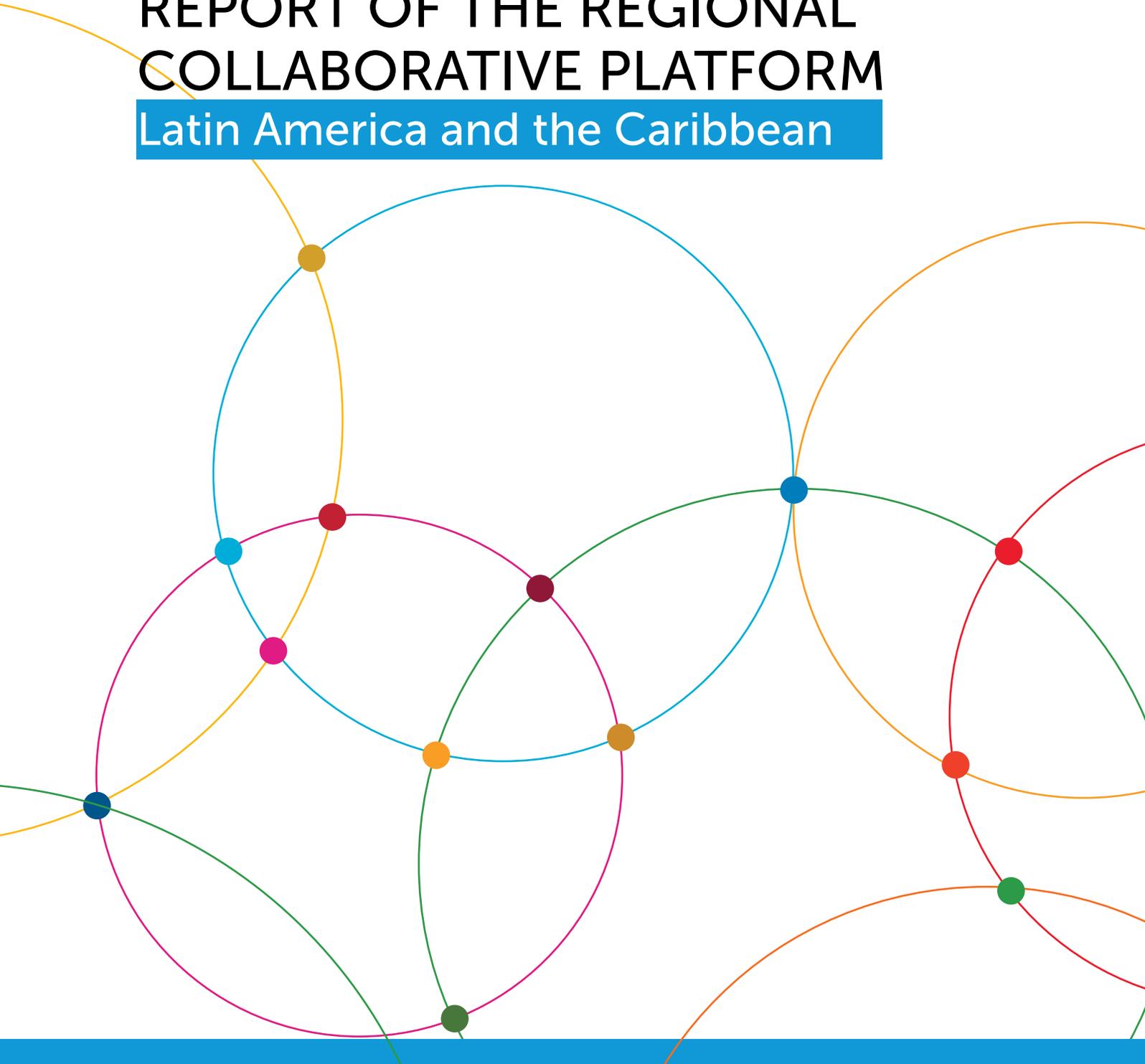




2021

**SYSTEM-WIDE RESULTS
REPORT OF THE REGIONAL
COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM**
Latin America and the Caribbean

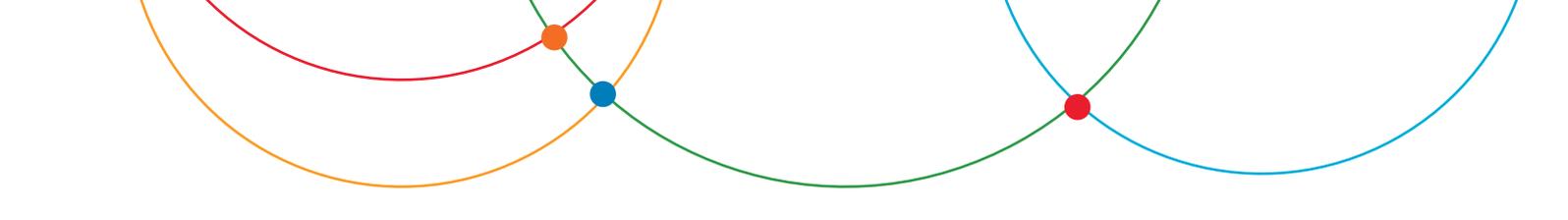


LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIAMP – Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries
BOS – Business Operations Strategy
CARICOM – Caribbean Community
CCA – Common Country Analysis
CF – Cooperation Framework
CLME+ – Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems Project
COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019
DCO – Development Coordination Office
DPPA – Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction
DSRSG – Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General
DSSI – Debt Service Suspension Initiative
ECLAC – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
GCM – Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GDP – Gross Domestic Product
HC – Humanitarian Coordinator
HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IBC – Issue-Based Coalition
IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRC – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO – International Labor Organization
IOM – International Organization for Migration
ITC – International Trade Centre
LAC – Latin America and the Caribbean
MSDCF – Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework
NAP – National Adaption Plan
NDC – Nationally Determined Contribution
NSO – National Statistics Office
OCHA – Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAHO – Pan-American Health Organization
PSG – Peer Support Group
R-BOS – Regional Business Operations Strategy
RC – Resident Coordinator
RCO – Resident Coordinator’s Office
RCP – Regional Collaborative Platform
RCP LAC – Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean
SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS – Small Island Developing States
SISCA – Secretariat of Central American Social Integration
UNAIDS – Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT – United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR – United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDS – United Nations Development System
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN-Habitat – United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services
UN-Women – United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNWTO – World Tourism Organization
VNR – Voluntary National Review
WFP – World Food Programme
WHO – World Health Organization

