



Regional Initiative
Latin America and the Caribbean
Free of Child Labour



International
Labour
Organization

Latin America and the Caribbean:
**Towards the
first generation
FREE OF CHILD LABOUR**

.....
An integrated and interdependent analysis of
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
in relation to target 8.7



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FUNDAMENTALS

Latin America and the Caribbean: towards the first generation free of child labour. An integrated and interdependent analysis of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to target 8.7 / International Labour Office, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FUNDAMENTALS); ILO DWT and Country Office for the Andean Countries. - Lima: ILO, 2017.

ISBN: 978-92-2-129108-4 (Web PDF)

International Labour Office. Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch; ILO DWT and Country Office for the Andean Countries

child labour / Caribbean / Latin America - 13.01.2

Also available in Spanish: *América Latina y el Caribe: hacia la primera generación libre de trabajo infantil. Una lectura integrada e interdependiente de la Agenda 2030 a la luz de la meta 8.7*, 978-92-2-331240-4 (Web PDF), Lima, 2016.

ILO Cataloguing in Publication Data

NOTE

This publication has been produced by CEPEI for the ILO, under the technical coordination of the Fundamentals team in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This publication was made possible through funding from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), through project RLA/14/04/SPA, the Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AACID), through project RLA/15/01/SPA and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), through project RLA/0953PBRA.

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Photocomposed by Angélica Mori, Lima, Peru.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED

COP21: 21st Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

ECLAC: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO: International Labour Organization

IOM: International Organization for Migration

IPEC: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour - ILO

MDG: Millennium Development Goals

MPI: Multidimensional Poverty Index

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

SDSN: Sustainable Development Solutions Network

UN: United Nations

UNAIDS: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

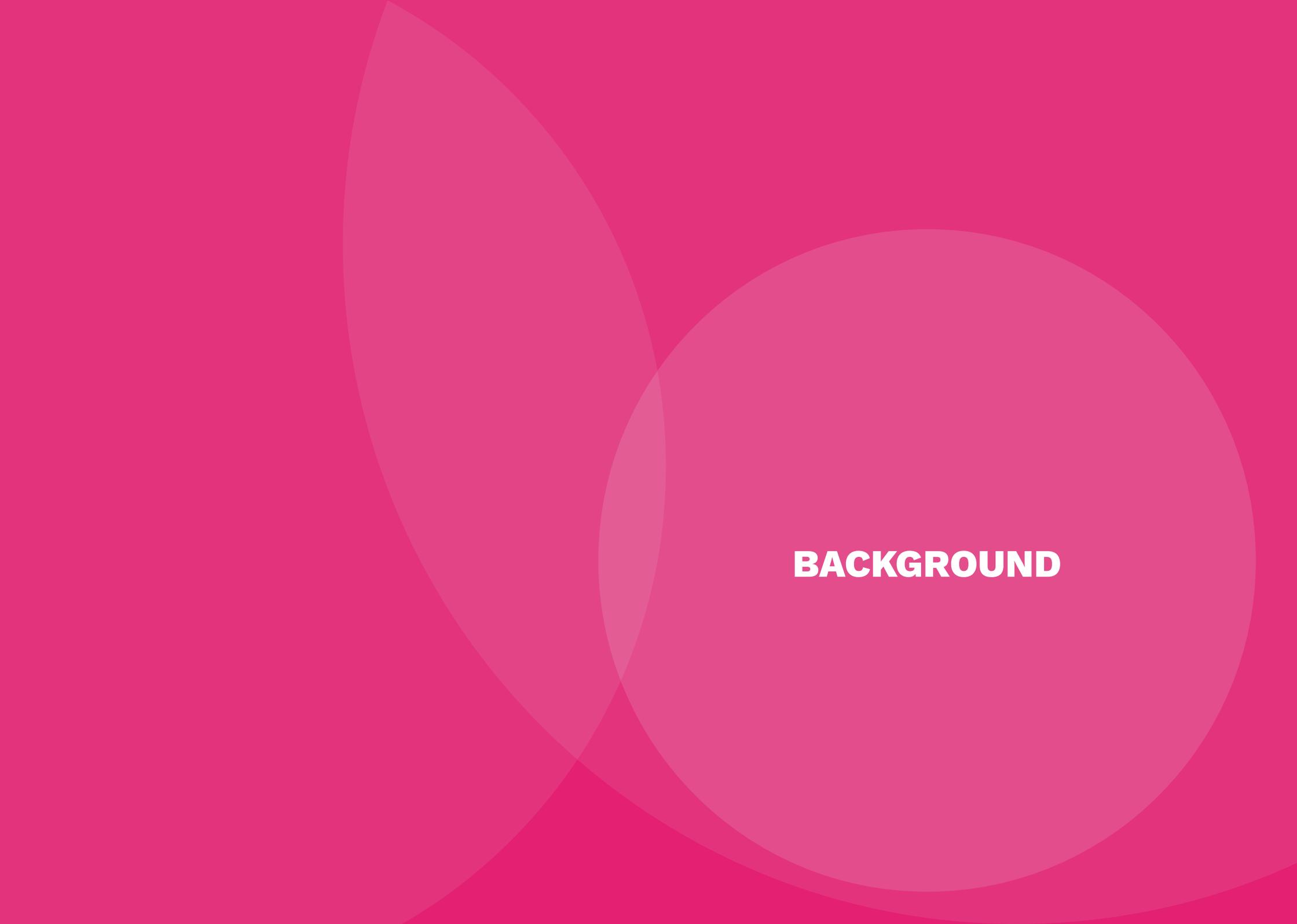
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

WB: World Bank

WFP: World Food Programme

WHO: World Health Organization



BACKGROUND

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been appointed by the Commonwealth of Nations as one of the key technical assistance agencies in advancing towards achieving the SDGs, the current guiding framework for development cooperation with the target year of 2030.

SDG 8, which aims at progress toward sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all and its related targets constitutes our core, but not only, commitment. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was created in recognition that it is not possible to operate in silos, rather it is necessary to establish an interdependent management plan with many correlations. Reaching the ultimate goal necessitates coordinated and harmonious cooperation.

Target 8.7 –which aims to “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”¹ is but one target in a whole series of commitments.

1 Please note that, throughout the document, the phrasing of goals and targets has been taken verbatim from <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

For the past 20 years, with the support of international cooperation, Latin America and Caribbean countries have advanced the elimination of child labour. ILO estimates indicate that there are 7.5 million fewer exploited children and adolescents in the region. However, these same estimates show a worrying stagnation in the pace of reduction. Based on this stagnation, achieving the targets related to elimination of child labour by 2025 would be unlikely.

In response to this, in 2013 a group of countries decided to create the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of child labour, an intergovernmental cooperation mechanism with active participation from employers and workers, whose purpose is to accelerate the prevention and eradication of child labour.²

In order to respond effectively to the demands of member countries, the ILO has developed a series of analyses of the current situation, and this is the first one. This will help reach the targets by promoting the cooperation necessary to advance towards the achievement of these goals and targets.

The fight against child labour and hazardous work in Latin America and the Caribbean is part of the ILO's three regional priorities. These priorities include policies for productive development, full employment and growth, promotion of ratification and respect for and application of international standards and labour legislation, including particularly the goal of eliminating child labour.

The countries in the region have ratified a relatively high number of ILO's Fundamental Conventions, including [Conventions 138 \(on the minimum age for admission to employment\)](#) and [182 \(on eliminating the worst forms of child labour\)](#).

The fundamental rights at work are a solid foundation for building equitable and just societies. Efforts to improve implementation and enforcement of ILO's Conventions in a region such as Latin America and the Caribbean, with particularly high rates of inequality, discrimination and exclusion, require the sustained action and momentum of a tripartite working platform.

² The countries originally involved in driving the Regional Initiative were Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay (October 2013). These were subsequently joined by the Bahamas, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela (October 2014). The latest to join were Haiti (July 2015), Grenada (April 2016) and Saint Lucia (October 2016), now bringing the total membership to 27 countries.

Both employers' and workers' organizations have played an important role in promoting the elimination of child labour and encouraging the adequate protection of permitted adolescent labour in the region. Labour inspection systems are also a key factor in ensuring protection.

The various countries of the region have very distinct and complex realities. In tackling these realities, the ILO's tripartite approach has the potential to play a decisive role in promoting a culture of responsibility through social dialogue.

In this regard, supporting and sustaining the development and enhancement of strong legal and policy frameworks together with robust public institutions and transparent accountability processes are instrumental and the basis for sustainable change. Without the active engagement of the relevant allies and social partners to enforce labour and human rights, the scope of the goals set in the 2030 Agenda is simply unattainable. Facilitating and technically supporting this process are at the heart of our mandate.

We invite you to join in this movement.

The analysis in this document is intended to serve as input to the integration process of a regional framework strategy to accelerate the rate of elimination of child labour and hazardous work in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Part 1 provides an updated description of child and adolescent labour, particularly the hazardous forms, through a review of its evolution since the first efforts to fight it were initiated in the region and in the world two decades ago.

Part 2 describes and analyzes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the consensual global framework that will guide the international cooperation agenda and the global, national and subnational development efforts in the next fifteen years.

Part 3 provides an analysis of the correlations and interdependencies of target 8.7 and the rest of the goals that make up the 2030 Agenda in terms of ending child labour in all its forms by 2025. In addition to the direct relationships with SDG 8 on sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth and decent work, this part analyzes linkages and interdependencies with other goals of the Agenda.

This document is in the spirit of the “no silos” principle with which the SDGs have been conceived. The principle points to the need to consider and link to the efforts of complementary actors and interests to produce a substantive and sustainable impact on the living conditions of the people. This is the ultimate goal and target of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. It aims to contribute to the debate and definition of policies, programmes and services that will allow decisive progress in achieving target 8.7.

Part 4 is the last part and provides a number of final points to consider as we continue to act on child labour, as well as inputs to broader debates that will trigger effective measures to make it possible to turn Latin America and the Caribbean into the first child-labour free developing region in the world.

PART 1

**CHILD LABOUR,
AN UPDATED
ANALYSIS FOR
LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

1.1

DESCRIPTION

According to ILO statistics and estimates, approximately 168 million children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 are at work worldwide. Of these, 100 million are boys. If gathered in one country, its population would be almost four times that of Argentina.³ For every child or adolescent aged 5 to 17 living in Mexico, there are approximately 6 children working worldwide.⁴

To understand what is meant by child labour it is appropriate to define the concept as ‘children in productive activities.’ These are children and adolescents engaged in any economic activity for at least one hour during the period under analysis.

“Economic activity” shall mean:

1. All market production and certain types of non-market production (principally the production of goods and services for own use). It includes forms of work in both the formal and informal economies; inside and outside family settings.
2. Part-time or full-time work for pay or profit in cash or in kind.
3. Domestic work outside the child’s own household for an employer, with or without pay.

³ According to official data, Argentina has a total population of 42,980,026 people. See: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL> (retrieved 27/10/2015).

⁴ According to figures from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Mexico), approximately 29 million children and adolescents aged 5-17 live in that country.

Child labour is a subcategory of economic activity, which includes:

- 1.** Children and adolescents engaged in productive activities who have not reached the minimum age for admission to employment established in the national legislation of each country in a manner consistent with international standards ([ILO Convention No. 138](#) and [ILO Recommendation No. 146](#)).
- 2.** Children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 engaged in hazardous activities as determined by the national legislation of each country in a manner consistent with international standards ([ILO Convention No. 182](#) and [ILO Recommendation No. 190](#)).
- 3.** Children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 victims of the worst forms of child labour, including slavery, trafficking in underage persons, debt bondage and other forms of forced labour such as forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflicts, commercial sexual exploitation and pornography and the use of underage persons to commit crimes ([ILO Convention No. 182](#) and [ILO Recommendation No. 190](#)).

The definition of child labour excludes:

- a. Children and adolescents in permitted light work.
- b. Adolescents working under the parameters of protected work.



Hazardous child labour

Hazardous child labour covers any activity or occupation which, by reason of its nature or the conditions in which it is performed, has or may have detrimental effects on the safety, health, development or morals of children and adolescents.

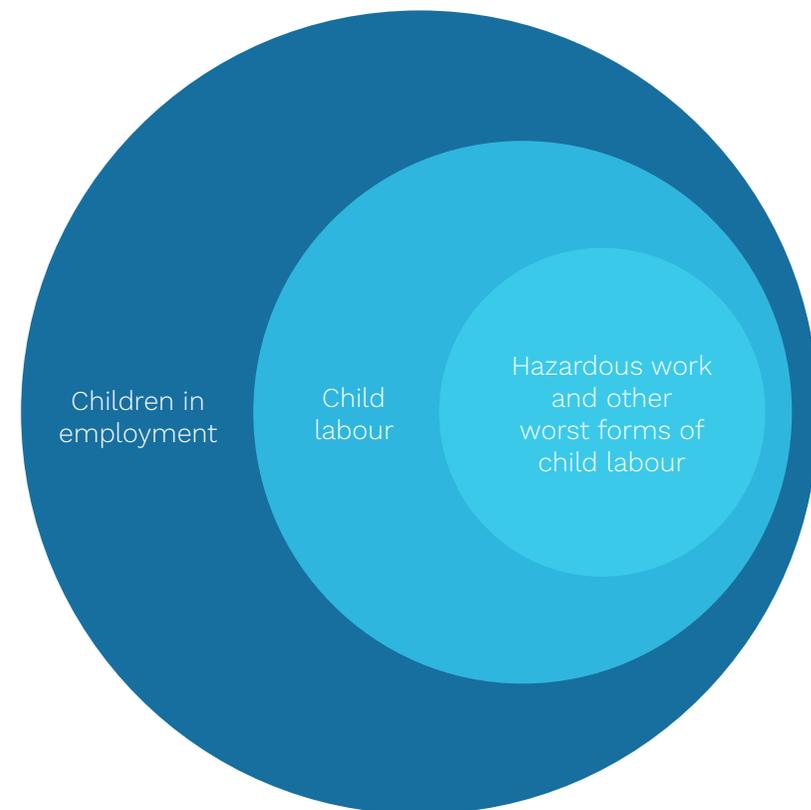
Hazardous child labour is considered a proxy for worst forms of child labour because it can be captured by regular surveys and because of the difficulty involved in the reliable measurement of activities of a criminal nature.

Some of the criteria frequently used to identify hazardous child labour are:

- Night or long hours.
- Exposure to physical, psychological or sexual abuse.
- Work performed underground, underwater, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces.
- Work with dangerous machinery, equipment or tools.
- Work which involves the handling or carrying of heavy loads.
- Work performed in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health.

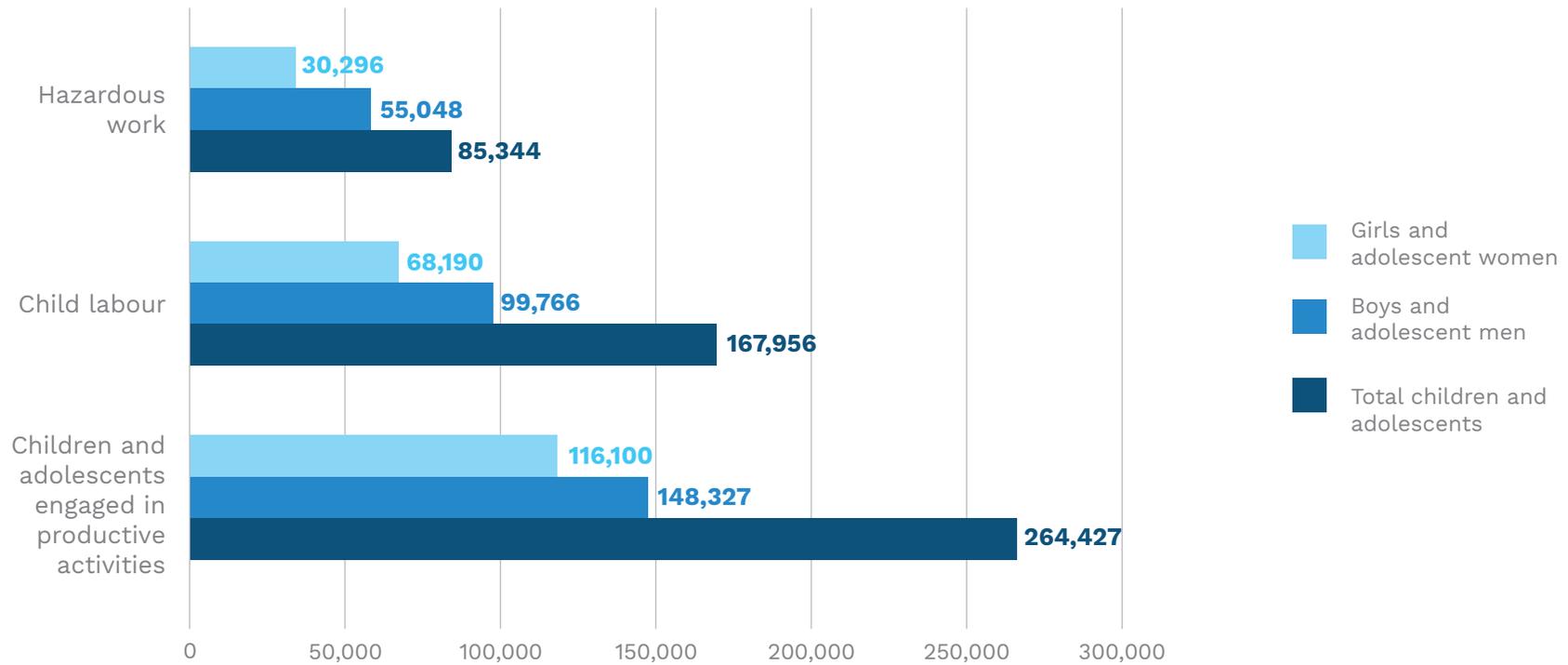
Figure 1

Categories of child and adolescent labour



Source: ILO (2013).

Figure 2
Children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 in productive activities, child labour and hazardous work globally, total number and by sex (in millions) (2012)

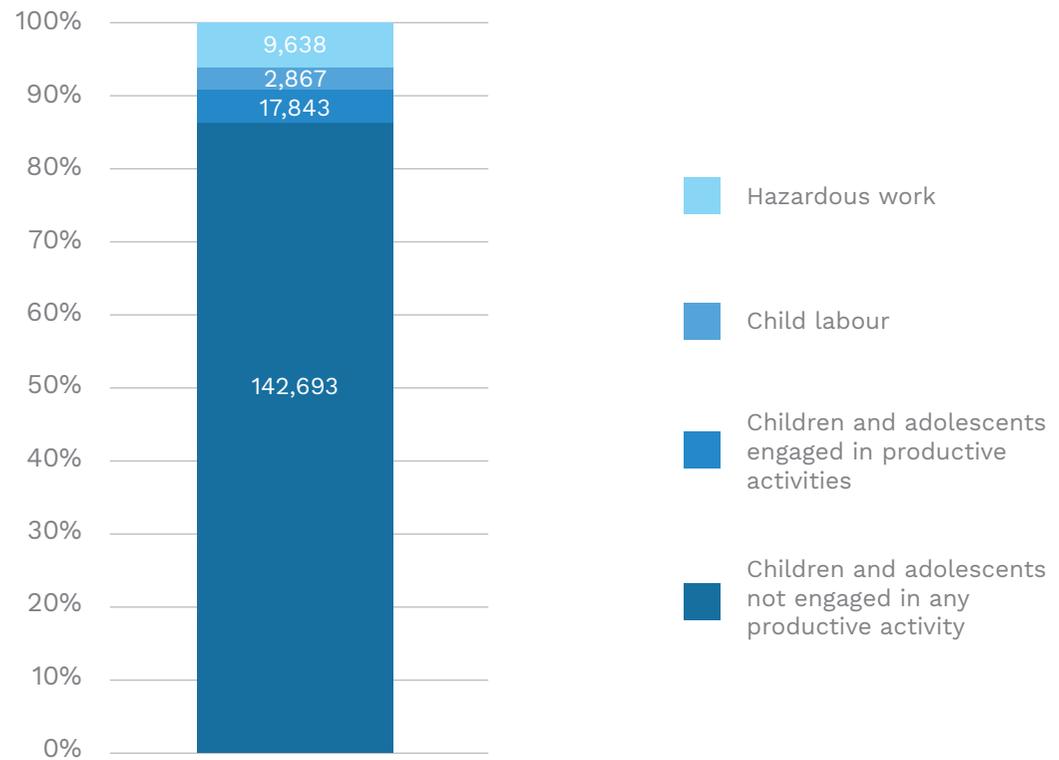


Source: Compiled by author based on ILO/IPEC data (2013).

In the Latin American and Caribbean region, the situation is as follows:

Figure 3

Children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 in productive activities, child labour and hazardous work in Latin America and the Caribbean, from the total child population in the region (in millions) (2012)



Source: ILO (2013).

Sex-disaggregated data in all categories of children and adolescents reveal mostly male individuals. However, one should note that because of the ‘naturalisation’ of domestic work and care work performed by girls and young women, these activities are not always considered real work and, therefore, some degree of statistical bias against female individuals is foreseeable.

It is also important to note that unpaid domestic labour, the most widespread form of child labour among girls and young women, remains outside the national accounts systems and therefore difficult to measure reliably.

A recent ILO survey⁵ demonstrated not only that this form of child labour is a form of gender discrimination, but also that there is a direct correlation between its concentration among girls and young women and early-marriage rates. This is in addition to its differential impacts on schooling and health, which will be dealt with in more depth in Part 3.

