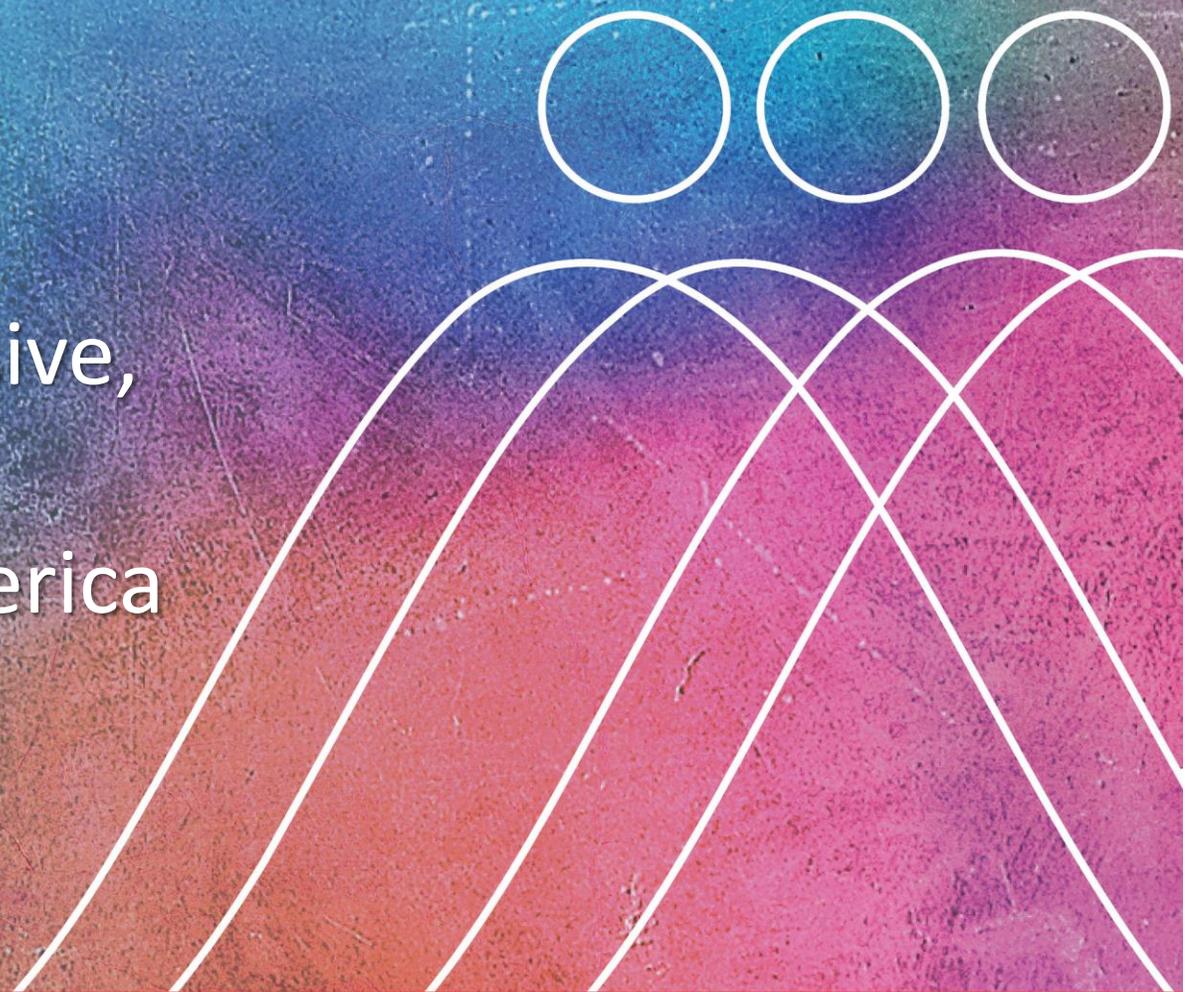


Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis:

Towards universal, comprehensive,
resilient and sustainable social
protection systems in Latin America
and the Caribbean



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary of ECLAC

2021

Regional Conference
on Social Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2021

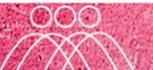
CRUCIAL LINK BETWEEN SOCIAL PROTECTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- **The pandemic has brought to the fore people's vulnerability to income loss.**
- **Countries applied emergency measures, adapting and complementing existing cash transfer programmes.**
- **Natural disasters have magnified the impacts of COVID-19 and the Caribbean subregion, which is facing a multidimensional crisis, is the hardest hit.**
- **The protracted crisis caused by the pandemic provides a window of opportunity to link social protection systems with disaster risk management policies.**
- **Institutional approach to dual resilience of social protection is urgently needed: one that invests in prevention and universal access to basic services and ensures dual social inclusion (income and access to formal work).**
- **A rights-based approach to social protection that is sensitive to differences and encompasses a comprehensive care system, with new social and fiscal compacts to ensure the financial sustainability of universal social protection.**
- **Strengthening intraregional cooperation is essential for addressing global asymmetries in a context of weakened multilateralism.**



A PROTRACTED HEALTH CRISIS

- **Growing global asymmetries:** access to vaccines, wealth and financing
- COVID-19 amplified the **structural weaknesses in the health systems** of Latin American and Caribbean countries
- The **recovery paradox** in GDP for 2021 means we are seeing an upturn, but with little genuine growth, which is neither inclusive or transformative
- Increasing **poverty, inequality, informality and unemployment**, all of which will persist for many years and require continued government support
- **Strategies for transformative recovery** urgently needed, with emphasis on investment with equality and sustainability
- Social unrest and uncertainty



FIVE LESSONS LEARNED FROM COVID-19

1. A protracted global health disaster that exposed structural inequalities in the region
2. Government responses viewed in light of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development: rapid, but insufficient
3. Health crisis magnified by natural disasters and climate change
4. Urgent need for universal, comprehensive, sustainable and resilient social protection systems amid a constant and growing threat to well-being
5. Disasters and resilience-building in the Caribbean: tackling a multidimensional crisis and global asymmetries



DISASTERS AND THEIR IMPACTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



DISASTERS AND THEIR IMPACTS IN THE REGION

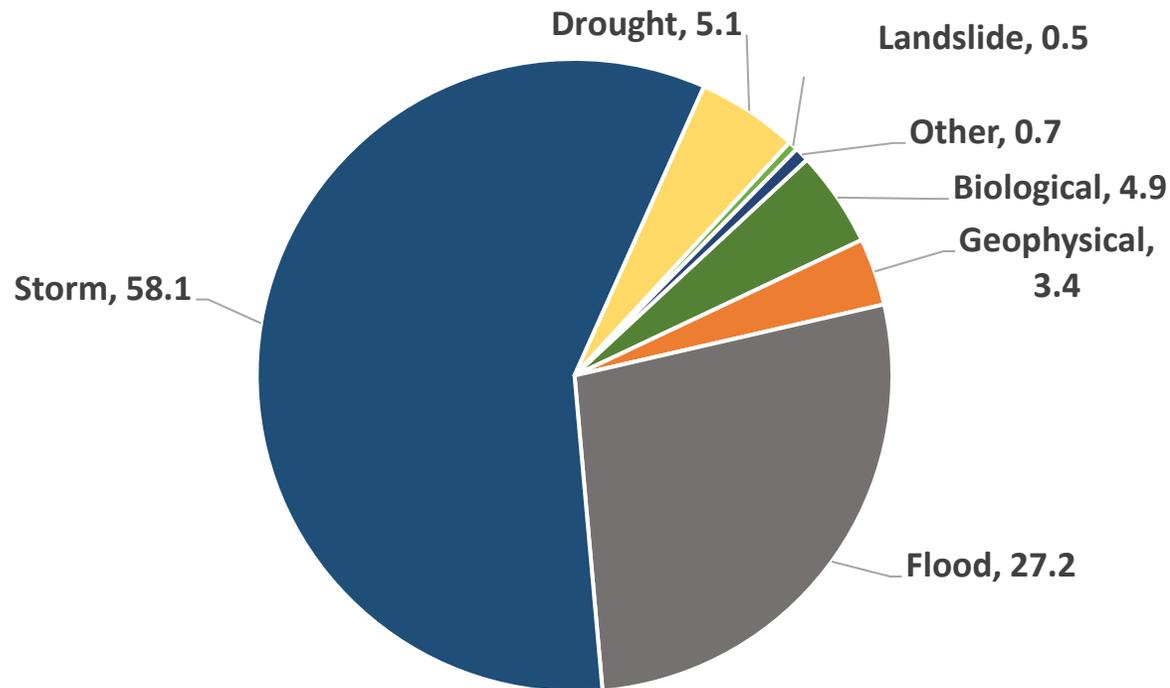
- Increasing frequency and intensity of disasters in the region
 - Between 1960 and 2020 there were around **3,570 disasters**
 - Disasters caused close to 573,000 deaths and affected 321 million people
 - Approximately **US\$ 328 billion** in economic damage
- The Caribbean particularly vulnerable to hydrometeorological disasters
 - In the period 2000–2019, **9 of the 10 countries and territories most** impacted in GDP terms in the world (6.7%) from the Caribbean subregion (UNDRR/CRED, 2019)
 - Subregion extremely vulnerable because of combination of high levels of external debt and recurring hydrometeorological disasters



BETWEEN 1990 AND 2017, 408 DISASTERS HIT THE CARIBBEAN: 9 OUT OF 10 WERE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL

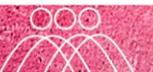
The Caribbean: number of disasters by type, 1990–2017

(Percentages)



- Number of **persons affected**, by type of disaster:
 - Storm (29.8 million)
 - Biological (7.5 million)
 - Drought (7.3 million)
 - Flood (5.9 million)
 - Geophysical (3.7 million)
- **DaLA assessments** for this period estimate the cost of hurricanes can exceed 100% of GDP:
 - The cost of Hurricanes Irma and Maria (2017) in the British Virgin Islands and Sint Maarten was **more than 100% of their GDP**

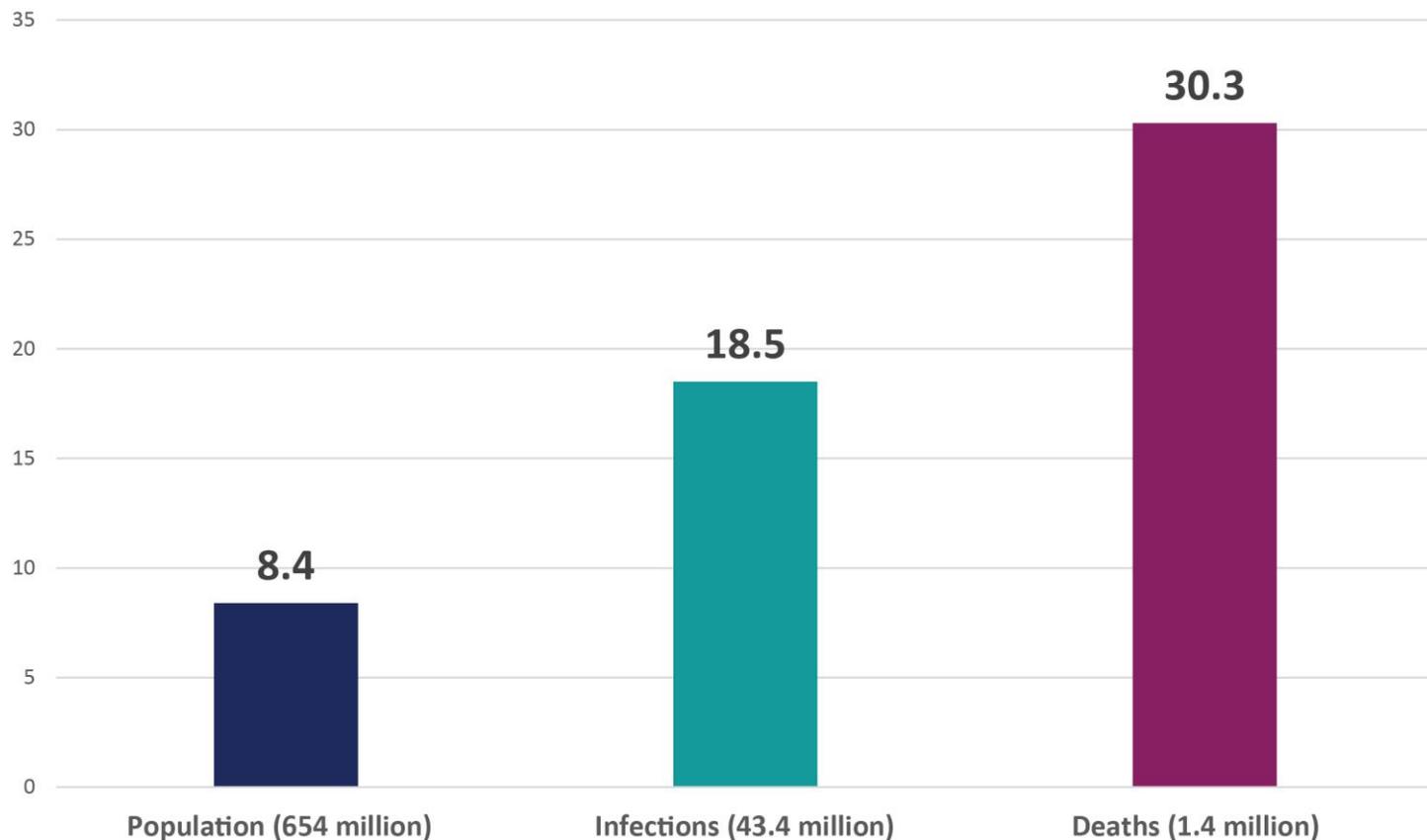
Source: ECLAC, on the basis of information from Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), EM-DAT International Disaster Database [online] www.emdat.be cited in ECLAC, *Planning for sustainable territorial development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRP.17/3), Santiago, 2019.