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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1. The 2021 system-wide results report of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCP LAC) provides an overview of the challenging regional context, and actions taken in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region. This report was developed in line with the commitment of the United Nations Secretary-General's report A/74/73-E/2019/14¹ on the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/243² on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations development system (UNDS), aiming to enhance transparency and report annually on UN system-wide results at the regional level in support of the 2030 Agenda.
 2. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) continues to be in the midst of a large-scale social and economic crisis borne from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Existing structural inequalities across social, economic, and environmental dimensions are exacerbated, and weak governance models are overwhelmed. Further, women, youth, migrants, refugees, people of African descent and indigenous peoples are being disproportionately affected. Despite unprecedented emergency measures by governments³ and the resumption of economic growth in 2021, existing structural inequalities need to be addressed urgently to prevent another lost decade in the region.
 3. The RCP LAC advanced in the implementation of the five recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General related to the reform of the United Nations development system (UNDS) included in his report A/74/73-E/2019/14. Through its Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs), the RCP LAC focused its activities on climate change and resilience; crime and violence; equitable growth; governance and institutions; and human mobility. The themes of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, as well as youth, were addressed across the five areas. In response to demand from United Nations Resident Coordinators (RCs), a sixth IBC on financing for development was established and will start its work in 2022. Results were achieved through joint initiatives that primarily sought to strengthen institutional capacities, build a strong evidence-based for policy making, and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Examples include joint policy analysis and advice, inter-agency programmes at subregional and regional levels, capacity building initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and knowledge management systems. The UNDS also convened and engaged in regional intergovernmental fora to discuss the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the crisis.
 4. The current context offers a set of opportunities to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs by focusing on addressing the social, economic, environmental and governance impacts of the pandemic. Going forward, the UNDS will continue to support Member States' efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. The UNDS will remain mindful of the 2030 Agenda's "leaving no one behind" principle to ensure that vulnerable groups, which have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, remain at the center. The RCP LAC will mobilize efforts to provide integrated and coordinated support to RCs and United Nations country teams (UNCTs), prioritizing cross-border, subregional, and regional support.

1 <https://undocs.org/A/74/73> (paragraph 114 regarding recommendation 3 on enhanced transparency and results-based management at the regional level).

2 <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3803212>

3 <https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/covid-19>



II. OVERVIEW OF KEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

5. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic fallout continue to exacerbate existing structural inequalities across social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions. Due to the pandemic, the human development index declined for the first time since 1990.⁴ To avoid a lost decade and make progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, governments should assemble recovery packages that address structural inequalities and support a profound transformation towards universal social protection systems, equitable and sustainable economies, and effective governance models.
6. The pandemic has amplified pre-existing structural weaknesses in the health systems of the countries of the region. Public expenditures dedicated to health systems remain far below the 6.0% of GDP target recommended by PAHO.⁵ This lack of funding disproportionately affects the poorest populations, which face significant financial and geographical barriers that are made greater by gender, disability status, and ethnic origin or migratory status. Insufficient local manufacturing capacities for medical supplies and equipment, and unequal access to vaccines between countries and among social groups have added further uncertainty to the future course of the pandemic and its socioeconomic impact on countries. Furthermore, the pandemic has highlighted the unsustainability of the current organization of the care system in the region⁶.
7. It has also upended regional unemployment due to significant job losses and inadequate social protection in a region marked by high levels of informality, resulting in the loss of three decades of progress in reducing poverty. Any recovery of regional employment levels and the overall labour participation rate expected for 2021 were insufficient to return to pre-pandemic levels. By the end of 2021, the number of employed persons in the region was 2.8% lower than in 2019, resulting in severe consequences for poverty and social exclusion.⁷ Hunger is also at its highest point since the turn of the millennium⁸, with the number of people affected increasing by 30 % since 2019⁹.
8. The pandemic has also laid bare structural inequalities regarding access to education, implying potentially devastating consequences for an entire generation. By November 2021, nearly half of the children were still out of the classroom,¹⁰ and the widespread closure of schools and educational centers is expected to have profound implications for children's development prospects and will widen gaps in educational continuity and achievement. Distance learning measures have not addressed this issue equitably, as they depend on children's access to supporting resources to be effective.¹¹ Furthermore, the closure of schools has prevented access to other important basic services such as school meals and pedagogical support.¹²
9. Women, youth, migrants, refugees, and other displaced persons, people of African descent and indigenous peoples have been disproportionately affected. A significant proportion of women is employed in economic sectors that have been severely impacted by the pandemic¹³, and

4 https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/covid-19_and_human_development_0.pdf

5 ECLAC and PAHO, "Health and the economy: a convergence needed to address COVID-19 and retake the path of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean", COVID-19 Report, Santiago, July 2020, p. 12.

6 UN-Women and ECLAC, "Care in Latin America and the Caribbean during the COVID-19. Towards comprehensive systems to strengthen response and recovery", 2020.

7 ECLAC, Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021, p.127.

8 FAO and others, Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 – Food security and nutrition for lagged territories-In brief, Santiago, 2021.

9 FAO, IFAD, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF. 2021. Latin America and the Caribbean – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021: Statistics and trends. Santiago, FAO.

10 UNICEF (2021), Only half of children in Latin America and the Caribbean are back in the classroom. Press release. [online] <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/only-half-children-latin-america-and-caribbean-are-back-classroom>

11 UNDP C19 PDS No. 20 COVID-19 and primary and secondary education: the impact of the crisis and public policy implications for Latin America and the Caribbean

12 UNICEF (2020) [online] <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/covid-19-more-95-cent-children-are-out-school-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

13 UN-Women and UNDP (2021), The impacts of COVID-19 on women's economic autonomy in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNDP LAC C19 PDS No. 25.

gender-based violence (particularly domestic violence) has markedly increased¹⁴ while reporting mechanisms and access to support services have become more constrained. Young people are also affected disproportionately. Despite their higher levels of education when compared to previous generations, they face multiple challenges related to violence, insecurity, unemployment and health. Further, the pandemic's effect on migrants, refugees and other displaced persons has been severe, and many of them are becoming increasingly dependent on emergency humanitarian assistance. These populations are also affected by xenophobia and discriminatory practices, as the increase in demand for health care and other basic services is leading to heightened competition over limited resources.¹⁵ People of African descent and indigenous peoples and other population groups have been particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact due to institutionalized structural inequalities and different forms of discrimination that include unequal access to health systems and other social protection services.¹⁶

10. 2020 saw the region's largest contraction in the past 120 years, which led to a decline in GDP by 6.8% with major effects on production, employment, poverty and inequality¹⁷. Economic and social development is likely to be set back for at least a decade, despite fiscal measures amounting to roughly 4.6% of the region's GDP in 2020 and 2.2% in 2021¹⁸. Even with growth rates reaching their projected levels of 6.2% in 2021 and 2.1% for 2022¹⁹, it may take up to a decade for regional GDP to recover to pre-pandemic levels. Fiscal support measures have also led to a significant increase in fiscal deficits and debt levels across the region. The overall central government balance was projected to a deficit of 5.0% of GDP in 2021, following a 6.9% deficit in 2020.²⁰
11. While public debt remains at elevated levels, additional financial resources and flexible access to innovative financing for development are needed to address the effects of the pandemic and to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Being primarily a region of middle-income countries, governments cannot access emergency financing provided through international initiatives such as the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) or the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, as they are only accessible by countries included in the World Bank's International Development Association.
12. Governments faced challenges in addressing the socioeconomic fallout from the pandemic, and the region remains vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution. Despite recession-induced reductions on urban activity, the global community remains off-track to fulfilling the Paris Agreement. New or updated nationally determined contribution (NDCs) and announced pledges for 2030 have a limited impact on the projected emissions gap in 2030.²¹ The pandemic has also worsened the state of the environment due to declining budgets, the weakening of public transportation systems, reduced monitoring of (and continued dependency on) natural resource exploitation, and the lack of response and recovery expenditures targeting the environment — only 0.5% of announced stimulus packages in the region are considered green initiatives.²²
13. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the significant governance challenges across the region, characterized by socioeconomic inequalities, political and social polarization, perception of State capture, shrinking democratic space, and mechanisms for political representation that need to be

