

# Progress in Americas & the Caribbean RO country in 2023

Data as of:  
30 June 2024

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_1.1

### **Latin America and the Caribbean democratic institutions are strengthened, and States advance towards gender parity in political participation at all decision-making levels**

In 2023, this outcome has important progress, even though no new laws or reforms to advance gender balance in decision-making were adopted in the current year, progress was made in setting parity as a key pillar for the strengthening of democracies and the advance of gender equality agendas in the region. UN Women advocated for the full exercise of women's political rights, focusing on the promotion of legal measures and institutional mechanisms to ensure parity representation in decision-measures, a comprehensive mitigation of violence against women in politics, as inclusive political financing, through advocacy, capacity-building and knowledge production initiatives, contributing to build consensus towards parity democracies, including within the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament ( Declaration ), the Ibero-American Congress of Municipalities ( Declaration ), as well as the Association of Women Electoral Magistrates of the Americas ( Agreements ). At country level, progress was made especially in Uruguay in support to the legislative debate on the parity bill , which is expected to be considered by parliament in March 2024. Both through coordinated UN System's advocacy , as through UN Women specific technical assistance and incidence within sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and Gender Equality of the Senate, arguments in favor of a parity law were strengthened.

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_1.2

### **More women lead and benefit from national and local initiatives in political dialogue, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, human mobility, humanitarian action and climate resilience**

The implementation of the Migration MPTF Joint Programme (IOM, UNODC, UN Women) in Costa Rica is allowing UN Women to strengthen the capacity of Costa Rican authorities to identify, investigate and prosecute organized crime affecting migrants in transit, and reduce the vulnerability of migrants to human trafficking and smuggling through a gender and human rights perspective. UN Women has been developing initial diagnosis in alliance with IOM to guide project implementation and capacity building processes are under implementation. UN Women has been advocating for the inclusion of a gender perspective in the implementation of all efforts of the Joint Programme. An important achievement has been in the inclusion of sex-disaggregated variables and specific questions for the analysis of the information with a gender perspective the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to produce gender-sensitive reports. This will facilitate analysis and decision making on human mobility to include a gender perspective by OIM , other agencies and possibly government counterparts.

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_1.3

### **Ending Violence Against Women has advanced and a society free of gender**

## **stereotypes and discriminatory social norms is promoted with the engagement of women, girls, LGBTQ+ people, men and boys**

In 2023, ACRO organized and supported 130 events, among webinars, high-level meetings, capacity building exercises and workshops, where more than 13,487 people participated and that reached 112,107 people. ACRO's activities benefited more than 70,496 women, girls, men and boys directly, and more than 166,814 indirectly. 224 partnerships were made as a result of ACRO's work, 92 with regional and governmental institutions, 36 with the private sector, 74 with civil society organizations, 8 with academia and 14 with other UN agencies. Finally, 174 civil society organizations had their capacities strengthened, 6 advocacy and communications campaigns were launched impacting more than 88,100 people, 58 knowledge products were developed and published, 3 laws and policies were adopted and strengthened in the region, and more than US\$ 60 thousand was directly disbursed to civil society organizations.

