The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Disparities in the Labor Market in Latin America

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Labor market impacts of the crisis are highly unequal and will likely exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities.
Female labor force participation in Latin America

Source: Gasparini & Marchionni (2015)
Two relevant findings

- Female LFP in Latin America has a counter-cyclical behavior
- The expansion in conditional cash transfer programs
Quality of jobs

- Informality
- Low wages
- Occupational segregation
Workers with labor income less than or equal to the minimum wage (%)

Source: IDB. SIMS (2020)
Gender-based occupational segregation

Social, personal and community services: 19%
Retail, restaurants and hotels: 19%
Other sectors: 41%

Source: IDB. SIMS (2020)
Population aged 65+ who declare receiving a contributive or non-contributory benefits

Source: IDB. SIMS (2020)
Women should work only if the couple does not earn enough (% agree)

Source: Latinobarómetro. 2015.

When jobs are scarce, men should have more rights to a job than women (% agree)

Teleworking has been a good experience

Main challenges of telework

Teleworking during COVID-19 in Chile

Source: Survey CADEM – Mutual de Seguridad. April 2020
The reality of COVID-19 on gender equality

- Sectors and firms with higher percentage of women
- Tenure and gender bias of employers
- Expansion of social protection programs
- Extra burden of healthcare at home
- Reopening of schools
Thank you.