V2: Total number of cabinet positions.

Percentage of female ministers = $(V1/V2)*100$

Sources: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on information provided by national mechanisms for the advancement of women, 2009.

Women in the legislative power

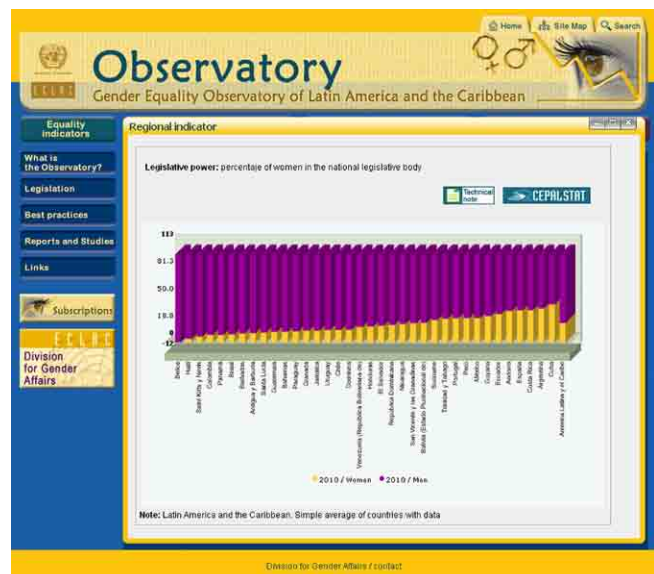
This indicator of decision-making autonomy shows the percentage of women occupying seats in the national parliament. For international comparisons, only the lower or single chamber is ordinarily used.

The data related to this indicator are available from national parliaments, which transmit the information to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which in turn supplies the information directly to the United Nations using figures compiled by the countries.

The increased parliamentary representation of women in the region is associated with the adoption of affirmative action measures, combined with proportional electoral systems and quota legislation. Such affirmative action measures follow United Nations recommendations made at the World Conferences on Women (Nairobi 1985 and Beijing 1995)⁴.

Quota laws are temporary affirmative action measures adopted by the States to promote equality between the sexes in decision-making at different levels of political power. They are designed to compensate for historical gender discrimination and guarantee women a minimum representation in parliament.

This section of the website includes the texts of the quota laws, in cases where such laws have been passed.



4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979; Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1985; Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995.

Technical notes: Legislative power

Definition: Proportion of women holding seats in the national parliament. For international comparisons, generally the single or lower house is considered.

Unit of measurement: Percentages.

Methodology used

for calculation: This indicator is obtained by dividing the number of parliamentary seats occupied by women in the single or lower house (numerator) by the total number of seats occupied in the same house (denominator). The result is multiplied by 100.

Sources: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Millennium Development Goals 2006: a look at Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* [online] <http://www.cepal.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/1/21541/P21541.xml&xsl=/tpl/p9f.xsl&base=/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>.

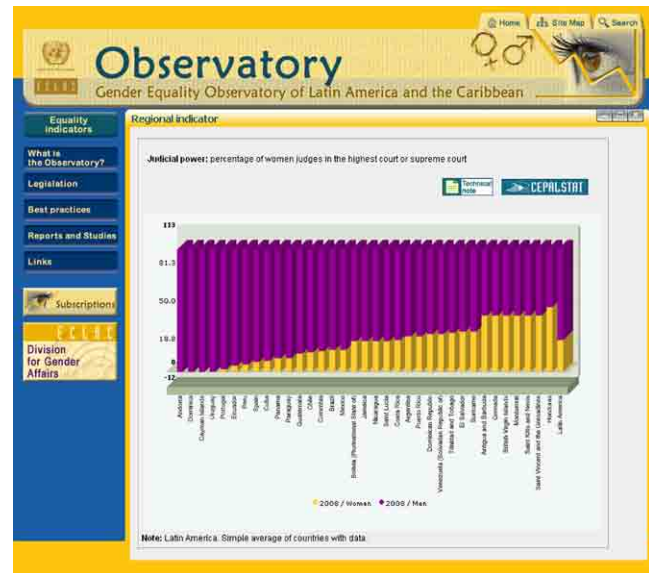
United Nations Statistics Division, Database on Millennium Development Goals Indicators [online] <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>.

Women in the judicial power

This indicator of decision-making autonomy measures the number of women who sit on the highest, or supreme, court, as a percentage of all such magistrates.

