



Introduction

The regional caucus for Latin America and the Caribbean at the 4th Global Women Deliver Conference had the objective of visualizing priorities and strategies for girls, adolescent girls and women of the region and as part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda is an opportunity to fight the main problems that exist worldwide. It is critical to transform the process of its implementation into tangible and specific commitments and actions in order to improve the living conditions and the enjoyment of girls, adolescent girls and young women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This will not be possible without an inter-institutional work with coordinated actions and common goals. This is why it was very important for the caucus to have the participation of various sectors: civil society, international organisms, representatives of the countries of the region and representatives from international cooperation efforts.

100 people from 28 countries of the region participated in addition to people from 6 countries from other regions that requested to be included in the event due to their particular interest in the region.

The caucus took place with the following elements as its goals:

- ✓ Having a space to debate about the regional context, the main needs, problems and its impact in the lives of girls, adolescent girls and young women.
- ✓ Sharing success stories in public legislation and policies that have been developed in the countries of the region as a response to the context they are facing.
- ✓ Discussing the role of governments in guaranteeing the effective implementation and the legal framework to improve access to the sexual and reproductive rights of girls, adolescent girls and young women.
- ✓ Presenting proposals for priorities and commitments that can be applied to improve the living conditions of girls, adolescent girls and young women in the region.

These points were presented through a panel that was integrated by:

- Cristina Lustenberg- Health Vice Minister of Uruguay
- Nila Heredia- ORAS CONHU (Andean Health Organism)
- Gabriela Troiano- Member of the Parliament of the Argentinean Chamber of Deputies
- Virginia Camacho- Technical Secretary of the Regional Work Group to Reduce Maternal Death and Regional Technical Advisor on SRH from UNFPA LACRO.
- Marisol Ruiz- Global Women's Network for Reproductive Rights
- Nayeli Yoval and Mayra Zamaniego- *Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos* (Youth Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights)



Some elements mentioned during the panel were:

“Teenage pregnancy is not only a matter of contraceptive methods but a lack of opportunities, education and marginalization”- Nayeli Yoval, Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos

“The legislative process must also include public policies and budgets to really make an impact in the lives of girls and women”- Gabriela Troiano, Parliament member of the Argentinean Chamber of Deputies

“We need to identify and analyze the structural conditions and the systematic violence under which the girls and young women in the region are living”- Mayra Zamaniego, Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos

“In Uruguay now the struggle is to make the State responsible in matters of house work and care work, which are always carried out by women. Solving this situation is crucial for the empowerment of women”- Cristina Lustemberg, Health Vice Minister of Uruguay.

After the remarks of the panel members, we started a discussion session in which we talked in more detail about the contexts and the responses of the various governments and civil society about the current situation of the region and its impact in women. Another important element was the critical consideration of the low rate of participation of this region in the Women Deliver Conference and the need to increase the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the various panels with the purpose of including our analyses, visions, strategies and work.

The obstacle to implement the 2030 Agenda became apparent; the context of political instability and economic crises is a great challenge. The 2030 Agenda is yet to include mandatory mechanisms for accountability and, for that purpose, the political will, the inter-institutional alliances and the active role of civil society are essential to achieve its fulfillment.

As part of the Caucus, we presented the “Pact for the empowerment, the sexual rights and the sexual and reproductive health of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women”, which proposes 14 imperative commitments and possible actions regarding: empowerment and participation, promoting rights (campaigns and promotion), public policies, cooperation and investment, social and cultural transformation. These are actions that have already been assigned by the governments of the region as part of the 2030 Agenda or the Montevideo Consensus by means of its Operational Guide.

Through the Pact, we urge key actors to undertake the responsibility and the challenge of making contributions to improve the living conditions of girls, adolescent girls and young women of Latin America and the Caribbean by means of complying with the 2030 Agenda, specifically Goal 5 “Achieving Gender Equality and empowering girls and women” and Goal 3 “Guaranteeing a healthy life and promoting the wellbeing of all persons at all ages”.



The caucus was a space for analysis and to turn challenges and good practices into shared matters based on the experience in the region and to build alliances that can strengthen coordinated actions and political advocacy actions.

All these thoughts were sent to the persons who could not be present in the caucus, through the socialization of the discussions, the diagnosis that was created and the pact by means of our web page and social networks with the support of PATH and Women Deliver. At the end, we created a press release with the main elements discussed in Caucus, which was broadly distributed.