14 <https://oig.cepal.org/en/documents/pandemic-shadows-femicides-or-feminicides-2020-latin-america-and-caribbean>

15 IOM (2020), Countering Xenophobia and Stigma to Foster Social Cohesion in the COVID 19 Response and Recovery.

16 ECLAC, Social Panorama of Latin America, 2020, Santiago, 2021, p. 19.

17 ECLAC, Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021, Santiago, 2021, p.17.

18 Ibid. p.82.

19 ECLAC, Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021, Santiago, 2022. p.18.

20 Ibid.p.17.

21 UNEP, Emissions Gap Report 2021. The heat is on. A world of climate promises not yet delivered. Nairobi. 2021.

22 ECLAC, The recovery paradox in Latin America and the Caribbean Growth amid persisting structural problems: inequality, poverty and low investment and productivity, Special Report COVID-19, n.11, July 2021, p.2.

strengthened. Trust in public institutions is low,²³ and representation for vulnerable populations is limited. Although social unrest declined at the beginning of the pandemic, increased needs for inclusion, recognition of rights and constitutional reforms have served as triggers for increased protests in many countries throughout the year. The pandemic has also overwhelmed established risk management approaches regarding disaster management, health, economic, social, and other sectors, underlining the increasing danger of global transnational threats.

14. The pandemic had a disproportionate impact on already vulnerable countries. Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS), which are the most disaster-prone SIDS globally (and represent 16 Member States in the region), face unique additional challenges. These include insularity, vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, proneness to severe economic shocks from a lack of economies of scale in production, high debt levels, reduced scope for output diversification, heavy dependence on food imports, and dependency on tourism, oil, and gas. Haiti is particularly vulnerable, facing combined political and humanitarian crises that were compounded by the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck on 14 August 2021. Furthermore, the food insecurity rate in the Caribbean of (70.3 %) is nearly double that of Mesoamerica (37.5%) and South America (39.2%).²⁴
15. Humanitarian needs are increasing in the region. There are currently Humanitarian Response Plans in place in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) responding to the needs of 13.4 million of the 27.9 million people in need, representing a 600% increase since 2016.²⁵

23 UNDP, "Trust in public institutions: building blocks of a conceptual framework", p. 17.

24 FAO, IFAD, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF. 2021. Latin America and the Caribbean – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021: Statistics and trends. Santiago.

25 OCHA. 2021. Latin America and the Caribbean – Weekly Situation Update (29 November – 5 December 2021).



III. ADVANCING THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY- GENERAL'S REFORMS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

16. 2021 was a year for consolidation of the RCP LAC and its working mechanisms. The RCP LAC has made progress in implementing the five recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General related to the reform of the UNDS at the regional level. Six time-bound IBCs bring together existing expertise from UNDS entities to advance work on cross-border, subregional, and regional issues, in areas of common interest: climate change and resilience; crime and violence; equitable growth; financing for development; governance and institutions; and human mobility. The themes of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, as well as youth, are addressed across the six areas. The IBC on financing for development has been operationalized in the last quarter of 2021 and will be launched in February 2022.
17. The RCP LAC consolidated the regional knowledge management platform, known as SDG Gateway. A content manager system was developed and implemented to decentralize uploading information by RCP LAC members, achieving efficiencies by automating this process. One of the main assets of the SDG Gateway is the "[Information System on support activities on SDG Monitoring and reporting](#)", created to support the National Statistical System of the countries of the region. This information system allows a clear system-wide overview of how the UN system and other international organizations are supporting countries in monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. During 2021, the SDG Gateway had 122,470 users (five times more compared to 2020) and 381,630 page views (three times more than 2020). The RCP LAC has identified an initial set of criteria to establish a roster of expertise, and a revamp of the SDG Gateway to further enhance the visibility and accessibility of regional assets is also on schedule to be launched in 2022.
18. The SDG Data and Statistics group strengthened alliances in the field of statistics by implementing a content management system to gather and disseminate all ongoing and planned technical assistance initiatives to support national statistical offices (NSOs) on SDG monitoring and reporting. The system facilitates coordination among United Nations entities and other organizations, including through the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. Further to this, the group has initiated work on an update of a statistical capacities' diagnosis within NSOs in the region. ECLAC presented, jointly with DCO and DESA, the revamped version with new interface of its [CEPALSTAT](#) Portal, linking regional statistics and geospatial information and stressing the importance of the interoperability of information through open data.
19. The Regional Operations Management Team (ROMT) was established to develop the Regional Business Operations Strategy (R-BOS) and support the implementation of efficiency initiatives in the region. The development of the Regional BOS has been initiated, but further commitment and engagement from all RCP members will be required to complete the development of the regional BOS by end of March 2022.
20. United Nations entities continued their efforts to foster partnerships and communications on issues prioritized by the RCP LAC, including with the support of its Partnerships and Communications Working Group. The campaign #2021YearForRecovery, launched in January 2021, reached over nine million people. In the context of increased human mobility in the region, 13 entities²⁶ published a [joint statement](#) mourning the loss of life of people on the move and offering to accompany a coordinated regional response. Another joint statement²⁷ was also issued, specifically requesting protection measures for Haitians on the move and the adoption of a comprehensive regional approach. On occasion of the International Migrants Day, other entities²⁸ launched the campaign [#CaminosQueDejanHuella](#), reaching over 11 million people.

26 OCHA, OHCHR, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, and UN-Women.

27 UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and OHCHR.

28 IOM, ILO, OCHA, PAHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS, UN-Women, and WFP.



IV. HIGHLIGHTS OF SYSTEM- WIDE RESULTS ACHIEVED AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

21. This section includes the work conducted by the IBCs/thematic groups, as well as other inter-agency initiatives and results outside of the RCP LAC to reflect the full breadth of regional support provided by the UNDS in 2021. The main areas of support delivered by the regional level included policy generation and advisory services, inter-agency programming, including with a subregional focus, and capacity building on priority issues. These respond to the priorities identified in the United Nations Sustainable Development Frameworks (UNSDCFs) of the region and to the orientations provided by Resident Coordinators during their engagement with the RCP LAC in 2021.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

22. All UNSDCFs in the region prioritize the issues of climate change and resilience. Within this context, the IBC on Climate Change and Resilience developed position papers proposing different approaches to a sustainable, resilient and green COVID-19 recovery that included guidelines on climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), education, and wildfires. The IBC finalized analysis of policy coherence between DRR, Climate Change Adaption and Sustainable Development, which is available for 10 Caribbean countries. It facilitated common UN messages and inter-agency collaboration for key regional events (Forum of Ministers of Environment, Climate Week, VII Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas and the Caribbean, 11th CARICOM-United Nations General Meeting; and the High-level Climate Change and Gender Dialogue).