### **OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_2.1**

#### **National care systems enable Latin America and the Caribbean women's economic autonomy.**

UN Women has advanced the implementation of a regional agenda for the promotion of Integrated care systems. In this regard, during 2023 UN Women ACRO provided technical assistance and policy support to 14 countries in LAC region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay) to advance in policy and normative frameworks for integrated care systems. As a result, in 2023 Ecuador approved a specific legislation to implement a comprehensive set of care policies, becoming the fourth country of the region, -together with Uruguay, Costa Rica and Venezuela— with and specific law approved. In Colombia the law 2281 of January, 42023 that creates the Minister of equality and Equity and Equality establishes the creation of the national care system. (art 6.). In Argentina Decree 89/2023 (February, 2) creates the Economic recovery, employment generation and social inclusion programme for domestic workers. Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru also have discussing legislative projects underway which counted with the advisory of UN Women. At local level the Municipality of Bogota adopted the agreement that regulates and institutionalizes the District Care System in Bogotá. Furthermore, additional national and local strategies, policies and/or action plans for the promotion of care have been developed and adopted in the region with UN Women's support Overall and up to December 2023, this results in a total amount of 30 national and local strategies, policies and/or action plans for the promotion of care have been developed and adopted in the region within 11 countries with the support of UN Women. In terms of promoting the financing of care policies and systems, during 2023 UN Women ACRO supported the calculation of cost and returns of investment in care in 13 municipalities of, using the modeling and tool to design financing strategies of comprehensive care systems developed and launched in 2022. This adds to the existing costing exercises supported by UN Women in. As a result of these exercises, it is estimated that 24.8 million people will benefit from care services by 2030 in these 5 countries. Furthermore, using gender responsive budgeting tools, in 2023 UN Women was able to identify that from 2019 to 2021, governments of Latin America and the Caribbean allocated USD 4.17 billion in their national budgets on care programmes and policies. In terms of capacity building, with the support of UN Women until 2023, near 2,000 care workers had already been trained in the whole LAC region, reaching an estimated 1.85 million indirect beneficiaries. Furthermore, as part of its coordination role within the United Nations system UN Women partnered with UNDP-ILO-ECLAC-UN Women Interagency Initiative on Gender, Care and Social Protection to promote the 4th edition of the virtual course towards integrated care systems: training for action in public policy in the first half of 2023 through a 7 week length course. As a result, in 2023 more than 219 policy makers from national governments (45%), local governments (14%), civil society and women organizations (8%), trade unions (13%) and other policy makers (20%) reported to having increased their capacity to advancing the agenda and implementing integrated care systems aligned with the Buenos Aires Commitment resulting

from the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. At regional level, in 2023 UN Women ACRO started the implementation of the project "Transforming Economies. Towards the Recognition, Reduction and Redistribution of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work in Latin America and the Caribbean" with the support of AECID. As a result, a comprehensive analysis of regulatory frameworks, policy instruments and mapping of good local practices in Latin America to promote the recognition, reduction and redistribution of care work has been developed serving as the basis for organizing a regional seminar of exchange of experiences that will take place in February of 2024. Also at the regional level, during 2023 UN Women continue to work to consolidate Care as a political priority and commitment in the intergovernmental sphere. In this regard, following up on the Buenos Aires Commitment adopted in 2022, UN Women together with ECLAC achieved to position Care as the main issue of discussion for the next Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to take place in Mexico in 2025 through an agreement adopted during the Sixty-fifth Meeting of the Presiding Officers held in Santiago, Chile in October 2023. Furthermore, taking advantage of the special opportunity opened by the EU-CELAC Summit held in Brussels in July 2023, UN Women worked to position Care also at the center of the Bi-regional discussions. In this regard, UN Women in alliance with ECLAC and the EU-LAC Foundation and the support of the government of Argentina, promoted the adoption of a bi-regional Pact for Care between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, with the aim of promoting cooperation in public policies and comprehensive care systems between the countries of both regions. The proposal of the Pact was presented during the EU-LAC Gender Equality Forum held in Berlin on May 11 and 12, convened by the EU-LAC Foundation, where, in addition to Argentina, the governments of Germany, Mexico and Spain added their support. The pact was also included in the Declaration of the EU-LAC Civil Society Forum held in Brussels in July, prior to the EU-CELAC Summit. Furthermore, the proposal of the bi-regional Pact for care was included in the commitment to advance gender equality signed by several women parliamentarians from the EU and Latin America during the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat) held in Madrid in July 2023, urging "to strengthen bi-regional cooperation to ensure the right to care, to receive care and self-care in conditions of equality and quality and therefore, to advance in the consolidation and financing of comprehensive care systems" as well as in the Declaration of the Bureau of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly held in October 2023 in Santo Domingo expressing the "need to adopt a gender approach in the framework of EU - CELAC relations, promoting a bi-regional pact for care based on the European Care Strategy and the Buenos Aires Commitment that enhances cooperation on public policies and comprehensive care systems". Finally, in October 2023, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, during the Sixty-fifth Meeting, agreed to encourage ECLAC and UN Women together with the EU-LAC Foundation, to promote the bi-regional pact for care "with the aim of promoting cooperation on public policies and comprehensive care systems with a gender perspective between the countries of both regions, within the framework of the implementation of the Buenos Aires Commitment and the European Care Strategy, and to promote cooperation initiatives in this area with other regions of the world". In 2024 the work to position the Pact will continue. Finally during 2023 UN Women ACRO continue to support care work at the global level, supporting the Global Alliance for Care which already reached 168 members (including national and local governments, international organizations, private and philanthropic organizations, and civil society organizations), becoming the largest multi-stakeholder engagement platform to date that promotes a transformation of the care economy globally. As part of the Alliance and in partnership with the EU-LAC Foundation, ECLAC and the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) UN Women ACRO conducted a series of five interregional dialogues on Comprehensive Care Systems, to place the priority populations that receive and provide care at the center.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_2.2