THE HARDEST HIT DEVELOPING REGION IN THE WORLD, WITH OVERREPRESENTATION AMONG COVID-19 INFECTIONS AND DEATHS

Latin America and the Caribbean: total population, COVID-19 infections and deaths (as of 5 October)

(Percentages and millions of people)



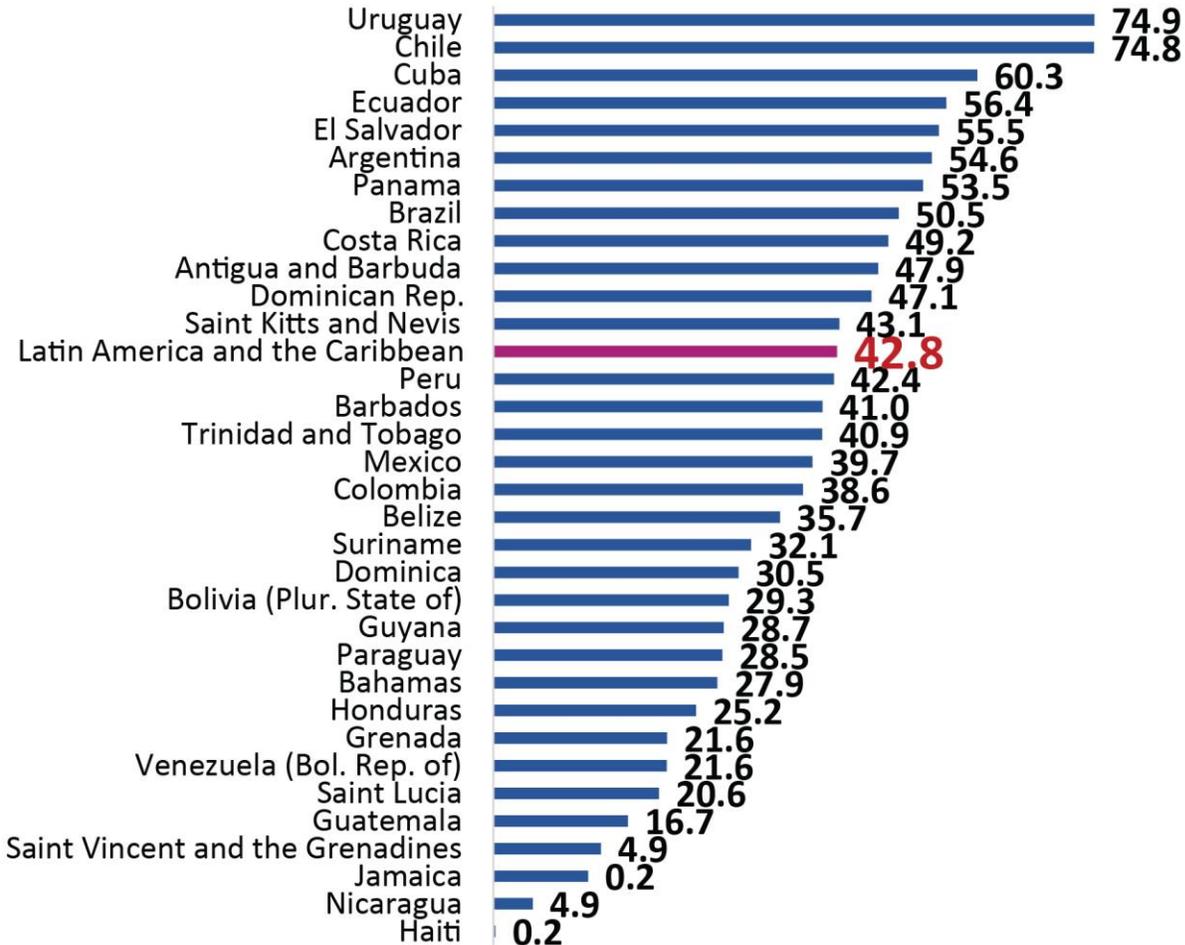
- Latin America and the Caribbean the developing region most affected by the pandemic
- There is a more than proportional concentration of cases and deaths in the region's population
- The disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the region has persisted

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of World Health Organization (WHO), WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard [online database] <https://covid19.who.int>; and United Nations, *World Population Prospects 2019. Rev. 1*, New York, 2019.



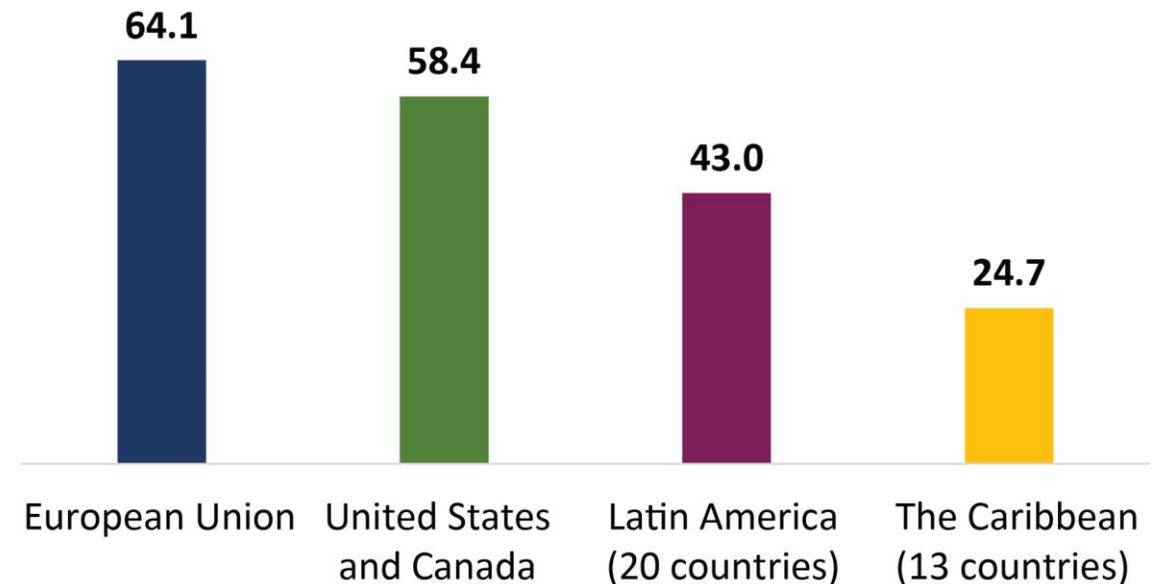
UNEQUAL ACCESS TO VACCINES AND VACCINATION

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (33 COUNTRIES):
POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED
(Percentages)



Target of 70% of region's population vaccinated will not be met in 2021

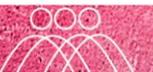
REGIONS AND GROUPINGS: POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED
(Percentages)



Some countries have procured more vaccines than needed.
The European Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan (which together make up only 13% of the world's population) **account for 39% of advance purchase commitments.**

Source: ECLAC, COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of Our World in Data [online] www.ourworldindata.org.

Note: Countries reporting the breakdown of doses administered (first and second) as of 20 October 2021 or latest date available. Purchase commitment data as of 31 August 2021.

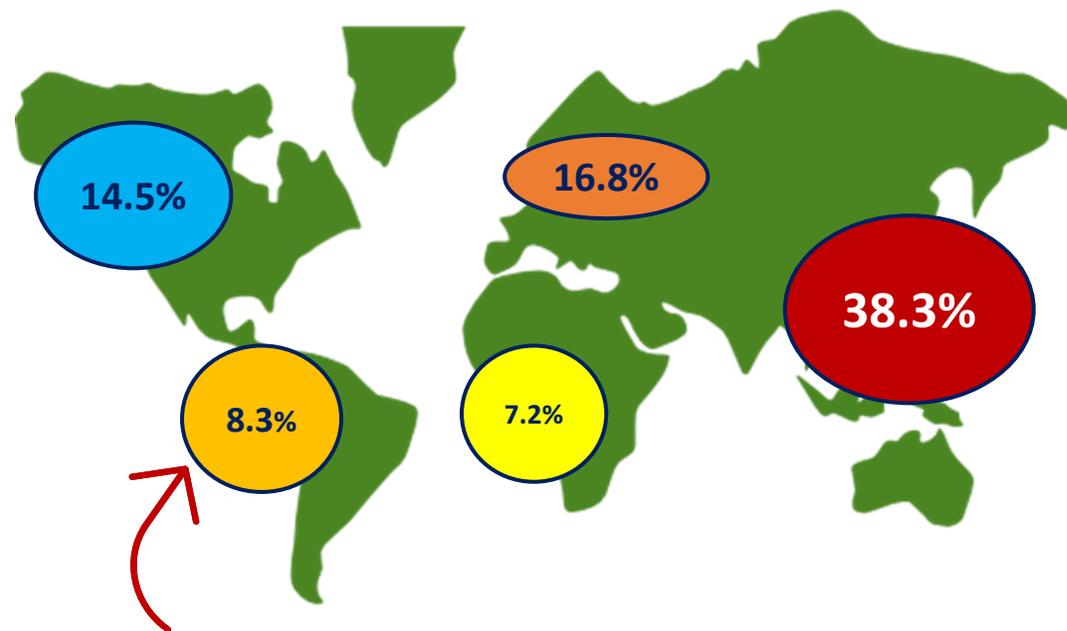


TWO EXAMPLES OF GROWING GLOBAL ASYMMETRIES

ECONOMIC GAPS

- Major asymmetries in **expansionary fiscal and monetary policies/public investment**: €750 billion in Europe; US\$ 6 trillion in the United States and new multi-year packages of around **18% of GDP**
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**: fiscal packages announced between January and June 2021 amount to **4.3% of GDP**
- Wealthiest 1% holds 50% of total global wealth
- Global wealth grew by 7.4%
 - United States and Canada: +12.4%
 - Europe: +9.2%
 - China: +4.4%
 - India: -4.4%
 - **Latin America and the Caribbean: -11.4%**

ASYMMETRIES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE



**Latin America
and the
Caribbean**

- **Global greenhouse gas emissions: 50 Gt CO₂eq**
- **Emissions from region: 4.2 Gt CO₂eq**
- **Adaptation is inevitable and beneficial**

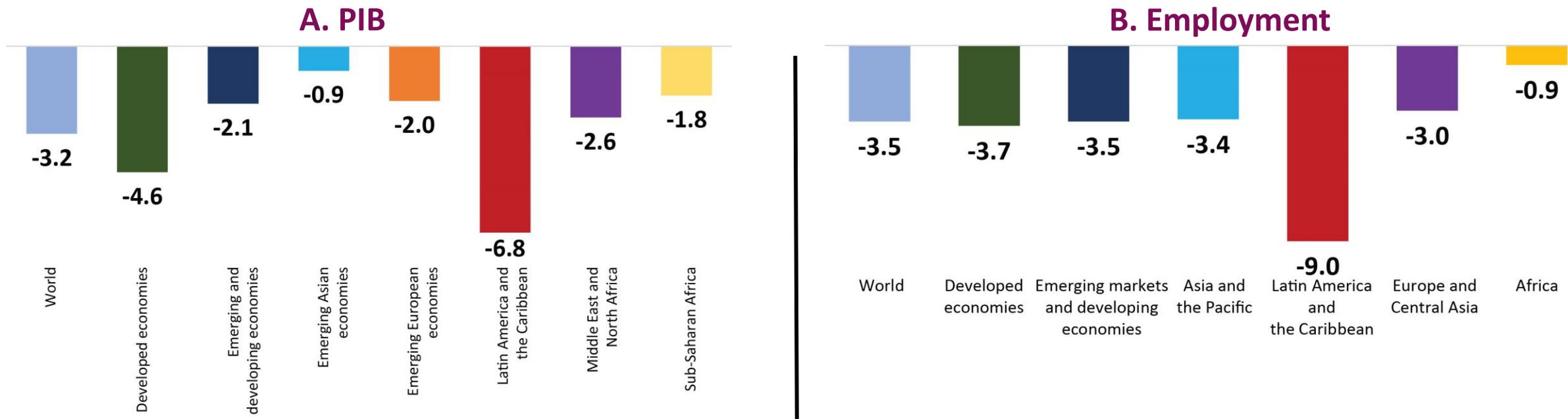
Source: ECLAC, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability* (LC/SES.38/3-P/Rev.1), Santiago, 2020.