It should also be noted that although the practice of engaging underage persons—particularly girls and young women—as domestic help is widespread in developing countries and regions, its intensity varies from one setting to another.

Of 65 countries analyzed, only in a few did children and adolescents perform household chores for an average of at least 14 hours per week (the internationally suggested threshold for a “light” job); and in no case did they work above the average 28 hours per week that some publications use to deem chores at home as child labour.⁶ This has generated a discussion with a view to reconsidering the threshold of hours for their correct categorisation by the ILO’s International Conference of Labour Statisticians. However, the implications of this pattern for measuring child labour are clear: It excludes household chores from the definition of child labour and underestimates the participation of girls in child labour in relation to boys.

Children and adolescents who work “double shifts,” that is, perform both household chores and child labour, face greater time constraints and, therefore, may be at greater risk of repeating grades and dropping out of school. In most countries, the proportion of underage persons that perform both activities are lower than that of those who perform only household chores, but double-shift rates are nevertheless very high.

5 ILO (2013b).

6 *Ibid.*, p. 41.

Going back to the broader question of the inclusion of household chores in child labour measurement, the [Resolution Concerning Statistics of Child Labour resulting from the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians \(ICLS\)](#) for the first time includes children and adolescents in “hazardous unpaid household services,” or hazardous household chores as part of the group of children engaged in child labour for the purposes of statistical measurement. However, as with other activities, the decision as to what household chores should be considered by law as child labour rests with national authorities. In order to inform such decisions, the recommendation is to extend national statistical programmes on child labour to include the common household chores performed by children and adolescents.⁷

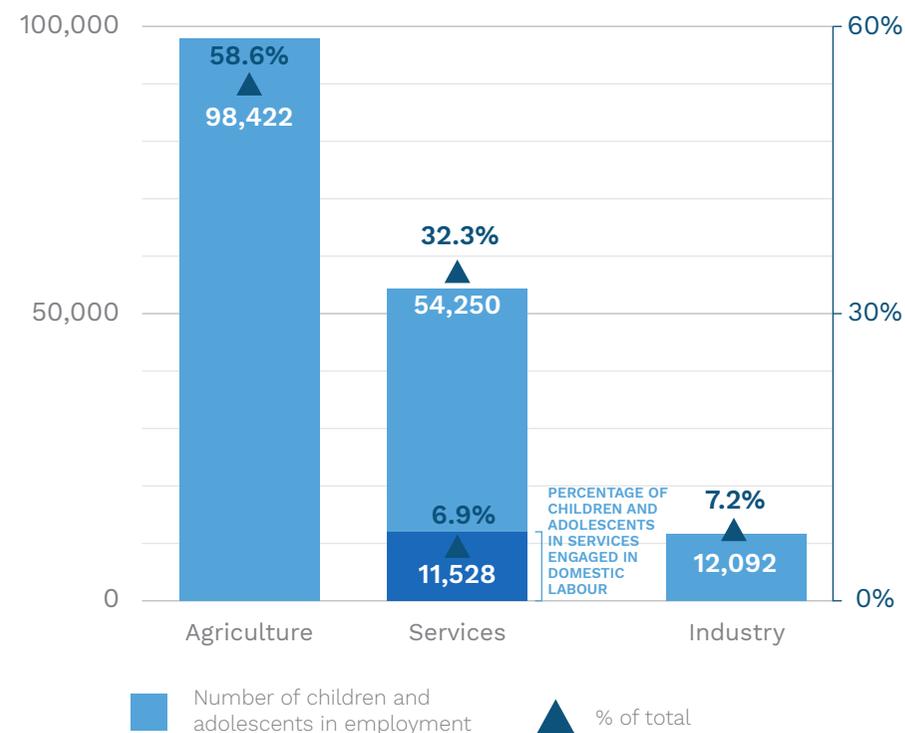
Specifically, the main employer of child labour is the agricultural sector, followed by the services sector. In 2008 the agricultural sector accounted for 25.6% of child labour and by 2012 it accounted for 32.3%.⁸

7 *Ibid*, p. 51.

8 IPEC (2013), p. 8.

Figure 4

Distribution of children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 in child labour globally, by sector, in millions and as a percentage (2012)

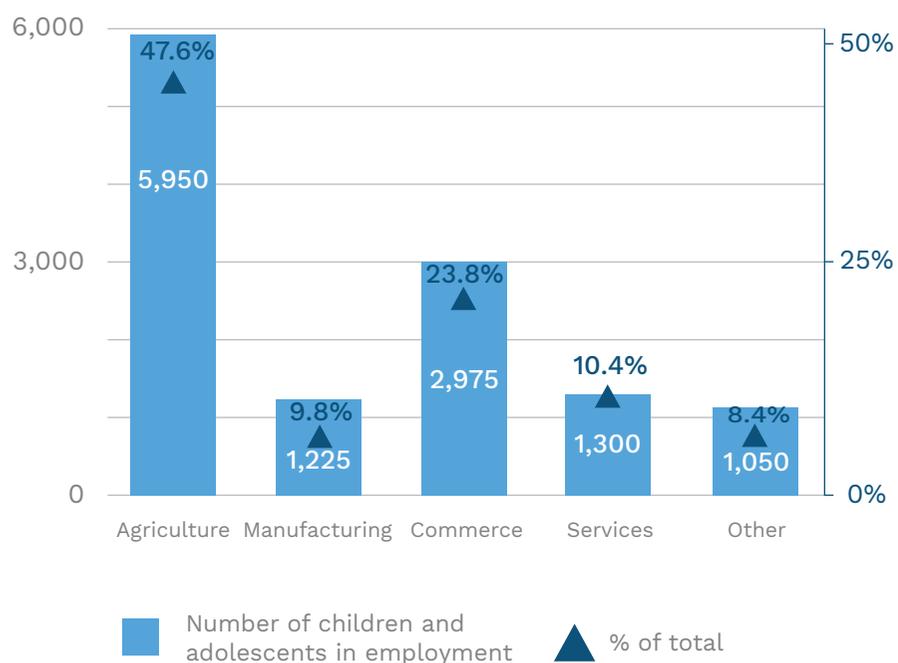


Note: This table excludes data on working children with unknown economic sector.

Source: ILO (2013).

Figure 5

Distribution of children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 in child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean, by sector, in millions and as a percentage (2012)



The global patterns of child labour dominating in the agriculture sector above other industries and services is recurrent across the Latin America and the Caribbean region, with differences in countries.

Child labour in agriculture takes place mainly in small family farms, extending to livestock production, fisheries and aquaculture.

Although there are no available studies to effectively demonstrate the existence of a relationship between child labour and ‘ethnicity’ –a field yet to be studied to address the marked lack of reliable national data– it can be noted that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the countries with the highest child labour rates are those with the highest percentage of indigenous populations, such as Bolivia, Peru and Guatemala.

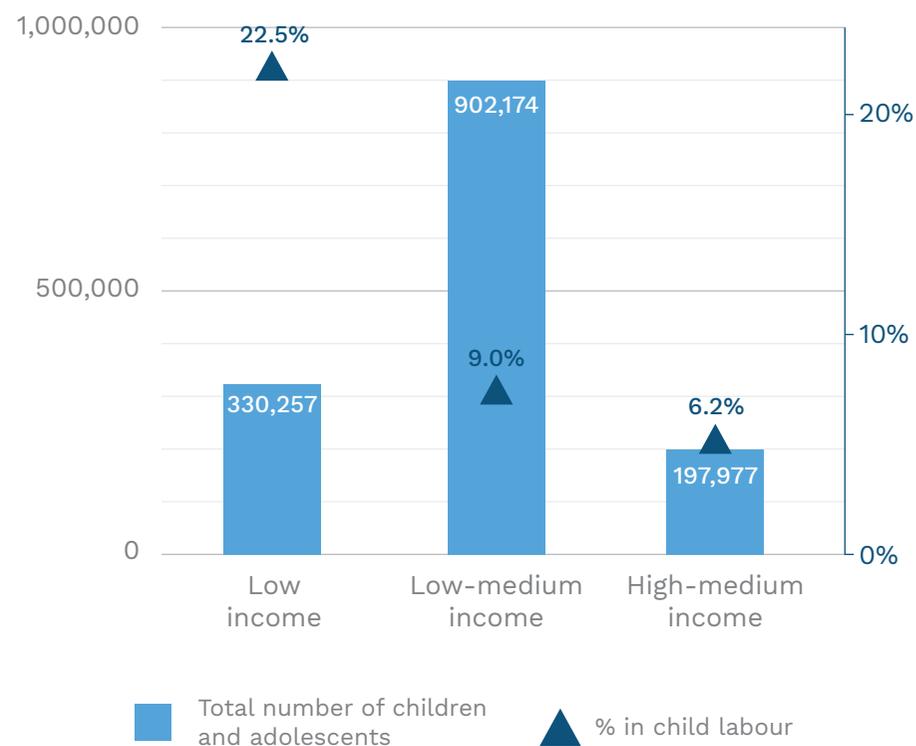
Source: Compiled by author based on ILO and national household survey data from 15 countries in the region.

Globally, child labour is distributed unevenly in terms of country income levels. This issue is important in Latin America and the Caribbean because of the high concentration of middle-income countries in the region.⁹

While the poorest countries have higher rates of child labour, in absolute terms the middle-income countries are home to more children and adolescent labourers. For this reason, the fight against child labour should not be limited to the poorest countries. This same statistic is also observed among households, with identical implications requiring specific responses.

Figure 6

Distribution of children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 in child labour by national income globally, in millions and as a percentage (2012)



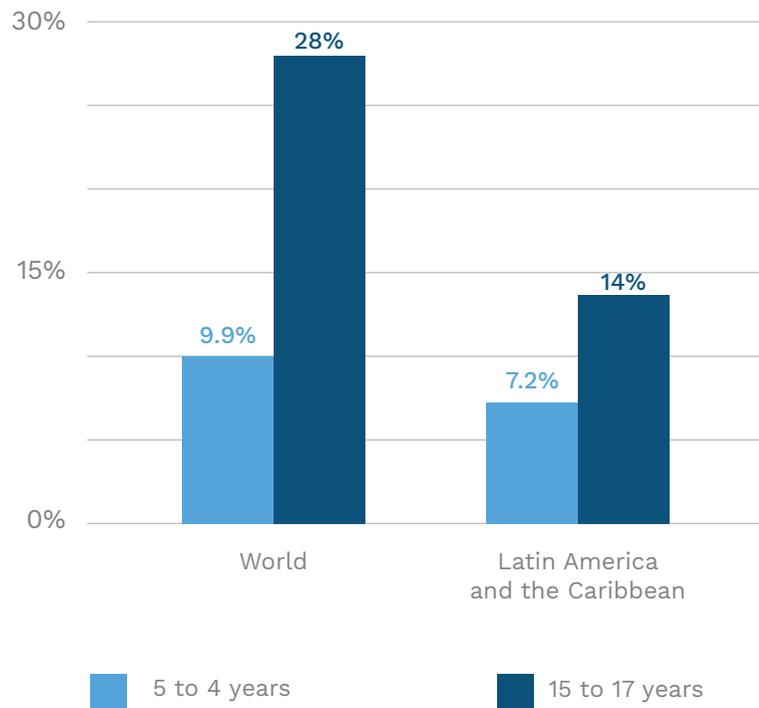
9 The complete list of Latin American and Caribbean countries sorted by income level can be found in: ECLAC (2012). *Middle-income countries: A structural gap approach*.

Source: Compiled by author based on ILO data (2013).

Figure 7

Distribution of children and adolescents in child labour by age groups (5-14 and 15-17) globally and in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a percentage of the total number of children at those ages (2012)

In terms of age groups, a high concentration of child labour is observed among adolescents aged 15 to 17, a pattern that is repeated globally and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

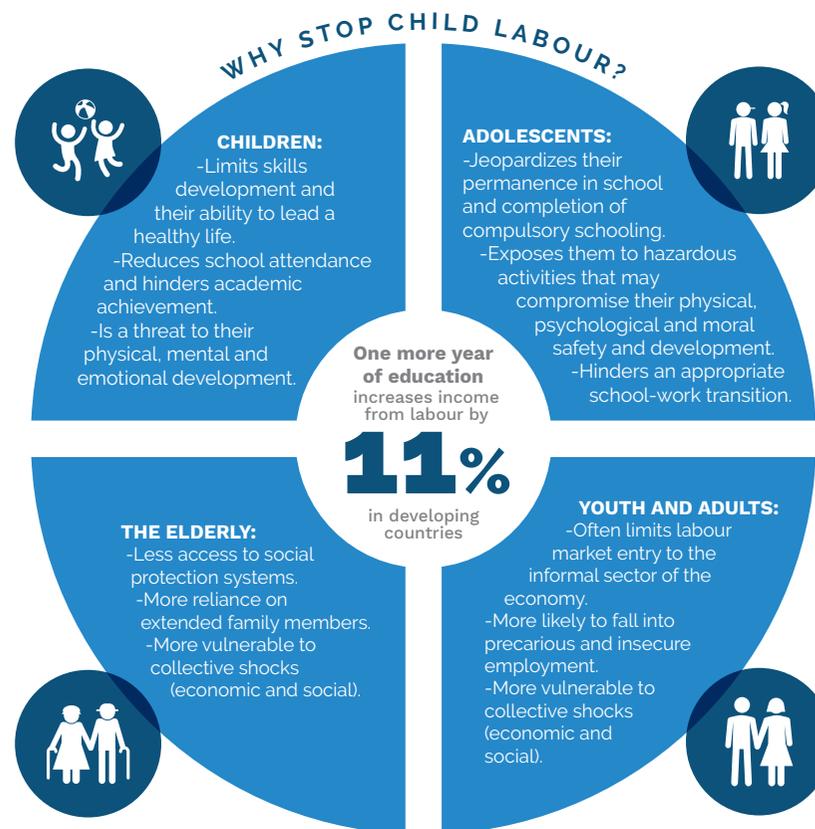


Source: Compiled by author based on ILO data (2013) and Dialio, Etienne and Mehran (2013).

The consequences of child labour continue throughout life. This creates a vicious cycle where poverty and inequality are perpetuated. This affects children’s personal development and extends into communities and countries.

The effects of child labour on the life cycle reveal the structural nature of the social problems associated with it and create a circle of poverty. Hence it can be affirmed that poverty is one of the causes of child labour, and child labour, in turn, generates poverty.

Figure 8
The butterfly effect of child labour



Source: Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of child labour.

1.2

PROGRESS TOWARD ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

In the past 20 years, with support from International Cooperation, the Latin American and Caribbean countries have generated a series of significant transformations to achieve a child-labour free region. However, [the latest estimates of the International Labour Organization \(ILO, 2013\)](#)¹⁰ show a worrying stagnation in reducing child labour and demonstrate that, at the current rate, neither the world nor the Latin American and the Caribbean region will be able to achieve the goals of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and all forms of child labour by 2020.

The progress made by countries in the region is the result of a process of taking ownership: countries have ratified the ILO Fundamental Conventions on the [minimum age for admission to employment \(No. 138\)](#) and the [elimination of the worst forms of child labour \(No. 182\)](#); and adopted the [Roadmap to Achieve the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016](#). All this has resulted in the creation of national committees, the design and implementation of specific national plans and strategies and the inclusion of various social actors (employers, unions and indigenous organizations), amongst other actions.

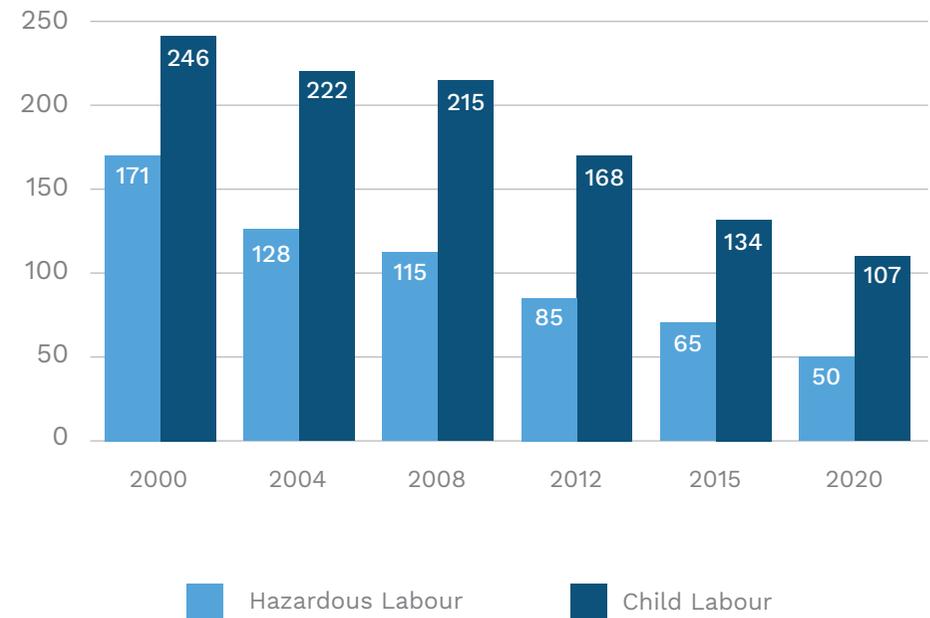
The joint working experiences developed by the countries within the framework of subregional integration systems are also significant such as: The Southern Common Market (Mercosur), the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as a long history of South-South cooperation.

¹⁰ ILO (2013).

The contribution of the ILO, through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), established in 1992, has been crucial. Over the last 20 years, countries of the region have relied on the technical and financial assistance of the Regional Project for Policy Development and the cooperation of Germany, Belgium, Canada, Spain, the United States, Ireland, Italy, Norway and the Netherlands, as well as the Inter-American Development Bank and, more recently, Brazil.

Between 2000 and 2012, child labour decreased by about one-third; meaning slightly more than 85 million children and adolescents have left hazardous work. However, more action is needed to address the problem if the world and the Latin America and Caribbean region are to reach the targets set.

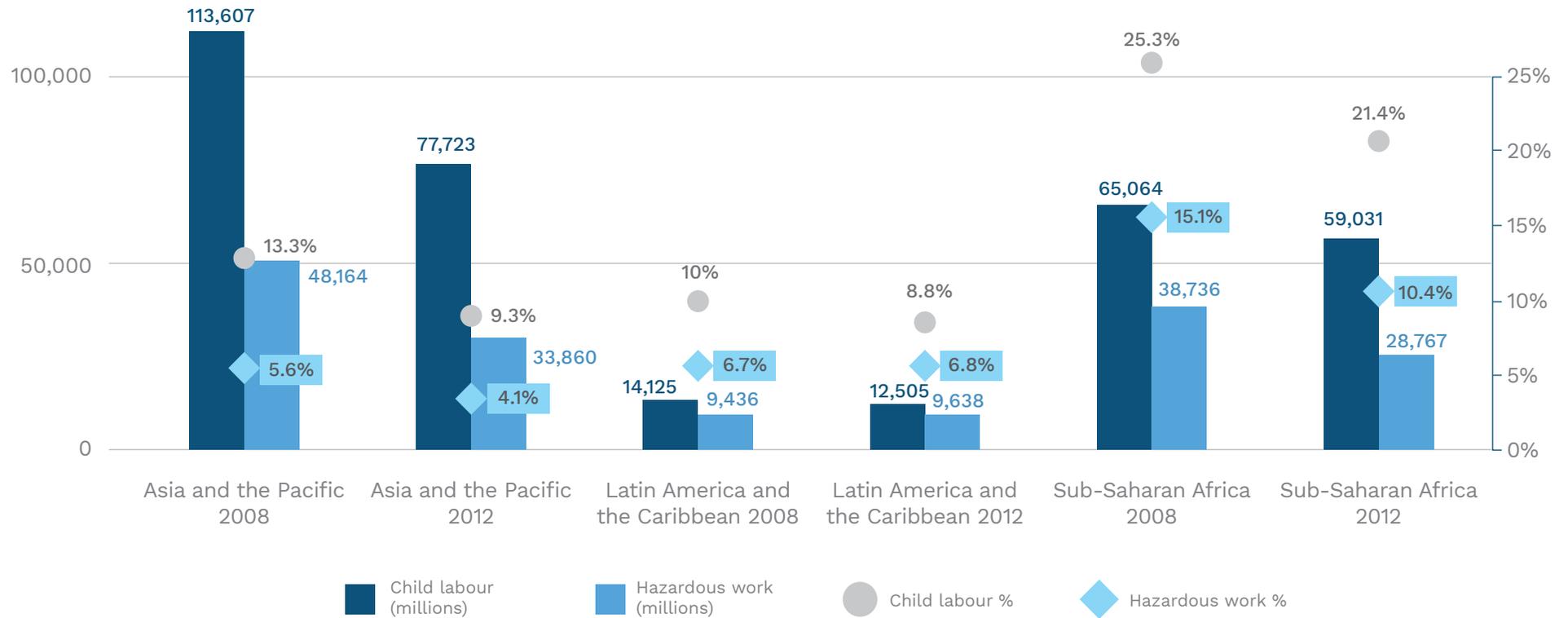
Figure 9
Number of children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 in child labour and hazardous work globally (in millions) (current data for 2000-2012 and forecasts for 2016-2020, based on the rate of progress during 2008-2012)



Source: ILO (2013).