23. UNDP, UNOPS, FAO, UNEP and UNESCO finalized the implementation of the ten-year Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems ([CLME+ region](#)). The initiative facilitated an ecosystem-based management approach, involving multiple partners, including national governments; subregional inter-governmental technical organizations; national and regional private sector companies and associations; national and regional academia and research institutes; media; multi and bilateral organizations providing technical and funding support; development banks; national and regional civil society organizations, and gender groups. For the continuity of the project, the CLME+ region established an institutional coordination mechanism, including the participation of the five entities involved in the programme and ECLAC.

24. UN-REDD, a joint endeavour between FAO, UNDP, and UNEP, supported carbon market readiness through technical assistance for the land-use and forestry sectors in six countries (Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru). As a result, technical and institutional capacities in these countries were reinforced to facilitate access to climate finance.

25. To facilitate access to key information regarding the implementation of NDCs in Latin America, the Climate Promise, led by UNDP in collaboration with ECLAC, EUROCLIMA +, the Inter-American Development Bank, the German Agency for International Cooperation, Avina Foundation and the Latin American Regional Platform on Low-Emission Development Strategies, developed a [digital tool](#) that provides information on 33 countries in the region. It helps to identify challenges and opportunities when responding to the climate crisis and to support progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. As a result, a total of 11 countries received gender technical support to develop gender-sensitive analysis relevant to climate change, update their NDCs, and strengthen their capacities. The World Meteorological Organization launched jointly with ECLAC the State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 Report, calling for the international community to urgently prioritize the financing of climate adaptation measures.

26. UNEP and ECLAC organized two subregional high-level presentation and training workshops on SDG indicator 12.c.1 to address the scale and impact of fossil fuel subsidies. Both events were attended by high-level representatives of governments in the region. It provided experts and

technicians working in the field of fiscal policy and statistical capacity with knowledge to report progress against this indicator.

27. Additionally, in the framework of COP26 in Glasgow, ECLAC and UNEP organized jointly with AECID, AFD, Expertise France, FIIAPP and GIZ the event "[Empowering for Climate Action: visions and lessons learned](#)". This event highlighted regional actions for climate including the key role of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement), the first ever regional treaty of its kind, which entered into force on 22 April 2021.
28. UNEP and PAHO developed a module on human rights, health and the environment that addresses the impact of climate change and pollution on human rights and strengthens the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The module provided support to ten countries in the region in developing new regulations, building capacity, and raising awareness.
29. Regarding disaster risk management and assessments, joint inter-agency efforts took place in the Dominican Republic, where [a recovery needs assessment for the social and economic impacts of COVID-19](#) was conducted. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Haiti, post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs) were conducted after the La Soufrière Volcano eruptions and the 14 August earthquake by the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, and UNDP serving as the technical secretariat. A Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) coordinated by ECLAC in Guyana assessed the impacts of the May-June 2021 floods. The joint publication by ECLAC and UNDRR, '[The coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic: an opportunity for a systemic approach to disaster risk for the Caribbean](#)' provided policy recommendations that underscore the need for disaster risk management practices to be incorporated into national planning to guarantee a comprehensive response to disasters.
30. UNDP and UNDRR continued implementing a risk informed and integrated approach to sustainable development and the Sendai Framework for DRR through active engagement in the Disaster-Related Statistics Working Group of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. They supported the development of NAPs and provided training for the integration of DRR and climate change adaptation in common country analyses (CCAs) and United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks (CFs).

CRIME AND VIOLENCE

31. The UNDCFs of the region prioritize the issues of violence and crime prevention and response. All UNSDCFs place particular emphasis on elimination of violence against women and girls, and on gender-based violence. In this context, the IBC on Crime and Violence coordinated a coherent and people-centered approach to address the various forms of violence and crime affecting the region. To capture and disseminate the knowledge produced by its members, it compiled 395 inter-agency publications organized by thematic category and scope.
32. The UNDS continued implementing the Latin America Regional Programme of the Spotlight Initiative. Based on a partnership with the European Union, the programme has a special focus on Central America and Mexico due to the prevalence of femicide with unique aggravating factors such as migration in unsafe conditions, organized crime, and disappearances. UNDP, UNFPA, and UN-Women collaborated with regional and subregional partners, governments, and civil society to advance the implementation of the programme. To strengthen essential services to survivors of violence, data on shelters in Latin America were produced in partnership with the Inter-American Network of Refugees, and procedures for guidance on women's shelters management were developed. In the Caribbean, the focus of the programme is on eradicating

family violence, and in the regional component, UNDP, UNICEF and other UN entities work on enhancing existing policies and programmes, replicate, and share good practices to sustainably address the challenges women and girls encounter in navigating national systems.

33. The programme also compiled and disseminated recommendations for the application of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women in the context of COVID-19 in collaboration with the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries (AIAMP) and EUROsociAL+. Guidance for the investigations of femicides/feminicides in the context of organized crime was developed together with UNDP and AIAMP and adopted by the later. ECLAC, collaborated with UNDP and the Latin American Council of Social Sciences, to develop a [Course on the measurement of gender-based violence and femicide-feminicide](#), which highlighted the importance of quality information on violence against women, improved interoperability between institutions responsible for its measurement, and ensured comparability between countries. An important result protecting human rights' defenders was reached with the finalization of the La Esperanza Protocol developed by the Center for Justice and International Rights with the support of the United Nations, which includes a gender perspective and a specialized analysis of threats suffered by women human rights' defenders. The programme also dedicated a portion of its resources to strengthening civil society organizations' capacities in selected countries.