### **Public and private financing advance gender equality through gender responsive budgets, policies, strategies and instruments**

As part of the work to promote Public financing to advance gender equality through gender responsive

budgets, policies, strategies and instruments , in 2023 UN Women ACRO finalized and launched the publication &ldquo;Gender Budgeting. A roadmap for its implementation from Latin American experiences&rdquo; capturing advances and main results of 12 countries of the region in including gender budgeting in their planning and budgeting normative and policy frameworks. The study shows how 4 countries (Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru) make gender budgeting mandatory within their Public Planning and Budgetary Laws while 10 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Uruguay) integrate it in their long-term development strategies. Also 11 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Dominican Republic) have included instructions to advance gender budgeting within their call circular or budgetary guidelines within the last three years. Additionally, 7 countries of the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, M&eacute;xico, and Dominican Republic) have institutionalized gender budget markers or gender budget classifiers that allow to track amounts specifically allocated and spent for gender equality, thanks to the strengthened budgetary instruments focused on transparency and accountability. For example, data shows that in these 7 countries exist allocations to policies to eliminate violence against women facilitating social control on this area. The data gathered, analyzed and presented in this document demonstrates the importance of the information development, systematization and availability to provide structured instruments to be used by countries as examples of good practices and move forward with its own strategies and tools. Also, the document is valuable because it shows the progress made in the region in terms of GRB, result of its promotion, and availability of technical assistance. The publication reached 1,116 total clicks by December 2023. Additionally, in 2023 UN Women also launched the digital platform [presupuestoygenero.net](http://presupuestoygenero.net) collecting 296 documents in the library section classified by theme, type of resource, country and language. It also includes a tools section, with 162 tools, organized in 9 categories according to their use within the budget cycle. Furthermore, the initiatives section, was also updated with the information of 12 national gender budget initiatives, including a brief summary, bibliography of relevance and a template with the extended information. At the launching in March, the platform accounted for 4,262 visits reaching up to 20,472 visits in December, showing the increasing interest in its content. This was a result of a specific visibility strategy maintaining regular publications on UN Women social media. Visits include a wide range of countries including not only LAC region countries representing approximately 41% of total access to the knowledge platform (being Guatemala, Argentina, Mexico, Colombia and Chile among the top 5 countries) but also the United States Germany, Russia, Great Britain, and China. This is particularly interesting considering that the platform has not yet been translated into English. Considering the Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall view of Latin America countries and other access countries are outside the region. The hashtag [#PresupuestoYG&eacute;nero](https://twitter.com/PresupuestoYG&eacute;nero) created to follow-up on the discussions showed by December 2023 an increased from 7,547 to 11,446 interactions, from 1,464 to 2,289 shares and a total audience reach from 80,449 to at least 145,585 in social media. Furthermore, in line with the Global report &ldquo;Strengthening public financial management to achieve gender equality and women&rsquo;s empowerment&rdquo; UN Women ACRO produced in 2023 a regional report to analyze the progress of indicator 5.c.1, using the information provided by the voluntary reports of 10 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2021 with UN Women&rsquo;s assistance. The results proved that 20% of the countries were fully compliant with the indicator's requirements while the rest 80% were close to meeting mentioned requirements. The report was used as one of the main documents informing the regional consultation prior to the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), on the priority theme &ldquo;Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective &rdquo;, organized during the 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in October 2023, at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) headquarters in Santiago, Chile. As of today, the report has reached 162 visits in UN Women LAC website. Also, in the area of Public Finance, in partnership with FLACSO Argentina UN Women ACRO organized the third edition of the virtual specialized course on Gender Responsive Budgeting for women in politics, reaching out to 300 women leaders in decision making position. By the end of the course 89,5% of the participants reported an increased knowledge of instruments and tools to promote and implement gender-responsive budgeting. Regarding the work with the private sector, a WEPS