Figure 10

Number of children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 in child labour and hazardous work by region (in millions) and as a percentage of the total child population (2008 and 2012)



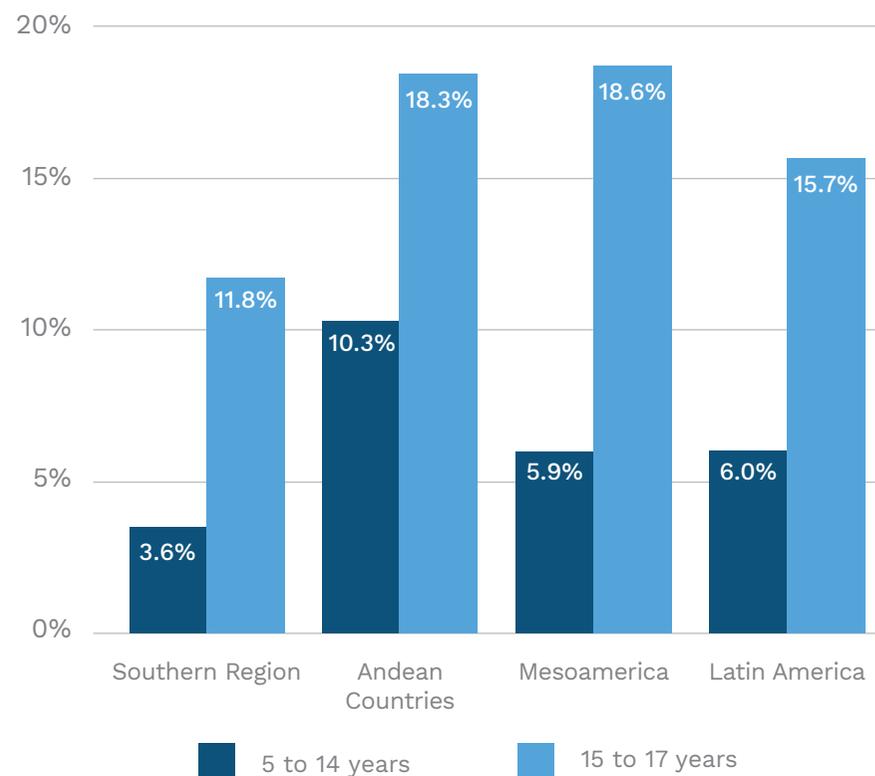
Source: Compiled by author based on ILO data (2013).

Within the region, there have been different progress rates regarding child labour reduction resulting in particular challenges. The Andean Subregion shows the highest rates, followed by Mesoamerica with similar incidences in the age group of 15-17 years and incidences close to the regional average in the age group of 5-14 years. The Southern Subregion shows the lowest incidences in the region for both age groups; however, given the international economic situation, possible setbacks should not be ruled out and efforts should be sustained in order to avoid a decline in the indicators.

In view of the above and the needed subregional, national and subnational variations, it is necessary to promote social and economic inclusion throughout the entire region, with emphasis on basic education quality, poverty reduction and social protection. At the same time the capacity of institutional players to design and implement public policies around these should be strengthened.

Figure 11

Children and adolescents in child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean by subregions and age groups (as a percentage of the total child population in each subregion) (2008 and 2011)



Source: Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of child labour.

Although child labour occurs in different ways in each subregion and across countries, Latin America and the Caribbean has had a long tradition of coordinated regional work, based on social and economic integration, South-South cooperation and intra-regional policy dialogue processes. The countries decided to leverage this and created the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of child labour.

The Regional Initiative, developed within the framework of the [Third World Conference on Child Labour](#) reflects a commitment of the countries in the region to accelerate the pace of elimination of child labour. In turn, it represents an innovative tool for cooperation to consolidate and sustain the progress achieved so far, ensuring the full rights for all children and adolescents in the region.

Against a backdrop of recent economic growth and sustained poverty reduction, which contrasts with the continuation of child labour, the Regional Initiative proposes joint, innovative and urgent responses to the various critical ways in which child labour still exists in Latin America and the Caribbean. This is achieved through the active participation of the 27 member countries along with employers' and workers' organizations.

The Regional Initiative is based on the principles of ownership and alignment of evidence-based policies and aims to declare Latin America and the Caribbean as the first developing region in the world to be free of child labour. The Regional Initiative also aims to advance national efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda's target 8.7, which calls to end child labour in all its forms by 2025.¹¹

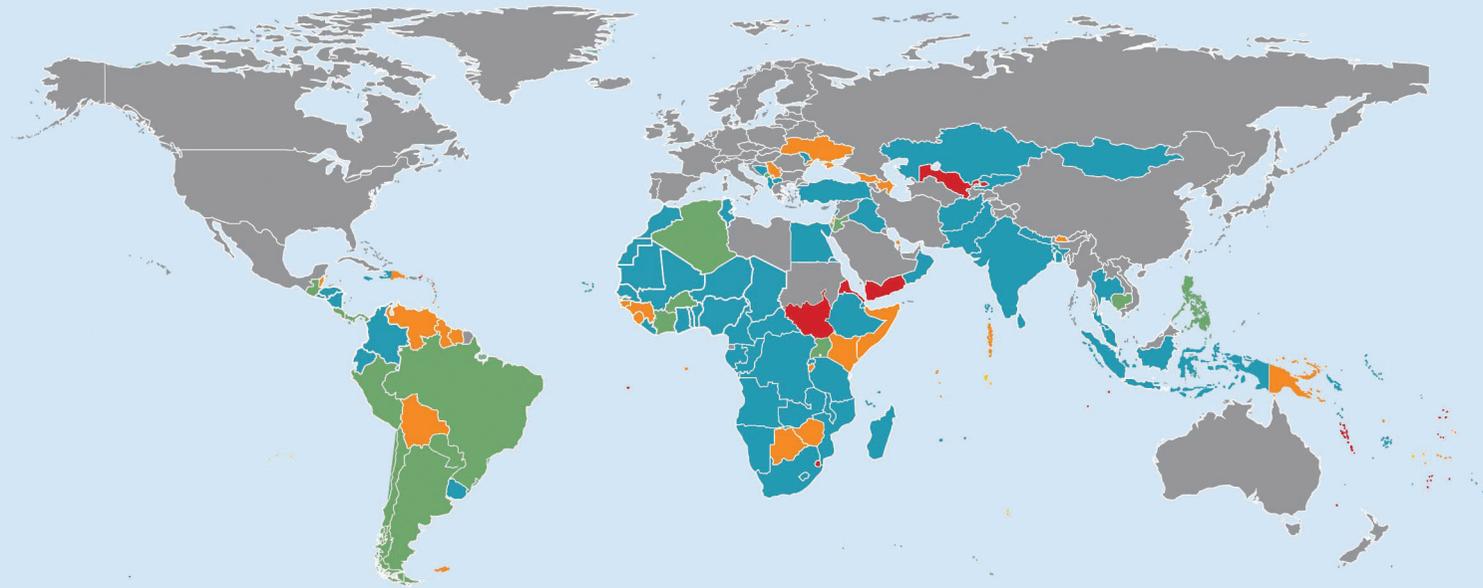
Latin America and the Caribbean is presently one of the developing regions with the best sustained results in child labour reduction in the world. The rate of progress and indicator levels attained in recent years show that the region is well poised to become the first child-labour free region in the developing world. However, beyond the commitment made, it is critically important to step up the scope, intensity, and effectiveness of the efforts in a strategic, systematic and sustained manner. All this has to be done during narrow fiscal times and in a difficult global economic environment.

This ongoing regional commitment has gained demonstrable effects and global recognition. The United States Department of Labor's [report 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor](#), which classifies countries according to the extent to which they have advanced efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, included 8 countries from the Latin American and Caribbean region among the 16 worldwide countries that had made significant progress in this area.

¹¹ Both the 2030 Agenda and the target on the elimination of child labour will be discussed later.

Figure 12

Progress on elimination of the worst forms of child labour according to the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor 2015



Significant advancement
 Moderate advancement
 Minimal advancement
 No advancement
 No assessment

Source: United States Department of Labor (2015).

PART 2

**THE 2030 AGENDA.
PRINCIPLES AND
VALUES OF THE
WORLD WE SEEK**

In 2000, the United Nations adopted the “[Millennium Declaration](#)”, affirming the collective responsibility of world governments to uphold human dignity, equality and equity at the global level and the duty of world leaders to all people, “in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs” (§ 2).

In order to bring these principles into action, in 2001 the [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#) were introduced as a global development agenda consisting of eight goals broken down into targets to be achieved, for the most part, before the end of 2015.

Figure 13
The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Source: United Nations.

By the end of the deadline, significant progress was achieved, including the reduction of global poverty income by more than 50% between 1990 and 2015, however some targets were not met.¹²

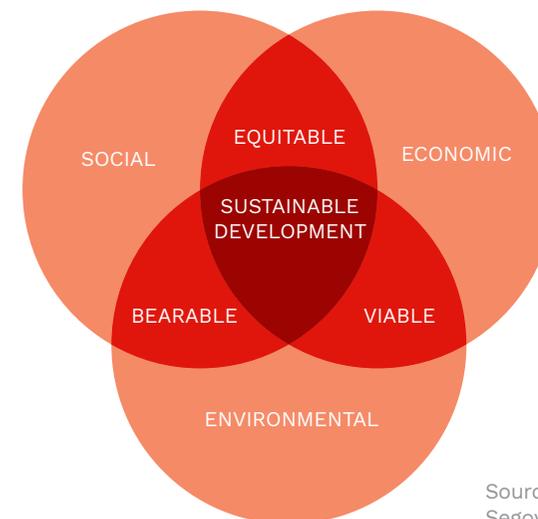
On the basis of the experience gained with the MDGs, the United Nations launched a broad and participatory process of negotiations aimed at defining the new development agenda. Member States, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, prominent international figures and the United Nations system as a whole all participated.

The [Rio+20 Conference](#), convened in 2012, marked a milestone in this process by defining that the new goals should be based on economic, social and environmental sustainability, and designated them as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The **links** between the three spheres of sustainable development has since become a central part of the new agenda. This has led to the challenges in implementing the SDGs and their targets on the basis of their **interdependence**, calling for an action that during the negotiation process became known as the “no silos” approach and allowing to establish a model for equitable, viable and bearable development.

This approach represents significant improvements over the MDGs: it requires all actors to approach development from a holistic perspective, whereby countries can harness the extensive synergies existing between the SDGs “so that implementation of one will contribute to the progress of others.”¹³

Figure 14

The three dimensions of Sustainable Development



Source:
Segovia and Ortega (2012).

¹² United Nations (2015).

¹³ See: [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, § 11.

In September 2015, as a final outcome of the negotiations, countries adopted the document “[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)” (the 2030 Agenda). This was a new expression of the global commitment to face the challenges left unmet by the MDGs and deepen and broaden the vision to promote social, economic and environmental sustainable development.

At the core of the Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals detailed in 169 targets, as a set of commitments by governments aimed at achieving the elimination of extreme poverty, reducing inequalities and protecting the environment in the next 15 years. This will be done through promoting a development model based on equity and economic growth sustained by the creation of decent work.

Figure 15
The 17 Sustainable Development Goals



Source: United Nations.

The 2030 Agenda

has been criticised by some for being too ambitious and broad, but the degree of complexity involved in moving towards a new model of sustainable development requires it to be that way. The new agenda is inclusive, inspiring and focused on transforming reality, consequently, it needs to be ambitious and broad.

The SDGs are framed within a set of working values, principles and guidelines defined in the 2030 Agenda, which serve as a guide to effective implementation.

The values are mentioned in the preamble to the document and refer to five “**areas of critical importance:**”

1

**PEOPLE:**

Dignity and equality.

2

**PLANET:**

Sustainable environmental management.

3

**PROSPERITY:**

Although prosperity is in itself a value, it is stated here that prosperity must occur in harmony with nature.

4

**PEACE:**

Again, a critical area that is in itself a value, associated with justice and inclusion.

5

**PARTNERSHIP:**

Strengthened solidarity, focused in particular on the poorest and most vulnerable.

Within these values, the 2030 Agenda outlines a set of principles intended to serve as a guide to their achievement, including:

PEOPLE CENTRED

People and their realities should be at the core of all Development Goals and ultimately benefit from any progress made. States have declared that the goals and targets should be “transformative, far-reaching and people-centred” (§ 2).

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

This is a principle of equity, which states that the benefits of development must be shared by all groups of people. Given that “dignity of the human person is fundamental”, the SDGs and targets must be achieved for “all nations and peoples and for all segments of society,” giving priority to “the furthest behind” (§ 4).

UNIVERSALITY

It reflects the indivisibility of the SDGs and targets by expressing that “These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike” (§ 5).

NO SILOS

This principle strongly emphasizes the interdependence and correlations existing between different SDGs and demands states to assume an integrated work dynamic, paying attention to both each goal and target as well as to the multiple relationships established among the whole set of goals and targets (§ 5).

COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES

Achievement of the proposed goals and targets is a common task for which we are all responsible, but the extent to which the different countries have historically contributed to damaging the planet and the technical and financial resources available to them complete the measure of their responsibility. Thus, the 2030 Agenda reaffirms the application of “all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities” (§ 12).

The reference to human dignity invokes elements of the Millennium Development Goals and brings the SDGs closer to the field of human rights: The reference that the goals and their targets must be met for all nations, peoples and social segments raises the need for joint achievement as the only strategy and spells out the priority given to those groups ‘furthest behind,’ pointing out the importance that equity must have in implementing the new agenda. The reference to inclusion points to establishing decent work as one of the pillars of the proposed sustained, inclusive and sustainable development model.

Figure 16
 Sustainable development values, principles, goals and targets within the framework of the 2030 Agenda



Source: Compiled by author.

This is coupled with a new working dynamic: A holistic approach based on synergies and the interconnections that characterize the 2030 Agenda.

The *Sustainable Development Solutions Network*,¹⁴ states: “The complexity of sustainable development is such that a huge number of the targets are interlinked, creating a web of complex relationships.”¹⁵ Based on this idea, David Le Blanc (2015) presents the SDGs as a web in which different targets are directly associated with one goal, but indirectly influence the achievement of others.

14 This is an initiative launched in August 2012 by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, bringing together scientists, academics, civil society and the private sector to share their knowledge for overcoming the obstacles encountered on the path of sustainable development at the local, national and global levels. It seeks to improve joint learning and help to rejecting the compartmentalisation of technical and political efforts by promoting integrated approaches.

15 SDSN (2015).

Table 1
SDGs ranked by the number of interlinkages to other goals through their targets

Sustainable Development Goal	Number of other goals to which the goal is connected
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	14
10. Reduce inequalities within and among countries	12
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	10
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	10
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	8
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	8
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	8
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	7
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	7
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	6
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	6
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss	6
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	6
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	3
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	3
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	2

Source: Le Blanc (2015).

It is necessary to demonstrate a clear connection between the sustainable development goals and their targets in order to have effective policies aimed at achieving them, as Le Blanc argues:¹⁶ “In designing and monitoring their work, agencies concerned with a specific goal (e.g. education, health, economic growth) will have to take into account targets that refer to other goals.”

This perspective allows one to think of the SDGs as a network with links between the different components of sustainable development. This raises a debate on “policy coherence,” a concept which, broadly, refers to the policies implemented by one actor positively impacting others and reinforcing each other;¹⁷ and, in its narrower sense, refers to the need for such policies not to hinder the objectives pursued by one’s own policies.¹⁸

Sustainable development requires policies that will foster sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work. These crosscutting themes have direct links to eliminating child labour. In fact, this is an element that is strongly correlated with the whole set of SDGs, while drawing from progress on individual goals.



The role of Latin America and the Caribbean in defining the 2030 Agenda

Latin America and the Caribbean was not merely a witness to the development of this new Agenda for Development. In spite of not presenting themselves as a unanimous and independent block, countries of the region aligned themselves with several of the proposals generated at the G77 + China summit for forming the 2030 Agenda, namely:

1. Recognition of poverty as a multidimensional issue.
2. Recognition of the relevance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to the full range of sustainable development issues.
3. Commitment to finding solutions to climate change.
4. Expansion of the indicators to measure the development of the countries beyond the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.

¹⁶ Le Blanc (2015), p. 9.

¹⁷ Barry, King and Matthews (2010).

¹⁸ Ashoff (2005).

PART 3

.....

**DECENT WORK
AND CHILD LABOUR
PREVENTION AND
ELIMINATION WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE 2030 AGENDA**

Given the many causes of child labour, multiple issues should be addressed in relation to its prevention and elimination. To achieve the target by 2025, it will be necessary, among other things, to reduce poverty, improve education, promote gender equity and implement social protection policies. Conversely, progress in reducing child labour will facilitate progress on each of these issues.

Given this relationship, this section analyzes target 8.7 (on ending child labour) within the broader framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, considering first its direct link with Goal 8 (on economic growth and the creation of decent work) of which it is part.

The section then goes on to analyze the links between the target to put an end to child labour and the other objectives through which direct links are identified from a thematic correlation analysis based on empirical evidence in each area. Each target identified as having a “direct effect” is considered to be an impact in the relationship between child labour and the goal that contains it, so that the total number of impacts on each target establishes an indicator of the degree of interdependence it has with child labour. The outcome of the analysis performed is illustrated in the following figure.

Figure 17

Interdependence of target 8.7 on ending child labour and other commitments adopted within the framework of the SDGs



By applying the described criteria, the analysis of the links between the target on ending child labour and the entire set of SDGs will focus on 8 goals and 35 specific targets, ordered by their degree of interdependence:

1. **SDG 4:** Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education
2. **SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality
3. **SDG 1:** End poverty
4. **SDG 10:** Reduce inequality
5. **SDG 2:** End hunger
6. **SDG 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies
7. **SDG 3:** Ensure healthy lives
8. **SDG 13:** Combat climate change

Source: Author's elaboration.

3.1

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AS A GOAL AND ENDING CHILD LABOUR AS A TARGET

Sustainable Development Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Sustainable Development Goal 8 addresses two closely linked pillars of development: economic growth and employment. It also includes the characteristics they must have in order to promote a sustainable development model. Growth can only be sustained, inclusive and sustainable in association with full, productive employment framed within the principles of decent work, and vice versa.

By including a specific target on child labour and directly linking it with the possibility of progressing towards sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, underpinned by the creation of decent work, the SDGs have taken a critical step in including child labour at the centre of global development concerns.

Sustainable Development Target 8.7:

Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

Decent work refers to productive work performed in conditions of freedom, equity, security and dignity, in which the rights of workers are respected, workers receive just compensation, have prospects for personal development and social protection for both the workers and their families.¹⁹ Unlike the vicious cycle of child labour (see Figure 8), decent work operates in the opposite direction: it builds a productive life cycle with growth, freedom, security and protection (see Figure 18).

Figure 18
The productive life cycle of decent work



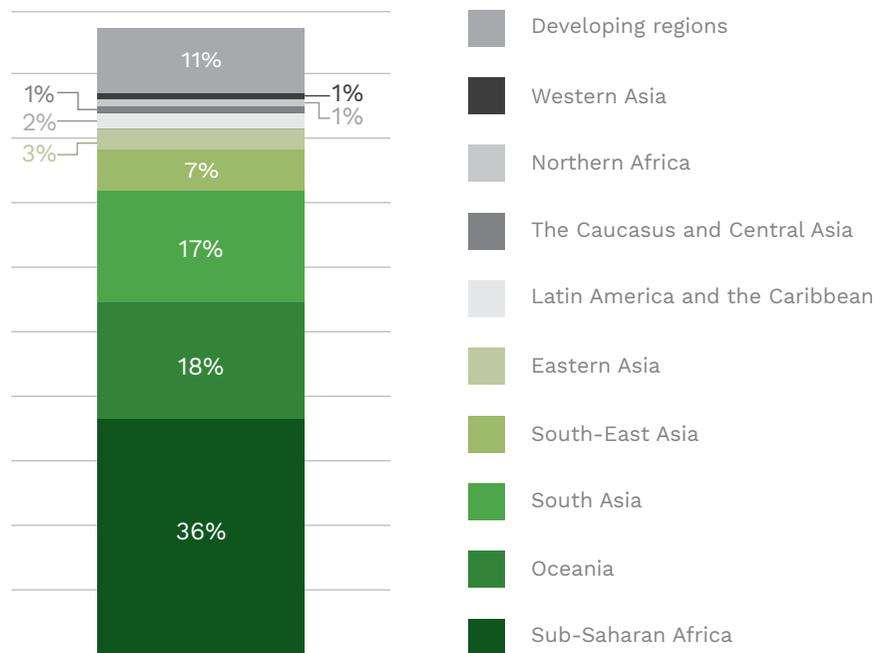
¹⁹ See: [ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization](#).

Source: Compiled by author based on ILO/IPEC data (2015).

Working without decent conditions has many consequences. One of which is exacerbated extreme poverty.

Figure 19

Percentage of employed people living on less than 1.25 USD per day, by region (2015 estimate)



Source: United Nations (2015).

The lack of decent work is reflected in future generations: lack of a fair income, absence of gender equality, violation of workers' rights and lack of adequate social protection for families. This may lead households to resort to child labour to compensate for income deficiencies. This, in turn, undermines children's and adolescents' prospects for decent work in the future.²⁰

This cycle also feeds on child labour: its continued existence is directly proportional to the difficulties in creating decent work. This affects a society's ability to achieve the sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth to which states committed to under the SDGs. **Target 8.1** aims to "Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries."

²⁰ ILO (2013c).

Between 2007 and 2012 countries that have invested in promoting quality jobs have achieved an annual growth of about 1 per cent above those economies that did not, demonstrating the direct relationship between both variables²¹.

