

Gender Equality Observatory

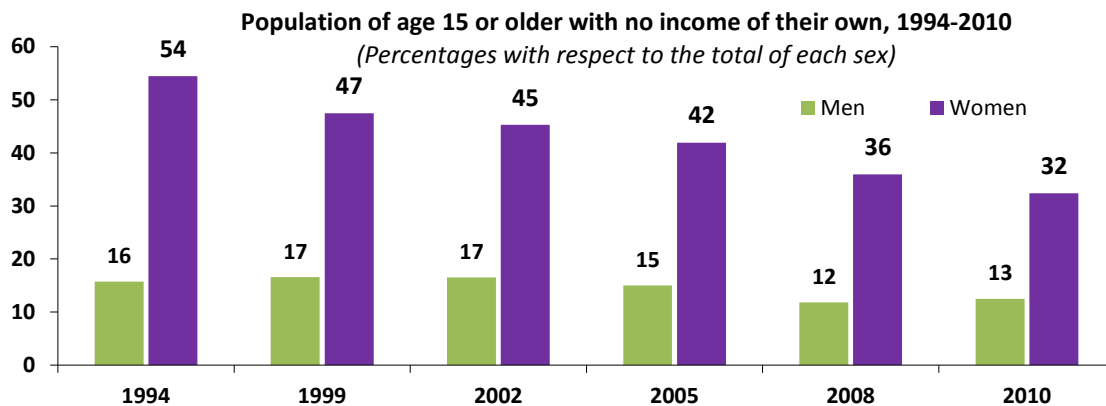
for Latin America and the Caribbean



Sustainable development depends on women

A development model affected by multiple crises (food, climate, energy and financial) generates inequality and higher environmental risks for poor populations, where there are more women than men

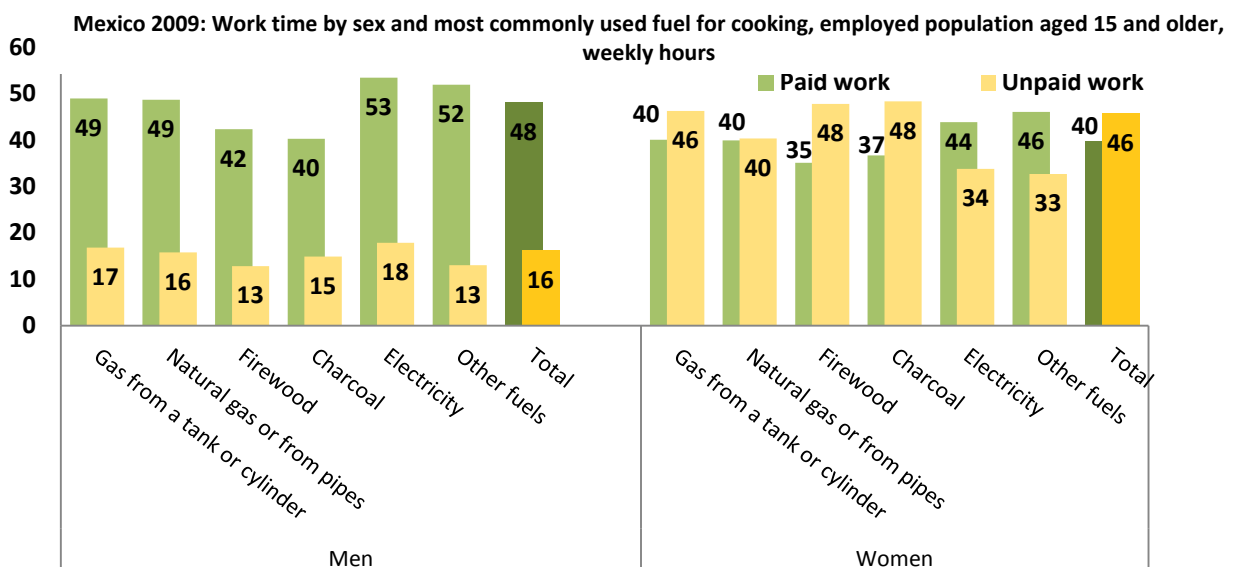
ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA HAS NO INCOME OF THEIR OWN
Even though the population of women with no income of their own has decreased, it is still double than that of men



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), simple average of 17 countries on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys in the respective countries for each year

WOMEN DEDICATE MORE TIME TO DOMESTIC WORK RELATED TO ENERGY

Women shoulder a greater burden of unpaid work according to data from 17 Latin American countries with time-use surveys. The case of Mexico shows this trend with regard to the use of fuel for cooking.



Source: ECLAC, based on special tabulations from the National Survey on Time Use Mexico. 2009



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Why does sustainable development depend on women?

- Women play a key role in the management, conservation, exploitation and utilization of natural resources as consumers and educators, despite having serious limitations in access and control of these resources.
- Rural women are the principal agricultural producers, and as such are essential for food security of countries. They are also the ones who work more and earn less, 38% of rural women do not have income of their own.
- In Latin America, women own less than 20% of the land. Data shows that if they were to have the same access as men, agricultural production would increase considerably.
- Unpaid work for self-consumption is generally done by women, especially the collection of firewood and the fetching of water. In Ecuador and Guatemala, 61.8% and 43.7% of employed women in rural areas are engaged in subsistence production, against 47.8% and 31.7% of men.
- Although natural disasters reinforce and increase gender inequality, the potential contributions of women for risk reduction and women's leadership to cope with disasters are often ignored.

Sources: ECLAC (2012). Sustainable development 20 years on from the Earth Summit: Progress, gaps and strategic guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean. United Nations publication (LC/L.3346/Rev.1)

Ortega, Liudmila (2012), "A new model patriarchal family in the rural areas," internal document, Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), unpublished

How to build equal sustainable development?

- Changes must be made to the paradigm with which we analyse development and assess the gross domestic product. The gender and the environment agenda suggest that GDP does not capture the complexity of production processes and social relations, both from the standpoint of environmental impact and of the unpaid work of women.
- Create a global pact in solidarity with future generations, which coupled with the demographic transition process strategically locates issues that particularly affect women, such as provision of care. This requires comprehensive improvements in the integration of women in employment and establishment of public care policies which allow greater economic autonomy for women.
- Include women as key actors in development processes, consultation, design and implementation of policies and programs, giving due consideration to their needs. This means taking into account women's time in processes of planning and urban development, the provision of services (such as water, energy, and transportation), water privatization, and agricultural policies, among others. It also implies considering their needs for access to credit, assets, training, technology, property rights and patents.
- Recognise that sustainable development goals must include gender equality and empowerment of women both as a goal in its own right, as well as a fundamental part of all other goals.

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