EQUITABLE GROWTH

34. The UNSDCFs of the region prioritize increased access and quality of social services, especially for the most vulnerable and discriminated populations. The expansion and sustainability of social protection systems, including care systems, is prominently featured, as well as the need to address labor informality and promote labor inclusion and decent work, especially for women and youth. Throughout 2021, RCs indicated particular interest in regional level support on social protection, addressing labor informality and promoting decent work, as well as inclusion of a strong Leaving No One Behind Approach in UN-supported policy and programmatic work. In this context, the IBC on Equitable Growth supported regional initiatives by organizing several policy-oriented webinars. Topics covered in the webinars included: employment (led by ILO with ECLAC and UNDP); decent work and productivity (led by ILO with ECLAC and UNDP) and fiscal policy challenges for sustainable development (led by ECLAC with UNDP).
35. The joint publication '[Employment situation of Latin America and the Caribbean. Policies to protect labour relations and hiring subsidies amid the COVID-19 pandemic](#)', prepared by ECLAC and ILO, presents statistics and analysis of the main labour market indicators and trends in the region. The report's recommendations highlight the importance of policies to boost employment that achieve new job creation while avoiding the destruction of existing sources of employment. Another joint publication by both entities '[Employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Decent work for platform workers in Latin America](#)' stresses the need for the inclusive use of new technologies to generate jobs and shares considerations for the design of appropriate regulatory frameworks for digital platform workers in the region. Both publications have been downloaded 53,653 times from ECLAC website and the reports' recommendations have been disseminated in seminars, intergovernmental events, and [specific project websites](#).
36. The UNDS also provided policy support and facilitated intergovernmental spaces for peer-to-peer learning to strengthen social protection systems. The [fourth session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC](#) was held together with the XIII Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP in October 2021. There, the document '[Disasters and inequality in a protracted crisis: towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)' was welcomed by Member States in the adopted [resolution](#). The document highlights

the importance of linking social protection and disaster risk management systems to achieve greater social and institutional resilience.

37. In response to the situation of women and youth, the UNDS launched the Regional Initiative on Social Protection and Gender. The initiative was aimed at advancing the development of social protection systems with a gender perspective to guarantee access to services and income security. Under this framework, 'Clinics to advance towards comprehensive care systems' were organized by UNDP, ILO and UN-Women. The different sessions were aimed at 45 civil servants from 9 countries in the region. The six sessions shared national and local experiences to provide practical notions and covered key topics to advance the care agenda in the region. UNDP and UNICEF also launched the policy paper '[The invisible COVID-19 graveyard: intergenerational losses for the poorest young people and actions to address a human development pandemic](#)', drawing urgent attention to critical aspects of the current situation regarding children an early age and young people.
38. Addressing the needs of subregions, UN-Habitat, ILO and FAO, in partnership with the Secretariat of Central American Social Integration (SISCA) and EUROsocial, launched the [Plan for the recovery, social reconstruction and resilience of Central America and the Dominican Republic](#), which established a road map for recovery, reconstruction and resilience, and proposes a series of projects and interventions around three main areas: social protection, job generation, and informal settlements and sustainable urban development. This initiative has facilitated subregional synergies and efficiencies across humanitarian and development interventions.

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

39. The UNSDCFs of the region prioritize governance with different levels of emphasis on, for example, support to effective public institutions, capacity development on SDG data and statistics, access to justice, corruption and transparency, social dialogue and participation, and political participation of marginalized/excluded groups. In this context, the IBC on Governance and Institutions increased knowledge and awareness and facilitated the dialogue on anticorruption and fair public management within the UNDS and with external stakeholders. This was achieved through briefings to RCs on the results of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly against corruption and its pertaining political declaration, and discussions on regional challenges and opportunities for advancing this critical agenda. The group also developed a joint communication campaign on the importance of practices related to the fight against corruption and fair public management and provided UNCTs with a set of shared messages vetted and backed by the wider United Nations system that reached over 4.5 million persons in 22 different countries. The IBC also organized a dialogue with both United Nations staff and external partners on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and promote fair public management.
40. In response to a request made by the DSRSG/RC/HC of Haiti on behalf of the UNCT, UNDP, UNODC and UNOPS in the IBC on Governance and Institutions provided technical support to advance the work on anti-corruption. This included a mission of senior United Nations officials and technical experts from three agencies, which assessed the situation of corruption in the country and led to the development of a joint United Nations strategy. As a key result, the Government of Haiti signed an agreement to tackle corruption through the implementation of a joint programme – engaging OHCHR, UNDP, UNODC and UNOPs – to be funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. One of the main objectives of the programme is to support civil society organizations on strengthening trust in institutions and protecting human rights.
41. Capacity-building efforts were complemented by UNODC, UNDP and OHCHR. Trainings, reaching more than 1,200 participants, addressed the poor availability and quality of statistical information

on SDG 16 in the region to strengthen the technical capacities of stakeholders to generate, analyze and disseminate SDG 16 indicators. This also served to promote a “data community” among data producers and users, facilitating the exchange of experiences and challenges.

42. UNDP and OHCHR continued their collaboration to mainstream human rights in the private sector and prevent business-related human rights abuses. They promoted the application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the [VI Forum on Business and Human Rights in the region](#), an event organized as part of the Joint Project on [Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) implemented by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with support from the European Union.

HUMAN MOBILITY

43. In a regional context facing increased mobility flows, migrants, refugees and persons in need of international protection are population groups prioritized in most UNSDCFs in the region. Throughout 2021, RCs indicated particular interest in regional level support on socio-economic inclusion of migrants and refugees, forward-looking inter-agency analysis on human mobility trends for Central America, development of common messages and coordinated communications on issues related to migrants, refugees and returnees (in the case of Central America), and regional level engagement in existing inter-governmental mechanisms to support common positions on the issue of human mobility among LAC countries.
44. In this context, the IBC on Human Mobility prepared the Regional Review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Latin America and the Caribbean under the leadership of ECLAC and IOM and the support of ILO, UNDP and UNHCR in the preparatory process. This process provided governments and other stakeholders an opportunity to conduct an assessment of progress made in implementing the GCM, while highlighting challenges and opportunities, identifying gaps and best practices, and regional priorities and resource requirements. Key findings and recommendations²⁹ were also formulated to inform the 2022 International Migration Review Forum. This was considered the widest and most ambitious regional preparatory process to review progress in the implementation of the GCM.
45. The IBC on Human Mobility provided advocacy support to RCs and UNCTs on a wide range of issues, including the protection of rights, access to basic services, the situation of children, COVID-19, misinformation, xenophobia, temporary protection mechanisms, return and sustainable reintegration. The IBC is preparing periodic analysis to share with RCs/UNCTs on human mobility trends in Central America and is developing a rapid assessment of priority needs of migrants and refugees in Central America to better inform inter-agency advocacy, planning and programming in support of the countries of the sub-region. The IBC also provided a coordinated response to the demand for support of the Government of Colombia, channeled through the UN Resident Coordinator in Colombia, in the framework of the Ministerial Conference on Migration held in Bogota, Colombia, in October 2021.
46. [The Comprehensive Development Plan \(CDP\) for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and south-southeast Mexico](#), requested by the countries’ Presidents to ECLAC, aims to ensure that migration from Northern Central America and south-southeast Mexico is safe, orderly, and regular. It aims at strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus tackling migration’s structural causes

29 https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47423/S2100311_en.pdf.