The indicator is designed to call specific attention to inequalities in the judicial branch of government in the region's countries, where women represent a majority in administrative posts, and commonly work as court clerks or low-level employees, but are a minority in positions involving major policy and administrative responsibility.

The technical note for the indicator provides additional information on the structure of the highest court of each country, gives the hierarchical order of each country's constitutional and appeals courts, the official designations of the positions, terms of office and quantitative information. It also provides information on how these magistrates are selected and approved.



Technical note: Judicial power

Definition: Percentage of women judges in the highest court or supreme court.

Unit of measurement: Percentages.

Methodology used

for calculation: V1: Number of women sitting on the highest, or supreme, court; V2: Total number of such magistrates.

Percentage of women sitting on the highest, or supreme, court = $(V1/V2)*100$

Sources: The data for this indicator were developed by INSTRAW and ECLAC on the basis of information from national mechanisms for the advancement of women and information published on the websites of high, or supreme, courts in the countries.

Women in local power (mayors)

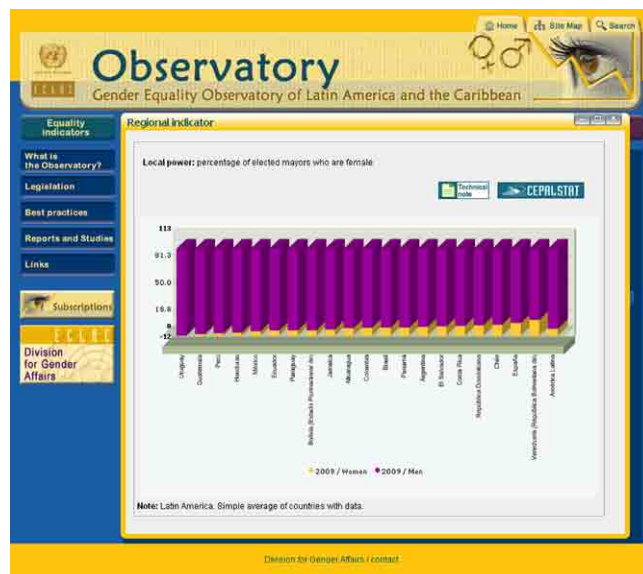
This indicator of decision-making autonomy measures the number of elected women mayors as a percentage of all elected mayors. The name of the indicator reflects the fact that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, this is the designation most frequently used, though it also includes municipal intendants, prefects, stewards and council presidents.

The indicator is calculated on the basis of information that was compiled by INSTRAW and validated between March and June of 2009. The information was provided by national mechanisms for the advancement of women, based on official data from electoral bodies and other relevant official national sources.

Based on this indicator's technical note, users can access descriptions of the countries' electoral systems, which cover political/administrative divisions, composition of municipal governments, duration of terms, systems of representation, types of voters' roles and electoral districts, quota laws where they exist and are applicable to this area of government, legal instruments that govern municipal government, and the electoral justice system.

The indicator tracks women's changing access to decision-making posts at the highest level of local government. Its importance lies in the fact that it reflects the presence of women at the level of decision-making that most directly affects the population, since local government is responsible for public matters associated with the daily life of inhabitants within the jurisdiction of the municipality.

However, such access does not necessarily translate into a greater presence of women in local representative positions or decision-making. Indeed, although increasing numbers of women are participating in local public life in the region's countries, local government continues to be dominated by men.



Technical note: Local Government (women mayors)

Definition: Number of women elected to mayoral positions in relation to the total number of elected mayoral positions, expressed as a percentage⁵.

Unit of measurement: Percentages.

Methodology used

for calculation: V1: Number of elected women mayors in municipal elections; V2: Total number of elected mayors.

$$\text{Percentage of women mayors} = (V1/V2) * 100$$

Sources: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on information compiled by INSTRAW and validated between March and June 2009. The information was provided by national mechanisms for the advancement of women, based on official data from electoral bodies or other official national sources. Information from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua was taken from the 2006 ECLAC questionnaire concerning unpaid work and political participation and from the most recent election, as shown on the website of each national electoral body.