regional strategy was developed and implemented in close coordination with all LAC countries. UN Women ACRO provided technical support to 14 COs with WEPs presence through regular meetings with WEP focal points, bilateral meetings with country focal points to support strategies and plans in the territory, providing talks and training for companies from different countries, meetings with companies for WEPs submissions at the regional level. Furthermore, in collaboration with WEPs focal points UN Women ACRO organize the second edition of the WEPs cycle, including a set of 6 sessions addressing a diverse range of issues such as: Gender Procurement, marketing and communication without stereotypes, business case, new masculinities, monitoring & transparency, gender pay gap. reaching out 6,689 people registered and 14,630 views on LinkedIn. The series had 880 viewers on LinkedIn and 1,724 people connected on Zoom. A total of 24 speakers participated and 11 companies from the region presented good practices. In addition, panelists from 9 different countries in the region participated: Uruguay, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, Chile, El Salvador, Venezuela, as well as representatives from HQ and the Regional Office. ACRO also supported the supervision and execution of due diligence processes for approval and publication of new signatories throughout the region. As a result, during 2023, 254 new companies joined the WEPs, reaching 2,342 signatories throughout the region, making Latin America and the Caribbean being the leader region with the higher number of WEPs signatories in the world. Furthermore, the region is also positioned as a relevant and thriving region in WEPs issues, through the participation of our region in task forces and initiatives led by HQ, such as the WEPs focal points meetings and the WEPs 2.0 initiative with commercial banks in Ecuador and Bolivia. Accompaniment and technical assistance for the WEPs 2.0 process in Banco Sol and Banco Pichincha, through the review of tools used in the process and support for a workshop given to the Board of Directors of Banco Sol in Bolivia. The strengthening of alliances allows us to provide a solid and articulated response to the private sector on issues of gender equality and women's empowerment in the business world. Through the strengthening and joint work with UNGC (Global Compact) at the regional level, a work plan was implemented that included reviewing all the contents of the TGE (Target Gender Equality) accelerator to align them with the WEPs

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_2.3

### **More women have access to decent work and women's entrepreneurship, small and medium-sized enterprises, networks and cooperatives are strengthened through financial and digital inclusion, green and circular economy alternatives in local and regional value chains**

In 2023 UN Women ACRO continued to support the implementation of regional and subregional programs to promote the access to opportunities for income generation and sustainable livelihoods, particularly focusing in financing and digital inclusion, explicitly and systematically integrating an intersectional approach (principle Leave no one behind) that enhances the inclusion of the most disadvantaged groups (rural, indigenous, migrant women) with the capacity to provide differentiated responses. The application of this principle as a central approach to the design and management of programs makes possible to influence changes in structural barriers that limit poverty reduction, equal opportunities, gender equality and economic growth, and to build and strengthen women's capacity to make decisions and act on issues such as the acquisition of financial commitments, assessment of associated risks, control over their money - spending and savings - through personal accounts, investment in education and health care expenses, access to productive credit and insurance that allow them to grow their businesses. In particular, beginning in 2023 UN Women is contributing to the development of an inclusive financial ecosystem (IFE) in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through the implementation of the IFE programme, funded by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The programme. aims to articulate efforts, to strengthen capacities of financial institutions and public financial sector actors, strategic partnerships with relevant agents of the financial ecosystem (such as Central American Bank for Economic Integration -CABEI-), to advocate for the inclusion of gender equality in public policies and programmes linked to financial inclusion, and many actions that has been promoting the agenda of financial inclusion and the economic autonomy of women in the region. The