The work goes beyond the Women Deliver Conference. From *Elige* and from our work in the regional cooperation in which we have been included: *Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC* (Latin American and Caribbean Youth Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights-RedLAC) and *Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes* (Latin American and Caribbean Youth Alliance) we will continue working so that key organizations, institutions and sectors will undertake some of the commitments that were presented in the pact. Specifically we identified the following courses of action:

Regional

Achieving the transformation of the pact into an advocacy tool to create government commitments that can be transformed into national implementations.

- ✓ Coordinated work with the International Youth Organism (OIJ, by its acronym in Spanish) so that the commitments that will be signed in the Ibero American Summit of Heads of State and Government can include some of the priorities of The Pact.
- ✓ Political incidence with State ministers who will be participating in the Regional Women Conference that will be held on October in Montevideo, Uruguay.
- ✓ We will seek to include indicators that respond to the matters presented in the Pact in the indicator review process to implement the 2030 Agenda regionally and the Montevideo Consensus.

National

Socializing the Pact so that it can be adopted by allied international organizations and organisms that can facilitate advocacy processes with national governments in at least six countries of the region (Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua).

Relevant actors:

- ✓ Civil society organizations and allied networks
- ✓ Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA LACRO)
- ✓ UN Women
- ✓ UNICEF



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Concept Note Caucus for Latin America and the Caribbean Women Deliver International Conference

Background:

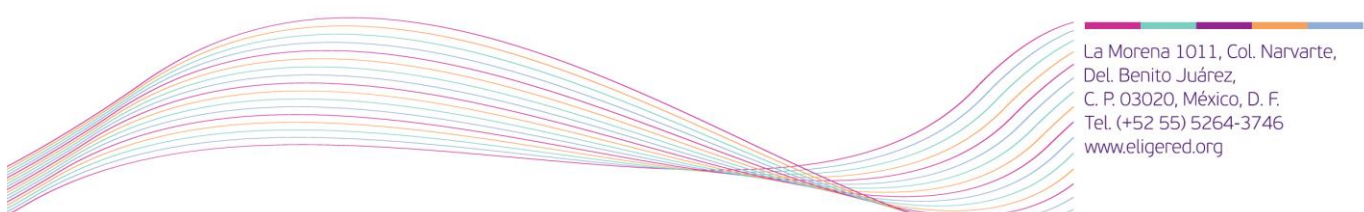
The Women Deliver Conferences are the largest conventions in which the main priority under discussion is health and the rights of girls and women. So far, three Conferences have been held: London in 2007, Washington in 2010 and Kuala Lumpur in 2013. The fourth Conference will be held on May 16 and 19 in Copenhagen, Denmark. In that space, world leaders, human rights advocates, decision makers, journalists, young persons, researchers, private sector and civil society leaders will meet to exchange points of view and think about actions on how to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for the development of women and girls.

The Conference will focus on identifying the way in which the Sustainable Development Goals can be applied to improve the living conditions of girls and women, with a specific focus on health, sexual and reproductive health, rights and the relationships between gender equality, education, the environment and economic empowerment.

During the 4th Conference, there will be a regional caucus with the purpose of envisioning the priorities and the main strategies to face the various political commitments with the girls, adolescent girls and women of each region, using the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, the Beijing Action Platform and the 2030 Agenda as references.

The caucus for Latin America and the Caribbean will be led by *Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos AC* (Elige), which is a feminist organization who works for the empowerment of girls, adolescent girls and women by means of promoting and defending their sexual and reproductive rights with the intention of promoting the full exercise of a full citizenship. The work of Elige has been carried out for more than 15 years, locally, nationally and regionally from a participatory and associative approach by means of creating alliances that will result in political commitments to guarantee fully exercising the human rights of young people.

The Caucus of Latin America and the Caribbean as part of the 4th Women Deliver Conference is a great opportunity to talk about priorities, opportunities of collaboration and/or mobilization and the strategies to implement the SDGs related to girls, adolescent girls and women in Latin America and the Caribbean, beyond the Conference itself.





Specifically in Latin America, we are facing a serious problem of inequality that result in deficient programs and public policies that worsen health problems and negatively affect the rights of girls, adolescent girls and young women. According to data from ECLAC, the high rate of poverty amongst the younger groups of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean is characteristic when compared with other older age groups. The poverty rate of people younger than 15 years of age is equal to 2.8 times more than the rate of people older than 55 years of age, and the rate of the group of young people aged 15-24 is 1.9. Girls and adolescent girls are in this group. In some countries poverty has been clearly proven to be a factor that has an impact on early pregnancy, which is a situation that sentences teenagers to perpetuate poverty cycles and establish the sexual division of labor very early at home.