Full report will be available at: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/latin-america-caribbean>.

bringing together medium and long-term sustainable development perspectives along with more short-term humanitarian ones. It comprises a diagnostic analysis of the four countries' development challenges in light of the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and puts forward over 100 costed project proposals to be implemented over five years across four pillars of interventions: economic development; social well-being; environmental sustainability, climate change, and disaster risk reduction; and comprehensive management of the migration cycle. Under the coordination of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, the plan includes the inputs of 20 United Nations entities, DCO, RCs and the UNCTs of the countries involved. The CDP has been approved by the UN Executive Committee on 15 April 2021 as the innovative UN System-wide strategy and cooperation platform for addressing the structural causes of migration and forced displacement with a medium and short-term vision. It was officially launched in September 2021 and a [website](#) was created that includes an open-source georeferenced platform. Since then, ECLAC has been working closely with the respective governments to identify priority projects to be implemented and with the four Resident Coordinators and the related UNCTs to devise the implementation strategy of the CDP ensuring synergies with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (CFs).

47. Central American displacement was also addressed with a toolkit launched by UNDP and UNHCR, '[Facing the Challenges of Forced Displacement in Central America and Mexico. Regional Local Governance Framework 2021-2026](#)'. It promotes practical approaches that put into action local initiatives in the context of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework. The toolkit was built around four pillars: mainstreaming forced displacement into local development planning; protection and access to essential services; rule of law and e-governance; and socioeconomic integration and social cohesion. As a result of the collaboration between UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, and ILO, Member States approved the '[Operational Guide for Applying the Best Interest of the Child and Adolescents in Context of Human Mobility](#)' at the Regional Conference on Migration.
48. In support of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, [the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela](#), co-led by UNHCR and IOM, coordinated the response to the movement of refugees and migrants from Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) to 17 countries in the region. WFP, UNICEF and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth also launched the study '[Social protection and Venezuelan migration in the context of COVID-19](#)' to provide an understanding of the legal and operational barriers faced by those migrants to access emergency programmes and social protection in nine countries.
49. Other inter-agency initiatives that seek to reduce the vulnerability of Venezuelan migrants and refugees and increase the resilience of host communities include: 'Inclusive Cities, Solidarity Communities', led by UNHCR, IOM, UN-Habitat and the European Union in nine pilot cities and six countries. The project aimed to implement innovative actions that incorporate protection of refugees and migrants, in terms of medium- and long-term socioeconomic integration, migratory governance, and inclusive, sustainable urban development. The initiative offers a new way to prevent xenophobia by promoting area-based integration plans that benefit both migrants and hosting communities. Also implemented in 2021 was the UNDP/ILO 'Migration from Venezuela: opportunities for Latin-American and the Caribbean: Regional socio-economic integration strategy', which promotes inclusive economic growth and social development for Venezuelan migrants and their host communities within a national and regional approaches. With joint advocacy from UNAIDS and PAHO, HIV and AIDS have been included in the Declaration of the Quito Process of May 2021, which commits countries to expanding HIV responses to Venezuelan migrants and refugees.
50. Finally, UNESCO and UNICEF launched the initiative 'Towards a Regional Monitoring Framework for Students on the move'. It aims to strengthen the capacities of national education systems in planning and monitoring the situation of people on the move with educational needs in 22

countries. This will help ministries of education generate and monitor comparable and high-quality data, develop regional monitoring mechanisms, and establish educational interventions for populations on the move.

GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

51. In addition to the previously reported initiatives regarding the cross-cutting theme of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in the context of the IBC on Equitable Growth, UNDP and UN-Women issued the paper '[The impacts of COVID-19 on women's economic autonomy in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)' in a [webinar](#) held in March 2021, which recording received more than 8,000 visits. This document analyzes actions taken by governments in the region to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic and assesses the extent to which they recognize, make visible and focus on the impacts of the crisis on the lives of girls and women.
52. ECLAC and UN-Women issued two joint policy documents: '[Measures and actions promoted by the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean against COVID-19 in key areas for the autonomy of women and gender equality](#)' and '[Towards the construction of Comprehensive Care Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. Elements for Implementation](#)'. Both organizations also developed '[the Methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)' with the Mexico National Institute of Statistics and Geography, which systematizes experiences in the measurement of time-use and develops guidelines for conducting surveys. Other joint policy recommendations and updated data and statistics about the situation of women's autonomy in the region were produced by the UNDS with the support of strategic partners and are included in the [ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean](#).
53. In the area of health, PAHO, UNFPA and UNICEF co-organized Regional Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Weeks to serve as a platform for advocacy and mobilization of political commitment and investment in this issue. The 2021 commemoration focused on pregnancies in girls under 15 years old, and included events such as the implementation of a regional assessment on early pregnancy, a social media campaign, webinars, and a youth forum. Activities were implemented in collaboration with CARICOM, the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America, and the Andean Health Organization.
54. The initiative 'Every Woman Every Child Latin America and the Caribbean', implemented by UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women, WHO, UNAIDS and the World Bank Group, advocated for the continuity in the provision of essential sexual, reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health services for the population in the context of COVID-19, and provided guidance to monitor maternal health indicators in pregnant women and social inequalities during the pandemic. Major achievements included, defining the methodology to establish SDG 3 targets and reduce inequalities; and updating the [country inequality profile dashboards](#). A series of webinars were also organized, including one on the "[Impact of the pandemic on social inequalities and the promise of 'leaving no one behind'](#)", and another to strengthen the analytical capacities at national and subnational levels in the [analysis of social inequalities in the health of women, children and adolescents](#).
55. In 2021, the Joint Programme 'For a Region Free of Child Marriage and Early Unions: 2018-2022', implemented by UNICEF, UN-Women and UNFPA, contributed to strengthening the regional multi-stakeholder platform "Together for action: girls and youth free from child marriage and early unions" by promoting policies to prevent gender-based violence and protect children, incorporating SDG indicator 5.3 in [ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean](#), and publishing the paper '[Child, early and forced marriages and unions: harmful practices that deepen gender inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)'.

YOUTH

56. To address the cross-cutting theme of youth, the UNDS focused on outreach and education to ensure that young people have the knowledge, capacity and access to participate in the achievement of the SDGs. Exemplifying this work were the MOOC on youth and global citizenship and the launch on International Youth Day of the joint publication '[Latin American and Caribbean Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: an examination from within the United Nations system](#)'. The document reviews the progress towards the achievement of a selection of SDGs as they affect the young population and defines lines for future action to promote resilient, sustainable, and inclusive development.
57. ECLAC, UNICEF and UNESCO jointly organized with different regional youth organizations the [Latin American and Caribbean Regional Table: Children, Adolescents and Youth Engagement for a Sustainable Recovery](#) that took place at the tenth anniversary of the ECOSOC Youth Forum. The event enabled to identify critical challenges and opportunities for regional youth for the success of the 2030 Agenda in a context of COVID-19 and elaborate a set of recommendations for UN Member States within the framework of the HLPF process. ECLAC and UNICEF also launched an issue of their "Challenges newsletter" on '[The COVID-19 pandemic: the right to education of children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)', which explores the challenges and the opportunities for secondary education during and after the pandemic.