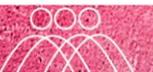
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE DEVELOPING REGION HARDEST HIT BY THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- Worst economic contraction in a century; recovery paradox (5.9% in 2021) with a risk of a return to low growth (2.9% in 2022)
- Crisis exacerbated structural problems of low productivity
- Employment fell by 9% and informality rose to 54.7% (women and young people most affected)

WORLD AND SELECTED REGIONS: GDP GROWTH AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, 2020
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of International Monetary Fund (IMF), *World Economic Outlook Update*, Washington, D.C., July 2021; International Labour Organization (ILO), *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021*, Geneva, 2021, and official figures.



THE MOST HEAVILY INDEBTED DEVELOPING REGION IN THE WORLD WITH THE HIGHEST EXTERNAL DEBT SERVICE

SELECTED REGIONS: GROSS GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEBT, 2019 AND 2020

(Percentages of GDP)

■ 2019 — 2020



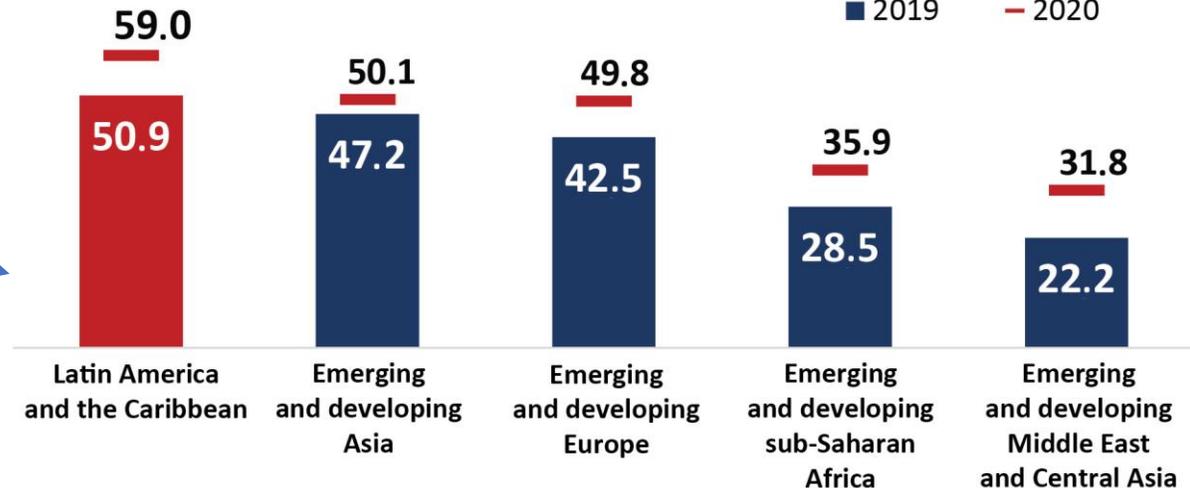
The region's debt levels are higher than those of developing economies, but lower than those of developed economies...

... and it allocates more than half of its exports of goods and services to external debt service payments.

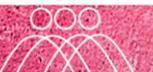
DEVELOPING REGIONS OF THE WORLD: EXTERNAL DEBT SERVICE, 2019 AND 2020

(Percentages of exports of goods and services)

■ 2019 — 2020

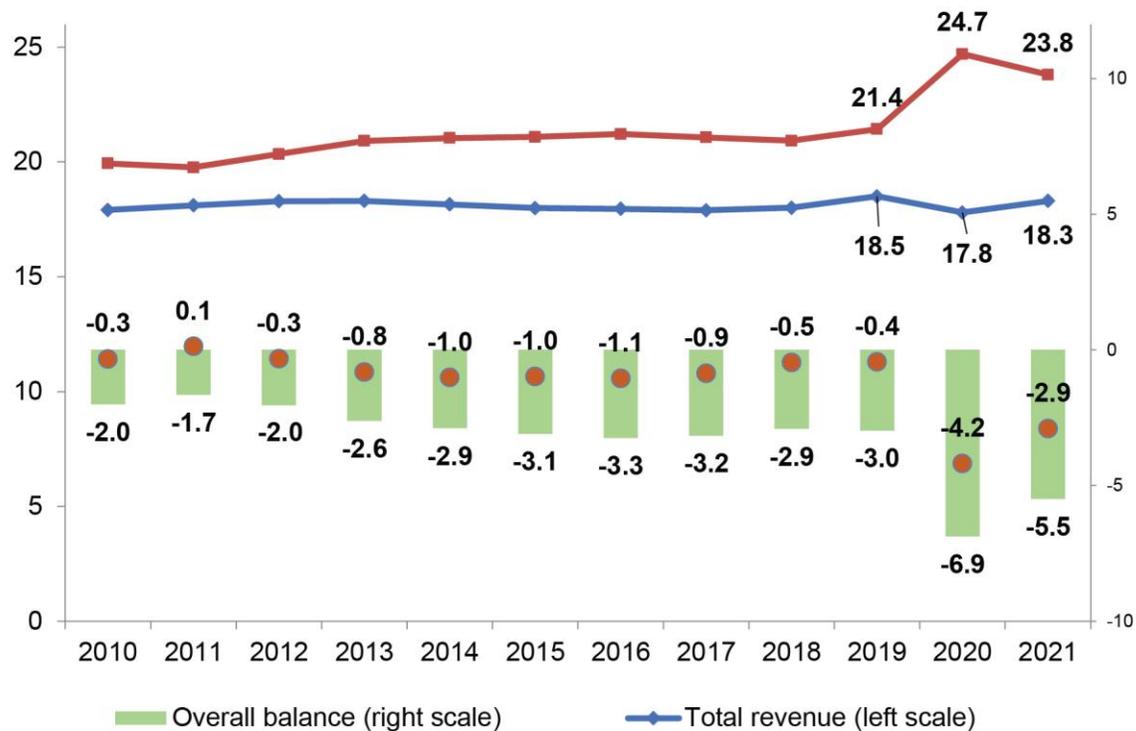


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of data from International Monetary Fund (IMF).

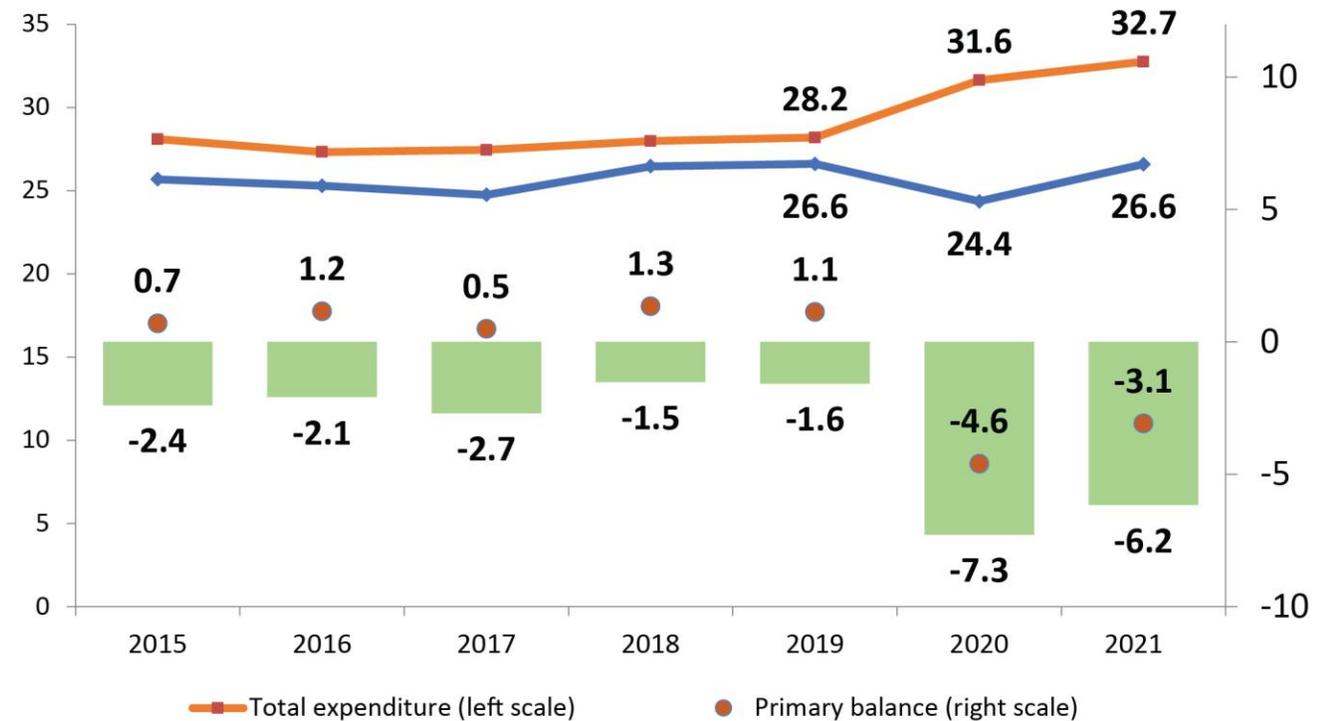


IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ALIKE, PRIMARY AND OVERALL BALANCES DETERIORATED FURTHER IN THE WAKE OF THE PANDEMIC

Latin America (16 countries): central government revenues, spending and overall and primary balances, 2010–2021
(Percentages of GDP)

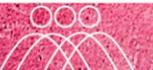


The Caribbean (12 countries): central government fiscal indicators, 2015–2021^a
(Percentages of GDP)



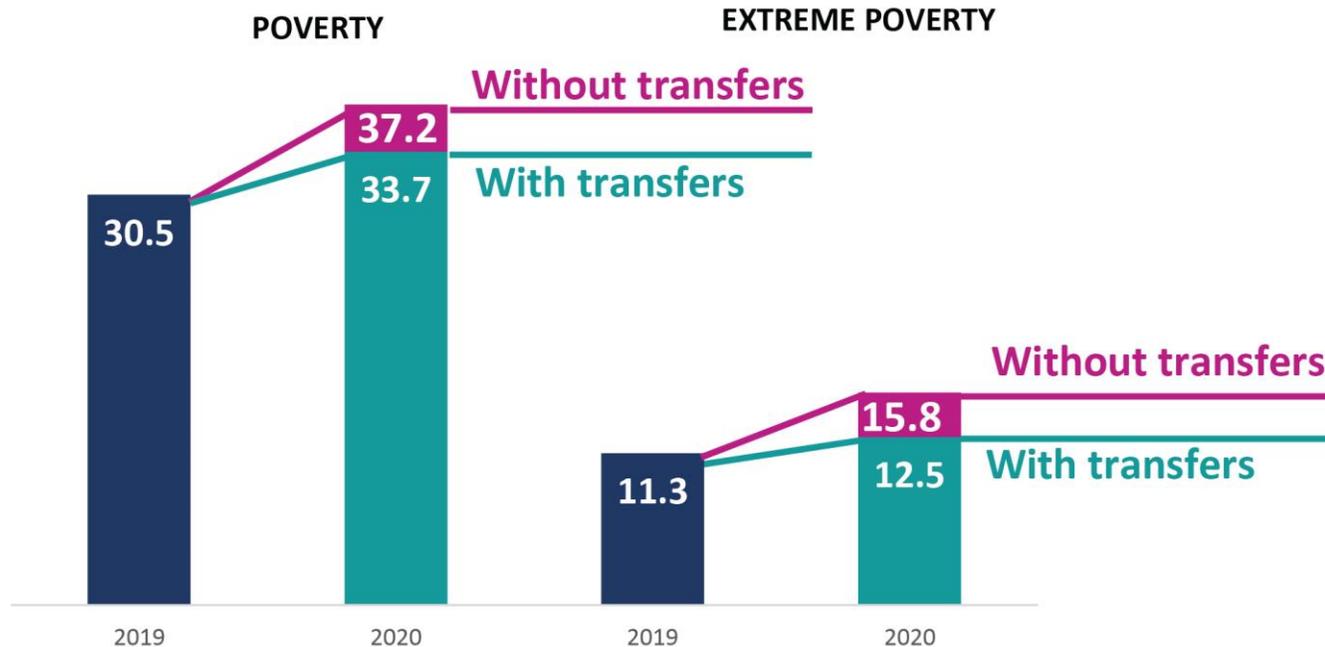
Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official figures and projections.

