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# Care Economy for sustainable economic development with gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

Strategic Alliance ECLAC-BMZ/GIZ

## Context

Various international crises are hindering efforts to reduce poverty and promote gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). These crises also pose significant obstacles to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), unpaid housework and caregiving responsibilities primarily prevent women from fully participating in the labor market. Women spend 22 to 42 hours per week—nearly three times more than men—on unpaid care work. Even when women take on additional paid employment, it is often insufficient to secure economic autonomy, as many work informally in domestic or caregiving roles.

The region thus faces a dual challenge: the demand for long-term care is rising due to an aging population, while childcare needs remain unmet. Comprehensive, context-specific care policies are needed to ensure fair working conditions and accessible care services.

## Objective and approach

Institutional capacities for the design and implementation of care systems and policies in LAC are strengthened.

Name of the project	Care Economy for sustainable economic development with gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean
Commissioning party	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Region	Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)
Implementing party	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Overall term	01.02.2024-31.03.2027

The project addresses three outputs:

- ECLAC provides technical support to LAC governments by offering approaches for designing and implementing care systems and policies with a gender-sensitive, intersectional, and territorial perspective. These approaches provided in, for example, ECLAC field missions for the intersectoral coordination of local and national actors, are compiled in a technical guide.
- The promotion of evidence-based knowledge includes exchanging best practices among experts in communities of practice focused on measuring care work and developing gender-sensitive statistics. Based on this, policy briefs are produced and will be made available to LAC governments to support the analysis and improvement of care system designs and policies.
- Sharing promising approaches in intra- and inter-regional dialogues for designing and implementing gender-sensitive care systems and policies. Stakeholders from Germany, Europe, and the LAC region are strengthening their

cooperation as they work toward the XVI Regional Conference on Women.

## A strategic partnership

Since 1980, the strategic alliance between the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has aimed to contribute to sustainable development by bridging social, economic, and environmental development gaps and promoting regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean. Over the years, both partners have intensified their efforts to achieve this shared goal, deepening their collaboration to a strategic alliance in 2003. The BMZ has commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with the implementation of Germany's contribution. Through the ECLAC-BMZ/GIZ cooperation program, numerous transformation processes have been supported and shaped. Since 2016, all activities have been aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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