Target 8.2 aims to “Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.”

Child labour is directly at odds with achieving this target: it is an obstacle to health, training and full development of skills in children and adolescents, and results in a loss of value of human resources in the countries.

In addition to the problems of education and health, child labour causes a loss of productivity. The reduction and elimination of child labour “would reduce the labour supply and potentially give rise to improved production technologies, creation of skilled or semi-skilled jobs, increased labour productivity and higher wages.”²²

Target 8.5 which aims to “Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value” and **Target 8.6** which commits all States to “Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training” also have a direct correlation with child labour.

An [ILO analysis of the transition from school to first employment](#) shows that, by disrupting or hindering the schooling and training trajectories for children and adolescents, child labour places individuals at a disadvantage when entering the workforce and pushes them into unstable jobs (contracts for less than 12 months or no contract at all) and deprives them of access to decent work.

In 2015, approximately 75 million people in the world aged 15 to 24 were unemployed:²³ Only four out of ten young women and men were employed. In 1991, five out of ten young women and men were employed: a decline of 10 per cent.²⁴

21 See ILO: Report *World of work 2014: Developing with jobs*.

22 ILO (2006), p. 62.

23 IPEC (2015), p. 79.

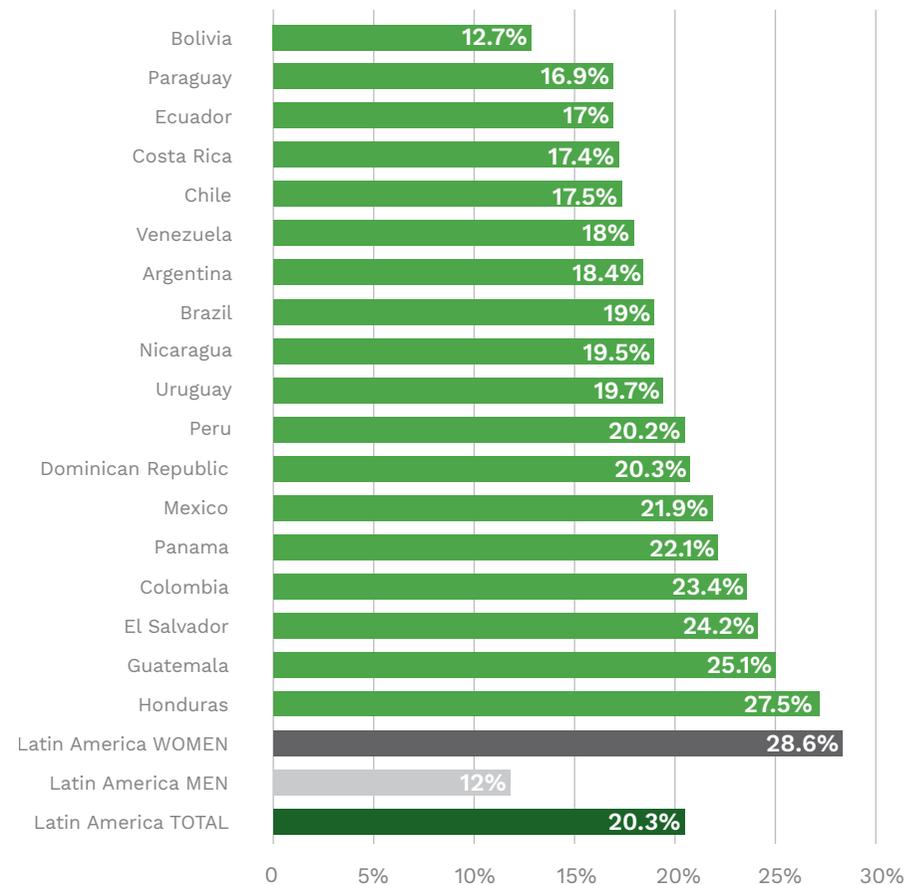
24 United Nations (2015), p. 17.

It is proven that youth unemployment costs more for societies than adult unemployment due to the premature interruption of amassing human capital and because unemployed youth “are active in violence, substance abuse, and risky sexual behaviour.”²⁵

In Latin America and the Caribbean this involves paying special attention to the situation of young people who are neither in employment nor in education or training. They account for approximately 20 per cent of the population aged 15 to 24. There is also a strong gender disparity disadvantaging adolescent women, who are often relegated to the care of family members and to domestic labour,²⁶ forms of work which often go unrecognised.

Figure 20

Latin America and the Caribbean: Percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 who are neither in employment nor in education or training (2005-2011)



Source: Compiled by author based on ILO/IPEC data (2013c).

25 World Bank (2003), p. 53.

26 ECLAC/FAO/UN Women/UNDP/ILO (2013), p. 88.

Target 8.8, which commits all States to “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment,” establishes a direct link to the international labour standards.²⁷

This target also reaffirms the commitment made by States in adopting the [ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#) in 1998, which in Article 2 provides that all members shall have an obligation “to respect, to promote and to realize” freedom of assembly and of association, recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labour and child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, as universal rights that apply to all people in all countries, in the understanding that this is the minimum base of rights necessary in a globalized economy and constitutes the “basic rules of the game” for growth with social progress.

²⁷ Eliminating child labour entails a global commitment to the effective application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) and the [ILO Fundamental Conventions No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment \(1973\)](#) and [No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour \(1999\)](#), among other relevant instruments.

3.2

CHILD LABOUR: CORRELATIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCIES

Child labour is a broad, complex and a multi-causal occurrence²⁸ related to poverty, education levels, social incentives, culture and a wide range of other issues that act either to encourage or discourage its existence.

Because of this complexity, efforts against child labour should have an interdisciplinary approach with a coordinated strategy adhering to the principles of universality and “no silos” that characterize the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda builds on accumulated experience and evidence-based knowledge regarding the elimination of child labour. With this knowledge, we can establish links between the target of ending child labour and the SDGs.

²⁸ IPEC (2003).

SDG 4: PROMOTING EDUCATION FOR ALL ENTAILS ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

The relationship between this goal and the fight against child labour is so apparent that school attendance rates are used as a proxy indicator to determine its existence and, consequently, “it is no surprise that since 2000, the rapid decline in child labour has coincided with a major increase in school attendance.”²⁹

The economic benefit of the elimination of child labour as a result of increased productive capacity due to improvements in children’s educational outcomes “is difficult to dispute, yet it is also difficult to quantify. Ultimately, the economic value of expanded education will depend on other changes taking place within a country over the same period: the effectiveness and stability of its institutions, the creation of new enterprises organized to take advantage of higher levels of human capital, and economic policies to stimulate growth and development, among others.”³⁰

29 IPEC (2013), p. 10.

30 ILO (2004), p. 13.



Policies aimed at promoting education for children and adolescents form a basic success triangle together with those aimed directly at combating child labour and enhancing social protection.

Access to free, quality public education is also a relevant factor for economic growth as it helps meet the market's demand for skilled labour, which in turn influences the quality of employment. In 2012, 58 million children of primary school age and 63 million adolescents of secondary school age were out of formal education.

However, mere access to school is not enough: In Latin America and the Caribbean, children and adolescents who work or live in poverty have high percentages of school attendance, but their status as workers and poor environment conditions do not allow them to secure the benefits of education on equal terms as their peers who do not work. This is illustrated in the following table.

Table 2

Average test scores in language and mathematics for Latin American and Caribbean countries, by country and child labour index (2003)

Country	Do you work outside your home when you are not in school?	Language test score (max. 19)	Percentage difference compared with the “always” group	Mathematics test score (max. 32)	Percentage difference compared with the “always” group
Argentina	Always	12.3	-	16	-
	Sometimes	13.3	8.1	17.6	10
	Never	14.5	17.9	18.9	18.1
Bolivia	Always	9.8	-	14.5	-
	Sometimes	10.4	6.1	15.1	4.1
	Never	12.3	25.5	17.2	18.6
Brazil	Always	11.4	-	14.6	-
	Sometimes	12.1	4.3	15.9	8.9
	Never	14	22.8	18.7	28.1
Chile	Always	11.6	-	13.8	-
	Sometimes	12.6	8.6	15	8.7
	Never	14	20.7	17	23.2
Colombia	Always	10.3	-	14.2	-
	Sometimes	11.5	11.7	15.6	9.9
	Never	12.8	24.3	16.4	15.5

Source: Sánchez, Orazem and Gunnarsson (2005).

Country	Do you work outside your home when you are not in school?	Language test score (max. 19)	Percentage difference compared with the “always” group	Mathematics test score (max. 32)	Percentage difference compared with the “always” group
Dominican Republic	Always	9.5	-	12.6	-
	Sometimes	9.7	2.1	13.3	5.6
	Never	11.1	16.8	13.8	9.5
Honduras	Always	9.1	-	11.8	-
	Sometimes	9.7	6.6	12.6	6.8
	Never	11.8	29.7	14.6	23.7
Mexico	Always	9.6	-	13.8	-
	Sometimes	10.6	10.4	15.1	9.4
	Never	12.5	30.2	17.7	28.3
Paraguay	Always	11.2	-	13.9	-
	Sometimes	11.8	5.4	15.5	11.5
	Never	13.1	17	17.3	24.5
Peru	Always	9.1	-	11.6	-
	Sometimes	10.1	11	11.9	2.6
	Never	12.2	34.1	14.9	28.4
Venezuela	Always	10	-	12.2	-
	Sometimes	10.9	9	13	6.6
	Never	11.5	15	14.5	18.9

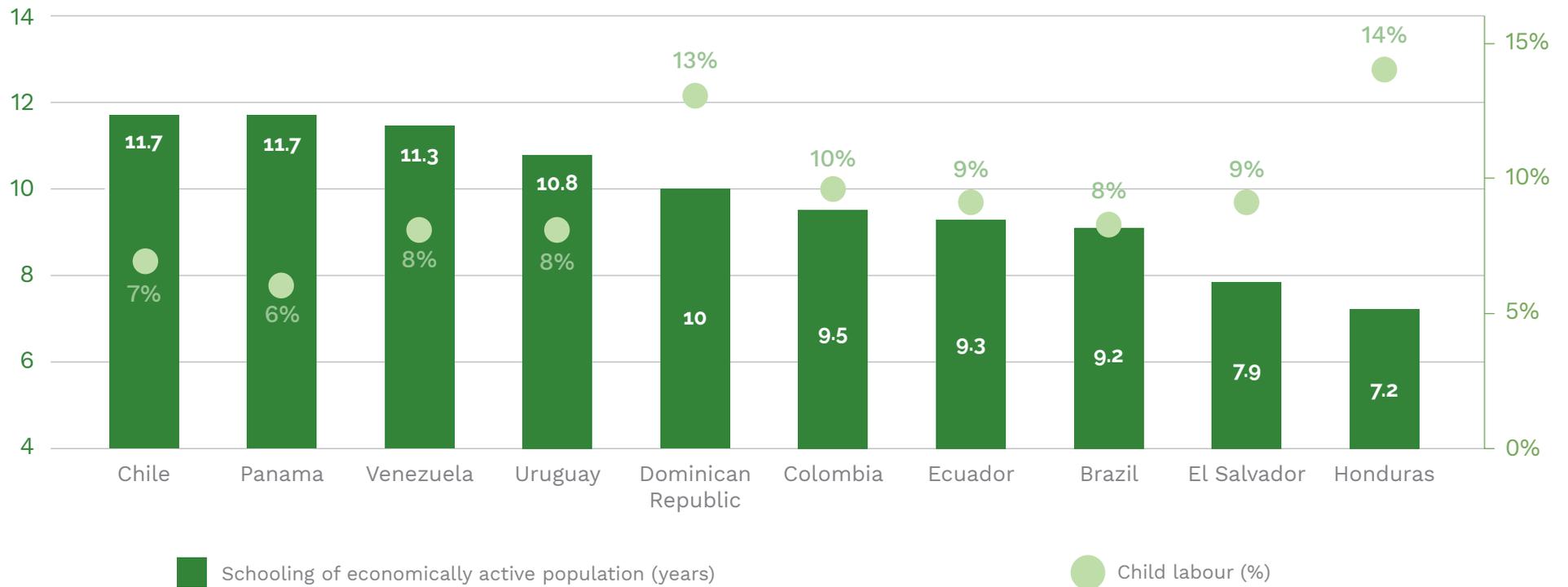
Source: Sánchez, Orazem and Gunnarsson (2005).

The challenges in accessing free, quality public education faced by children and adolescents in child labour end up reinforcing the vicious cycle of poverty: Participation in child labour is associated with lower levels of training and jobs that do not adhere to the basic criteria of decent work. “Young people who were burdened by work as children are consistently more likely to have to settle for unpaid family work and less likely to enjoy paid employment.”³¹

Furthermore, there is a continuation through the generations: parents with low schooling levels or lacking sufficient time or knowledge to assist their children with extracurricular tasks are factors that prolong poverty and contribute to the structural conditions that enable child labour.

31 IPEC (2015), p. xiv.

Figure 21
 Years of schooling of economically active population and percentage of child labour presence
 for selected countries in Latin America (according to household surveys, circa 2013)



Source: Compiled from the Unicef Global Database.

Target 4.1 calls on all States to “Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.”

Early entry into the labour market is among the obstacles to staying in school and completing compulsory school cycles. According to ILO data, 70 per cent of child and adolescent workers attend school, compared to 94 per cent of those who do not work.

In a study that measures the costs and benefits of eliminating child labour, the ILO (2004 and 2014) demonstrated that the benefits of achieving this target outweigh the associated costs.

Table 3
Total economic costs and benefits of eliminating child labour
in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2025, in billions of dollars

	Costs			Benefits			
	Gov't Cost		Household costs	Annual benefits		Rate of return	
	Total Gov't (*)	% of GDP	Opportunity cost	Education (2019-2068)	Health (2015-2025)	Net economic benefit	Net financial benefit
Latin America (17 countries)	5.738,4		715,3	3.882,0	80,6	13,9	5,2
Mesoamerica	2.827,6		237,0	1.290,7	30,6	13,9	3,1
Costa Rica	21,8	...	1,8	9,8	0,3	16,8	3,0
El Salvador	85,7	0.3	8,5	46,1	1,0	11,7	4,0
Guatemala	620,9	1.1	47,9	265,0	5,6	10,9	2,8
Honduras	376,9	1.9	13,0	71,0	1,9	6,8	-0,8
Mexico	1.303,2	0.1	139,0	752,4	18,6	18,0	4,3
Nicaragua	175,8	1.5	11,7	63,6	1,4	11,8	2,0
Panama	48,3	0.1	2,8	15,5	0,4	8,0	1,4
Dominican Republic	194,9	0.3	12,3	67,4	1,6	10,9	1,8

Source: Compiled by author based on ILO data (2015).

	Costs			Benefits			
	Gov't Cost		Household costs	Annual benefits		Rate of return	
	Total Gov't (*)	% of GDP	Opportunity cost	Education (2019-2068)	Health (2015-2025)	Net economic benefit	Net financial benefit
Andean Region	1.556,0		288,6	1.572,9	25,9	13,3	7,7
Bolivia	230,6	0.7	66,2	359,8	4,8	19,8	10,3
Colombia	797,2	0.2	83,9	459,0	8,9	8,1	4,4
Ecuador	212,0	0.2	18,2	100,0	2,1	12,4	3,3
Peru	316,1	0.1	120,3	654,1	10,0	17,4	12,7
Southern Cone	1.354,9		189,6	1.018,4	24,1	14,7	5,8
Argentina	266,9	0.1	26,2	143,0	3,4	5,4	4,1
Brazil	860,0	0.0	138,5	739,6	17,4	19,5	6,5
Chile	36,5	...	10,0	54,5	1,3	20,0	10,0
Paraguay	186,1	0.6	10,7	58,7	1,5	10,6	1,4
Uruguay	5,5	...	4,2	22,6	0,6	20,7	17,5

(*): Education supply + direct transfers + transfer management + direct interventions.

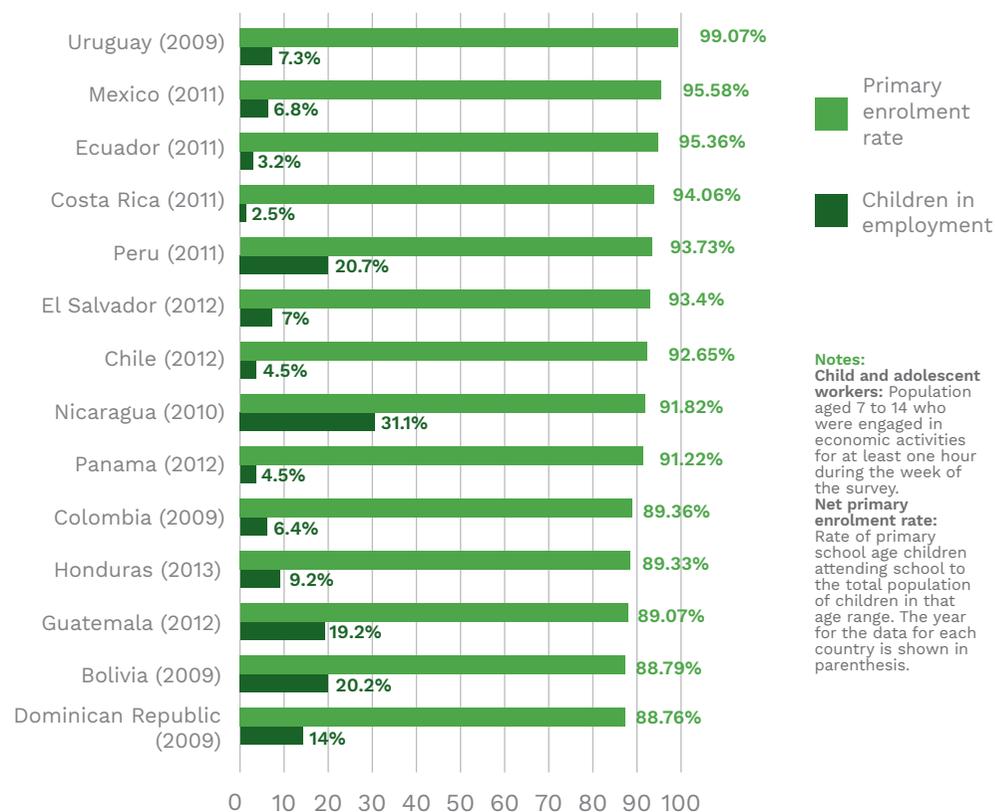
Source: Compiled by author based on ILO data (2015).

The above target also clearly indicates that this is not only an issue of attendance and retention, but also of school quality and educational outcomes. School attendance by children and adolescents in child labour is high in primary school, but the outcomes of children and adolescents who work are worse than those who do not work.

The following figure shows that in Latin America and the Caribbean, net primary enrolment rates are, as a general rule, inversely proportional to the percentage of children engaged in economic activities. This highlights, once again, both the strong correlation between the two issues and the need for an integrated approach.

Figure 22

Relationship between net primary enrolment rate and percentage of children engaged in economic activities for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean



Notes:
Child and adolescent workers: Population aged 7 to 14 who were engaged in economic activities for at least one hour during the week of the survey.
Net primary enrolment rate: Rate of primary school age children attending school to the total population of children in that age range. The year for the data for each country is shown in parenthesis.

Source: Compiled by author based on World Bank data.

The reasoning used for preventing child labour and promoting the skills required for employment and decent work –with its effect on sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth– is the same reasoning behind **Target 4.2**: “Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education”. As Heckman and Masterov (2007) demonstrate, early social interventions aimed at minimising the effects of adverse environments in the early years of life can reverse some damage, thus reducing the disadvantages during children’s’ growth. This produces a high economic return by generating benefits not only for the beneficiaries themselves, but also for their descendants and for society as a whole.

Target 4.3 covers technical, professional and higher education opportunities, and expresses the commitment to: “By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.” Child labour breaks or hinders this commitment.

One of the reasons for the unemployment rates –particularly among young people– is the disparity between supply and demand for skills. In view of this, “child labour is a particular concern,”³² because it prematurely disrupts the educational process or prevents its full utilisation (see Table 2). It deprives children and adolescents from developing the skills necessary for working life, limiting their participation in the labour market to informal or low-paid jobs.

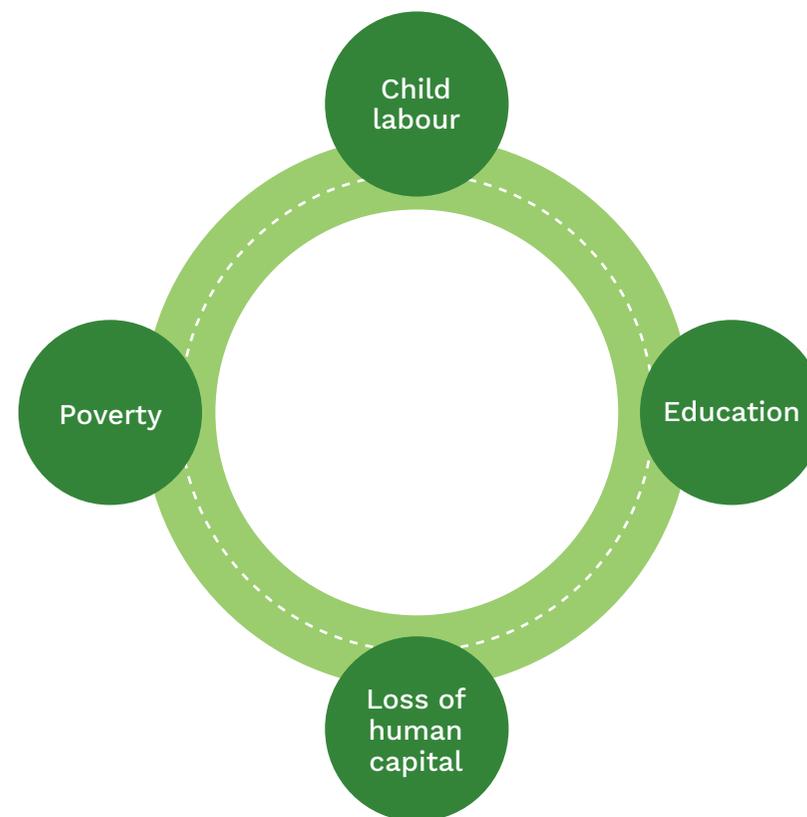
³² Unesco (2012), p. 12.

