



## Latin America faces an uneven recovery after COVID-19

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Although Latin America and the Caribbean made some progress on different gaps related to inequality, the results of the High Frequency Monitoring Surveys show that it has not been enough.

The effect caused by COVID-19 in Latin America has been devastating; however, people in Latin America work hard to gradually go back to the normality we were used to live in before the pandemic.

Nevertheless, indicators such as employment, food, or education are still paying for the consequences of the pandemic.

### Unemployment in Latin America might be related to gender



The probabilities of quitting due to the pandemic were two times more likely to happen in women than in men, and besides that, women are still expected to perform the heavy activities at home that societies tend to assign to women.

#### What do the series of

#### High Frequency Monitoring Surveys consist of?

The series of High Frequency Monitoring Surveys, whose second stage was implemented this year in 24 countries in this region, allow us to have an accurate idea of the welfare levels in families, as well as their perceptions about the crisis.

### The results in Latin America

In accordance with the series of High Frequency Monitoring Surveys performed by the World Bank (WB) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), at least half of families in the region has not been able to get similar incomes to the ones they used to have before the COVID-19 pandemic. All this, despite the multiple support and economic resources delivered by governments and non-governmental bodies.

In labor matters, even when many countries included in the survey had a small recovery in that topic, the real thing is that the rates of employment are under the levels before the pandemic. Particularly, in issues related to the quality and quantity of the number of hours people work, and the number of hours that are being paid.

### The labor sector in numbers

According to the study, women were affected the most as their expectations were suddenly deleted, since the effects of the pandemic in labor matters were doubled for women. Women have also lost more jobs compared to men, and their reinstatement has been really slow. Numbers are hard to swallow, as the probabilities for women to quit their jobs due to the pandemic are two times higher for them than for men, and on top of that, women have to perform multiple chores at home as they are usually responsible for that.

However, in countries in Central America like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, the employment rate is much higher.

Additionally, at least 28% of people who had a job before the pandemic lost it, and more than half could not keep on working. That phenomena revealed that formal employment decreased 5.3%, while independent jobs increased by 5.7%.

Particularly the ones who have struggled the most to get reinstatements in labor matters are women, and after them we find young people, and people with low levels of education.

In labor matters in general, the employment rate in Latin America is 62%, almost 11 points under the rate before the pandemic.

#### Datas collected by the High Frequency Monitoring Surveys are related to:

Characteristics of the respondents

Food security

Labor Market

Gender

General information about housing

Healthcare services

Educational services

### Access to services

In healthcare matters, despite the levels are quite similar to the ones we had before the pandemic, vaccination processes and the time to perform those processes are constant concerns in that region, especially in the countries with low levels of education.

Children and teenagers receive education either online or in-person.

A decent and complete diet between the people was also a topic in the survey, and the total number of people being affected by food insecurity is 23.9% of Latin American families, which represents almost double of the number in the records in this issue before the pandemic.

The relevance of those studies relates to the possibility of becoming aware of the different options available to combat the gaps in inequality matters. In the face of that, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) has worked for more than 24 years to combat different deficiencies. Nowadays, through its Welfare Ecosystem Model and by having presence in different areas, it also performs different activities in order to allow disadvantaged families to improve their lives, and to reduce backwardness in their contexts by means of 11 networks and the variety of integral solutions available for them.

In educational issues, the survey showed that a year after the crisis started, 86% chil-

### Recovery is uneven

Latin America and the Caribbean have historically shown severe contrasts on inequality, and they are places where the access to opportunities is usually uneven. This fact, in the post-pandemic context, deteriorated

dramatically the conditions for vulnerable people and people in poverty.

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