programme is contributing to increase the availability of knowledge products, tools and methodologies to promote the incorporation of a gender perspective and innovations in financial products and services and in financial inclusion strategies, as well as the generation and use of gender-sensitive data to monitor and evaluate initiatives to promote financial inclusion. The development of knowledge products contributes to highlight women financial inclusion and support the relevance of the region's priorities and serve for policy dialogue. In particular, the launching of the policy brief of women's financial inclusion was published: "Women's financial inclusion Keys to a transformative post-COVID-19 economic recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean", produced the framework of the IFE programme highlighted how women's levels of financial inclusion in the region were, and continue to be, a vulnerability factor that is hindering their economic autonomy and the post-COVID-19 recovery. This publication reached in 2023 more than 156,000 people in social media. Knowledge products are also being used to guide the design and provision of financial products and services with a gender perspective, as well as the incorporation of gender equality in public policies and programmes. A tool is being developed, which will be used by the IFE programme to guide the strengthening of capacities of financial institutions in the provision of final products and services and will be used as a self-assessment tool. Its piloting started during the fourth quarter 2023 by 11 financial institutions and was reviewed by two regulators. Furthermore, the programme also contributes to foster partnerships between regional and national financial institutions. National and regional partnerships are also being leveraged to advocate for women's financial inclusion and engagement with the IFE programme, with a focus on the need to work at the ecosystem level to better advance women's financial health and their economic empowerment. An example of this was the development of the IV Central American Forum of Financial Inclusion, held in El Salvador on the 11th and 12th of October of 2023, organized by jointly by the IFE and the MELYT programmes, in alliance with CABEL and with the collaboration of multiple national and regional organizations was a strategic initiative. The Forum aimed to strengthen partnerships, promote peer-to-peer learning and share best practices on how to reduce gender gaps in access to capital, and increase dialogue and cooperation among financial ecosystem actors engaged with gender equality was. In total, 170 people attended in person on the first day and 110 people on the second day of event. Additionally, over 6.720 people were reached through social media during both days. Thanks to the work through the EFI programme, UN Women achieved to influence national strategies and public policies on financial inclusion, integrating the gender equality perspective. For example, in Guatemala with the technical support of ACRO the new National Financial Inclusion Strategy (ENIF) incorporates a gender perspective and focus on women's financial inclusion, including sex disaggregated indicators. UN Women national and regional teams also provided technical support for the revision of the "Roadmap for financial inclusion for women" of the National Council for Financial Inclusion and Education (CNIEF) of El Salvador and has been providing technical support to the National Banking and Insurance Commission (CNBS) in defining a Household Survey Module specifically dedicated to the topic of financial inclusion and other efforts in terms of measurement. In Costa Rica during 2023, the "Hecho por Mujeres" initiative (an e-commerce platform that promotes women's autonomy and economic empowerment), continued to support women's entrepreneurship and strengthening financial inclusion 319 businesswomen were able to strengthened their capacities through the virtual cycle of 16 trainings and webinars with the objective of promoting their financial and digital inclusion. The platform also operates as a promotional platform for their products, both through social networks (Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp) and for in person sales (fairs). As a result, 98 active sellers have made a total of 110 sales through the platform, for a total amount of sales since its launch of approximately US\$3,700. Also in Costa Rica, regarding in person sales to strengthen financial inclusion, UN Women supported FIDEIMAS, in coordination with the Banco Nacional de Costa Rica, Sistema Banca para el Desarrollo, IMAS and the Municipality of San José; in the organization of the IMAS-FIDEIMAS Christmas Fair. For the second consecutive year after the pandemic, this fair provides an opportunity to have a marketing space for businesswomen and their families, where they can exhibit their handmade products and invite visitors to purchase Christmas gifts with purpose. During December 13, 14 and 15, 2023, 135 businesswomen supported by FIDEIMAS, many of them active sellers in Hecho por Mujeres platform, offered national products in the Central Park of San José, achieving an approximate of US\$32,000 in total sales. In terms of promoting digital inclusion, during 2023 UN Women ACRO contributed with the initiative