Target 4.4 commits all States to “Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.” As noted, the level of schooling achieved is directly related to the likelihood of obtaining decent work³³ and with child labour: It represents an obstacle to achieving this target by hindering education or influencing children and adolescents’ achievements.

Target 4.5 commits all States to, “By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.” There is a greater occurrence of child labour among vulnerable groups since there are higher incentives for using child labour. This analysis will be expanded later when addressing the SDGs on gender equality and reduction of inequalities.

Target 4.6 strives to, “By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy”, which can be understood as a continuation of the previously-described target, but should also be considered in the light of the effects of child labour on obtaining life skills and essential skills for employment (see Figure 8).

Figure 23
The vicious cycle binding child labour,
low education levels and poverty

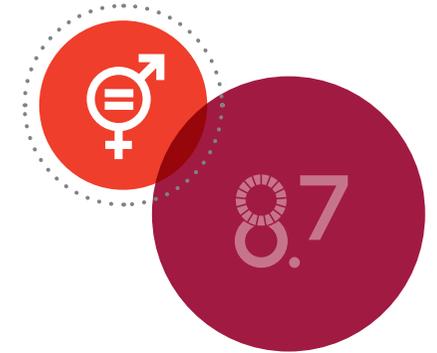


33 IPEC (2015).

Source: Author’s elaboration.

SDG 5: ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR IN THE PURSUIT OF GENDER EQUALITY

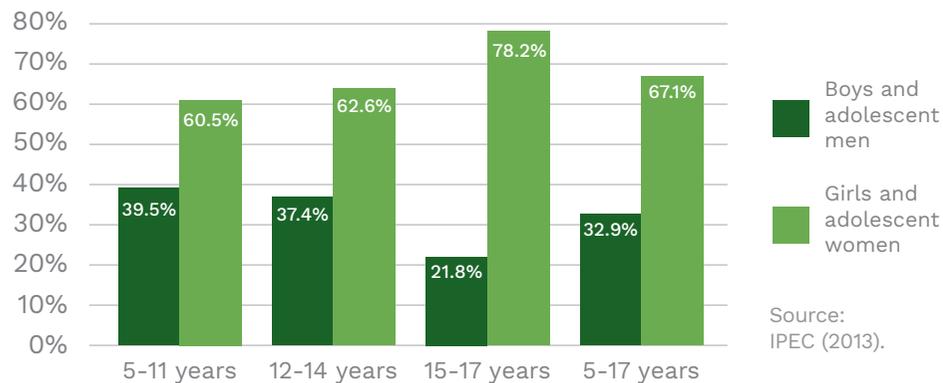
SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Target 5.1 aims to “End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.”

Figure 24

Percentage distribution of domestic child labour globally, by gender and age (2012)



Gender discrimination often deprives girls of access to adequate health services and adequate nutrition thus increasing their mortality. In adolescence, gender disparities widen and may play a role in promoting child marriage: About 1 in 9 women under age 18 in developing countries marries before the age of 18, one third of them before the age of 15.³⁴

Target 5.2 calls on all States to “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.” According to ILO studies³⁵, girls and adolescent women in child labour face a greater risk than their male counterparts of being engaged in the worst forms of child labour, such as trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Besides commercial sexual exploitation (which includes child pornography), violence against children is also conveyed through sexual abuse and harassment: “around 120 million girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.”³⁶

In addition, girls worldwide are more likely to be infected with HIV: it is estimated that in 2012 approximately 300,000 adolescents aged 15 to 19 were infected with the virus, of whom 65 per cent were women.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, approximately 1.7 million people are infected with the HIV virus, of whom about 33,000 are children aged up to 14 years, and 180,000 are adolescents and young adults aged 15 to 24. Of these, 73,000 are women.³⁷ It is the only region in the world that has more infected men than women.

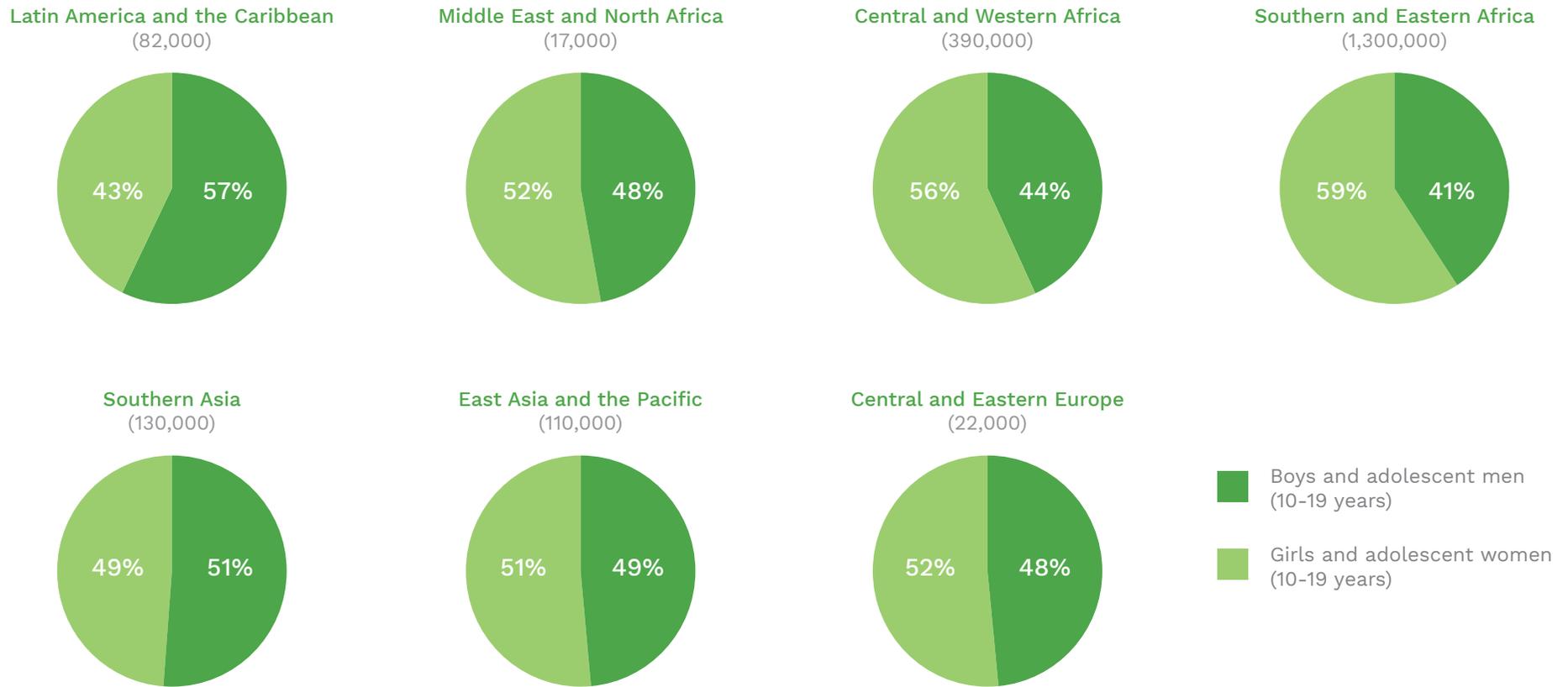
34 Unicef (2014c).

35 ILO (2009).

36 Unicef (2014b), p. 167.

37 UNAIDS (2015), pp. 135-136.

Figure 25
Estimated number of children and adolescents living with HIV, by region and sex (2012)



Source: Unicef (2015).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, violence against girls and adolescent women is greater in the private sphere: in Colombia, Haiti, Bolivia, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Honduras, 1 in 10 girls and adolescent women reported partner physical violence.³⁸

Target 5.3 aims specifically to “Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.” Gender discrimination is expressed in child labour not only in the shape of a special form of violence against girls, but also in the repetition of discriminatory patterns over time: from their supposed inability to perform certain tasks to their role as sexual objects without any right over their bodies and decisions. This is compounded by the perception that there are jobs that are typical for their gender, and that girls and women should not attempt to extend themselves beyond these tasks.

Violence against girls and adolescent women is thus reinforced by “cultural and historical norms that associate the concept of masculinity with machismo (i.e. control and domination) and the concept of femininity with submission and dependency, closely identified with childhood.”³⁹ The way gender is constructed leads to inequity between men and women and blaming the victims not the victimizers for this violation of human rights.

³⁸ Unicef (2014b), p. 137.

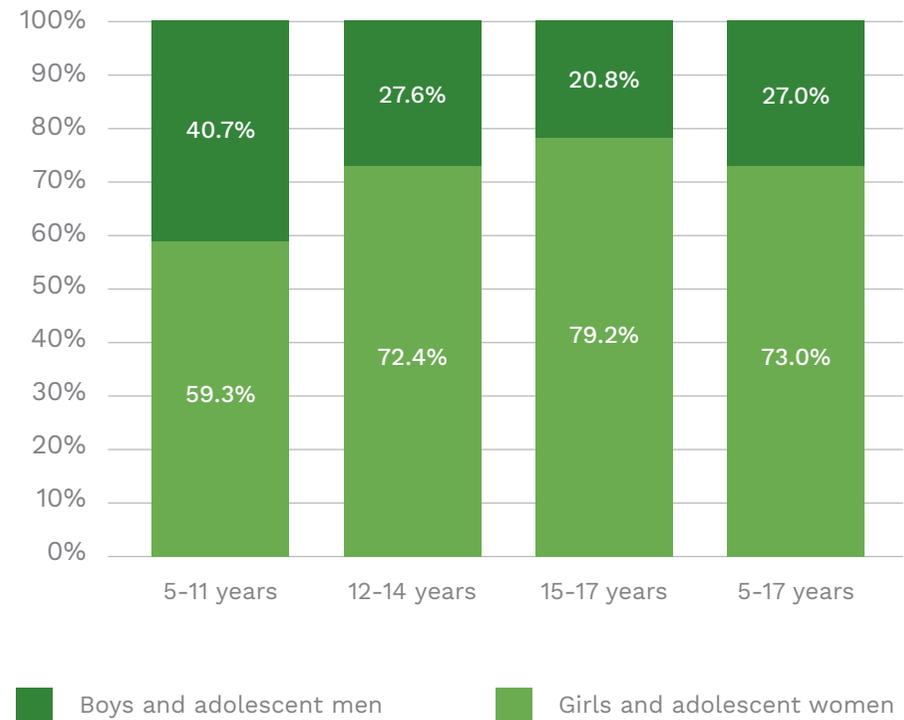
³⁹ ECPAT (2014), p. 5.

Target 5.4 commits all States to “Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate”. These occupations are usually reserved for women and, within the framework of child labour, for girls and adolescent women.

This target is very relevant in dealing with domestic labour situations. Misinformation and popular beliefs minimizing the perception of risk and danger to girls and adolescent women facilitate presenting domestic labour as “a desirable activity.”⁴⁰

There are no accurate global statistics on the number of children and adolescents in domestic child labour because of social acceptance and the refusal to consider it as “work.” However, the information available demonstrates that “female children are often particularly vulnerable, as they are more likely to be involved in domestic child labour and other less visible forms of work,”⁴¹ as illustrated in the following figure:

Figure 26
Children and adolescents in domestic labour around the world,
by sex and age (2008)



40 ILO (2011), p. 2.
41 ILO (2013) p. xxiv.

Source: ILO/IPEC (2013).

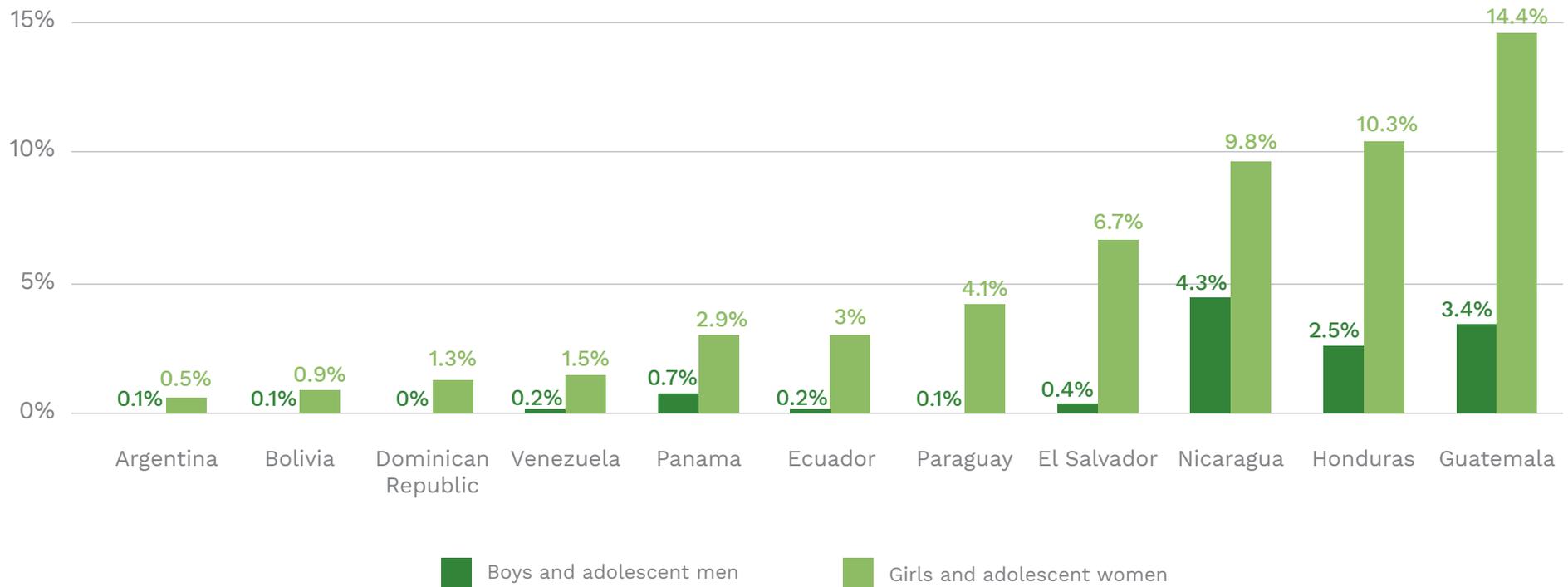
One of the worst forms of unpaid domestic labour is that performed by girls and adolescent women handed over by their parents to families who care for them in exchange for help with the household chores. These girls are often referred to as “criaditas”, “ahijadas”, “filhas de criação” or “restàvek”. In many cases “they become domestic child labourers, with no opportunity for study nor a healthy childhood and adolescence. They are also frequently victims of moral and sexual harassment and mistreatment.”⁴²

Following the global pattern, all Latin America and Caribbean countries show a greater participation of girls in domestic work, with strong differences between them: from absolutely no cases of boys and adolescent men in domestic labour in the Dominican Republic to 4.3 per cent in Nicaragua. For girls and adolescent women, the difference is much greater: From 0.5 per cent in Argentina to 14.4 per cent in Guatemala.

⁴² ILO (2011), p. 2 and IPEC (2013) pp. 29 and 35.

Figure 27

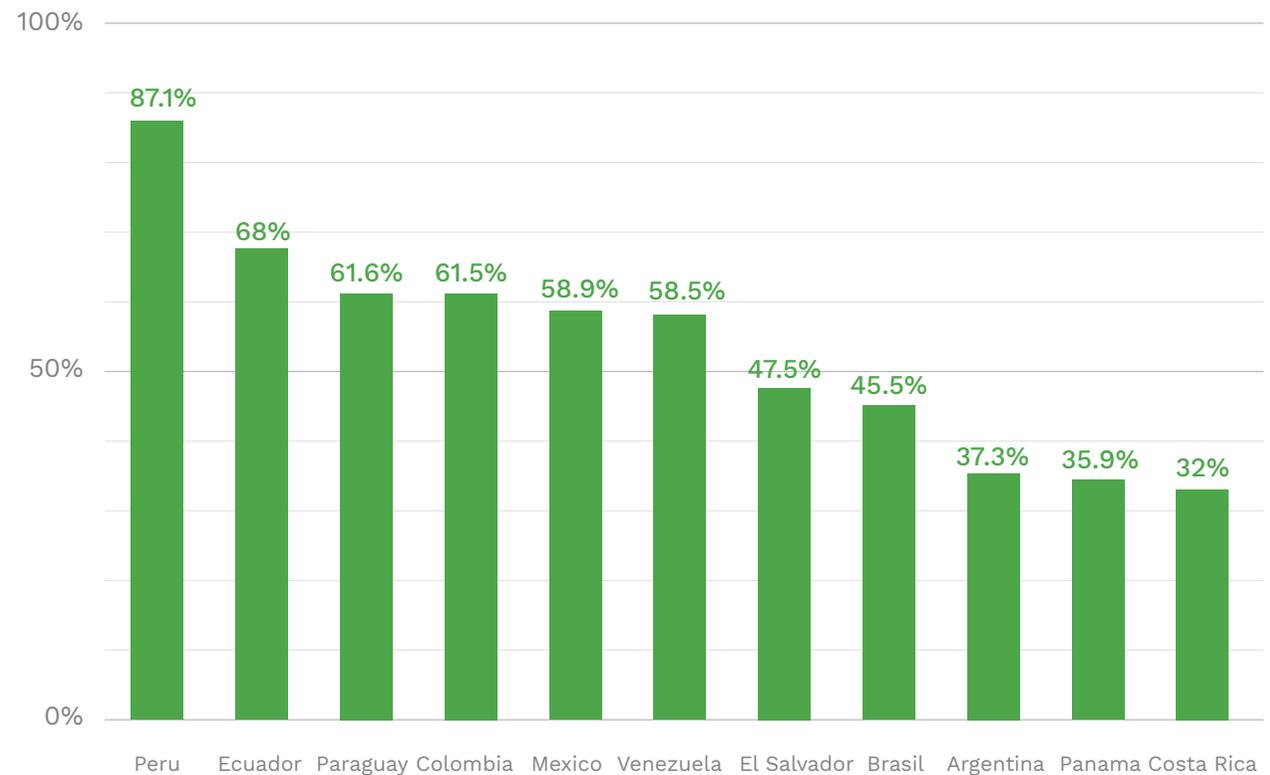
Children aged 10 to 14 declaring household work as their main activity for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean as a percentage of total children surveyed (according to household surveys, circa 2005)



Source: Montaña and Milosavljevic (2009).

The lack of social recognition of adult domestic labour and care services –usually performed by women– leads to more precarious working conditions, expressed in no or low remuneration, absence of social protection measures and little or no bargaining power. Even eliminating the effects of wage discrimination against women,⁴³ the working conditions are still far worse than those in recognised paid employment. This is shown in the following figure comparing the average wages earned by women with those paid to domestic workers in a number of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Figure 28
 Monthly income of women domestic workers as a percentage of the income of employed women.
 Selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (2009)



43 ILO (2105c), pp. 51-57.

Source: ILO (2011b).

This has a direct impact on child labour, as situations of vulnerability may arise due to the uncertainty and informality of this type of occupation, perpetuating a pattern in which the mother or older sisters pass down this same activity to the younger female children. In many cases this leads to female children being kept away from school, training or any other means of acquiring skills.

Target 5.5 aims to “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life” and **Target 5.6** aims to “Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences”. These are also related to child labour.

Both targets, urge all States to recognize gender equality and the rights of women to make informed decisions. This also requires gender-sensitive and inclusive education policies recognizing the role of women in making decisions that affect them. This contrasts with activities and social practices that demote them and assign them “inferior” roles, which promotes participation in child domestic labour and in other worse forms of child labour.

SDG 1: ENDING CHILD LABOUR IS A KEY PART OF REDUCING POVERTY

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target 1.1 expresses the commitment to, “By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.”⁴⁴

Lower-income countries have the highest rates of child labour, however child labour also reaches a very large number of children and adolescents in middle-income countries.



⁴⁴ At the beginning of October 2015, the global poverty baseline was updated by the World Bank and raised to US \$ 1.90 per day in Purchasing Power Parity terms. For more information on this change, see the World Bank report “[A global count of the extreme poor in 2012: data issues, methodology and initial results.](#)”

The relationship between child labour and poverty is one of interdependence: It is difficult for poor families to do without child labour to meet their basic subsistence needs. However, a group of authors challenges the theory that higher incomes account for less child labour, and propose that child labour is higher in poor families that have access to productive assets (such as land) than in poor families without such resources. They claim to have found that child labour seems to increase during periods of economic growth in households with access to productive assets.⁴⁵

Naturally, while the first viewpoint may suggest that a change in household income that compensates for the resources accrued from child labour could support its elimination, the second viewpoint urges caution and calls for a more complex multifaceted approach.