In this context, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an opportunity to fight against the main global problems and that is why it is important to translate it into tangible and specific commitments and actions to improve the living conditions and the wellbeing of girls, adolescent girls and women of Latin America and the Caribbean, undoubtedly this will not be possible without a commitment and an inter-institutional work that will result in actions that are more coordinated and common goals that will allow girls, adolescents and young women to enjoy a life free of discrimination, violence, exploitation and poverty.

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark. Bella Center, Room B3-1

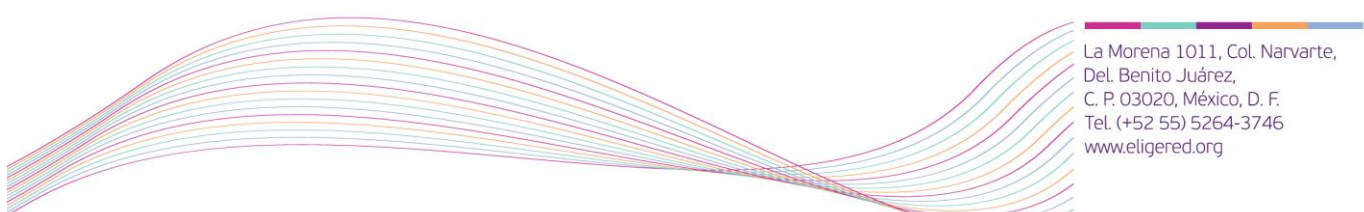
Date: May 19, 2016

Time: 10:30 – 12:00

Objective:

Presenting and gathering support for the *“Pacto por la salud, los derechos sexuales y el empoderamiento de niñas, adolescentes y mujeres jóvenes en América Latina”* (Pact for the health, sexual rights and empowerment of girls, adolescent girls and young women in Latin America.)

The Pact is integrated by 10 possible commitments or actions that consider strategic fields of action: empowerment and participation, promoting rights (campaigns and promotion), public policies, cooperation and investment, social and cultural transformation.





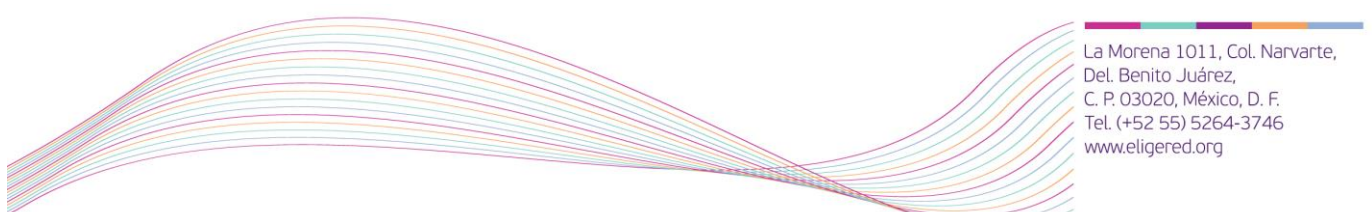
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**Regional Caucus for Latin America and the Caribbean:
The commitments to favor girls, adolescent girls and young women as part of the
implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs.)
May 19, 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark.**

Time	Moment	Objective	Speaker
10:30 – 10:35	Presentation of the Regional Caucus of Latin America and the Caribbean	Presenting the context and the objective of the space as part of the 4 th Women Deliver Conference	Nayeli Yoval <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i>
10:35 – 10:55	Panel 1: Situation of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Latin America.	Presenting a brief context of the region that will allow identifying the main problems faced by girls, adolescent girls and young women in Latin America and the Caribbean also identifying the need of a coordinated action to face these conditions.	Virginia Camacho <i>Technical Secretary of the Regional Work Group to Reduce Maternal Mortality and SRH Regional Technical Adviser UNFPA-LACRO</i> Mayra Zamaniego <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i>
10:55 – 11:25	Panel 2: Experiences of public policy and legislation to favor girls, adolescent girls and young women in the region.	Presenting experiences about public policies and legislation in the countries of the region that favor girls, adolescent girls and young women.	Moderator: Nayeli Yoval Dr. Cristina Lustemberg Health Vice Minister Government of Uruguay Dr. Nila Heredia Executive Secretary of ORAS CONHU (Andean Health Council) Dep. Gabriela Troiano Chamber of Deputies Argentina
11:25 – 11:45	Plenary Session open to Discussion	Open session to exchange opinions regarding the matters presented in the panels.	Facilitator: Nayeli Yoval <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i>