FOOD SYSTEMS

58. In preparing for the United Nations Food Systems Summit, meetings and consultations were promoted to overcome challenges and deliver healthier, more sustainable, and inclusive food systems to advance the implementation of all SDGs in the region. Regular meetings and thematic webinars were led by FAO, IFAD and WFP to promote dialogue and knowledge exchange in topics of relevance for the region. Through this joint effort, 16 LAC countries conducted 123 member states dialogues and 111 independent dialogues before the Food Systems Summit. Fourteen LAC governments published their national pathways for sustainable food systems. ECLAC and FAO collaborated with IFAD, ILO, UNESCO, WFP, UNDP and UNEP to organize two multi-stakeholder regional policy dialogues – one of which was in the framework of the Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. This effort resulted in a declaration for the transformation of food systems to be more sustainable, inclusive and resilient.
59. Multiple evidence-based approaches were developed to support policy makers. The joint publication '[Latin America and the Caribbean – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021: Statistics and trends](#)' by FAO, WFP, PAHO, IFAD and UNICEF revealed that the region is regressing in its fight against hunger and malnutrition, returning to levels reached 15 years ago. Another publication, '[The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: a look at Latin America and the Caribbean 2021-2022](#)' by ECLAC, FAO and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture highlights opportunities to reconstruct and transform the current development model, underlining necessary adjustments to agri-food systems and the need to strengthen resilience to future risks. ECLAC and FAO also prepared two joint bulletins, one on '[Food systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean n°18: Digitalising agriculture for an inclusive transformation of rural societies](#)', which stresses the need to improve state policies regarding agriculture to ensure that the benefits of digitalisation reach everyone, particularly smaller producers and traders and those living in isolated rural areas. The other is on '[Food systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean N° 17. Recovery with transformation: a mid-term overview](#)', which provides a preliminary overview of the effects of the current crisis on the regional

agri-food system and offers solutions to recover and transform agri-food systems to improve social and economic conditions of people living in the region.

60. To address food insecurity in the region, the 'Anticipatory Action in the Central American Dry Corridor: A Joint FAO-WFP Strategy' aims at increasing resilience in vulnerable populations in the Dry Corridor against disasters and crises that impact food and nutrition security. WFP engaged in partnership strengthening to achieve more coordinated and effective responses during the COVID-19 emergency at the regional and country levels to support school feeding activities. The Regional Nutrition Group for Latin America and the Caribbean also coordinated the activities of its partners (FAO, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, WFP, IFRC, Action Against Hunger, and Save the Children) to promote healthy eating and the adequate nutritional status for the most vulnerable population groups.

ii. Additional support to United Nations country teams and Resident Coordinators through the Peer Review Group and other inter-agency initiatives

61. In addition to the support provided through the Issue-Based Coalition, the UNDS continued its support to UNCTs, RCs, and Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) through the Peer Support Group (PSG), chaired by DCO and includes 30 United Nations entities, to deliver guidance and quality assurance support on the various stages of designing CCAs and CFs. In 2021, the group reviewed four CFs: El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, and the Caribbean Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDCF), which encompass 22 countries and territories, ensuring that all CFs meet global quality criteria. PSG members facilitated online workshops and consultations between governments, UNCTs and other stakeholders throughout the various stages of developing CFs, increasing the common understanding of the global guidance on CFs and contributing to generating agreements on common priorities. The PSG conducted regional and country trainings for eight countries designing their CFs in 2022 (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)). The PSG also supported CF evaluations and helped strengthen the theories of change and results frameworks of the CFs developed in 2021.

62. In support of RCOs' functions, the DCO regional team (DCO LAC) rolled out the first part of the induction of RCO economists with ECLAC and UNDP. Through its coordination of the RCO LAC economist network, DCO LAC also partnered with FAO, ILO, ITC, UNCTAD and UNWTO to connect RCOs with system-wide expertise on a wide range of topics. It also organized the first induction of RCO partnership officers with UNICEF and UNHCR. As part of a joint initiative, DCO LAC, UNDP, DPPA and OHCHR organized training on strategic foresight and integrated analysis for RCOs.

63. In 2021, ECLAC has continued to organize monthly sessions of the [Community of Practice on the Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\) of the countries from Latin America and the Caribbean](#) with the support and participation from Resident Coordinator Offices in the region. The Community of Practice is a regional platform for peer-to-peer learning, collaboration and exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices regarding the VNR processes.

iii. Engagement with key regional stakeholders

64. The United Nations has engaged with a series of key stakeholders at the regional level to better support Member States in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition to initiatives already mentioned in other sections, the following merit mention:

65. The [Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development](#), under the chairpersonship of Costa Rica and convened under the auspices of ECLAC, provided a space for countries and other stakeholders in the region to reaffirm

their commitment to unity, cooperation, multilateralism and to a transformative recovery – key requisites for implementing the 2030 Agenda. All Member States in the region and associate members of ECLAC, as well as 21 United Nations entities, RCs, 24 intergovernmental organizations, 21 financial institutions,¹¹⁸ representatives from the academic sector, 38 from the private sector, and more than 440 civil society, parliamentarians and local authorities were present. A total of 9,608 people connected to the event. At the end of the Forum, delegates approved a document with 94 [conclusions and recommendations](#) that contributed to the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

66. ECLAC, jointly with UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Women and UN-Habitat, activated several of its existing subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental meetings for which the Regional Commission acts as secretariat. These included the Regional Conference on Women, the Regional Conference on Social Development, the Regional Conference on Population and Development, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to convene all stakeholders in the region to discuss challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and how to build forward better. These conferences served as regional platforms to enable policy dialogue, peer learning, exchange of experience, and multi-stakeholder engagement to reflect on the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in synergy with regional agendas, such as the [Regional Gender Agenda](#) and the [Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development](#), during the crisis.
67. The VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP21), held in November 2021 raised awareness of the increasing economic and human cost of disasters in the region, underlining the special challenges faced by SIDS. The RP21, chaired by Jamaica, and co-organized with UNDRR and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, culminated with the [Ministerial Declaration](#) and the agreement of the [Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). The United Nations³⁰ participated and led several sessions, contributing to the success of the event.
68. Under the coordination of the Americas Division of DPPA, the United Nations also joined efforts with the Caribbean during the 11th CARICOM-United Nations General Meeting. About 120 representatives from CARICOM and the United Nations joined the virtual meeting and held dialogues on enhancing economic recovery; promoting social resilience; advancing citizen wellbeing; promoting green recovery and building environmental resilience; and safer societies and good governance. One key outcome was the decision to conduct inter-sessional meetings to further enhance collaboration.
69. As Latin America and the Caribbean is the most urbanized region of the developing regions, the situation of those living in urban areas has been another area of focus. [The Urban and Cities Platform of Latin America and the Caribbean](#) compiles urban information and indicators, news and knowledge about policies, frameworks, mechanisms, and good practices that support countries and cities in implementing the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat and ECLAC, in partnership with EUROsocial, SISCA and Cities Alliance, prepared the 'Regional Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Central America and the Dominican Republic', which helps align and build economies of scale around specific urban and housing solutions, including financing mechanisms for implementation.
70. Certain groups such as those living with HIV/AIDS have also received specific attention. Through the [Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate all Forms of HIV related Stigma and Discrimination](#), the UNDS, led by UNAIDS, UN-Women, UNDP and the Global Network of People Living with HIV,