Thus, the relationship between child labour and poverty is not obvious, although it is clear that there is a two-way relationship. Income poverty is an incentive to use child labour and perpetuates poverty, resulting in a vicious cycle that ties them together. By affecting the skill level of children and adolescents, when they enter the labour market as adults they will more likely accept poorly paid, unstable and unprotected work, condemning them to remain in poverty.⁴⁶

There is also an understanding that both issues must be tackled together with a view to producing an effective and sustainable solution.

There are different ways of approaching what poverty entails. The United Nations has defined poverty as the “a human condition characterized by sustained or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.”⁴⁷

When poverty is understood as a multifaceted occurrence, this SDG has enormous importance and impact for children and adolescents, who account for 47 per cent of the world population living in extreme poverty.⁴⁸

45 ILO (2015) (unpublished).

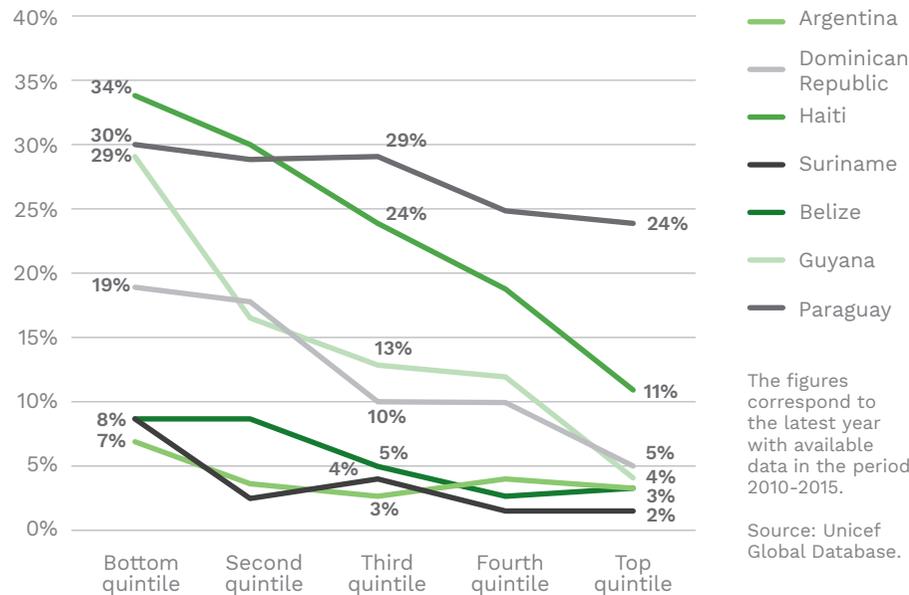
46 IPEC (2007), p. 13.

47 “Poverty and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”, joint statement adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/2001/10), 10 May 2001, § 8.

48 Unicef (2014).

Figure 29

Percentage of child labour by family income quintile for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

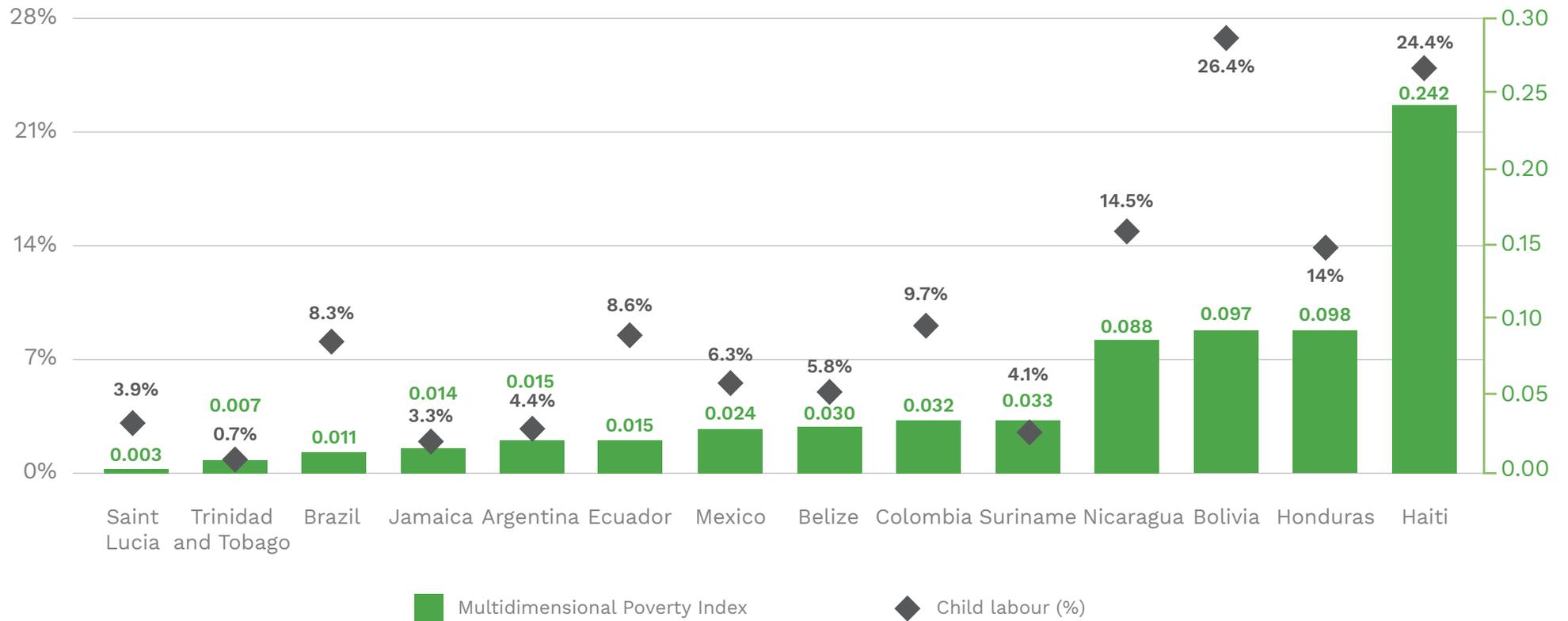


Target 1.2 is even more demanding: “By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.”

Latin America and the Caribbean exhibit a strong correlation between the multidimensional poverty index (MPI) and national child labour rates. It should be noted that, except for the particular case of Brazil where social policies in the last decade have produced a reduction of the MPI, the countries with the lower correlation are the Andean countries, where there is a greater presence of indigenous peoples. In these countries the use of child labour within family settings has a particular cultural perception.⁴⁹

49 García Hierro (2010).

Figure 30
 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and percentage of children and adolescents
 in child labour for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: Compiled by author using data from the Unicef Global Database and UNDP's Multidimensional Poverty Index (2014).

Target 1.3 calls on all States to “Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.”

Data and experience show that there are two particularly important pillars of policy in combating child labour: education and social protection.⁵⁰ Putting in place social protection systems is key to tackling child poverty and reducing incentives for child labour, especially its worst forms. Advancing child-sensitive social protection measures reduces the depth of poverty and increases the possibilities of this reduction being sustainable.⁵¹ However, it is estimated that currently only 20 per cent of the working-age population has effective access to social protection systems⁵².

Social protection mitigates the vulnerabilities of households thus contributing to breaking the vicious cycle of child labour. For this reason, efforts towards eliminating child labour have little prospect of being sustainable in the absence of “a social protection floor that can preserve vulnerable households and enable them to seize opportunities and break the cycle of intergenerational transmission of poverty.”⁵³

Child labour must be considered as a particular variable during policy design, implementation and monitoring in order for social protection to achieve maximum impact on reducing it. These must be based on sufficient, available and empirically contrasted information together with a multidimensional approach to addressing the economic vulnerabilities that encourage child labour.

In Latin America and the Caribbean there has been significant progress in social policy, with a sustained effort to increase the coverage of social protection, which is associated with progress in reducing child labour in the region.

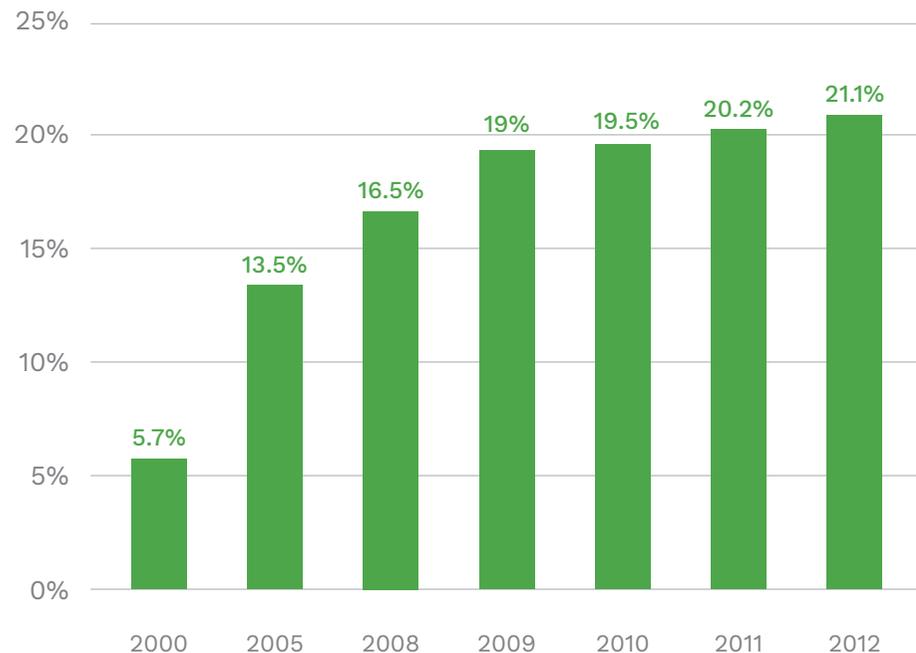
50 IPEC (2015), p. xxv.

51 Unicef (2012).

52 ILO (2013), p. 7.

53 *Ibid.*, p. 63.

Figure 31
Percentage of conditional cash transfer beneficiaries
in Latin America and the Caribbean



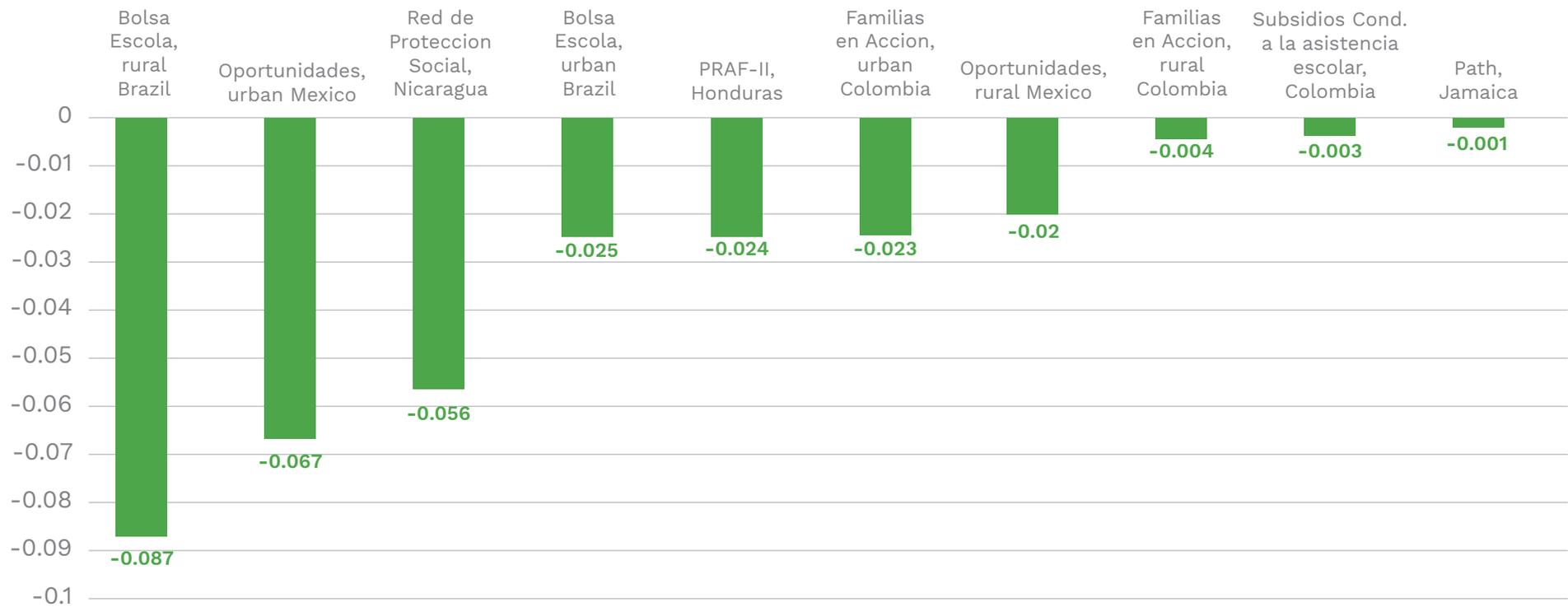
Source: Filgueira and Espíndola (2015).

Cash transfers are an increasingly important part of social protection floors in several Latin American and Caribbean countries and are already an important means of guaranteeing basic income security. Some cash transfer programmes operating in the region include the express purpose of reducing child labour, and “although the results vary across countries, impact assessments of those programmes show that they have succeeded in reducing both the prevalence of child labour among boys and girls, and the number of hours worked, in both paid and unpaid activities.”⁵⁴

Conditional cash transfer programmes invest in human capacity-building in children and young people’s education, nutrition and health. The aim of the programmes is to prevent children dropping out of school and avoid children lagging behind thus preventing them from entering the labour market prematurely. Women hold an important role to ensure the effectiveness of these programmes. These programmes are only viable when there are proper educational and health services in place. (Serrano, 2005)

⁵⁴ ECLAC (2015), p. 136.

Figure 32
 Conditional cash transfer programmes and reduction of child labour prevalence
 (selected programmes in Latin American and Caribbean countries)



Source: De Hoop and Rosati (2014).

Social protection should be increased not as a substitute for, but as a complement to policies aimed at creating decent work for young people. This will bring cohesion to the efforts to achieving Goal 8 and the sustainability of development.⁵⁵

Targets 1.4 and **1.5** refer to equal rights of access to economic resources and basic services and to the reduction of the exposure of the poor and vulnerable to climatic, environmental, economic, social and economic shocks and disasters. Both gender discrimination and vulnerability to crises are factors that lead to the emergence of child labour.

⁵⁵ For a full analysis of the potential of social protection programmes in combating child labour, see also the [World Report on Child Labour \(2013\)](#), particularly chapters 4 and 5 dedicated to the analysis of economic vulnerability, social protection and child labour.

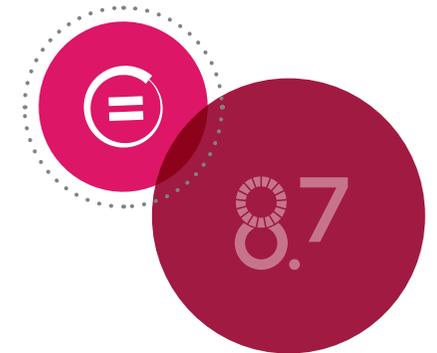
SDG 10: ENDING CHILD LABOUR IS A KEY PART TO PROMOTING EQUALITY

SDG 10: Reduce inequality in and between countries

The targets under this goal are of the greatest relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean given the inequalities in and between countries. ECLAC has stated that “One of the region’s distinguishing features has been its inequality in resource distribution and the exercise of rights. While Latin America is not the poorest region in the world, it stands out as the most unequal. This represents an obstacle to the current well-being and the future development of its societies and economies”.⁵⁶

Inequality is a factor that hinders access to opportunities. Working so that the poorest and most vulnerable children may have, from the beginning of their lives, the same opportunities as society as a whole including access to basic health care services, quality education and social protection schemes

⁵⁶ ECLAC (2014), p. 22.



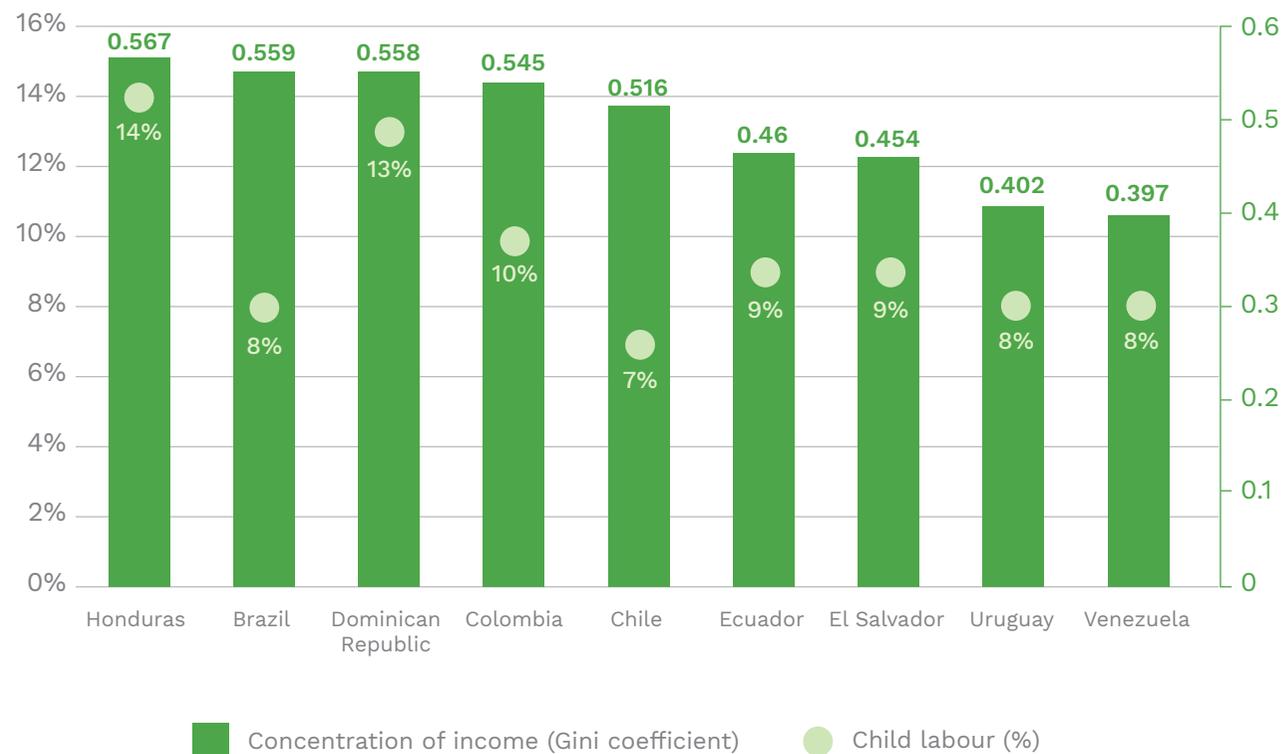
that are sensitive to their situation is one direct way to break the multiple cycles of poverty and lagging behind in which they are trapped.

Indeed, implementing policies in favour of the poorest sectors of a society leads to new opportunities for the development of society at large and is cost-effective.⁵⁷

In the specific area of child labour, the reduction of inequalities relates to other specific policies (in education, health and social protection) enhancing its outcomes. Thus, Latin America and the Caribbean is “the developing region with the smallest absolute and relative amount of child labour and the one that has made most progress in preventing and eradicating it.”⁵⁸

Figure 33

Gini index of income concentration and percentage of child labour presence for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (according to household surveys, circa 2013)



57 Rees, Chai and Anthony (2012) and Heckman and Masterov (2007).

58 ECLAC (2015), p. 136.

Source: Author's elaboration.

Target 10.1 aims to, “By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average,” something that can already be seen in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Table 4
 Shared prosperity

	Base year	Latest Year	Annual consumption or per-capita income growth rate	
			Bottom 40 per cent of income earners (%)	Total population (%)
Argentina	2007	2012	6,4	3,1
Bolivia	2007	2012	10,1	4,3
Brazil	2007	2012	6,9	4,5
Chile	2006	2011	3,9	2,8
Colombia	2008	2012	6,0	3,6
Costa Rica	2010	2013	1,33	3,15
Dominican Republic	2007	2012	1,8	-0,2
Ecuador	2007	2012	5,5	1,0
El Salvador	2007	2012	0,2	-1,5
Guatemala	2006	2011	-1,8	-4,6
Honduras	2007	2012	-3,22	-2,68
Mexico	2008	2012	1,1	-0,2
Panama	2008	2012	4,1	3,6
Paraguay	2007	2012	7,2	5,2
Peru	2007	2012	8,6	4,0
Uruguay	2007	2012	7,9	4,3

Source: Global Database of Shared Prosperity.

Raising the relative income level of the poorest groups discourages child labour and promotes education, thereby breaking the vicious cycle of child labour and poverty.

Inequality is not expressed solely as income levels. With that in mind, **Target 10.2** aims to, “By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.”

Available evidence in the region indicates that “The leading reasons for the lower participation of indigenous and Afro-descendent people in secondary and post-secondary education included: *higher rates of poverty and child and adolescent labour*; the distance of schools from their homes, particularly in rural areas; the low quality of the educational facilities to which they have access; the relevance of their study programmes and discrimination” (the Italics are the author’s).⁵⁹ Indeed, there are more incentives for child labour in socially and politically disadvantaged groups of society.

Target 10.3 aims to “Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard,” and **Target 10.4** aims to “Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.”