TodasConectadas.com, a collaborative virtual platform that serve as a hub for training courses in digital skill, networking communities to connect with digital markets, and information about economic opportunities, like financial resources or marketplaces. By the end of 2023 a total number of 35.003 visitors were registered, having the opportunity to access 37 virtual courses, to information about 19 communities, and about 8 financial resources for digital inclusion.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_3.1

### **The United Nations System in Latin America and the Caribbean increased its capacity to advance a gender transformative perspective and include GEWE in its planning and programming**

In 2023, UN Women ACRO demonstrated significant progress in enhancing the UN System's capacity to embrace a gender-transformative perspective and mainstream Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in planning and programming. Through technical expertise, continuous dialogue, and effective coordination mechanisms, ACRO played a key role in advancing gender equality in the Americas and Caribbean (LAC) region. Within the revised working mechanisms of the Regional Collaboration Platform (RCP), ACRO maintained leadership in the Regional Gender Interagency Group (GIG) and assumed chairmanship in the new Thematic Group on Populations Left Behind and the Evaluation Working Group. These roles show ACRO's central position in leading, promoting, and coordinating efforts to integrate gender within the UN System, contributing to the realization of women's rights in the region. ACRO, co-leading the GIG along with PAHO, collaborated with all participating agencies on developing the first Regional Gender Equality Profile (RGEP), which will be published in the first quarter of 2024. A collective effort to identify key challenges in the region. The RGEP's anticipated adoption across the UN System is expected to enhance the effectiveness of actions aimed at improving the lives of girls and women. ACRO's active role in the GIG's advocacy and communication initiatives, such as the impactful International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism campaigns, reflects its commitment to raising awareness on gender issues. As a member of the Peer Support Group (PSG), ACRO contributed to GEWE accountability in the planning cycles of Colombia and Haiti, as well as in non-physical presence countries like Paraguay. Technical support provided during 2023 included assistance in the development and evaluation of strategic documents, such as the Cooperation Framework evaluations in Colombia, Paraguay, and Cuba, as well as the construction of roadmaps for their new Cooperation Frameworks. An important advancement was the completion of the Spanish translation of the UNCT Gender Equality Marker (GEM) Guidance Note, facilitated by ACRO's proactive initiative. This demonstrates ACRO's commitment to ensuring broad understanding and effective implementation of this crucial gender mainstreaming tool across the region. In countries where UN Women has a Non-Physical Presence (NPP), ACRO actively integrated gender equality within UN system coordination mechanisms. Notable achievements include the successful submission of 6 UNCT SWAP reports in NPP countries (3 comprehensive reports from Costa Rica, Peru, and Honduras -being the last 2 the first time they submit this report-, and 4 Annual Reports from Cuba, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela), significant contributions to conventions like CEDAW, and mainstreaming gender in humanitarian programming cycles in Panama and Venezuela, addressing the unique challenges faced by migrant women. In Costa Rica, the UN System aligned its joint work plan with the new Cooperation Framework, emphasizing a gender focus at each stage. ACRO's non-physical presence in Cuba facilitated a strategic alliance with the Parliament, advancing the National Program for the Advancement of Women and accelerating progress towards the gender goals of the 2030 Agenda. The submission of 9 UNCT SWAP annual reports (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Mexico) and capacity strengthening in the use of UNCT tools such as the GEM markers or the UNCT SWAP methodology in several countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, and Paraguay, also demonstrates ACRO's commitment to advancing GEWE across the LAC region. In summary, ACRO's accomplishments in 2023 showcase its pivotal role in advancing gender equality, contributing significantly to the UN System's efforts in the LAC region. The Theory of Change for this outcome remains largely applicable, validating the sustained

relevance and impact of ACRO's UN coordination initiatives.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_3.2

### **Latin America and the Caribbean Governments increased their capacity to advance a gender transformative perspective and implement gender equality international and regional norms and frameworks at the national and subnational levels**