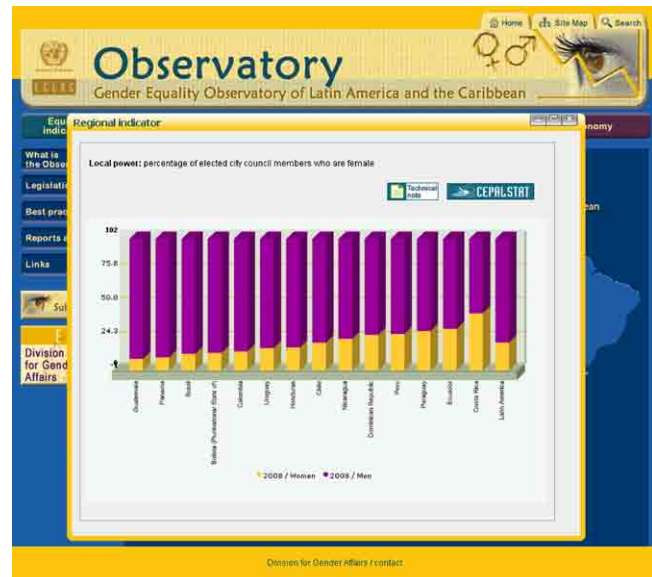
5. The name of the indicator reflects the fact that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, this is the designation most frequently used, though it also includes municipal intendants, prefects, stewards and council presidents.

Women in local power (women councillors)

This indicator shows the number of elected women councillors as a percentage of all municipal legislative, deliberative or oversight councils.

As with the mayoral indicator, the importance of this indicator lies in the fact that it shows the presence of women in decision-making associated, generally, with the level of government closest to the population and to community life.

Concern about women's participation in local representative bodies in the countries of the region was addressed at the technical meeting of experts on gender statistics in Aguascalientes (Mexico) in October 2008, at which there was agreement on the importance of exploring women's presence in, and access to, not only senior (mayoral) positions in local government, but also at lower levels in the hierarchy (such as supervisors' and councillors' offices). This recommendation is reflected in the inclusion, in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, of a specific indicator designed to highlight the differences in the presence of men and women within local government.



Technical note: Local Government (women council members)

Definition: The number of elected women town councillors in relation to the total number of town councillor positions (legislative, budgetary) of the municipal government, expressed as a percentage.

Unit of measurement: Percentages.

Methodology used

for calculation: V1: Elected councilwomen. Number of women elected by popular vote as councilwomen in municipal government bodies; V2: Elected council members. Total number of electoral council posts.

$$\text{Percentage of councilwomen} = (V1/V2) * 100$$

Sources: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based on information compiled by INSTRAW and validated by mechanisms for the advancement of women in March 2009, with reference to information from national electoral bodies.

Signing and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

This indicator is based on the number of countries in the region that have signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1999 and which obligates the signatory States to recognize the competency of the Committee on the Elimination of Violence Against Women to receive and hear complaints by individuals or organized civil society groups. The Committee constitutes a mechanism for enforcing accountability regarding acts of discrimination against women.

Ratification of the Optional Protocol by the countries that are signatories to the Convention is the clearest indicator that the States possess the political will to fully enforce the Convention's provisions, since it makes it possible to implement the principal international instrument for the protection of women's human rights —an area that the international community has recognized as continuing to exhibit explicit or implicit problems of discrimination, whether by action or omission.

Application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, through the Optional Protocol, brings national societies closer to the goal of equality and equity between men and women. Ratification of the Optional Protocol is a major step towards this goal.

The indicator is updated with information from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights⁶.

6. Database on the status of the signing and ratification of the Optional Protocol [online] http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-8-b&chapter=4&lang=en.

Chile Observato

Close

Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Conventi

Regional indicator Informs CEDAW

- Ratified
- Signed (10 de diciembre 1999)
- Has not signed or ratified

ent of

Regional Indicator

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*

Latin America [Country Reports CEDAW](#)

Country	Signature of the Facultative Protocol	Ratification of the Facultative Protocol
Argentina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol February 28, 2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ratification of the Facultative Protocol March 20, 2007
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol December 30, 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ratification of the Facultative Protocol September 27, 2003
Brazil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol March 13, 2001	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ratification of the Facultative Protocol July 26, 2002
Chile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol December 10, 1999	
Colombia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol December 10, 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ratification of the Facultative Protocol January 23, 2007
Costa Rica	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol December 10, 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ratification of the Facultative Protocol March 8, 2001
Cuba	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol March 17, 2000	
Dominican Republic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol March 14, 2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ratification of the Facultative Protocol May 31, 2001
Ecuador	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol December 10, 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ratification of the Facultative Protocol January 17, 2002
El Salvador	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature of the Facultative Protocol April 4, 2001	