Laws and policies are tools that are the responsibility of the State. In defining their content in terms of labour, children and young people, the States must, in addition to their commitment to the SDGs, consider the existence of international legal obligations arising from their ratification of ILO Conventions or within the specific framework of human rights.

Target 10.7 commits all States to “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.” Migrant children and adolescents face a double vulnerability of being underage and a migrant. Even when they reach their destination, they are exposed to risks and difficulties in accessing education, social protection programmes and entering labour markets where they engage in hazardous work and away from decent work standards.⁶⁰

59 ECLAC (2015), p. 29.

60 See also: [Migration and Child Labour. Essentials.](#)

The relationship between migration and child labour is an under-explored and growing field.⁶¹ The little existing information confirms the links between the two, particularly, the risks children and adolescents are exposed to when there are mass cross-border movements. The most worrying cases are those of unaccompanied migrant minors.

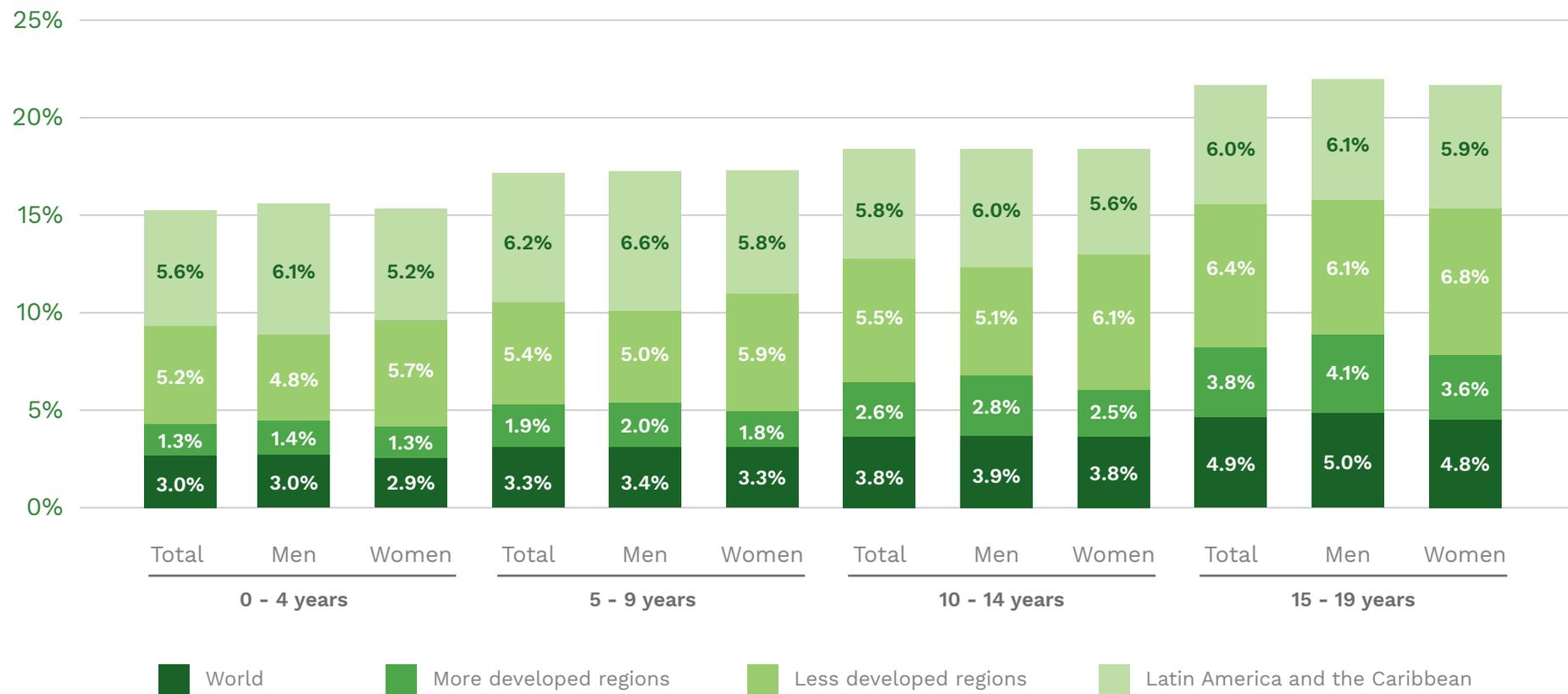
In 2013, the number of migrants in the world exceeded 231.5 million people: just over 61.5 million were in the Americas, of whom nearly 7 million were under age 19.⁶²

61 IPEC and IOM (2009) p. 20. In this regard, see also IPEC (2011b).

62 See [Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision](#). Migrants by Age and Sex, United Nations database.

Figure 34

Percentage of migrants as part of total migrants in the reference group, by region and age (2013)



Source: Compiled by author based on data from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Although young children generally move with their parents, members of the extended family or other responsible adults, increasingly children are migrating unaccompanied⁶³. There are different reasons for this, including: family reunification, search for better economic and social conditions, poverty, environmental degradation, persecution, violence and other forms of abuse.

The worst forms of child labour find fertile ground in mass movements of people. Therefore, their regulation necessitates coordinated control and enforcement of policies that contribute to discourage child labour and address its causes.⁶⁴ The unaccompanied migration of minors increases children's exposure to trafficking, with girls being especially vulnerable "because of gender discrimination and the sectors of work in which they may be engaged."⁶⁵

Unfortunately, there is still not enough information on the exploitation of children in activities such as smuggling and trade in illicit drugs, street crime and forced begging, but studies show that unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents are often exploited in these activities.⁶⁶

A UNHCR study found that the 38 per cent of unaccompanied children migrating from Mexico to the United States had been recruited into the human trafficking industry precisely because of their age and vulnerability. "These children have a unique set of potential protection needs that includes entrapment in criminal conduct, the worst forms of child labour and exposure to dangerous situations that are harmful to their safety and well-being."⁶⁷

On the other side of migration of unaccompanied children is the situation of those left behind in their countries of origin, separated from one or both parents who have migrated, which causes different types of problems and increases their vulnerability to child labour.

63 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Mr. Jorge Bustamante, on the Promotion and Protection of All Human, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Development (UN Doc. A/HRC/11/7), § 19.

64 Van de Glind (2010) y Van de Glind y Kou (2013).

65 United Nations (2011), p. 75.

66 ECPAT UK (2010).

67 UNHCR (2014), p. 11.

Figure 35
 Consequences for children and adolescents of their parents' migration



Source: Unicef (2011).

Concern about these situations led a group of Latin American and Caribbean countries to file an advisory opinion request with the [Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding the “Rights and Guarantees of Children in the Context of Migration and/or in Need of International Protection.”](#) which was issued on August 19, 2014 (OC-21/14).

Although no explicit mention of child labour is made in the advisory opinion, the standards on protection of migrant children set guidelines for action by the States. For example: “the elements of the definition of refugee were traditionally interpreted based on the experiences of adults or persons over 18 years of age. Hence, in view of the fact that children are entitled to the right to seek and receive asylum and may, in consequence, submit applications for recognition of refugee status in their own capacity, whether or not they are accompanied, the elements of the definition should be interpreted taking into account the specific forms that child persecution may adopt, such as recruitment, trafficking, and female genital mutilation, as well as the way in which they may experience these situations” (§ 80).

SDG 2: 'ZERO HUNGER' AND CHILD LABOUR

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture



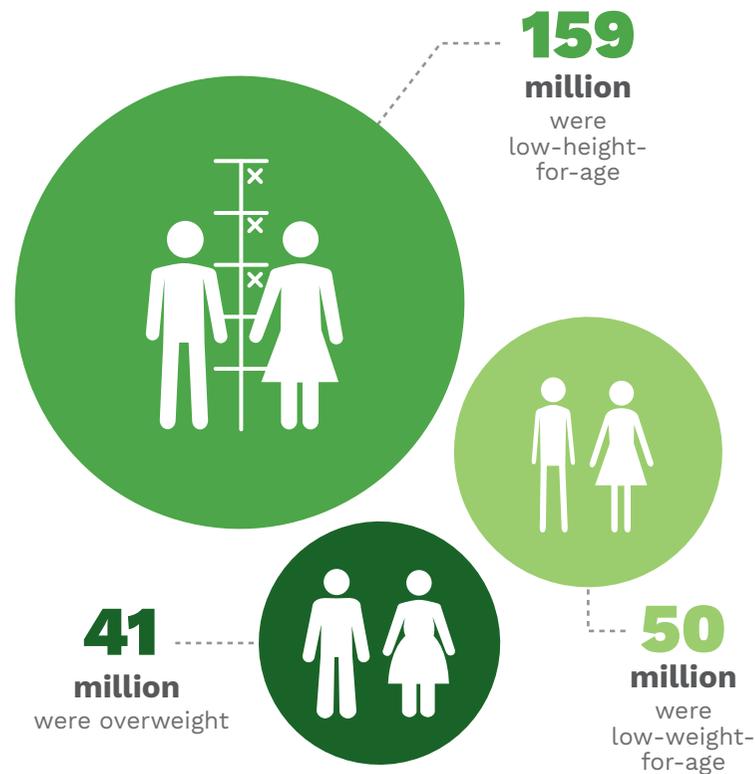
The first two targets of this objective are particularly important for this analysis.

Target 2.1 strives to, “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.” Moreover, **Target 2.2** calls on all States to, “By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.”

The lack of adequate food severely affects children’s height and weight, with scores either above or below the average range of growth for age.

Figure 36

In 2014 there were 667 million children in the world, of whom...



The poorest families are most affected by hunger. In these, the incentives to go into child labour are the strongest and the cycle of poverty is exacerbated by the burden of malnutrition. Therefore, progress in the fight against hunger brings with it political stability and general economic growth,⁶⁸ discouraging child labour.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, fourteen countries have child labour rates of less than 10 per cent and half of them demonstrate a percentage of undernourished population below 5 per cent. Of the remaining 9 countries in the region for which official data on child labour are available, only Peru has an undernourished population rate below 10 per cent.

Source: Unicef, WHO and the World Bank (2015).

68 FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015), pp. 27-46.

Table 5
Percentage of undernourished population in Latin American and Caribbean
countries with child labour rates below 10 per cent

		Child labour (%)	Total undernourished population (%)
1	Panama	2,9	9,5
2	Trinidad and Tobago	3,0	7,4
3	Costa Rica	4,0	<5,0
4	Belize	4,7	6,2
5	Argentina	5,3	<5,0
6	Ecuador	6,3	10,9
7	Suriname	6,4	8,0
8	Chile	6,6	<5,0
9	Brazil	7,5	<5,0
10	El Salvador	7,8	12,4
11	Jamaica	5,4	8,1
12	Mexico	8,6	<5,0
13	Colombia	9,3	8,8
14	Uruguay	9,9	<5,0

		Child labour (%)	Total undernourished population (%)
15	Dominican Republic	12,2	12,3
16	Nicaragua	13,2	16,6
17	Honduras	15,3	12,2
18	Guatemala	20,3	15,6
19	Paraguay	22,0	10,4
20	Peru	23,0	7,5
21	Guyana	23,0	10,6
22	Bolivia	28,0	15,9
23	Haiti	34,4	53,4
24	Venezuela	Not available	<5,0
25	Bahamas	Not available	Not available

Source: Compiled by the author based on national surveys (percentage of child labour), except for Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago whose data are from the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs (2015); and FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015) (percentage of total undernourished population).

Target 2.3 strives to, “By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.” Given the relationship between poverty and child labour, and the latter’s greater concentration in the agricultural sector, increasing the income of the people in the groups prioritized by this target should contribute to the elimination of child labour.

The reference to increased productivity in agriculture and to small food producers highlights the importance of considering the SDGs as an interdependent and indivisible whole.

As shown in Part 1 of this document, agricultural labour, especially in small family farms, accounts for most child and adolescent labour. Therefore, engaging more child labourers must be avoided when there are increases in productivity in these sectors.

The holistic vision of the 2030 Agenda seeks precisely to avoid these inconsistencies due to a lack of correlations and interdependence between actions and targets. Thus, attaining target 8.7 on ending child labour places a limit on actions to reach target 2.3.

Likewise, advances towards **Target 2.4**, which aims to, “By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production,” should help eliminate child labour as this impedes sustainability in production systems.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 48 per cent of child labour is concentrated in agriculture, one of the most hazardous and risky sectors to work in as it involves long working hours, exposure to extreme climates, use of and contact with chemicals and pesticides, and use of dangerous machinery and tools, among others.

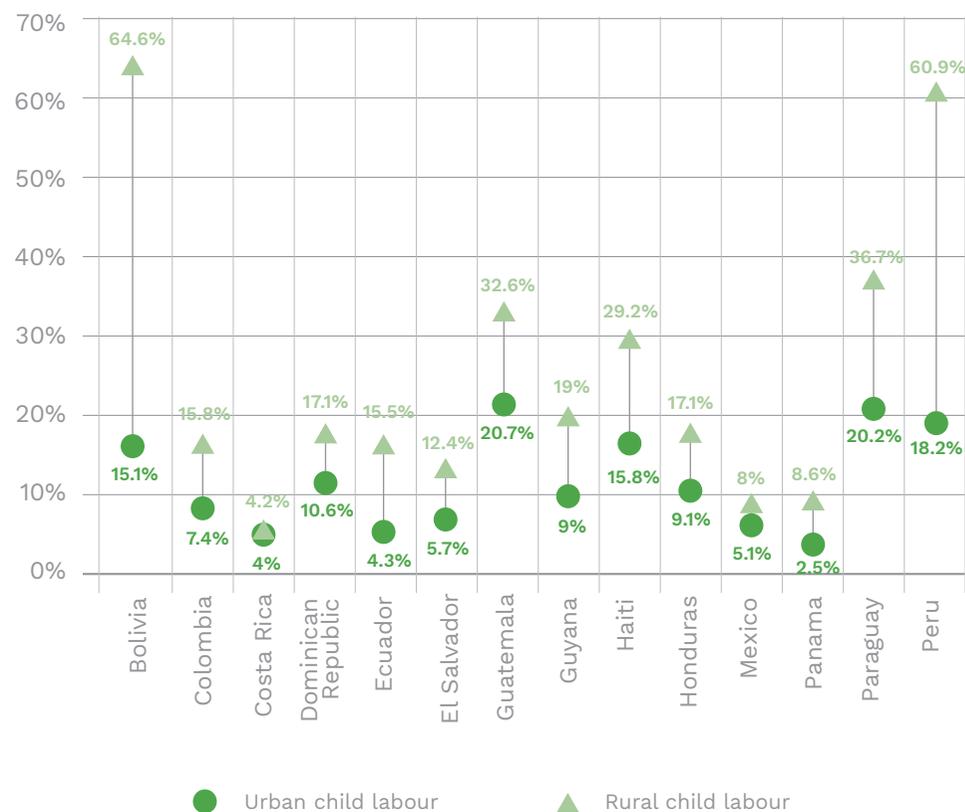
Most children and adolescents who work in this sector do so under the guise of (unpaid) family work. Much of the farming sector as a whole including crop agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock operates under informal conditions, which limit the ability to enforce current regulations. In addition to this, legislation in several countries provides for certain exceptions with respect to work in family businesses and/or agricultural activities.

The continual poverty in rural areas, the limited access to quality basic services, especially education, health and related services such as social protection, credit and appropriate technologies, the lack of means and skills to implement productive alternatives along with cultural patterns which encourage the engagement of children, are the prevailing factors that explain the widespread use of child labour in the agricultural sector.

Hence the importance of linking these targets with the reduction of child and adolescent labour adolescent in the rural areas.

Figure 37

Percentage of child labour by urban and rural distribution for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: Unicef Global Database (2014).

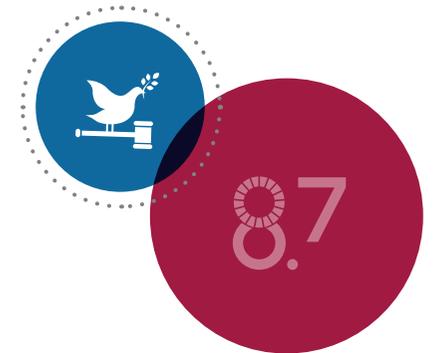
SDG 16: ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR IS A GOVERNANCE ISSUE

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Success in implementing the entire range of the SDGs requires an institutional framework and common guidelines for all sectors involved.

Defined as the principle of governance “in which all persons, institutions and entities public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards,”⁶⁹ the ‘rule of law’ is the legal projection of the values that the 2030 Agenda highlights in its paragraph 8: respect for human dignity, justice, equality and non-discrimination, equal opportunity and inclusion, among others.

⁶⁹ [Report of the Secretary General on the Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies \(S/2004/616\)](#).



Target 16.2 aims to “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.” These practices often manifest themselves in the form of sexual abuse, illicit trafficking, gender-based violence in girls, bullying, violent disciplinary practices, child marriage and, of course, the worst forms of child labour.

Violence in the home, school or neighbourhood is also a factor increasing the chances of children and adolescents entering the labour market prematurely in search of alternatives for autonomy and to escape these conditions.

Child labour is a form of exploitation of children and adolescents that, at the same time, encourages the manifestation of other forms of violence: “Violence against children and child labour are closely related as violence acts as both an aggravating circumstance for children in child labour and as a ‘push’ factor towards child labour.”⁷⁰

Physical, psychological, verbal and sexual violence are the most common forms of violence against children in the workplace. It often reflects a collective culture of physical brutality in the workplace and may involve yelling and offensive language, sexual harassment and, in extreme cases, rape or murder.

Therefore, it is key to intensify a policy of zero tolerance to violence against children at work, either within or without the framework of a law, in organized workplaces or in the informal economy. This aspect should be considered when taking action within the framework of this target.

“Promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and guaranteeing equal access to justice for all,” the commitment expressed in **Target 16.3**, is essential to establish the necessary policy framework for preventing and eliminating child labour. Equally necessary is to “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels,” as stated in **Target 16.6**, that are capable of implementing the necessary policies effectively and efficiently. The multiple variables and situations that encourage child labour require a strategy that brings together the different regional levels into one coordinated action.

Both targets have a direct bearing on the tripartism between the State, employers’ and workers’ organizations, a key issue for good governance in the world of work. Establishing an institutional framework aimed at creating regulatory frameworks and promoting policies in the world of work requires the active participation of all three.

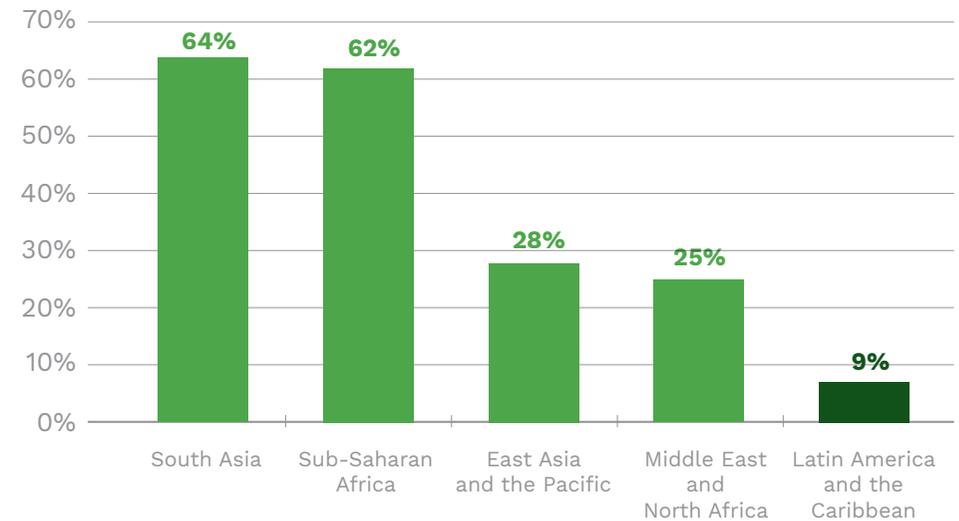
70 Unicef (2014).

Social dialogue is established among these three actors in the form of negotiations, consultations or exchanges of information and opinions, which legitimizes and promotes standards and measures to be implemented in the workplace, including those on prevention and elimination of child labour –one of the four fundamental principles and rights at work. As stated in the preamble to the [ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization](#), “social dialogue and the practice of tripartism between governments and the representative organizations of workers and employers within and across borders are now more relevant to achieving solutions and to building up social cohesion and the rule of law.”

Lastly, **Target 16.9** aims to, “By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.” The lack of birth records makes children, usually those who belong to groups especially vulnerable to child labour, invisible. The three main obstacles to full birth registration are: families’ lack of knowledge about the importance of birth registration, administrative hurdles and registration fees charged at some registration sites.⁷¹

Figure 38

Global percentage of underreported births, children aged 0 to 4, by region (2000-2012)



Source: Brito, Corbacho and Osorio (2013).

The lack of birth registration also increases impacts on child labour: the invisibility of unregistered children limits their access to social protection systems, with the previously explained consequences on decent work and the incentive to use child labour (see target 1.3).

⁷¹ Unicef (2002), pp. 12-17.