In 2023, notable progress was achieved, with significant influence on 12 key normative, policy, peace, and humanitarian processes by civil society organizations dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment. During CSW67, UN Women actively facilitated the substantial engagement of civil society, particularly feminist and women organizations, through support for eight side events organized by LAC Member States. These events delved into the central theme of CSW67, exploring its implications in areas such as digital inclusion, digital violence, education, indigenous women's issues, the digital gap, rural women's challenges, climate change, and multilateralism. In collaboration with the OAS's Summit Secretariat, the Government of Panama, and the Government of Canada, UN Women played a vital role in a workshop aimed at enhancing the capacities of civil society organizations in gender equality. With 36 representatives from various LAC countries in attendance, UN Women provided substantive information on the gender equality normative framework and guided participants on designing and implementing advocacy campaigns for gender equality and women's empowerment. Additionally, UN Women supported the organization of the Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. This collaboration with ECLAC addressed the challenges faced by environmental rights defenders in the region. Notably, UN Women directly supported the substantive participation of 12 CSO representatives at the Forum and organized a regional workshop for over 50 CSO representatives, creating awareness about the Escazú Agreement and advocating for its implementation with a gender equality focus. As part of its collaboration with the Regional Conference on Women of LAC, UN Women co-organized two meetings of the Presiding Officers in 2023, facilitating a regional consultation before CSW67 and CSW68. The main achievements included the adoption of the Regional Declaration on the priority theme by Ministers and high-level authorities of national machineries for women's advancement. UN Women ensured substantive CSO representation in these intergovernmental meetings, supporting panelists and in-person participants while assisting the NGO CSW LAC in organizing impactful meetings that garnered hundreds of participants. The resulting political declarations were shared with national authorities, acknowledging the crucial work of CSOs in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LAC\_D\_3.3

### **Gender statistics, sex-disaggregated data, and knowledge are produced, analysed and used to inform countries' policies and norms and UN Women programming, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women's empowerment results**

In 2023, the Data and Statistics area of the UN Women's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean significantly enhanced gender statistics' integration and utilization across various sectors. This initiative, crucial for the region's efforts towards gender equality, involved in-depth technical support and the development of partnerships aimed at mainstreaming gender perspectives in statistical production and policymaking. The data and Statistics area is responsible for the Women Count regional Program, which seeks to change how gender statistics are used, created, and promoted. It considers the coordination and support in the planned activities in the LAC region and specifically in Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, MCO -UN Women, and Colombia. It considers coordinating at the regional level and supporting activities,



such as training, knowledge products, and methodological tools on gender statistics. The support extended to country offices, notably in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and 17 CARICOM countries, involved technical assistance for analyzing gender statistics and gender statistics training programs, thereby empowering these offices to leverage data in advancing gender equality goals. Developing knowledge products in coordination with the governments is crucial for its use. Also, the training programs guarantee capacity building on gender statistics across the LAC region; they provide a solid foundation for participants to improve their statistical skills, specifically in gender-related data collection and analysis. Also, UN Women worked closely with key regional partners, ECLAC, CARICOM, CLACSO, UN agencies, national statistics offices, and MAMs to streamline gender statistics activities. This collaboration aimed at ensuring a unified approach across the region, enhancing the accuracy and relevance of gender data. A landmark achievement was the collaboration with the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA). As part of the contributions, UN Women has been part of the Advisory Group for mainstreaming the Gender perspective in the SCA's working groups. Likewise, jointly with ECLAC, we served as technical co-secretaries for the working group responsible for developing the "Guide for Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in Statistical Production." This guide, endorsed (SCA) as a regional guideline, represents a significant step towards embedding gender considerations into the creation of statistical analysis and policy development. It was developed in coordination with the NSOs from the region. The Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS), in coordination with UNODC, EAW, Regional Offices, and UNODC, has participated in various meetings to introduce tools and guidance for piloting the femicide statistical framework. Ecuador will implement the pilot in the region, showcasing the region's dedication to addressing femicide through improved data collection and analysis. Finally, UN Women (RO and Mexico), ECLAC, INEGI, and INMUJERES organized 3 international events related to gender statistics. This gathering brought together experts from various fields, from NSOs, MAMs, academia, and international organizations, highlighting the regional dedication to advancing gender statistics