11:45 – 11:55	Presentation of the “ <i>Pacto por el empoderamiento, los derechos sexuales y la salud sexual y reproductiva de Niñas, Adolescentes y Mujeres jóvenes</i> ” (Pact for the empowerment, sexual rights and the sexual and reproductive health of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women)	Presentation of the Pact. First stakeholders and institutions who are interested.	Mayra Zamaniego <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i> Marisol Ruiz Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights: WGNRR
11:55 – 12:00	Closure	Conclusions and follow-up proposal. How do we continue to add support for the Pact?	Nayeli Yoval <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i>





**Regional Caucus- Latinamerica and the Caribbean:
Commitments for girls, adolescents and young women in the framework of the implementation of
the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**

May 19, 2016 / Copenhagen, Denmark: Bella Center, Room B3-1

Time: 10:30 – 12:00

Objective:

Create a space for discussion and the proposal of some commitments to contribute to the empowerment and the full exercise of sexual rights of girls, adolescents and youth women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Time	Moment	Speakers
10:30 – 10:35	Presentation of the Regional Caucus of Latin America and the Caribbean	Nayeli Yoval <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i>
10:35 – 10:55	Panel 1: Situation of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Latin America.	Virginia Camacho <i>Technical Secretary of the Regional Work Group to Reduce Maternal Mortality and SRH Regional Technical Adviser UNFPA-LACRO</i> Mayra Zamaniego <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i>
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11:25 – 11:45	Plenary Session open to Discussion	Facilitator: Nayeli Yoval
11:45 – 11:55	Presentation of the “Pacto por el empoderamiento, los derechos sexuales y la salud sexual y reproductiva de Niñas, Adolescentes y Mujeres jóvenes” (Pact for the empowerment, sexual rights and the sexual and reproductive health of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women)	Mayra Zamaniego <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i> Marisol Ruiz <i>Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights: WGNRR</i>
11:55 – 12:00	Closure	Nayeli Yoval <i>Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México</i>

Maternal mortality

Maternal mortality in our region is amongst the three main causes of death in teenagers with ages of between 15 and 19 years of age. In teenagers younger than 15 years of age, the risk of dying due to causes related with pregnancy is up to three times greater than in women older than 20 years of age.¹⁶

Abortion

The annual number of dangerous abortions in girls of ages between 15 to 19 years of age in Latin America and the Caribbean is 670.000. This means that 25 out of every 1000 teenagers with ages of between 15 to 19 years of age have abortions under unsafe conditions that put their lives at risk.¹⁷

VIOLENCE

When talking about teenage pregnancy with ages between 10 to 14 years of age, we must clearly acknowledge its relationship with sexual violence. Between 70% and 80% of sexual abuse victims are girls, in half of the cases, the attackers live with the victims and from those three quarters of them are direct family members of the boys and girls that are abused.¹⁸

CHILD MARRIAGE

Another form of violence is child marriage.

11% of all the girls in the world become married before they have turned 15, which is a situation that jeopardizes their right to health, education and protection.¹⁹

In the region, the invisibility of this practice in public awareness has a very clear contrast against its clear presence, where 29% of girls younger than 18 years of age are married or living together as unmarried couples. The greatest rates can be found in Brazil (36%), Dominican Republic (41%), Nicaragua (41%) and Honduras (34%). Specifically, Brazil has the highest absolute numbers in girls and child marriages of the region and it is believed to rank as number four in the total numbers worldwide: 88.000 girls and boys with ages of between 10 and 14 years of age.²⁰

EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

In this aspect there are several deficiencies about the data. With the exception of ECLAC studies on youth participation or researches about the subject there is little information that can show the degree of empowerment or the level of participation of adolescents and young people. However we can confirm that both violence rates and teenage pregnancy are still rising in the region and stereotypes and gender roles still type-cast girls, adolescent girls and young women to housework, care work or reproductive functions. It is very obvious that there is a serious empowerment issue and unfavorable conditions that complicate, limit or hinder their participation in public and political circles.



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The importance of a Pact for the sexual rights of girls, adolescent girls and young girls.

A summary of the situation of girls, adolescent girls and young women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Context

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we face a serious problem of inequality, unemployment, lack of public safety and violence, as well deficient programs and public policies that restrict the full exercise of the rights of girls, adolescent girls and young women.

This brief diagnostic has the intention of being a general outlook of the main challenges and obstacles in our region with the intention to make progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, specifically Goal 3. Guaranteeing a healthy life and promoting the well-being of everyone at all ages and Goal 5: *Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.*

Some examples in our Region.