Level within governmental hierarchy of national machineries for the advancement of women

The level, within the governmental hierarchy, occupied by mechanisms for the advancement of women is a qualitative indicator that characterizes the formal status that the countries have given to these mechanism through laws, decrees and other official measures. This classification does not reflect the availability of technical or budgetary resources, nor does it show the actual influence of these mechanisms on governmental decision-making or their overall weight in the public agenda and in public policy. It does, however, provide a relatively simple gauge of the formal importance that gender equality has acquired in each country.

Three levels have been defined to designate the hierarchical position of the mechanisms, which are categorized as: (i) mechanisms that have ministerial rank, or where the head of the mechanism has ministerial rank and is a full participant in the cabinet; (ii) mechanisms that report to the country's president, but whose heads are not in the cabinet (offices that are part of the president's office, secretariats, national institutes, etc.); and (iii) mechanisms that report to a ministry or to a lower-level body (vice-ministry, institute, council, etc.).

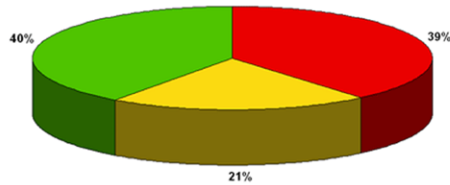
Through strategic objective H.1. of the Beijing Platform for Action, the States agreed, "based on a strong political commitment, to create a national machinery, where it does not exist, and strengthen, as appropriate, existing national machineries, for the advancement of women at the highest possible level of government; it should have clearly defined mandates and authority; critical elements would be adequate resources and the ability and competence to influence policy and formulate and review legislation; among other things, it should perform policy analysis, undertake advocacy, communication, coordination and monitoring of implementation".

Fifteen years after the World Conference on Women in Beijing, only eight of the region's countries have developed ministerial-level gender institutions, while five have institutions at the second level of the governmental hierarchy and seven have institutions at the third level. Although this reflects progress in the institutional role of gender issues, it also shows the absolute position of these mechanisms in the power structure of the region's Governments. Most of the Caribbean countries have low-level institutions.

Latin America
Level within governmental hierarchy of national Machineries for the Advancement of Women

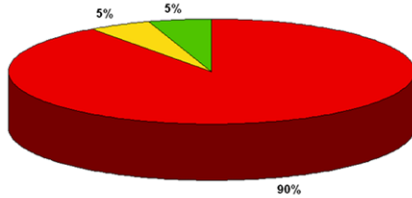


- Ministry or head of machinery with ministerial standing
- Body attached to the office of the president or mechanism headed by a person reporting directly to that office (offices attached to the office of the president, secretariats, national institutes and other offices)
- Bodies reporting to a ministry (vice-ministries, offices of under-secretaries, institutes, councils and other offices)



The Caribbean
Level within governmental hierarchy of national Machineries for the Advancement of Women

- Ministry or head of machinery with ministerial standing
- Head of Machinery without ministerial standing, but directly accountable to the Prime Minister
- Head of Departments and other bodies accountable to a Minister



Península Ibérica
Level within governmental hierarchy of national Machineries for the Advancement of Women

- Ministry or head of machinery with ministerial standing
- Head of Machinery without ministerial standing, but directly accountable to the Prime Minister
- Head of Departments and other bodies accountable to a Minister



National machineries for the advancement of women



Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres

VII. Indicators of economic autonomy

- **Population without incomes of their own, by sex**
- **Total work time**

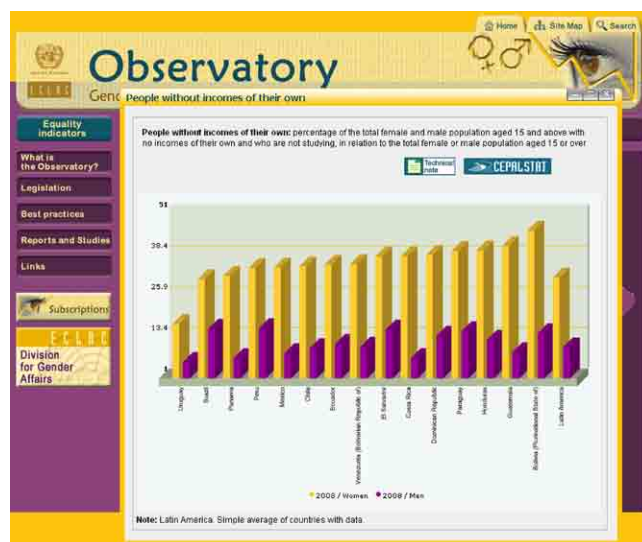
Population without incomes of their own, by sex