^a Projections.



THE PANDEMIC HAS SET BACK PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGs, BUT STATE INTERVENTION MITIGATED THE INCREASE IN POVERTY AND EXTREME POVERTY

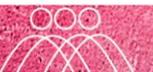
Latin America (18 countries): poverty and extreme poverty, with and without emergency cash transfers, 2019 and 2020^{a,b}
(Percentages of the population)



- Poverty and extreme poverty increased in 2020
- The Gini coefficient rose by 0.013 points (2.9%) in a year
- 1 in every 3 Latin Americans cannot afford to meet their basic needs
- 22 million additional people living in poverty in 2020, bringing the total to 209 million (with 78 million in extreme poverty)
- **The current challenge: maintaining transfers to support the recovery of household income**

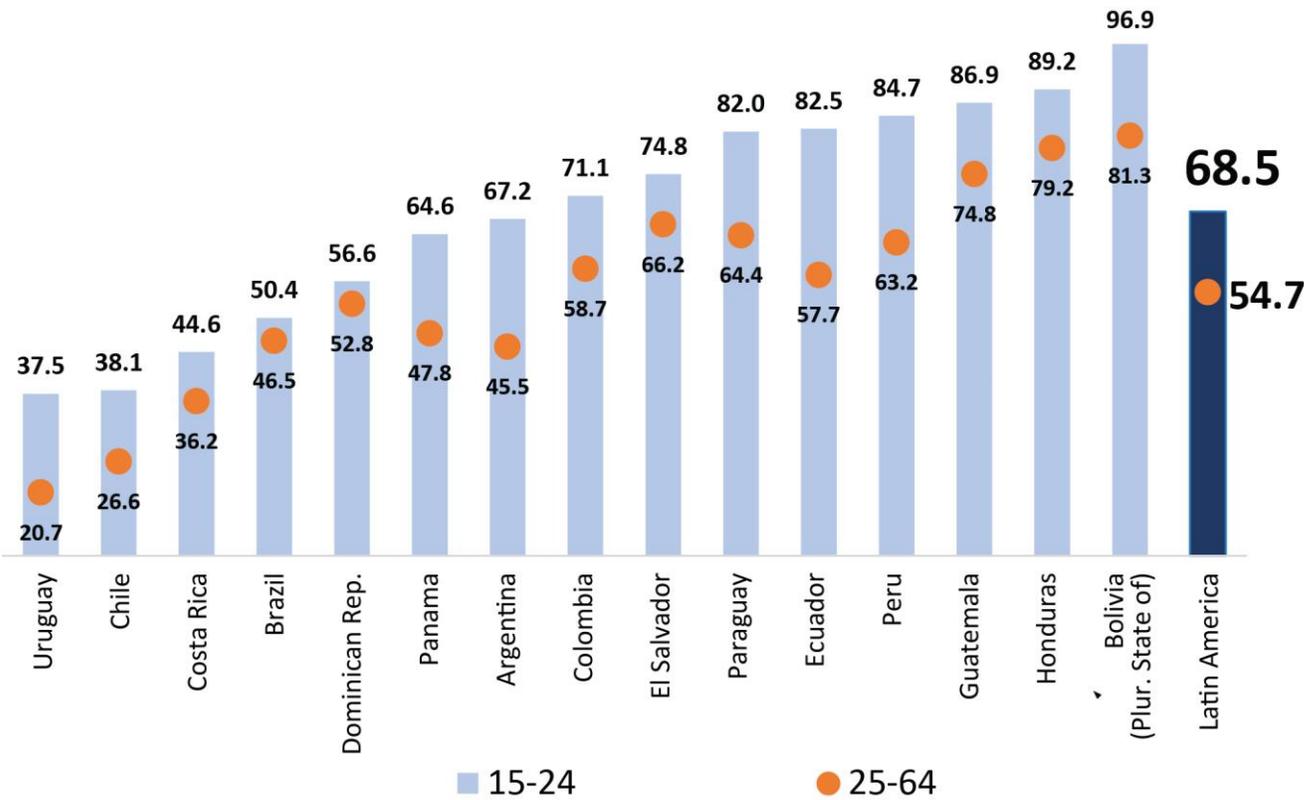
Source: ECLAC, *Social Panorama of Latin America, 2020* LC/PUB.2021/2-P/Rev.1), Santiago, 2020.

Note: ^a Projections; ^b Weighted average for the following countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. The simulation does not take into account changes in remittances to households.



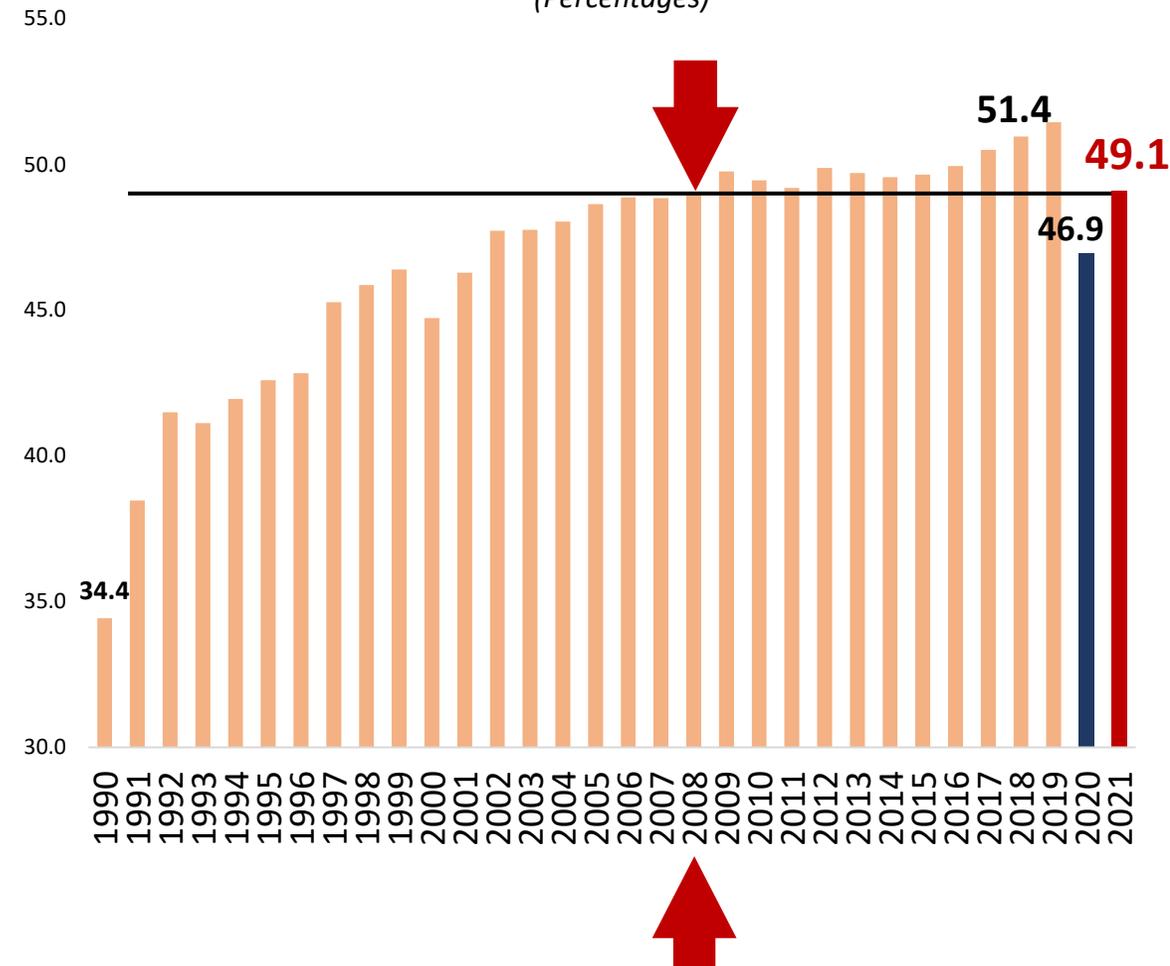
YOUNG PEOPLE MOST AFFECTED BY INFORMALITY AND FEMALE LABOUR PARTICIPATION RATES SET BACK 13 YEARS

LATIN AMERICA (15 COUNTRIES): SHARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE (15–24) AND ADULTS (25–64) IN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT BY COUNTRY, 2019
(Percentages)

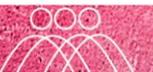


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of International Labour Organization (ILO), ILOSTAT [online database] <https://ilostat.ilo.org/>.

OVERALL FEMALE PARTICIPATION RATE, 1990–2021
(Percentages)

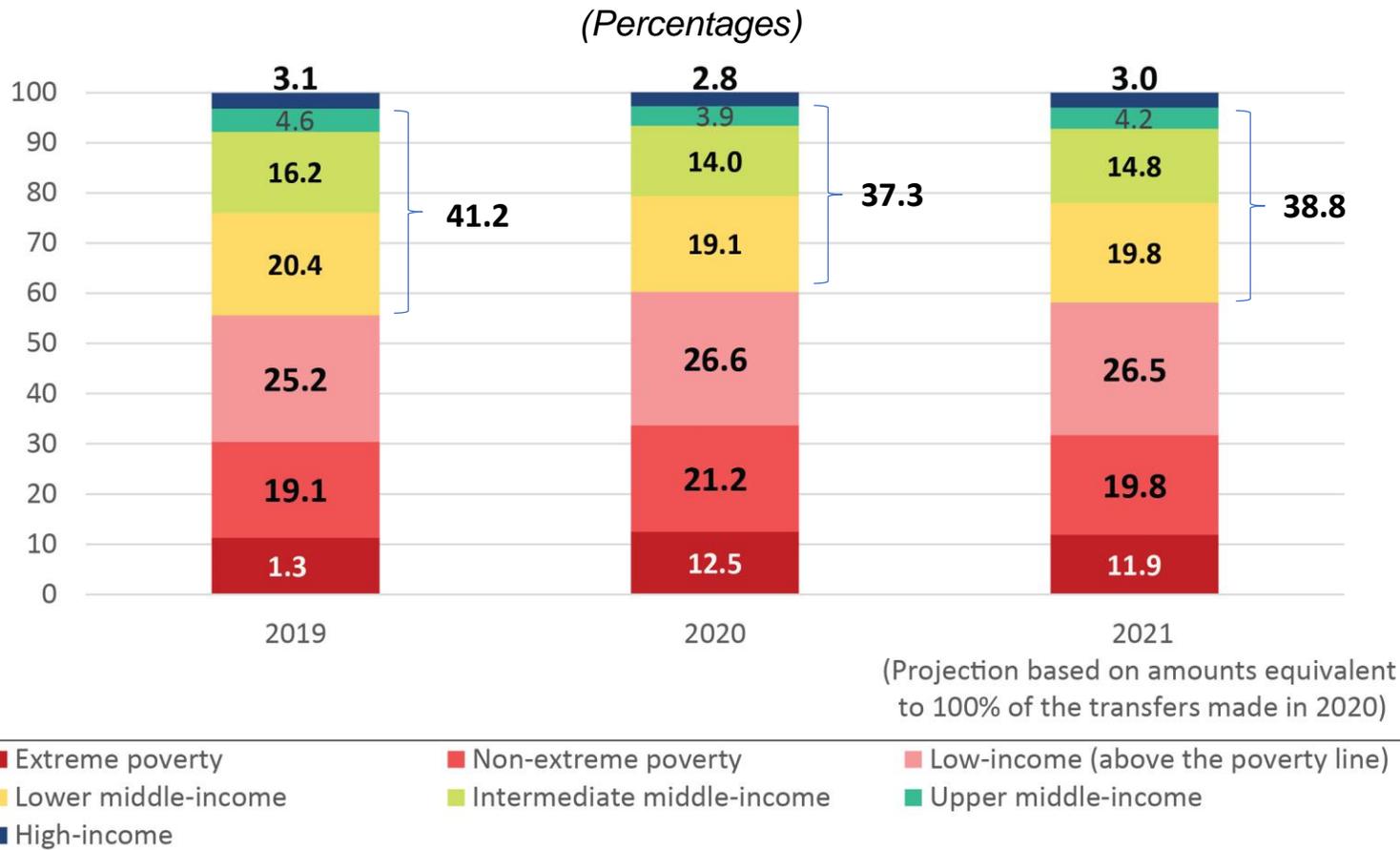


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official figures.
Note: Figures for 2021 are estimates