Girls, adolescent girls and young women from 0 to 29 years of age in Latin America represent approximately 25.2% of the population. For 2015, there were 160 million women in that age range.¹ The following data reveals the situation of these women and their living conditions, which range from the conditions of poverty to their situation regarding political participation. In order to improve their health and to be able to think of a world that has equality, we must consider and solve other structural aspects that clearly have a deeper impact throughout their lives.

The opportunities:

In this scenario, it is important to mention that there are two areas of opportunity that must be mentioned. The 2030 Agenda and the Montevideo Consensus with its Operational Guide. This Consensus is the result of the regional review of the Action Program of the International Conference on Population and Development 20 years after it was signed and that, so far, represents the most progressive inter-governmental agreement of the world. The Montevideo Consensus includes a chapter that focuses on girls, boys, adolescents and young people, acknowledging them as subjects with rights and it directly and explicitly addresses health, sexual rights and reproductive rights. Certainly, for both the 2030 Agenda and the Montevideo Consensus to become real opportunities, there must be a commitment in their implementation. Hence the need to become committed with the **Pact for the empowerment, the sexual rights and the sexual and reproductive health of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women.**

1. Data obtained from the Database and Statistical Publications of ECLAC. Available at: http://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/WEB_CEPALSTAT/Portada.asp

other group, which in urban areas is maintained even when the gap is shorter.⁸

Comprehensive Sexual Education

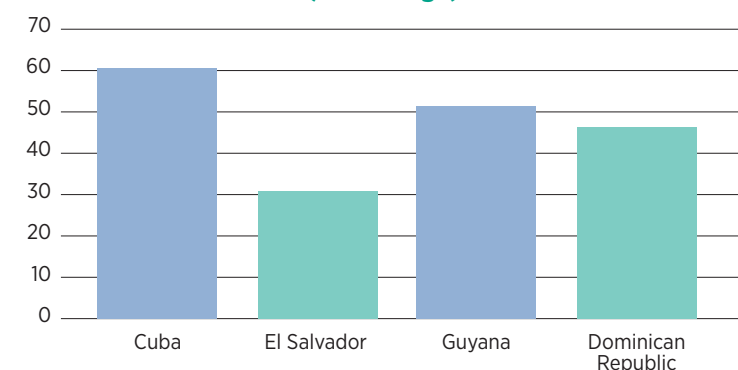
Due to conservative governments, especially in Central America, the implementation of commitments for a Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) has been obstructed, thus causing young people to lack timely, evidence-based information to make safe and informed decisions. The high rates of teenage pregnancy or the prevalence of young people who live with HIV or any sexually transmitted infection (STI) are a reflection of the precarious condition of CSE, worsened by the structural conditions that these people face.

The Ministerial Statement "Prevent with Education" had the main objective of achieving, for 2015, the reduction of "the gap represented by the number of schools that have not institutionalized comprehensive sexual education by 75%, for all educational centers under the jurisdiction of the Departments of Education". In an evaluation performed that same year, the average regional progress was 60%.⁹

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

This is perhaps one of the subjects with the most deficiencies in the region and it is even more evident with the high pregnancy rates in teenagers and the prevalence of HIV or STIs. Additionally, since it was until 2013 that the governments of the region acknowledged the existence of sexual rights,¹⁰ there is little evidence that shows the level of acknowledgement, appropriation and exercise of the rights of girls, adolescent girls and young women in the region.

Women aged 15-27 years old with knowledge about HIV (Percentage)



Source: Original work with data obtained from the 2014 ECLAC Database.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

The pregnancy rates in adolescents in the region are amongst the highest in the world, right after the Sub Saharan Africa and the south of Asia. In 2010, 72 births for every thousand women with ages from 15 to 19 years of age were registered. Most Latin American countries are amongst the 50 first countries of the world in teenage fertility, which is an index that has decreased in other regions.¹¹