30 ECLAC, FAO, OCHA, IOM, PAHO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS and WMO.

and RedTraSex, supported four countries in taking action to eliminate stigma and discrimination in health, education, labour, community, justice and humanitarian settings. Another related inter-agency initiative was led by UNAIDS, with support from UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO and PAHO/WHO, to assist community-led projects targeting people living with or affected by HIV and COVID-19. The initiative includes the implementation of 61 projects in 19 countries, demonstrating how small catalytic funds can make a difference and bring a positive impact for entire communities in moments of extreme vulnerability and exacerbated inequalities. UNAIDS and UNOPS delivered capacity building training on HIV and prevention of sexually transmitted infections as part of programmatic initiatives supporting procurement and infrastructure in Argentina, Brazil, and Guatemala.

71. Other multi-stakeholder inter-agency initiatives included the Network of IntegrHabitat Centers, led by UN-Habitat, IOM and UNHCR. This platform helps establish community centers to provide assistance and orientation and facilitate socioeconomic integration for vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees, and hosting communities in selected cities in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.
72. The 'Action Plan 2021 of the Horizontal Technical Cooperation Group', an initiative that provides technical coordination and cooperation in 20 countries of Latin America, is composed by national AIDS programmes authorities, regional networks of persons living with HIV, key populations, civil society organizations, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the US Agency for International Development, UNAIDS and PAHO. With involvement of UNHCR and IOM, the Group developed a joint communication strategy and a South-to-South Cooperation Plan to deal with the commitments included in the Declaration of the Quito Process related to the health and rights of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. It also offered capacity building opportunities and special sessions to address the needs of people living with HIV in the pandemic, strengthening South-South cooperation, and aligning national HIV responses with WHO guidelines and the Global AIDS strategy.
73. UNEP and its partners (Green Growth Knowledge Platform, ILO, International Trade Union Confederation, One Planet Network, SEED, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, UNDP, and the World Economic Forum) continued implementation of the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs). The initiative accelerates the shift to more inclusive green economies and sustainable production and consumption patterns by strengthening public and private sector capacities to deliver on the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Through GO4SDGs, the United Nations has scaled up capacity development and expanded the knowledge and use of the '[Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspot Analysis Tool](#)'. Regional workshops were organized in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and Africa, with the support of the Lifecycle Initiative and the Vienna University, and participants from diverse backgrounds, including representatives from 19 countries, research institutes, private sectors and UNCTs were trained. GO4SDGs has also brought together the African Circular Economy Alliance and the Circular Economy Coalition of Latin America and the Caribbean and organized the first inter-regional dialogue to strengthen cooperation between the two regions.

The background is a solid green color. Overlaid on this are several thin white circles of varying sizes that overlap each other. At the points where these circles intersect, there are small, solid-colored dots. The dots are colored blue, orange, pink, and blue. The text 'V. A WAY FORWARD' is positioned on the left side of the image, in a white, sans-serif font. The 'V.' is on the top line, 'A WAY' is on the second line, and 'FORWARD' is on the third line.

V.
A WAY
FORWARD

74. While the region's current context presents challenges, it also offers a tremendous opportunity for Member States to ensure that past progress toward achieving the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda was not in vain, and to continue to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. Now in its second year, the RCP LAC is well positioned to provide regional support to RCs and UNCTs across the region and effectively assist Member States address the immediate socioeconomic fallout from the pandemic and tackle longstanding structural inequalities. To this end, the RCP LAC counts on the substantive support of its IBCs and two thematic working groups, as well as its operational groups. In 2022, the IBCs and thematic working groups will accelerate efforts to provide greater support to RCs and UNCTs by offering a menu of services focused on institutional capacity development, comparative policy analysis and integrated policy advice, joint advocacy and communication, and support to inter-governmental processes, to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. The RCP LAC will continue to promote the development of subregional strategies, facilitate joint actions, and foster regional coherence in tackling shared challenges.
75. The RCP LAC has identified priorities for 2022 to assist RCs and UNCTs to support Member States in implementing transformative policy and programming actions that drive a sustainable COVID-19 recovery and longer-term development. This includes support to strengthening health systems, fostering the development of sustainable social protection systems, reducing educational inequities, and tackling the longstanding challenge of labour informality in the region. Central to these efforts will be to target weaknesses of current economic models around connectivity, energy use and food systems. As the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on certain groups, the RCP LAC sees an opportunity to systematize regional, subregional, and national support to these populations and ensure that inequities are not further exacerbated.
76. The RCP LAC will continue to be at the forefront to deliver high-quality policy advice that supports governments in their recovery efforts and lays the ground for the transition to an equitable and sustainable economic model. The RCP LAC will support regional efforts to assess the collective progress towards the long-term climate goal, including by following up on the recent outcomes of the COP26 in Glasgow and its implications for the region. Furthermore, the RCP LAC underlines that the shortcomings of governance systems in the region have been laid bare by the pandemic, requiring a rethinking of existing governance models. The RCP LAC will also leverage the expertise of the newly created IBC on financing for development to identify actionable policy measures that will offer practical policy proposals for UNCTs to support SDG financing efforts at the country level.

ANNEX I

Membership of issue-based coalitions and inter-agency working groups

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Issue-based Coalitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate Change and Resilience ● Crime and Violence ● Equitable Growth ● Financing for Development ● Governance and Institutions ● Human Mobility | <p>Thematic Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girl ● Youth | <p>Programmatic and Operational Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knowledge Management Hub Steering Committee ● Partnerships and Communication Working Group ● Peer Support ● Group Regional Operations Management Team ● SDG Data and Statistics Group |
|--|---|---|

RCP LAC members

 <p>UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION OFFICE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</p>	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●
 <p>DPA Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace</p>	●	● ●
 <p>ECLAC</p>	● ○ ○ ● ○	● ○ ● ● ● ●
 <p>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</p>	● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●
 <p>IFAD Investing in rural people</p>		● ●
 <p>International Labour Organization</p>	● ● ○ ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ●
 <p>IOM UN MIGRATION</p>	● ● ● ○ ●	● ● ●
 <p>OCHA</p>	● ● ●	● ● ● ●
 <p>UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER</p>	● ● ●	● ● ●
 <p>Pan American Health Organization</p>	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●
 <p>World Health Organization</p>		
 <p>UNAIDS</p>	● ● ● ●	● ● ●
 <p>UN DESA</p>		●
 <p>UNDP</p>	● ● ○ ● ○ ● ● ○	○ ○ ● ○ ●

 UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
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