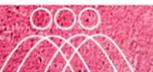
VULNERABILITY OF THE MIDDLE-INCOME STRATA: SHARP DECLINE IN INCOME OWING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Latin America (18 countries): population by per capita income strata, 2019, 2020 and 2021



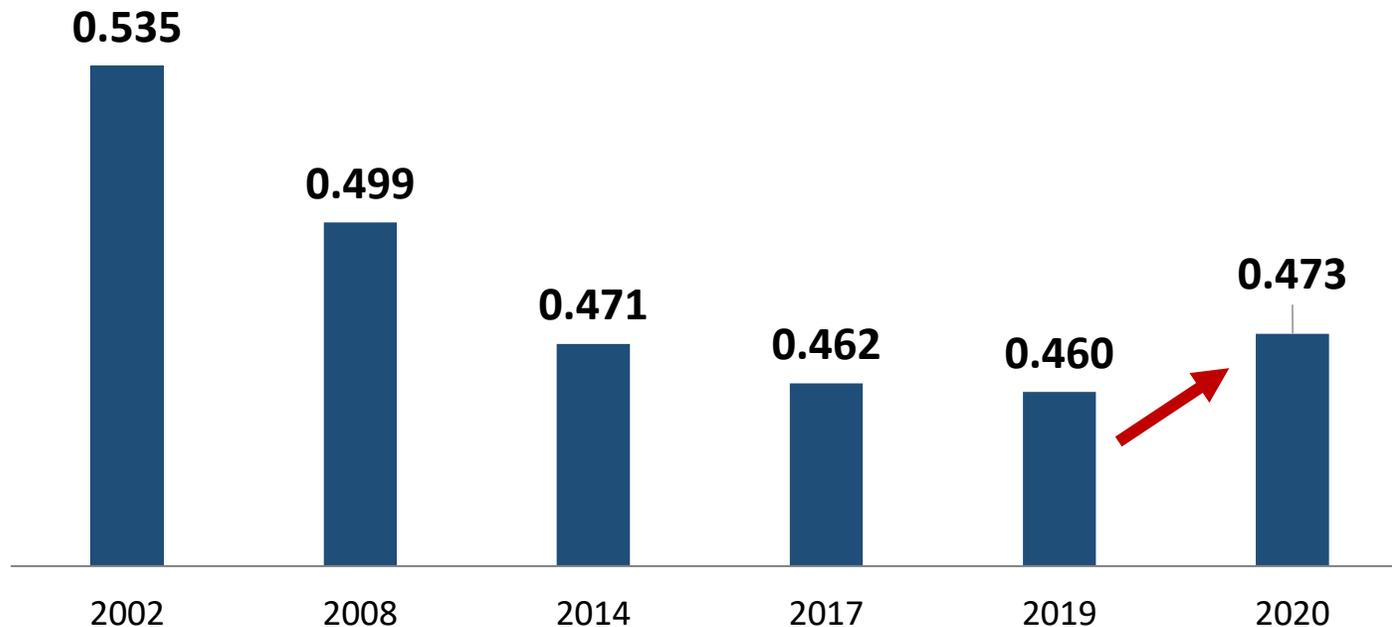
- Between 2002 and 2019, the middle-income strata grew from 27% to 41.2% of the population
- The pandemic resulted in 28 million people falling into the low-income strata
- Three million people fell into poverty or extreme poverty, while 25 million people moved into the non-poor low-income stratum
- Limited social protection and labour informality increased the vulnerability of the middle-income strata
- In 2021, the vulnerability continues, and it is estimated that 79% of the population will have incomes below three poverty lines

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



THE PANDEMIC WEIGHED HEAVILY ON THE DOWNWARD TREND IN INEQUALITY, RESULTING IN A RETURN TO THE LEVELS SEEN AT THE START OF THE PREVIOUS DECADE

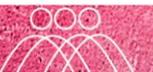
LATIN AMERICA (15 COUNTRIES): GINI COEFFICIENT, 2002–2020



- Break in the downward trend in inequality
- Gini estimated to increase by 2.9% in one year
- Need for formulation of social and tax policies to resume the reduction of inequality
- Need for fiscal covenants and social compacts to make political will viable

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

Note: Figures for 2020 are projections.

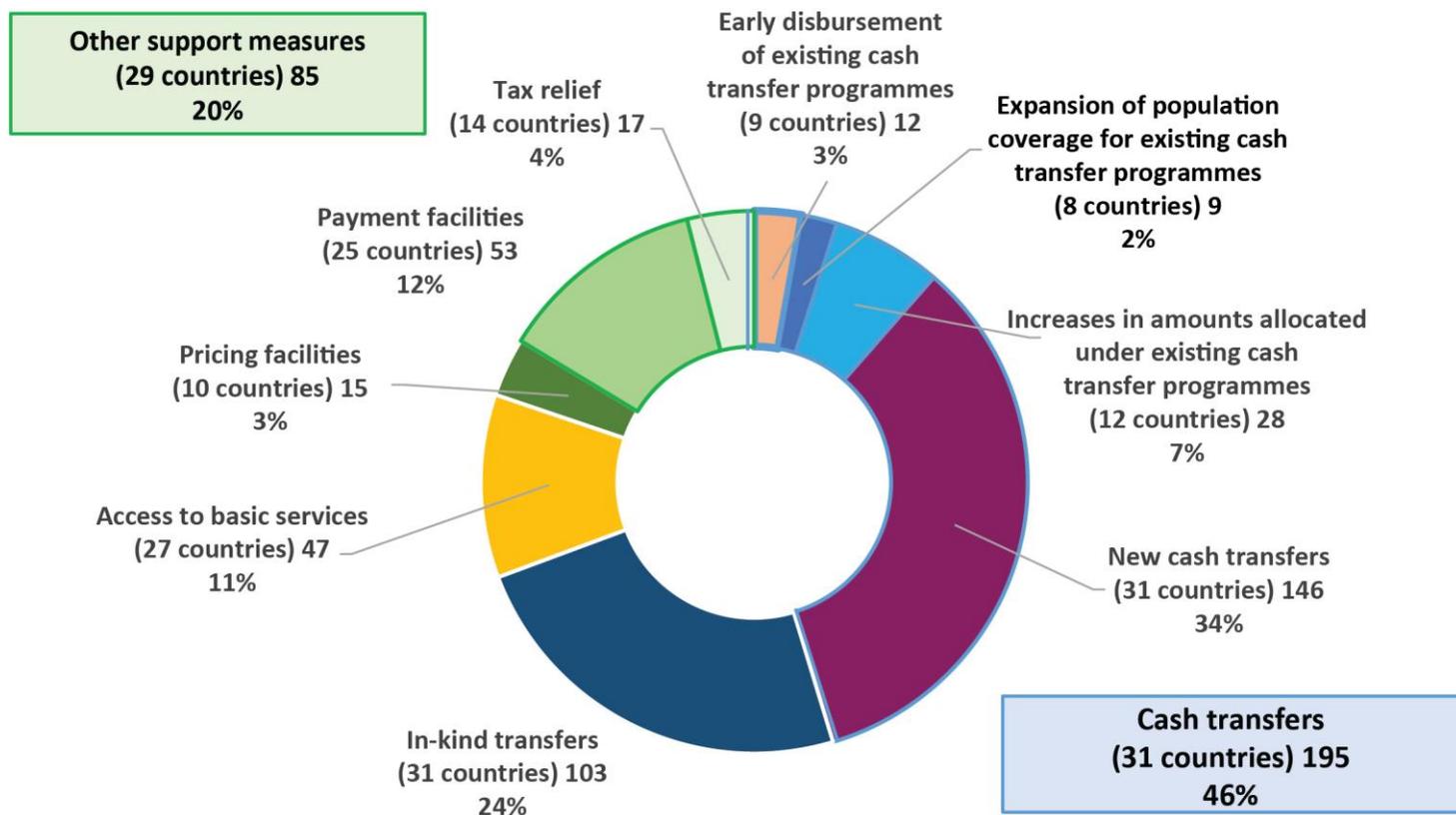


GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO THE PANDEMIC



IN RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS, 33 COUNTRIES IMPLEMENTED 430 EMERGENCY NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

Latin America and the Caribbean (33 countries): emergency non-contributory social protection measures, by type of measure, 1 March 2020–30 June 2021
(Number of countries and measures, and percentage distribution)



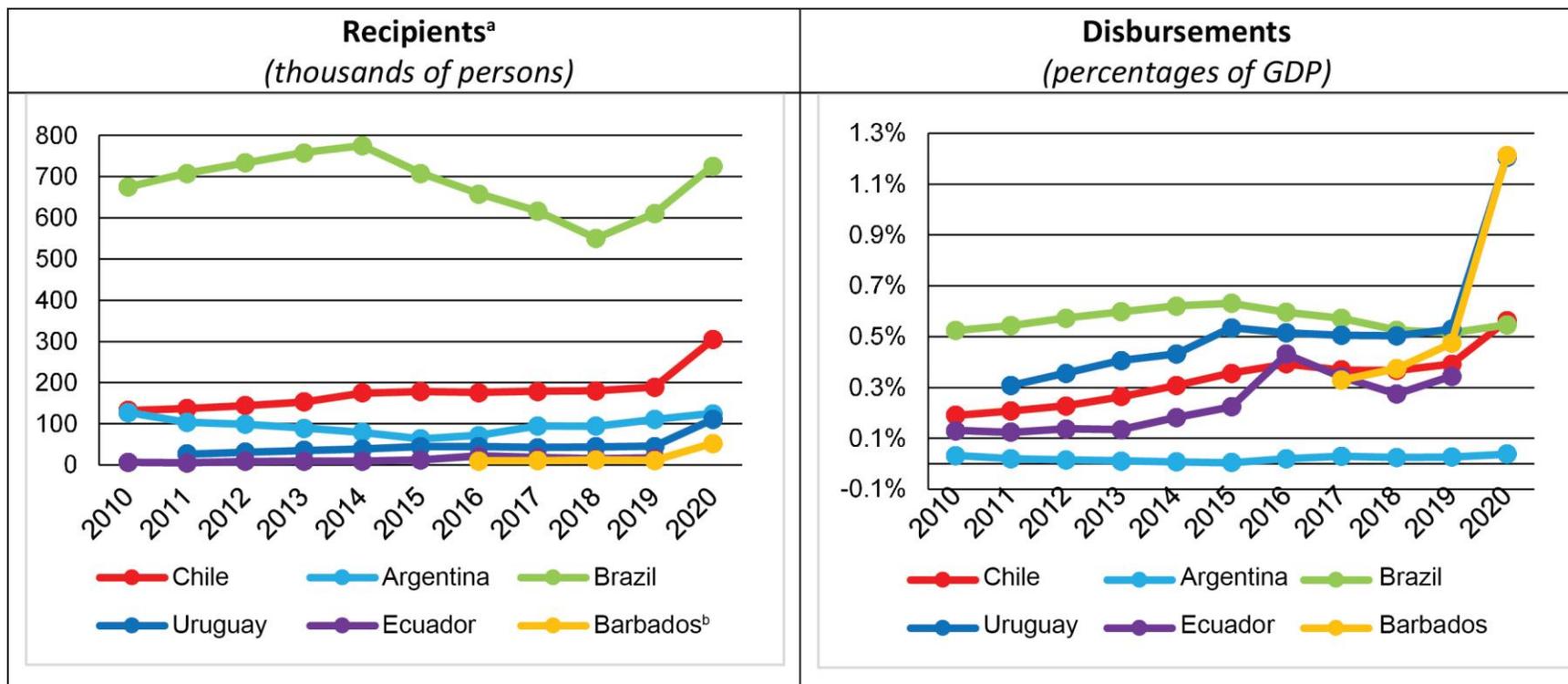
- The main objective is to support vulnerable households so they can manage the reduction in income, through new programmes and changes to existing programmes
- Cash transfers are a quick and effective mechanism that draw on more than two decades of experience in permanent cash transfer programmes to alleviate poverty or provide universal protection for specific social groups, such as older persons
- Although insufficient, these measures have been key to mitigate the social impact of the crisis on households in the region

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official information from the countries; COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean [online database] <https://www.cepal.org/es/temas/covid-19>; "Social protection measures to confront COVID-19", Social Development and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean [online database] <https://dds.cepal.org/observatorio/socialcovid19/en/listamedidas.php>.



SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION PROVIDED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, IN SOME CASES REFLECTING SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE LEVELS AND AMOUNTS OF COVERAGE

Latin America and the Caribbean (6 countries): recipients and disbursements of unemployment insurance and individual unemployment savings accounts, 2010–2020



- Barbados, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay recorded sharp increases in the number of recipients of these benefits, while the upward trend seen in Argentina in previous years continued.
- In Chile, Mexico and Peru, withdrawals were also allowed from individual capitalization funds.

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official information.

^a Monthly averages.

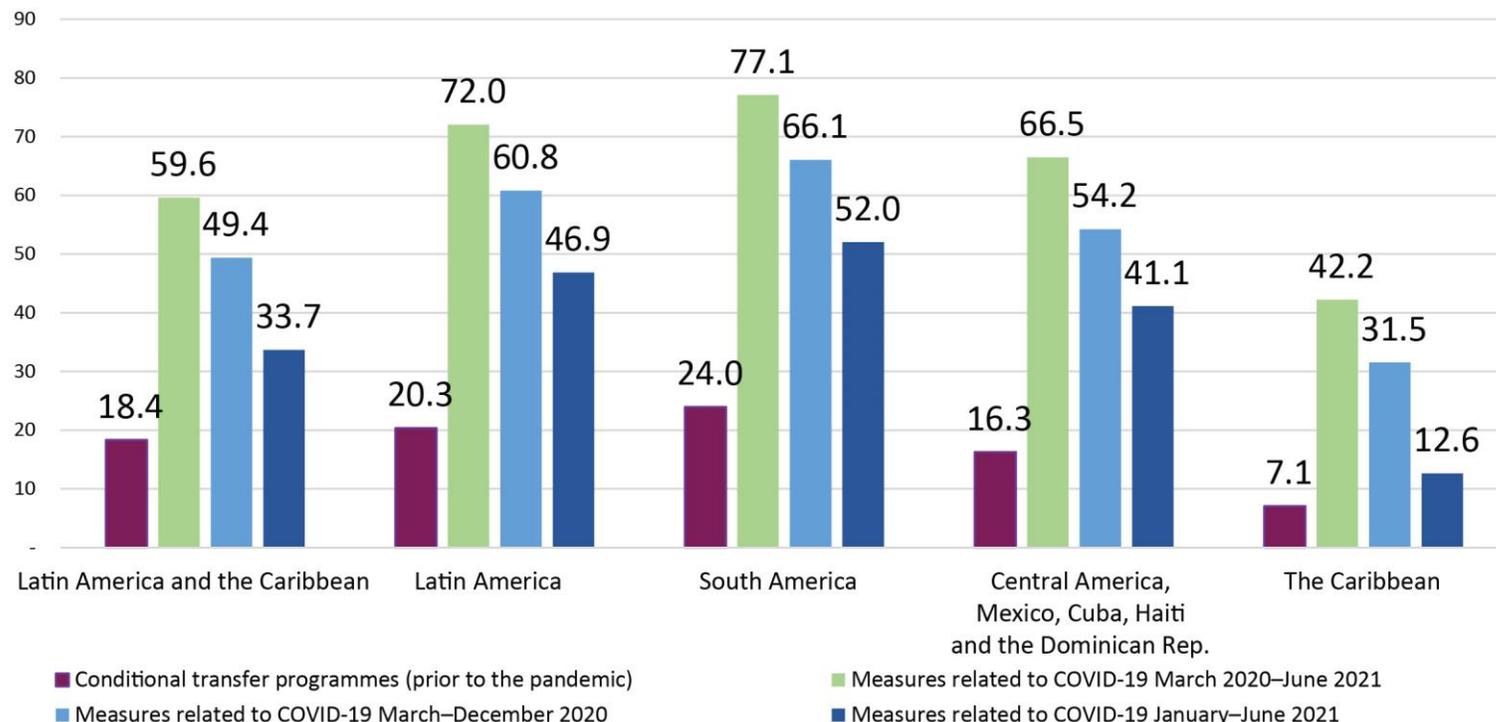
^b Data refer to the number of applications received each year.



THE MEASURES RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN COVERAGE, BUT FISCAL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DECLINING

Latin America and the Caribbean (29 countries): persons in households benefiting from emergency cash and in-kind transfers (1 March 2020–30 April 2021) and conditional transfer programmes (latest year available), simple average by subregion

(Percentages of the total population)



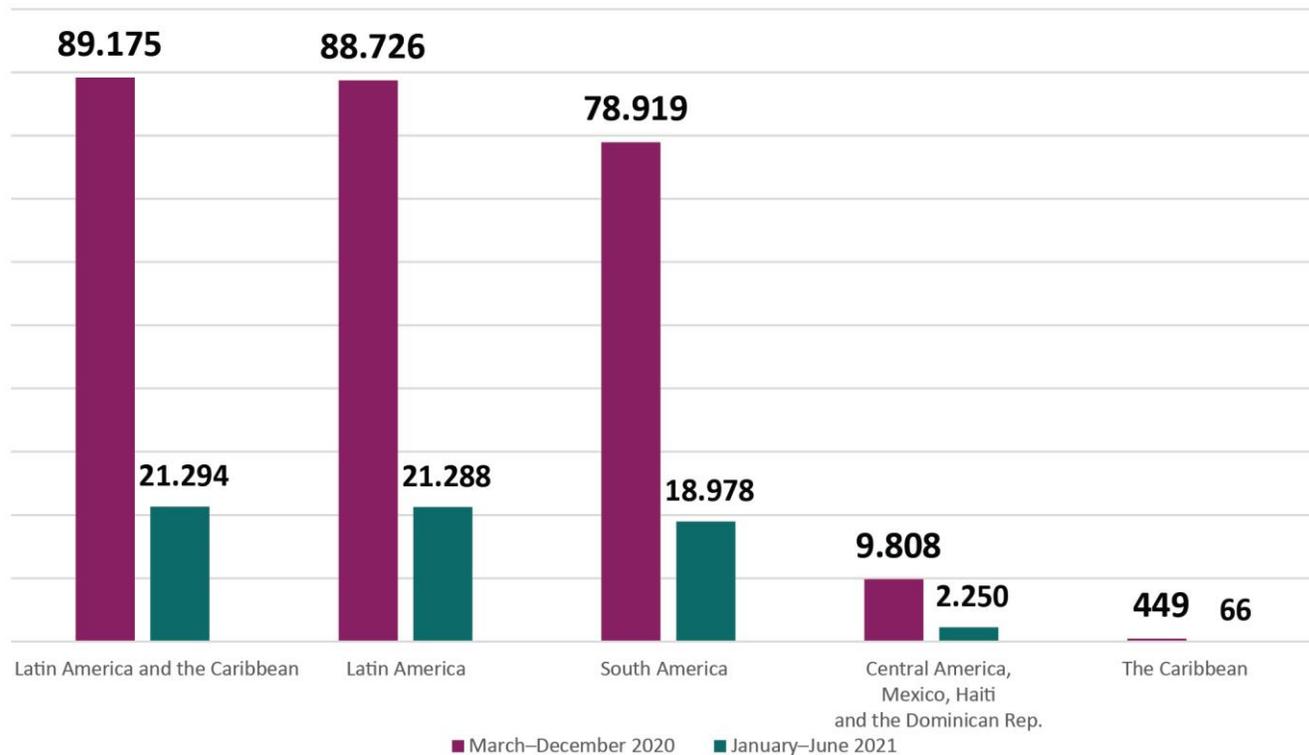
- During the pandemic, on average, measures covered almost 60% of the population. Roughly three quarters in Latin American countries and two fifths in Caribbean countries.
- Compared to conditional cash transfer programmes, measures represented average coverage of 3.5 times in Latin America and 6 times in Caribbean countries.
- Coverage was significantly lower between January and June 2021 than between March and December 2020.

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official information from the countries; COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean [online database] <https://www.cepal.org/es/temas/covid-19>; "Social protection measures to confront COVID-19", Social Development and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean [online database] <https://dds.cepal.org/observatorio/socialcovid19/en/listamedidas.php>. CEPALSTAT [online database] <https://estadisticas.cepal.org/cepalstat/Portada.html?idioma=english>; Non-contributory Social Protection Programmes Database in Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/cct>.



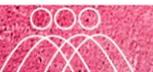
IN 2020, ANNOUNCED MEASURES AMOUNTED TO US\$ 90 BILLION. IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2021, COMMITMENTS AMOUNTED TO US\$ 21 BILLION.

Latin America and the Caribbean (31 countries): distribution of spending on emergency cash and in-kind transfers, March to December 2020–January to June 2021
(Millions of current dollars)



- Commitments in the countries amounted to US\$ 42.7 per inhabitant on average.
- With the lingering effects of the crisis and the decline in spending commitments, needs are not being met.
- There is a high risk of increase in poverty and extreme poverty.

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official information from the countries; COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://www.cepal.org/es/temas/covid-19> and Observatory on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, “Social Development and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean” [online] <https://dds.cepal.org/observatorio/socialcovid19/listamedidas.php>.



THE COUNTRIES RESPONDED, BUT THEIR SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS WERE NOT PREPARED TO ADDRESS A CRISIS OF THIS MAGNITUDE

- Innovations:

- Normative and operational changes
- Systems to register and select recipients, with web platforms or mobile applications
- Delivery methods with electronic payment options
- Adaptations of processes, protocols, access requirements and suspension of conditionalities
- Use of various data sources to guide interventions
- Coordination between the public and private sector and with civil society

- Some challenges:

- Problems relating to digital inclusion: access and abilities, especially among older persons
- Sharp increase in demand for social protection
- Institutional, operational and financial resource limitations



DISASTERS AND RESILIENCE-BUILDING IN THE CARIBBEAN: ADDRESSING A MULTIDIMENSIONAL CRISIS



“CRISIS UPON CRISIS” IN THE CARIBBEAN

One of the regions in the world most susceptible to disasters

Especially vulnerable to climate change

Systemic risk – multidimensional crisis



High exposure

- High exposure to disaster risks from hurricanes and rising sea levels
- High exposure to geological threats (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis)
- Climate change-related effects hinder sustainable development

High vulnerability

- Economic activities in coastal zones
- 70% of the population living in coastal towns
- More than 500,000 people at risk
- Multidimensional poverty
- Territorial inequality
- Ageing population
- Non-communicable diseases

High debt levels

- High levels of public debt (86.8% of GDP in March 2021)
- Reduction in foreign direct investment
- COVID-19 putting upward pressure on debt levels
- Need for a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States



Innovations in cooperation on disaster response

Subregional coordination

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is an example of best practices to promote and support critical areas of convergence towards a development model that is resistant to climate change.

Building partnerships

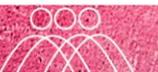
For monitoring, evaluation and early warning of climate risks (e.g. Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH))

Insurance for financing

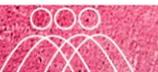
Parametric insurance policies for disasters that facilitate access to short-term liquidity and reduce budgetary volatility in disaster situations (e.g. Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC))

Geospatial technologies

The Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) is a key spatial planning instrument that builds resilience, strategic coordination and response capacity.



**HEALTH CRISIS AND DISASTERS:
SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS
IN THE FACE OF
A CONSTANT AND GROWING
THREAT TO WELL-BEING**



IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF DISASTERS

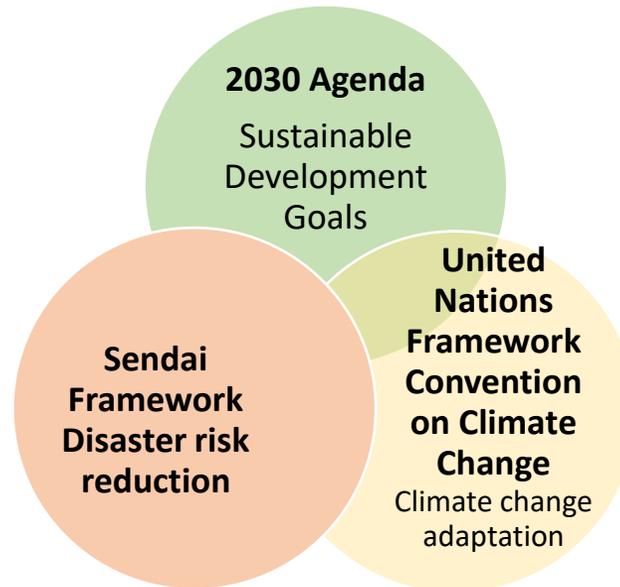
- Sustained increase in frequency and intensity of disasters
- Lack of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies
- Socially vulnerable communities with fewer resources for response and recovery and limitations in the development of resilience and adaptation strategies
- Need for comprehensive public policy approach that reflects clear coordination and interdependence between social protection and disaster management
- The Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development and its lines of action provide direct guidance for working towards this objective.



SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN LIGHT OF DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

- To strengthen the design and implementation of **inclusive policies and social protection mechanisms**
- To promote and support the development of **social safety nets as disaster risk reduction measures** linked to programmes for improved livelihoods



Paris Agreement

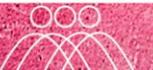
- Links between climate change reduction and adaptation, sustainable development and poverty reduction
- Consideration of vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems in adaptation measures

Target 1.5: By 2030, build the **resilience of the poor** and those in **vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure** and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Target 13.1: Strengthen **resilience and adaptive capacity** to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Three priority instruments:

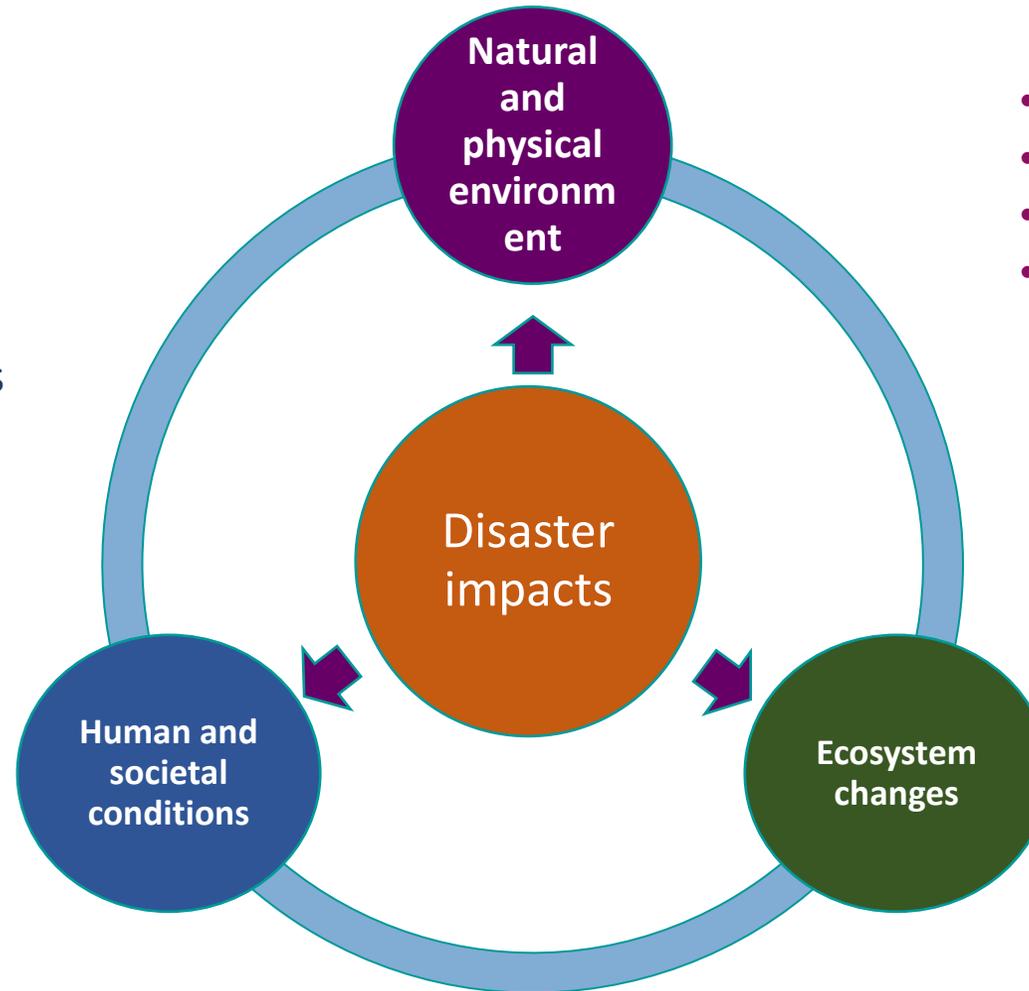
- 1. 2030 Agenda** and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially targets 1.5 and 13.1
- 2. Paris Agreement** to link the social development of vulnerable communities in climate change adaptation strategies
- 3. Sendai Framework**, which encourages the implementation of disaster risk reduction resilience-building measures and includes social protection instruments



DISASTERS AND THEIR IMPACTS REQUIRE A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH TO ADDRESS A MULTIDIMENSIONAL PROBLEM

Possibility of reversibility

- Rising poverty and inequality
- Food insecurity
- Mortality, morbidity and injuries
- Restricted access to services
- Loss of livelihoods and employment
- Damage to and loss of housing and basic infrastructure
- Disruption of daily activities
- Productive chain breakdowns
- Migration and displacement



- Acidity of soils and seas
- Degradation of maritime coasts
- Melting glaciers and permafrost
- Salinization and soil erosion

Critical thresholds exceeded

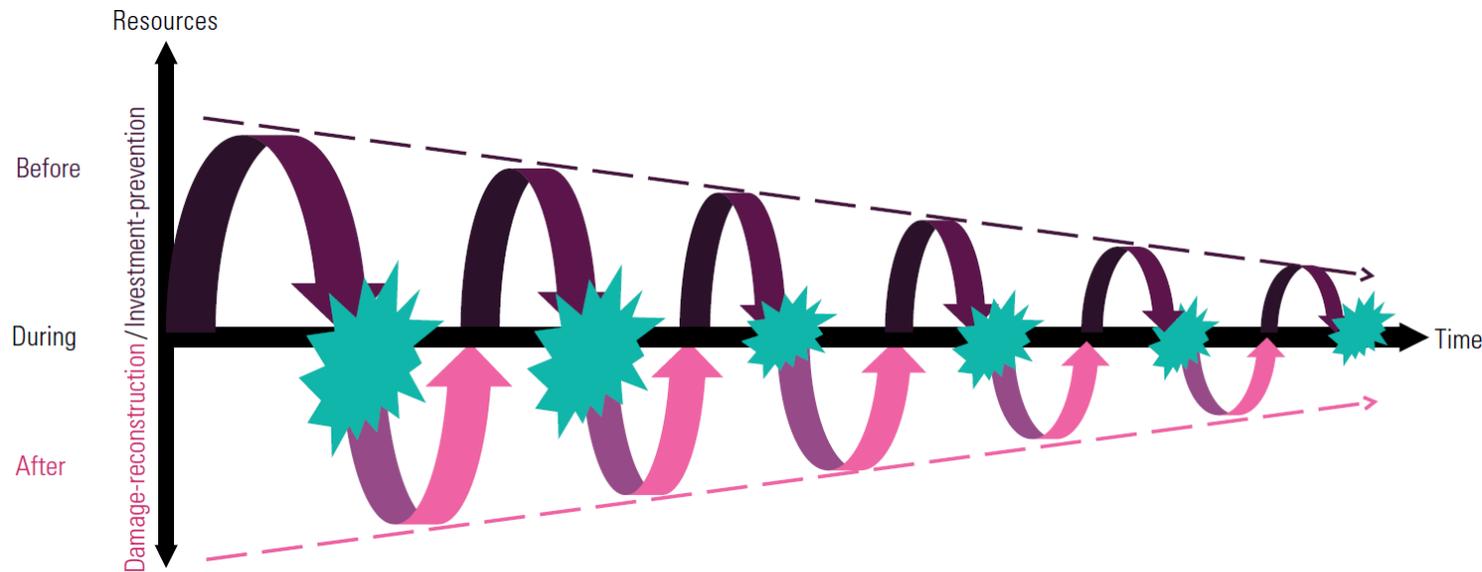
- Alteration of reproductive cycles of animal and plant species
- Excess mortality of animal and plant species
- Increased risk of zoonosis due to increased contact between animals and humans

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of S. Cecchini, R. Holz and C. Robles, "Los sistemas de protección social ante desastres", *Gestión e institucionalidad de las políticas sociales para la igualdad en América Latina y el Caribe. Caja de herramientas*, Cecchini, S., R. Holz and H. Soto de la Rosa (coords.) Santiago, ECLAC, 2021, forthcoming; A. Lavell and others, "Climate change: new dimensions in disaster risk, exposure, vulnerability, and resilience", *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, C. Field and others (eds.), Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012; S. Seneviratne and others, "Changes in climate extremes and their impacts on the natural physical environment", *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, C. Field and others (eds.), Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012; J. Handmer and others, "Changes in impacts of climate extremes: human systems and ecosystems", *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, C. Field and others (eds.), Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012.



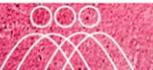
THE DISASTER CYCLE: PRODUCING A CONVERGENT SPIRAL OF INVESTMENT WITH PREVENTION OVER TIME

Convergent spiral (investment-prevention)

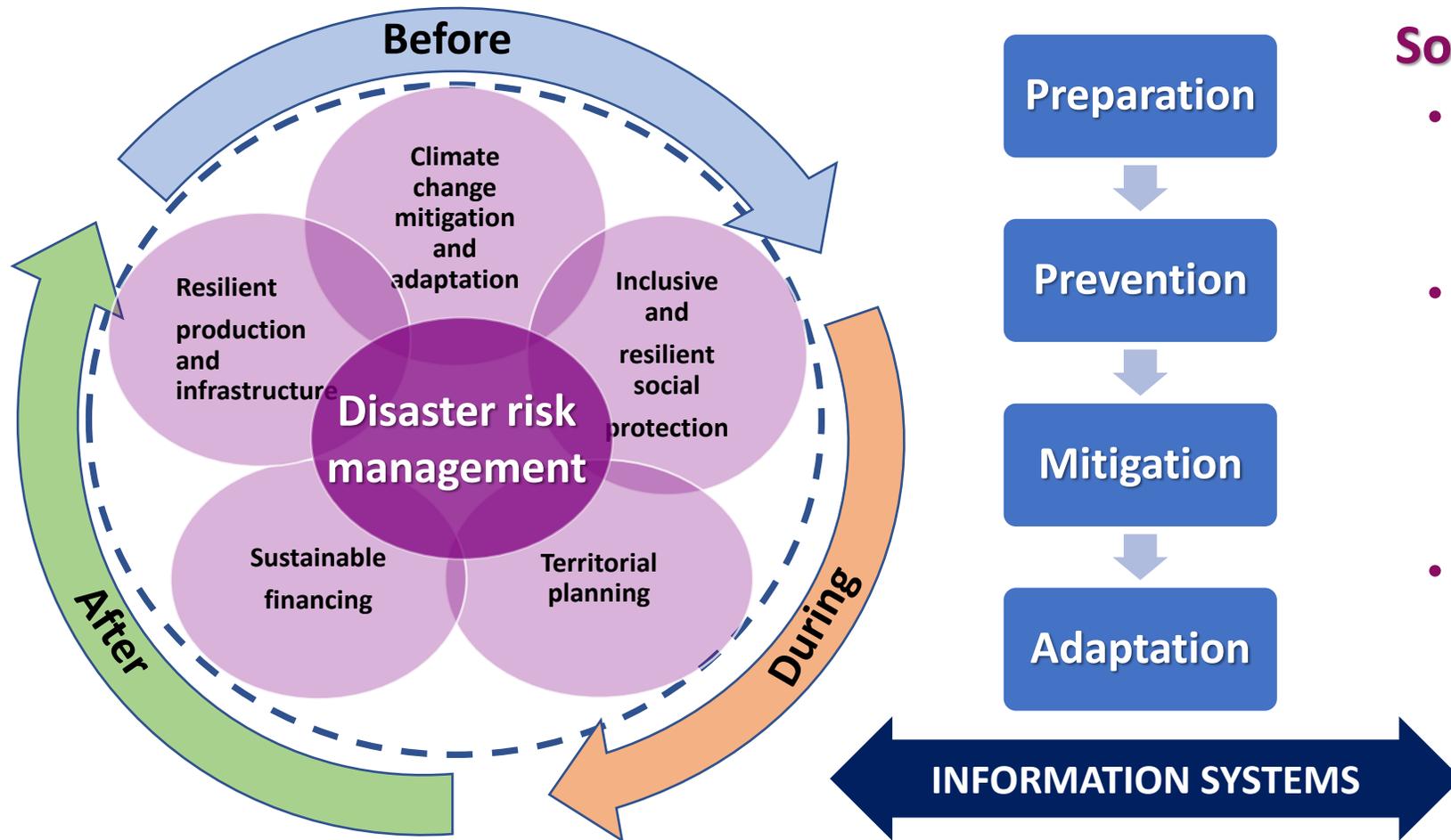


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of L. Boshier, K. Chmutina and D. van Niekerk, "Stop going around in circles: towards a reconceptualisation of disaster risk management phases", *Disaster Prevention and Management*, Bingley, Emerald Publishing, 2021.