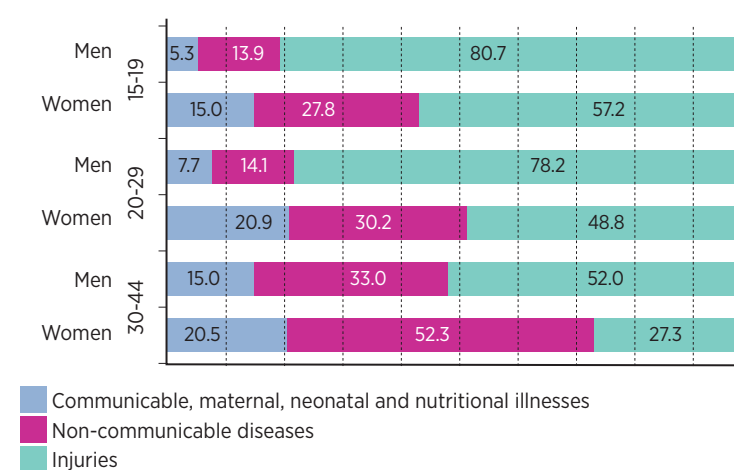
2 millions out of the 7,3 millions of births of teenagers younger than 18 years of age that happen every year in developing countries are births of girls who are younger than 15 years of age. Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region in which the births of girls younger than 15 years of age have increased and where it is expected to slightly increase until 2030.¹²

HEALTH

For women with ages between 15 and 19 years of age, mental health stands out among the problems and contributes to the burden of morbidity (unipolar depressive disorder, major depressive disorders and anxiety disorders). This pattern varies in the age of group of between 20 and 29 years of age, but the unipolar depressive disorders still rank in the first place.^{13, 14}

It is also alarming that 40,000 girls, adolescent girls and young women are currently living with HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to reports from UNAIDS.¹⁵

Latin America and the Caribbean (33 countries): Deaths according to specific causes, by age group and sex. 2010

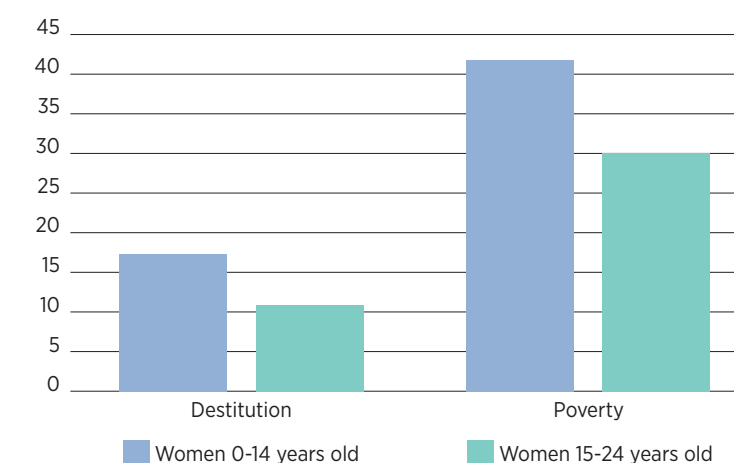


Source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (On line consultation) <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>.

POVERTY

According to data from ECLAC, Latin America and the Caribbean is a region characterized by its high level of poverty amongst the younger groups of the population when compared to older age groups. The poverty rate of people younger than 15 years of age is 2.8 times greater than the one in people older than 55 years of age, and the rate of the group of young people with ages between 15 and 24 is 1.9.²

Total percentage of women per age range in the region who are living in conditions of poverty and destitution



Source: Original work using information from the 2013 ECLAC Database.

EMPLOYMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR

The unemployment rate of young people from 15 to 24 years of age is between 2 and 4.3 times greater than the rate of those who are 25 years old or older. That means that unemployed young people are more than 40% of the total unemployed people in the region. This is worse in the case of young women, whose unemployment rate regionally reached 17.7% against 11.4% in the case of young men.³

The situation of young women is even more precarious, which is reflected upon the unemployment rate of women with 25 to 29 years of age (11.5%) which is twice the rate of women with 30 to 64 years of age (5.7%).⁴

The estimation is that there are 2 million boys and girls that do house work. Child housework is not only one of the worst paid jobs, but it is also often of the least valued occupations both socially and culturally. It is believed that housework is the work category that affects girls younger than 16 years of age the most around the world.⁵

2. Information obtained from the Statistical Database of ECLAC (2014).

3. UNFPA (2013). UNFPA Regional Strategy UNFPA on Adolescence and Youth for Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at: <http://lac.unfpa.org/sites/lac.unfpa.org/files/pub-pdf/Estrategia%20Regional%20A%26J%20LACRO%202013.pdf>

4. Idem

5. UNICEF (2007). Violence against boys, girls and adolescents: Magnitude and challenges for Latin America. Results from the worldwide study on violence. Available at: [http://www.unicef.org/lac/Conferencia_Sub-Regional_Intervencion_Nils_Kastberg\(3\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/lac/Conferencia_Sub-Regional_Intervencion_Nils_Kastberg(3).pdf)

