

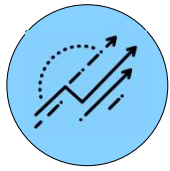


**Update on UN Women's response to
COVID 19 in Latin America and the
Caribbean**

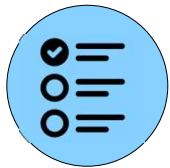
 **UN**
WOMEN 

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

How is UN Women in LAC adapting to the crisis?



- **Production and dissemination of lifesaving information** for women, key messages for migrants and refugees and **assessments**: quick gender impact assessments with partners (e.g. CARE), Spotlight surveys to shelters' systems.
- **Production of knowledge, innovative guidance and policy briefs** on gender-responsive practices: gender alerts, gender and cash transfers, ERAW, private sector responses, recognition and distribution of unpaid care work, and positive masculinities.
- Strong **media outreach to position impact of the crisis on informal workers, domestic workers, health workers and GBV**,



Reprogramming existing efforts, projects and programmes to adapt to virtual work and respond to the women and women's organisations left behind and particularly affected by COVID19 crisis. **Focus on impact and innovation.**



- **Partnerships** with Governments (various line Ministries), CSOs and the private sector
- **Mapping** existing governmental responses and promoting regional, subregional and **south-south cooperation with ECLAC (building Covid19 regional Observatory)** and ongoing high-level dialogues with Women's machineries)
- **Coordination mechanisms** to position GEWE at the center of the COVID 19 response **within and outside the UN** (e.g. coordination with international cooperation, gender table in COVID response, Platform for the Response to Migrants and Refugees from Venezuela, joint Call of Action to be launched with IADB).

Organizational effectiveness:

Business continuity

Personnel security and well being

Flexibility

Acceleration of virtualization effort, teamwork and information sharing

How is UN Women in LAC reprioritizing its activities?

Following a common regional reprogramming guidance note and network exchanges across the region:

41% of LAC portfolio is based on joint programmes: ongoing negotiations with other agencies and funders for reprogramming.

Scaling up prevention and access to essential and quality services for women survivors of violence including development of new solutions and delivery modalities, updating referral pathways and protocols (e.g. support national systems and connect regional shelters' network and hotels)

Protecting **women human rights defenders through Spotlight Initiative, supporting existing national and regional networks (inter-governmental and civil society)**

Mainstreaming GEWE in the humanitarian response

Strengthening work **on women, peace building and conflict prevention** with the Peace Building Fund, and the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund across the region.

Technical assistance and financial support to **women's ministries and other key lines ministries on mainstreaming GEWE and responses to VAWG in national response plans**

Promote the participation of women and women's organizations in decision making

Positioning the need of national **care systems, co-responsibility, the role of the care economy** and gender lenses in macroeconomic decision-making and finances.

Financial support and online mentoring and capacity development for women small businesses, indigenous entrepreneurs and rural producers, studying the impact of COVID in local value chains (cacao, coffee, tourism, etc. in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala).

Promoting **public cash transfers to become unconditional.**

Additional lessons learned for integration in the MTR of the SP?

Programming

- **Enhance interlinkages between thematic areas and integral approaches and responses**
- Need for **flexibility** to adapt programs to crisis, need to adapt operational inertias to serve to the response.
- **Invest in women's leadership and women organizations' participation at all levels**, including in peace building, conflict prevention and emergency response
- Exceptional policy and procedures for **programme delivery** beyond the existing exceptions for humanitarian contexts

Coordination

- Enhance coordination among HQ and inter-regions in thematic areas
- Relevance of leveraging the **coordination mechanisms and structures established with the UN reform** at country and regional level to ensure a coherent UN response to COVID 19. Eg issue-based coalitions
- **Preserve the role of the national and regional gender coordination spaces** that have existed before COVID 19

Partnerships

- Importance of the strategic engagement with **Regional Economic Commissions** for knowledge production and to influence national socio-economic policy making