- Disasters and their link to adaptation and mitigation measures require ongoing work: before, during and after
- Ex-ante investment (anticipation) to reduce the ex-post cost of damage
- Develop preventive early warning instruments
- A reactive approach (ex-post only) increases impacts, costs and losses



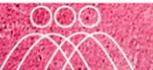
SOCIAL PROTECTION AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY SYSTEM TO ADDRESS DISASTERS: STRUCTURE AND COMPLEMENTARITIES



Social and economic resilience

- Institutions with flexible management, regarding civil protection and humanitarian aid
- Adaptation and transformative reconstruction through productive processes and sustainable public and private infrastructure
- Protection of ecosystems, nature-based solutions, with territorial planning and sustainable financing

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of M. Davies and others, "Climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and social protection", *Briefing Note*, Brighton, University of Sussex, 2008; S. Hallegatte, J. Rentschler and J. Rozenberg, *Lifelines: The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity*, Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2019; P. Gardoni and C. Murphy, "Society-based design: promoting societal well-being by designing sustainable and resilient infrastructure", *Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure*, vol. 5, No. 1-2, Milton Park, Taylor and Francis, 2020; United Nations, *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021*, New York, 2021; Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), "Building a Caribbean Pathway for Disaster Resilience in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)", Bridgetown, 2018; ECLAC, "Planning for resilience: an integrated approach to tackle climate change in the Caribbean", *Policy Brief (LC/CAR/2020/1)*, Port of Spain, 2020.



FROM OBJECTIVES TO SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTRUMENTS TO ADDRESS DISASTERS

Social protection objectives and disasters

Social and economic strength

Household and community resilience

Resilience of social protection institutions

Areas and sectors of public policy

Social protection

Agriculture and food security

Gender

Law and order

Housing and basic services

Health

Education

Labour and social security

Environment

Social protection instruments

Income guarantees

Food and nutritional security

Care

Payment for environmental services (PES)

Subsidies for housing and basic services

Universal health care access

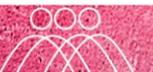
Digital inclusion

Social and labour inclusion

Microinsurance

- Horizontal coordination among various sectors, not just social development ministries
- Vertical coordination with labour from the territorial level
- Participation by public organizations, civil society, private organizations and academia
- Management agreements with joint processes and predetermined roles
- Specific instruments for responses in emergencies

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of S. Cecchini and R. Martínez, *Inclusive Social Protection in Latin America: A Comprehensive, Rights-Based Approach*, ECLAC Books, No. 111 (LC/G.2488-P), Santiago, ECLAC, 2011; M. Aleksandrova and C. Costella, "Reaching the poorest and most vulnerable: addressing loss and damage through social protection", *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, vol. 50, Amsterdam, Elsevier, 2021.



SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DISASTERS: RETHINKING A FUTURE WITH INCLUSION, EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Proposed response measures
for a transformative recovery with equality



TOWARDS A CARE SOCIETY WITH UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PROTECTION

- **Dual inclusion policies: social and labour**
- **Basic emergency income** for emergencies created by disasters and economic shocks
- **Income guarantees** maintained into the medium term as a universal floor: children, adolescents and female-headed households
- **Food and nutritional security**
- **Investing in guaranteed access to quality housing and basic services**
- **A basic digital basket**
- **Public and private care systems**



INVESTMENT IN UNIVERSAL PUBLIC SERVICES WOULD CREATE JOBS, AND HAVE SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

BENEFITS AND COSTS OF INVESTMENT IN UNIVERSAL COVERAGE IN DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND ELECTRICITY

	WATER AND SANITATION	ELECTRICITY
Population of Latin America and the Caribbean without access	166 million people without safely managed drinking water 443 million people without safely managed sanitation	19 million people without access to electricity 77 million people without access to clean cooking fuels and technology
Investment required annually until 2030	1.3% of annual GDP	1.3% of annual GDP
Direct job creation	3.6 million jobs a year	0.5 million jobs a year

- Improves public and environmental health
- Drives transitions in water and sustainable energy
- Reduces CO2 emissions by almost 100 MT
- Public-private partnerships
- Incentives for regional integration and complementarities in energy
- Regulatory requirements: legal certainty, technological neutrality and effective public regulator

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).



CARE SYSTEMS TO ADDRESS DISASTERS, REDUCE GENDER INEQUALITY AND REDISTRIBUTE CARE TASKS



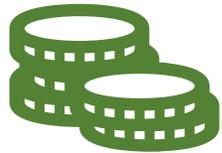
- Strengthen systems of leave for care
Maternity, paternity and care of dependants



- Expansion of high-quality care services
Childcare, preschool and care services for dependants

- Cash transfers

Financing the costs of care services if there is insufficient public supply

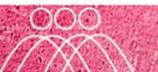


INCORPORATING COMPREHENSIVE CARE POLICIES INTO SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS



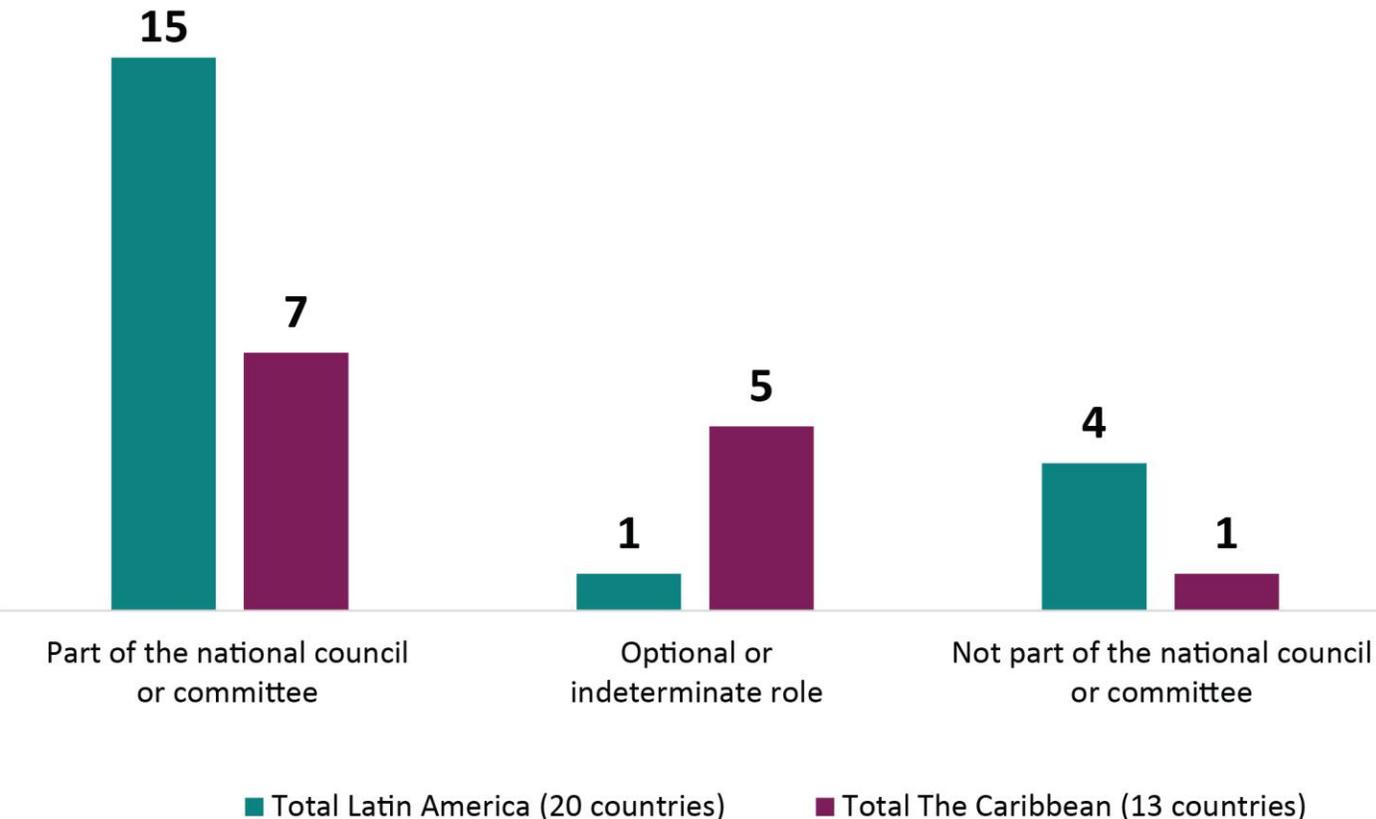
SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DISASTERS: RETHINKING A FUTURE WITH INCLUSION, EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Institutional arrangements and compacts to provide resilient social protection against disasters



INCLUDING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES IN NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

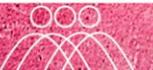
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (33 COUNTRIES): ROLE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND SECRETARIATS IN THE NATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM
(Number of countries)



Two thirds of countries include social development ministries in civil protection systems

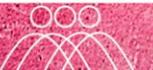
- Strengthen horizontal and vertical coordination among social protection, disaster management systems and civil protection
- Analyse scenarios and prepare responses from risk management institutions
- Establish complementary processes, that activate adaptively to maintain provision of ongoing services
- Define roles and forge cooperation agreements among stakeholders

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official information from the countries.



STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AMONG SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES

- **Key challenges in the international cooperation areas of social development ministries:**
 - Increase professionalization of cooperation teams in social development ministries
 - Intersectoral coordination with foreign affairs, planning and local, regional and national early warning bodies
 - Regional cooperation in social protection, disaster prevention and information systems with a territorial perspective
 - Promote regional public goods: observatories, databases of best practices, methodologies
- **Deepen subregional agreements on social protection and emergency response, with joint protocols and response services, and sharing of experiences: MERCOSUR, CARICOM, CELAC, SICA, Pacific Alliance and Andean Community**
- **Strengthen cross-border spaces for cooperation and responses that are coordinated among local populations**



STRENGTHEN DUAL SOCIAL AND LABOUR INCLUSION

- **Training and certification of skills**

- Complements cash transfers
- Development of skills, expand opportunities to re-join the labour market now and in the future
- Contributes to the three dimensions of sustainable development: facilitating social inclusion, contributing to economic growth and protecting the environment.

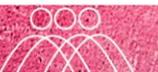
- **Dual inclusion: social and labour**

- Emergency employment or direct job creation at the central or local level, in services and public works sectors, as temporary work
- Effective in temporary situations of limited demand for labour and short-term needs for income, but must be combined with access to social protection
- Incentive for intensive investment in employment: environmentally sustainable and decent work



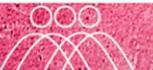
SOCIAL AND FISCAL PACTS: KEY TO THE BIG PUSH FOR EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- **Social unrest is a sign that the prevailing development model is not viable, and represents an opportunity for structural change.**
- **The social compact as a political instrument based on broad and participatory dialogue can contribute to consensus building and medium- and long-term agreements.**
 - All sectors must take ownership of and contribute to those agreements, and actors with more power and privilege must make significant concessions in their immediate interests.
 - Promote equality in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, as an ongoing process in democratic culture.
- **A fiscal compact to promote progressive, sustainable taxation that ensures availability of resources for a social protection system that is financially sustainable**
 - Expansionary fiscal policy to close structural gaps
 - Make well-being, rights guarantees and resilience-building in the population viable, leaving no one behind
 - Investment in social protection as an instrument of countries' economic and social development



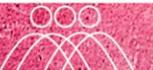
INSTRUMENTS FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE RECOVERY: PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE FINANCING TO RESPOND TO CRISES CAUSED BY DISASTERS

- **Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF SPC)**
 - Promotes mutual support among Caribbean countries to address crises caused by hurricanes and other disasters
- **Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE)**
 - Aims to foster an economic recovery with a commitment to sustainability and social inclusion
- **CELAC comprehensive disaster response fund:**
 - To address and overcome the health, social, economic and environmental crisis affecting the continent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, biodiversity loss, climate change and disasters, among other factors
- **Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF)- ECLAC**
 - A jumpstart for growth, enhancing liquidity and providing debt relief to Caribbean economies ravaged by the fiscal impact of COVID-19



CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **Vulnerabilities and exposure to the effects of disasters reflect structural inequalities and growing global asymmetries.**
- **These multifactor events require multidimensional approaches, intersectoral policies and a renewed institutional framework.**
- **They require a medium-term vision to expand rights-based welfare states.**
- **With universal social protection systems as the basis for greater social and institutional resilience to disaster risks and external shocks.**
- **The COVID-19 pandemic may make this crisis an opportunity to align policy, in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind.**
- **Cooperation and multilateralism for regional development, financing and debt relief.**



Follow us on:



<https://www.cepal.org/en>



https://twitter.com/eclac_un



<https://www.facebook.com/eclac>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/ECLACUN>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/eclac>

Thank you



Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary
ECLAC

2021
Regional Conference
on Social Development
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2021