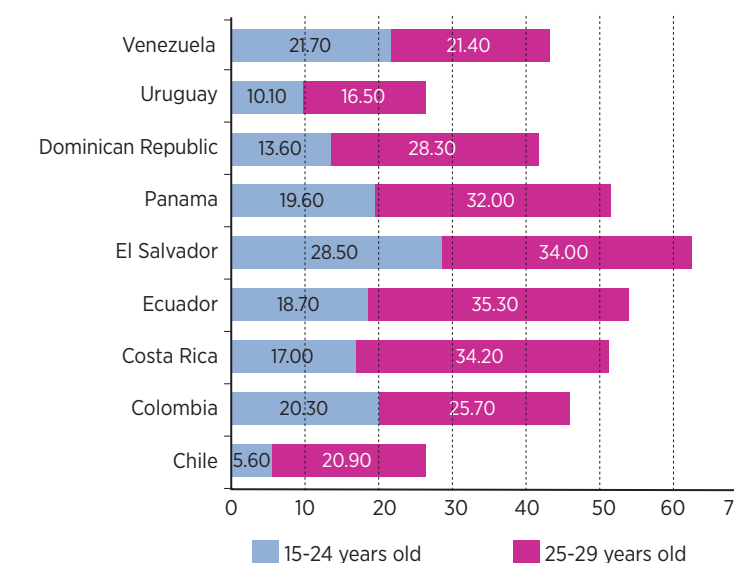
6. Idem

7. World Bank Group (2016). Nini in Latin America: 20 million young people looking for opportunities. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/22349/K8423.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y>

INEQUALITY

We must emphasize gender inequality in the sexual division of labor. 20% of young women with 15 to 24 years of age do housework, which limits their possibilities to enter the work market in the future, unlike young men, who only do 2% of this type of work. This phenomenon is more closely related to cultural patterns associated to the unequal distribution of chores for people living in a home, rather than a problem related with job-placement for young people.⁶

Women dedicated to housework (Percentage)



Source: Original work with information from the 2013 ECLAC Database.

EDUCATION

Women represent 66% (12 million people) of the population in our region who do not study or work and in this group the most important risk factor associated with the term "nini" is marrying before 18 years of age and pregnancy during adolescence. This group, which has been called 'the nini generation', due to their dual marginalization from the education system and the labor market, has systematically, socially and structurally been excluded and that exclusion that has become sustained over time.⁷

One third of the young people of between 15 and 29 years of age in Latin America and the Caribbean do not attend any educational facility. Amongst them, young indigenous and afrodescendant women in rural areas have a lower attendance and completion rate than any

8. UNFPA (2013). UNFPA Regional Strategy UNFPA on Adolescence and Youth for Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at: <http://lac.unfpa.org/sites/lac.unfpa.org/files/pub-pdf/Estrategia%20Regional%20A%26J%20LACRO%202013.pdf>

9. IPPF and Demysex (2015). Evaluation of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration. Available at: <https://www.ippfwhr.org/sites/default/files/EVALUACION%202015%20FINAL%20VERSION%20WEB.pdf>

10. Montevideo Consensus. Uruguay 2013

11. World Bank LAC (2012). Teenage Pregnancy and Opportunities in Latin America and Opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

12. UNFPA (2013). Maternity in childhood: facing pregnancy in teenagers. Available at: <http://www.unfpa.org.mx/publicaciones/SP-SWOP2013.pdf>

13. ECLAC (2014). Youth: Realities and challenges for a development with equality. Available at: http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/38978/S1500718_es.pdf;jsessionid=8EA406A29AFB7FD13736B90336E5FA03?sequence=4

14. Idem

15. UNAIDS (2014). How aids changed everything. Available at: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/MDG6Report_en.pdf



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Pact for the empowerment, sexual rights and the sexual and reproductive health of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women

Hereby through this Pact we urge key stakeholders to take on the responsibility and the challenge to contribute to improve the living conditions of girls, adolescent girls and young women of Latin America and the Caribbean by means of complying with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, specifically Goal 5 “Achieving Gender Equality and empower all women and girls” and Goal 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote the well being for all at all ages”.

These actions have the intention of improving the quality of investments, improving public policies and obtaining a greater degree of commitment from the governments, from non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, a better international cooperation, locally, nationally and regionally. All of this as part of a human rights framework that is gender oriented and with an intercultural approach, with a horizon of equality.

It mainly seeks to create commitments to go beyond the perspectives that categorize girls, adolescent girls and young women as vulnerable persons who are at risk, which prevents acknowledging their prominence and hinders exercising of their own rights.