This indicator measures the percentage of the female/male populations aged 15 and over receiving no individual monetary income and not attending school, as a percentage of the total female/male populations 15 and over not attending school. The indicator is disaggregated by age group and area of residence. Household surveys are its principal source of data.

By showing the proportion of men and women without their own income (salaries, pensions, remittances, business income or income from productive activities) and taking account of existing gender gaps, the indicator offers a gauge of women's lack of economic autonomy, which although present in all socioeconomic strata, is significantly more pronounced in the lowest strata, and is a factor in women's vulnerability⁷.

The indicator shows the obstacles and problems that women face in accessing income through paid activity in the labour market, property or credit, etc. Traditional poverty measures use per capita household income, a procedure that assumes that income is equally distributed within households. This obscures the lack of autonomy of women who do not engage in paid work as a result of their exclusive dedication to child-rearing and care of other dependent family members.

This proposed indicator reveals that women's lack of own income is frequently associated with the performance of unpaid reproductive work in the home, which limits their time and their opportunities for personal development, while at the same time making them particularly vulnerable to poverty in the event of separation or widowhood.



7. Individual income is obtained by summing the following income sources: wages, salaries and income of own-account workers in the labour market, retirement and pension payments, transfers between households and from other countries, and social benefits provided by Government. Fixed-term investments and income from property, as well as other income sources, are also included.

Technical note: Population without incomes of their own, by sex

Definition: Percentage of the total female and male population aged 15 and above with no incomes of their own and who are not studying, in relation to the total female or male population aged 15 or over.

Unit of measurement: Percentages.

Methodology used

for calculation: **n:** Number of women/men without own income, aged 15 and over not attending school, of age “e”; urban/rural

N: Total number of women/men, aged 15 and over not attending school, of age “e”; urban/rural

e: 1: 15-24 years old

2: 25-34 years old

3: 35-44 years old

4: 45-59 years old

5: 60+ years old

Percentage: $P = (n/N) \cdot 100$.

Sources: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The 2007 series includes national household surveys conducted in 2007, except in the cases of Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico, where the surveys took place in 2006, and Nicaragua, which carried out the survey in 2005. The 2008 series includes national household surveys conducted in 2008, except for Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, where the surveys took place in 2006, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Colombia, which conducted the surveys in 2007.

Total work time

This indicator shows the total number of hours spent in paid work and unpaid domestic work, disaggregated by sex.

Time-use surveys are the most important tool available to measure daily unpaid work loads in the countries. Until very recently, information on unpaid work—which for centuries has been performed by women—was invisible in the countries’ societies and economies.

Currently, surveys are conducted in a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries; in some cases, time use modules are incorporated in household surveys. The information is systematized by the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs in the document “Tiempo total de trabajo (remunerado y no remunerado). Recopilación experiencias encuestas uso del tiempo en los países”, which can be found on the website in reports and studies on economic autonomy⁸.

One important input for constructing this indicator in the medium term will be the regional classifiers of time use activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL). This is a tool for planning, processing, presenting and analysing time use surveys. It will provide the concepts and definitions (metadata) needed to process data and harmonize time use surveys in Latin America and Caribbean, and will aid in making international comparisons⁹.

8. See [online] <http://www.cepal.org/oig/noticias/paginas/3/38403/TiempoTotalTrabajo.pdf>

9. This instrument, which is currently being developed, is a project of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

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Women's autonomy in public and private life is essential to guarantee the exercise of their human rights. The capacity to generate one's own income and control assets and resources (economic autonomy), women's control over their own bodies (physical autonomy) and their full participation in the decisions that affect their lives individually and collectively (decision-making autonomy) are the three pillars of gender equality and parity citizenship.

Division for Gender Affairs
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Santiago, Chile, May 2010

www.eclac.org/oig