SDG 3: HEALTH FOR ALL AND THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

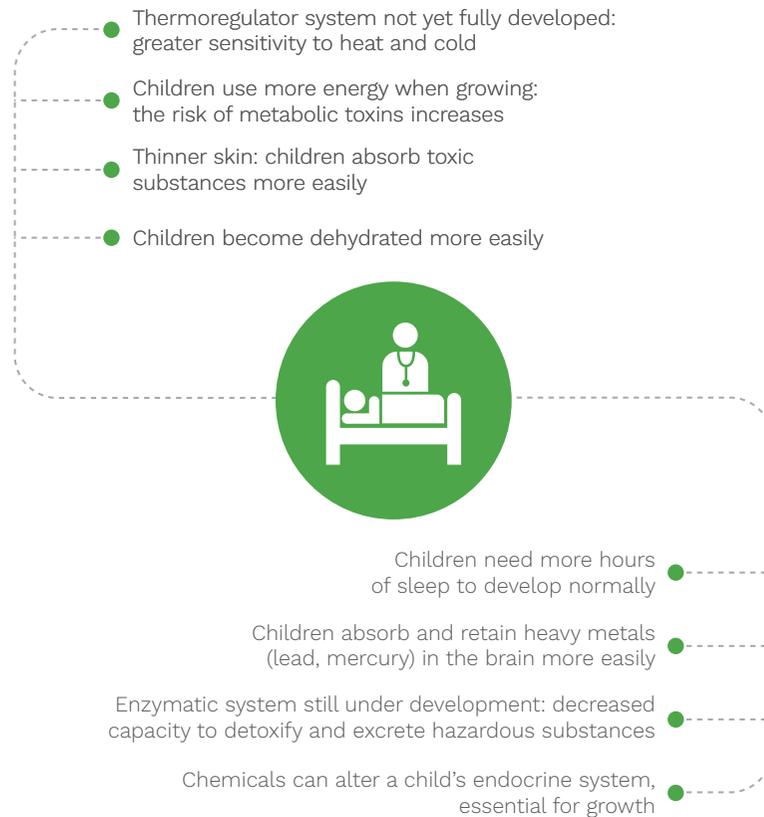
Linking this goal to child labour requires starting by pointing out that “children are not simply smaller adults, they are physically and mentally different; and regardless of cultural perceptions or social construct, the transition to biological adulthood extends past puberty well into the late teen years.”⁷²

Target 3.4 expresses the commitment to, “By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being”, which requires action on child labour, especially its most dangerous forms.



⁷² IPEC (2011), p. 13.

Figure 39
 Factors increasing health risks in children



The World Health Organization warns on its website that the harm that children suffer as a result of child labour not only has short-term health effects, but also extends to and sometimes only becomes visible in adult life. The consequence is the difficulty in measuring the effects: “cancer, infertility, chronic back pain and IQ reduction are some of the expected long-term effects.”

Target 3.5 aims to “Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol,” situations that children and adolescent workers are exposed to through the worst forms of child labour, particularly those who exploit them in criminal activities.

Target 3.9 aims to, “By 2030, reduce substantially the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.” Agriculture and mining, sectors in which child labour has a significant presence, involve the use of highly dangerous products such as pesticides and chemical agents or explosives. These particularly affect the health and physical development of children (see Figure 36).

For Latin America and the Caribbean, it is particularly important to pay attention to adolescent work in agriculture, since this sector accounts for most hazardous work performed by adolescents.

Source: Compiled by author based on ILO/IPEC data (2007).

Figure 40
 Percentage of adolescents aged 15 to 17 engaged in hazardous work, by sector and country. Global comparison (2007-2013)



Source: ILO/IPEC (2015).

SDG 13: CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

This goal begins by acknowledging that “The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change” and then establishes a bridge between the 2030 Agenda and the results of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21).

Following this remark, **Target 13.1** calls on all States to “Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries”; and **Target 13.3**, to “Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.”



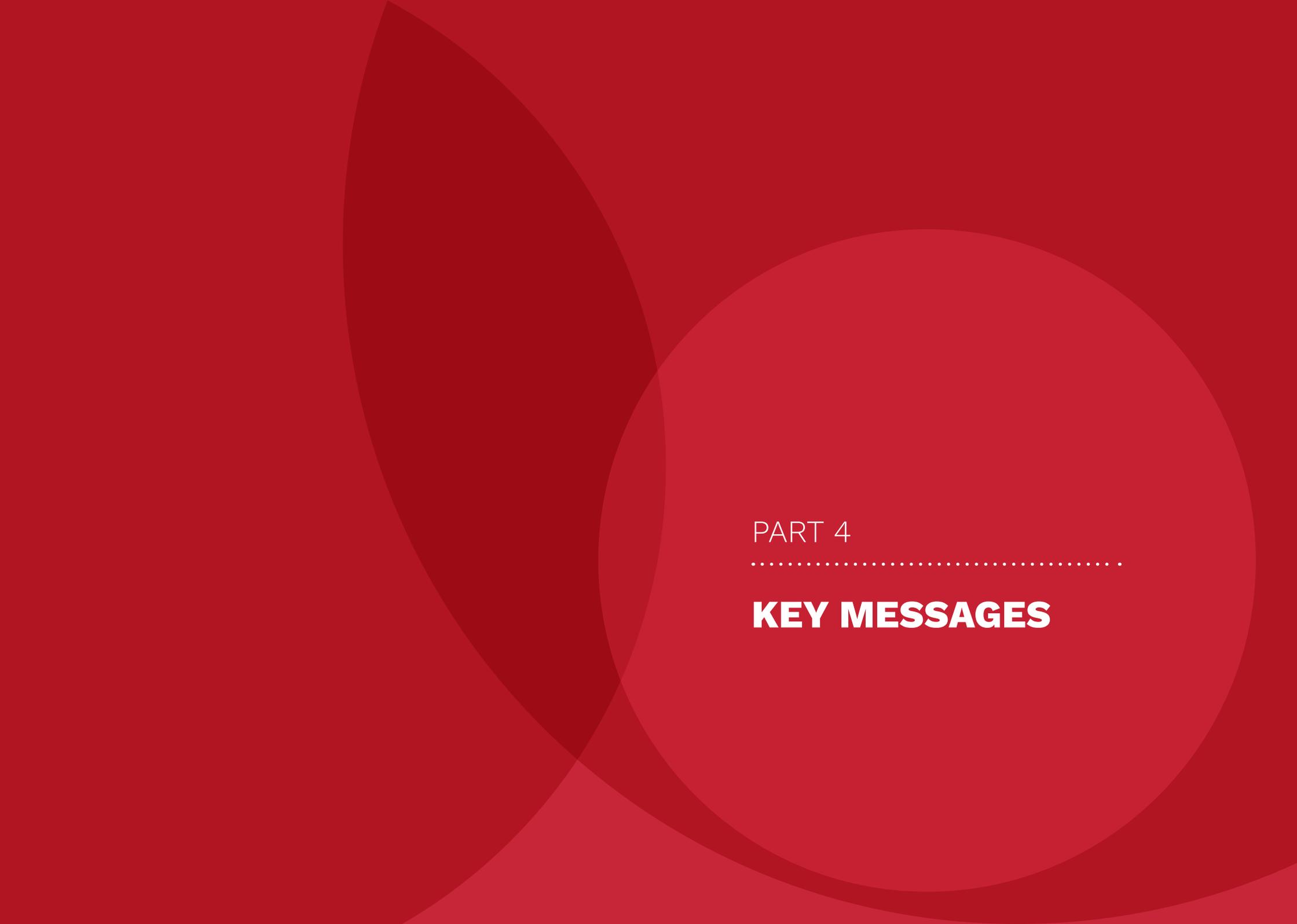
Beyond the climatic and environmental factors that may increase the vulnerability of the poorest groups of societies and create conditions conducive to the emergence or continuation of child labour, climate change is a factor that has a direct impact on children and adolescent labour.

Child labour is a strategy used by families to cope with the damage from climate change and can be expected to have a greater impact on children living in rural areas.⁷³ This is of importance for Latin America and the Caribbean given the distribution of child labour in the region.

Three reasons support this claim:

1. The effects of extreme environmental incidents are the source of unexpected and sudden economic losses, either directly or as unrealized expected income.
2. It is to be expected that variations in the labour markets caused by climate change will affect more directly their most vulnerable participants. Because of their lower level of social protection, the conditions in which children and adolescents carry out their activities are worsened.
3. By being a gradual and continuous process, climate change generates reoccurrences of extreme or unexpected climatic events, increasing the sense of family risk, and promotes child labour by predisposing families to prepare to survive or recover from a possible economic shock.

⁷³ Boutin (2014), p. 1.

The background features a solid red color with two overlapping circles of a slightly lighter shade of red. A dark red leaf-like shape is positioned on the left side, overlapping the circles.

PART 4

.....

KEY MESSAGES

1

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be understood as a **network of interrelated goals that lead to sustainable development** in all its dimensions including economic, social and environmental. This requires all stakeholders that have the ability to influence the expected results to commit and to advance the goals at multiple levels, including at the local, national, regional and global levels.

2

The coherence and cohesion of the entire set of SDGs is reinforced by three pillars fundamental to their attainment: **the fight against poverty, the advancement of equality and the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, based on full, productive employment and decent work** as an effective combination to generate development models truly sustainable.

3

The decent work component expressed in SDG 8 and its targets, lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. The aim is to **stimulate economic strategies in which more and better jobs generate the purchasing power that promotes investment, which in turn lifts productivity and brings competitiveness and success in a global market**. But this process will not automatically be sustainable nor inclusive. That will require a framework of institutions, organizations, laws and policies, and a culture of social dialogue, to govern the world of work and the functioning of labour markets.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ See: http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/105/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS_479681/lang--en/index.htm p. 7.

4

As a whole, **SDG 8 provides the essential economic basis for advancing the achievement of target 8.7** which seeks the elimination of forced labour, ending modern forms of slavery and ensuring the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and, by 2025, ending child labour in all its forms. However, **achieving this target depends on progress in achieving other targets.**

5

Ending child labour by 2025 entails, in turn, making progress in at least 35 related targets under goals other than Goal 8 that have a direct bearing on reducing child labour and imply strengthening the coherence of public policies at the national level and promoting mutual support at the global and regional levels:



● Number of targets related to the elimination of child labour

6

The creation of the **Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of child labour**⁷⁵ is an expression of that pursuit of mutual support to advance compliance with the 2030 Agenda. **Twenty-seven governments together with employers' and workers' organizations are part of this intergovernmental cooperation platform**, that aims to accelerate child labour reduction rates in Latin America and the Caribbean and reach target 8.7, by impelling **a new generation of policies** that can respond effectively to change in the prevailing economic conditions, which have largely driven the reduction of child labour currently exhibited by the region.

⁷⁵ See the Regional Initiative Framework Document at: <http://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/regional-initiative-framework.pdf> p. 17 and following.

7

Based on **an approach of policy alignment and ownership by national actors**, the Regional Initiative has designed an acceleration strategy that sets out four outcomes:

- Usher in **the first child-labour free generation by 2025**, focused on a preventive approach with priority measures by age groups from 0 to 17 years;
- **Withdraw children below the minimum age for admission to employment from child labour**, focusing on an approach based on the protection and restoration of rights;
- **Withdraw adolescents from hazardous work**, focusing on an approach based on the substitution of activities combined with training;
- **Eliminate criminal forms of exploitation**, focusing on an approach based on judicial protection and immediate withdrawal.

In order to implement this strategy, a comprehensive analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals is essential to provide the criteria to promote measures against child labour in broader policies and programmes such as on employment, education, fighting poverty and inequality, agrarian development and health care, among others.

8

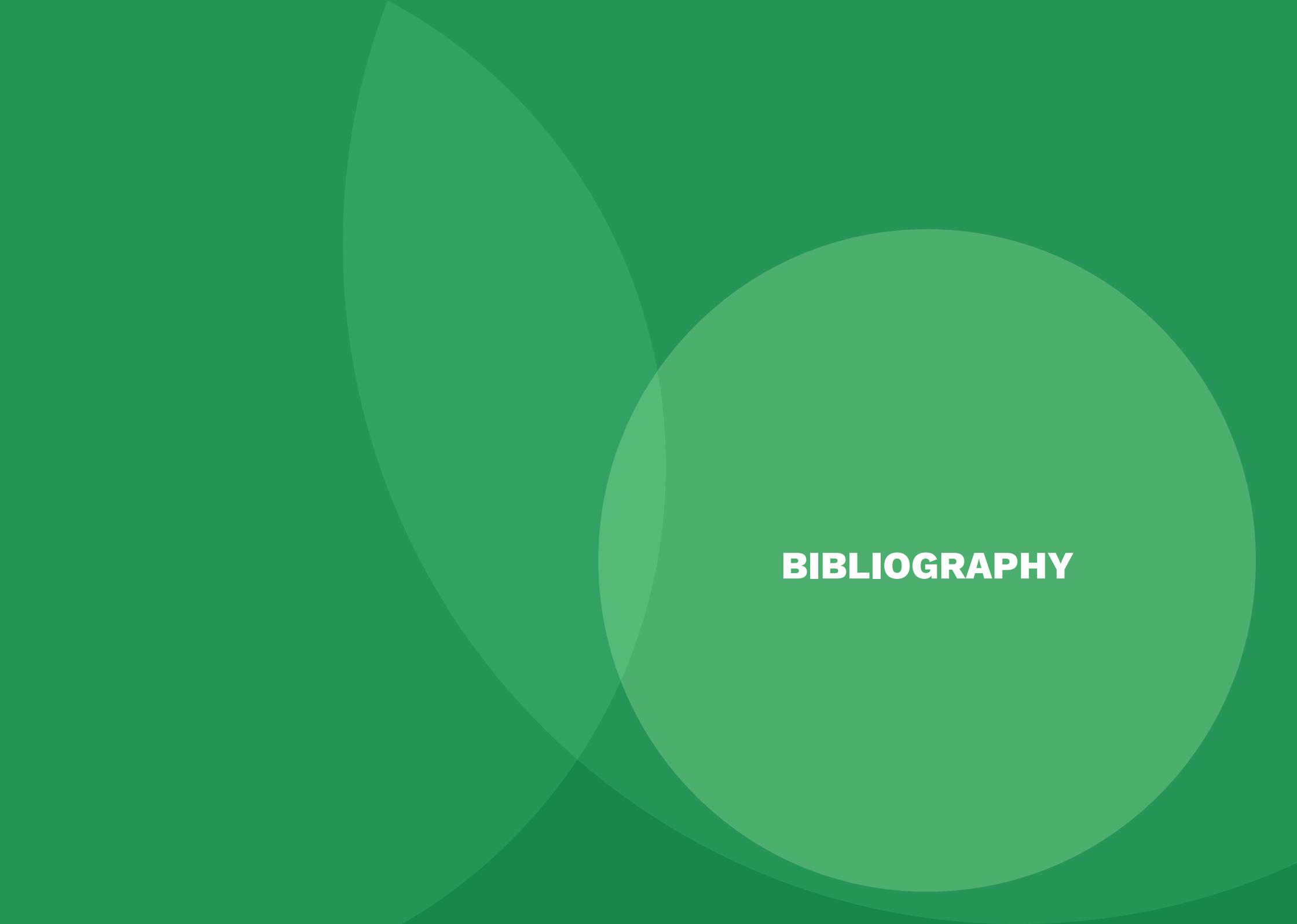
The ultimate objective is **to adopt a comprehensive and integrated vision, based on a holistic approach capable of capturing and articulating the relationships and synergies between objectives and interdependent themes**; a working model that will require an institutional design adapted to the new challenges and open to the participation of all development actors. For this reason, official funding of the 2030 Agenda should focus on children and adolescents in child labour, a path that should be deepened by South-South cooperation and the private sector –the latter having an instrumental part to play for its very role in productive development.

9

The [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) adopted by the UN's Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015, has taken steps in that direction by recognizing that **“Investing in children and youth is critical to achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for present and future generations”** and reaffirming “the vital importance of promoting and protecting the rights of all children, and ensuring that no child is left behind” (§7).

10

In this context, the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of child labour is an ideal platform to **unite the political wills and capacities of different key public and private stakeholders** who, with the support of international cooperation, can achieve an end to child labour by 2025 and take a key step to building sustainable development the world has set as its collective objective.



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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1:

TABLE OF DIRECT RELATIONSHIPS IDENTIFIED WITH TARGET 8.7 ON ENDING CHILD LABOUR AND OTHER COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE 2030 AGENDA

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDG 4

Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Intensity of the relationship with ending child labour by number of interlinked targets: 6

Targets directly related to target 8.7 on ending child labour

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.4 By 2030, increase substantially the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Targets directly related to target 8.7 on ending child labour
<p data-bbox="864 890 981 922">SDG 5</p> <p data-bbox="864 938 1200 995">Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p data-bbox="864 1043 1240 1139">Intensity of the relationship with ending child labour by number of interlinked targets: 6</p>	<p data-bbox="1308 564 2002 622">5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 670 2047 762">5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 810 2047 868">5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 932 2047 1059">5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 1107 2047 1200">5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 1264 2069 1433">5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences</p>

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Targets directly related to target 8.7 on ending child labour
<p data-bbox="864 884 1106 991">SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <p data-bbox="864 1034 1240 1129">Intensity of the relationship with ending child labour by number of interlinked targets: 5</p>	<p data-bbox="1308 584 2040 644">1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 700 2051 796">1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 852 2018 948">1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 1019 2063 1214">1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 1294 2063 1422">1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters</p>

**Sustainable Development Goals
(SDGs)**
Targets directly related to target 8.7 on ending child labour
SDG 10
**Reduce inequality
in and between countries**

Intensity of the relationship with
ending child labour by number of
interlinked targets: 5

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Targets directly related to target 8.7 on ending child labour
<p data-bbox="864 826 1234 1007">SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <p data-bbox="864 1046 1234 1145">Intensity of the relationship with ending child labour by number of interlinked targets: 4</p>	<p data-bbox="1308 568 2069 667">2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 711 2069 874">2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 935 2069 1134">2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1308 1195 2069 1394">2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality</p>

**Sustainable Development Goals
(SDGs)**
SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Intensity of the relationship with ending child labour by number of interlinked targets: 4

Targets directly related to target 8.7 on ending child labour

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Targets directly related to target 8.7 on ending child labour
<p>SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p> <p>Intensity of the relationship with ending child labour by number of interlinked targets: 3</p>	<p>3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being</p> <hr/> <p>3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol</p> <hr/> <p>3.9 By 2030, reduce substantially the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p>
<p>SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p> <p>Intensity of the relationship with ending child labour by number of interlinked targets: 2</p>	<p>13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p> <hr/> <p>13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p>

ANNEX 2:

COMPLETE LIST OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE TARGETS

Goal 1:

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

- 1.6 Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
- 1.7 Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Goal 2:

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

- 2.1** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- 2.3** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- 2.4** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

- 2.5** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
- 2.6** Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
- 2.7** Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
- 2.8** Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Goal 3:

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.1** By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2** By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortalities to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3** By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4** By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5** Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6** By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

- 3.8** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9** By 2030, reduce substantially the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.10** Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
- 3.11** Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- 3.12** Increase substantially health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
- 3.13** Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Goal 4:

Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- 4.4 By 2030, increase substantially the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

- 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
- 4.8** Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- 4.9** By 2020, expand substantially globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.10** By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states

Goal 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

- 5.7 Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.8 Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.9 Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Goal 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2** By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3** By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4** By 2030, increase substantially water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

- 6.7** By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.8** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Goal 7:

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- 7.1** By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2** By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3** By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.4** By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- 7.5** By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

Goal 8:

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- 8.1** Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- 8.2** Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4** Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

- 8.5** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6** By 2020, reduce substantially the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- 8.9** By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 8.10** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
- 8.11** Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
- 8.12** By 2020, develop and operationalise a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Goal 9:

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

- 9.1** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2** Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- 9.3** Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 9.4** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
- 9.5** Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

- 9.6** Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
- 9.7** Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
- 9.8** Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Goal 10:

Reduce inequality in and between countries

- 10.1** By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- 10.4** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.5** Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- 10.6** Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

- 10.7** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 10.8** Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
- 10.9** Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
- 10.10** By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Goal 11:

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- 11.2** By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- 11.3** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- 11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5** By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.6** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

- 11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.8** Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- 11.9** By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- 11.10** Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

Goal 12:

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- 12.1** Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.2** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3** By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 12.4** By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5** By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

- 12.6** Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12.7** Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 12.8** By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- 12.9** Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- 12.10** Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 12.11** Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

Goal 13:

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

- 13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 13.3** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- 13.4** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalise the Green Climate Fund through its capitalisation as soon as possible
- 13.5** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Goal 14:

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans,
seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- 14.1** By 2025, prevent and reduce significantly marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.3** Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- 14.5** By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

- 14.6** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation **
- 14.7** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- 14.8** Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries
- 14.9** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- 14.10** Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of «The Future We Want»

** Considering the ongoing negotiations by the World Trade Organization, the Doha Development Agenda and the mandate of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.

Goal 15:

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- 15.1** By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2** By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 15.3** By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4** By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

- 15.6** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
- 15.7** Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- 15.8** By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and reduce significantly the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- 15.9** By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.10** Mobilize and increase significantly financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.11** Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 15.12** Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

Goal 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- 16.1** Reduce significantly all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4** By 2030, reduce significantly illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime
- 16.5** Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8** Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

- 16.9** By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.11** Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.12** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Goal 17:

Strengthen the means of implementation
and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Finance

- 17.1** Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- 17.2** Ensure that developed countries implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; and encourage ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
- 17.3** Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4** Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- 17.5** Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

- 17.6** Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- 17.7** Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
- 17.8** Fully operationalise the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Capacity building

- 17.9** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Commerce

- 17.10** Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- 17.11** Increase significantly the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
- 17.12** Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Systemic issues

Policy and institutional coherence

- 17.13** Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
- 17.14** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.15** Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

- 17.16** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability

- 17.18** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- 17.19** By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries



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