We urge you to create commitments that will acknowledge them as persons with rights and as key agents for the development of their communities, their countries and the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

▶ EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- 1 Promoting gender equality** and empowering girls, adolescent girls and young women in all aspects of youth, acknowledging and taking care of the vulnerable conditions they face and the need to eliminate discrimination against them, in addition to the fundamental role of boys and young men to guarantee gender equality.
- 2 Zero tolerance to all forms of violence** against girls, adolescent girls and young women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Decisively promoting actions aimed at the elimination of violence and discrimination in family, school and social settings. Sanctioning violence in public and private spaces, specifically sexual harassment and rape, psychological violence, physical aggression and feminicides, guaranteeing not to re-victimize them in justice processes and an adequate institutional assistance.
- 3 Reviewing and, if necessary, modifying the legislation to establish the minimum marrying age to 18, without exceptions.**

▶ PUBLIC POLICIES

- 4 Promoting the highest possible level of health** for girls, adolescent girls and young women. Guaranteeing preventive measures, healthcare and broadening its coverage and improving its quality. Being especially aware to **respect and protect their Sexual and Reproductive Rights** when accessing friendly and quality healthcare services, promoting a self-care based behavior.

- 5 Achieving the **universalization of education** at least up to secondary school for girls, adolescent girls and young women, providing appropriate and high quality teaching by means of comprehensive strategies that promote public education, that prioritize curricular content associated with “education for citizens”, “comprehensive education in sexuality” and that creatively use the tools provided by information and communication technologies.
- 6 **Preventing teenage pregnancy** by means of a comprehensive sexual education and timely and confidential access to information, technologies and quality integral services, including OTC (over the counter) oral emergency contraceptives and female and male condoms. It is important to take actions that can deal with the structural causes for exclusion and poverty in the social and family setting of girls, adolescent girls and young women of the region. It is urgent to deal with sexual violence, which in a lot of cases leads to a forced maternity for girls aged 10 to 14.
- 7 **Eliminating unsafe abortions**, ensuring that, in the cases in which the abortion is legal, the services to interrupt pregnancy are safe and with good quality. Furthermore, reviewing the legislation in which the countries where abortion is criminalized and modify the corresponding legislation as a means to contribute to the prevention of unwanted pregnancies and safeguard the life and health of women, especially adolescent girls and young women.
- 8 **Fighting the dropout rates and broadening educational incorporation** for girls, adolescent girls and young women. Implementing educational incorporation strategies that will, firstly, allow detecting girls and adolescent girls who are not in school and incorporate them and guarantee the continuity of their studies including, among other things, the participation of girls, adolescent girls and young women in the implementation of efficient mechanisms that will consider their participation to design the educational process (10 x childhood.)
- 9 Improving the **incorporation to the employment market** of young women and preventing the labor exploitation of girls, adolescent girls and young women. Decisively facing the sharp unemployment rates and youth sub-employment, by means of strategies that are relevant for decent jobs.
- 10 **Consolidating diagnostics that will allow identifying the situation of girls, adolescent girls and young women in the region.** Guaranteeing the disaggregation of data for the age groups of 10-14 and 15-18. Developing researches that will allow fully understanding the conditions of young people, designing and implementing public policies for youth, based on science that can be rigorously monitored and evaluated. Guaranteeing the greatest possible degree of harmony between the approaches and the strategies established in Public Policies and the Sectorial Youth Plans.

COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT

- 11 **Sustaining the investment made in childhood in the second decade of life** optimizing, articulating and orienting policies, sectorial actions and budgets based on human rights that acknowledge girls, adolescent girls and young women as persons with rights that promote their autonomy and create the right conditions for their emancipation.
- 12 **Investing and supporting organizations led by young and adolescent persons.** As a mechanism to promote their participation and strengthening their citizenship, promoting affirmative actions that will allow reducing the obstacles that girls, adolescent and young women face to participate politically and promote their organizations.

PROMOTING RIGHTS

- 13 **Raising awareness amongst decision-makers, public officials and parents about the condition of young people.** Developing tools and actions to train public servants in public youth policies to strengthen their technical capabilities and make decision-making more effective.
- 14 **Designing and implementing communication campaigns** aimed at transforming gender roles and promoting non-stereotyped images of young women and promoting these campaigns in the media and in social networks.

The Pact for empowerment, the sexual rights and the sexual and reproductive health of Girls, Adolescent Girls and Young Women is mainly based upon the priority measures of the Operational Guide of the Montevideo Consensus and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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