

Reorient international trade towards a transformative socioeconomic recovery with gender equality

What role for the WTO?

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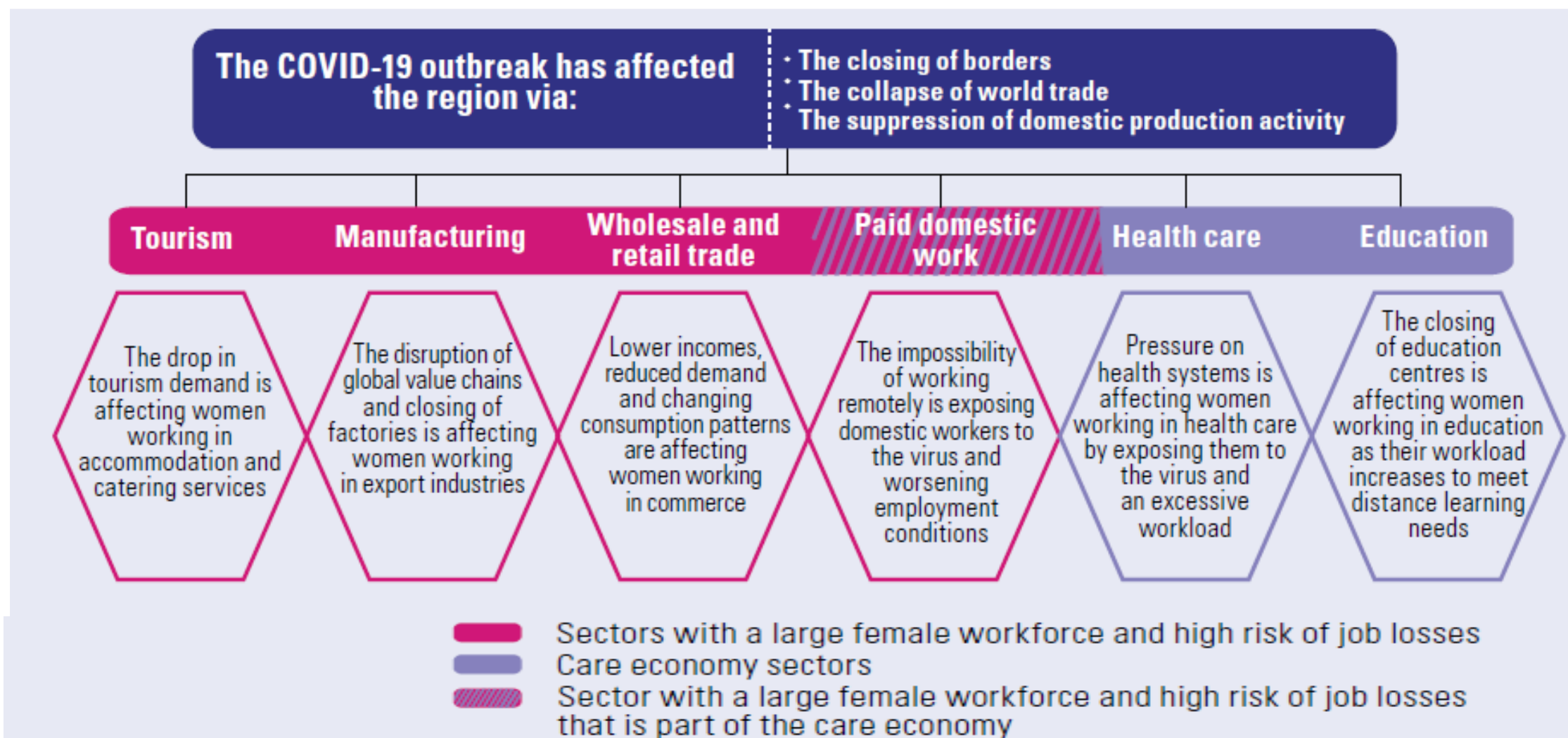
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Impact of COVID-19 on women

- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic struck Latin America and the Caribbean at a time of low economic growth and rising poverty and inequality.
- The economic and social effects of the pandemic are expected to have a substantial impact on women's autonomy and gender inequality.
- It will lead to a reduction in women's employment representing the loss of at least 10 years' progress
- 56.9% of women in Latin America and 54.3% in the Caribbean work in sectors that are expected to be hardest hit in terms of jobs and incomes

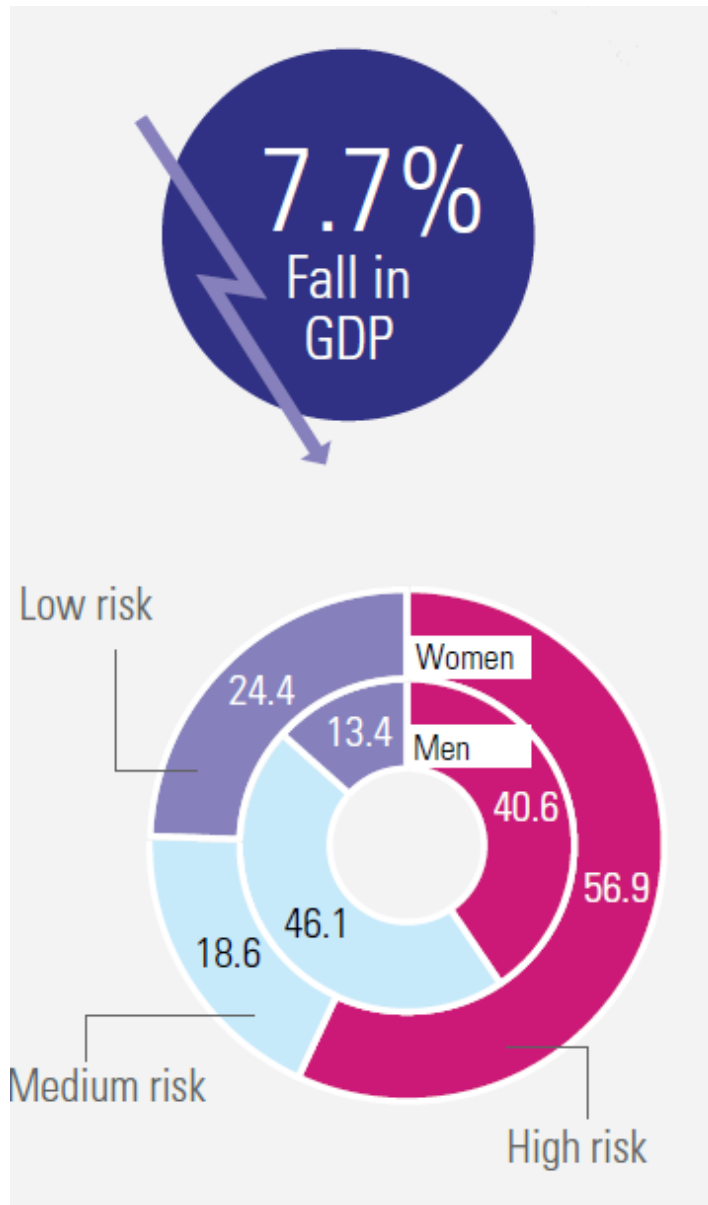
Effects of COVID-19 on economic sectors with large female workforces



Structural inequalities are affecting women's participation in paid work

- Greater presence in MSMEs
- Greater barriers to access to finance, entrepreneurship and exports
- Concentration in lower productivity sectors and occupations
- Overrepresentation in informal employment
- Lower incomes
- Less Access to social security and protection
- Excessive burden of unpaid domestic and care work

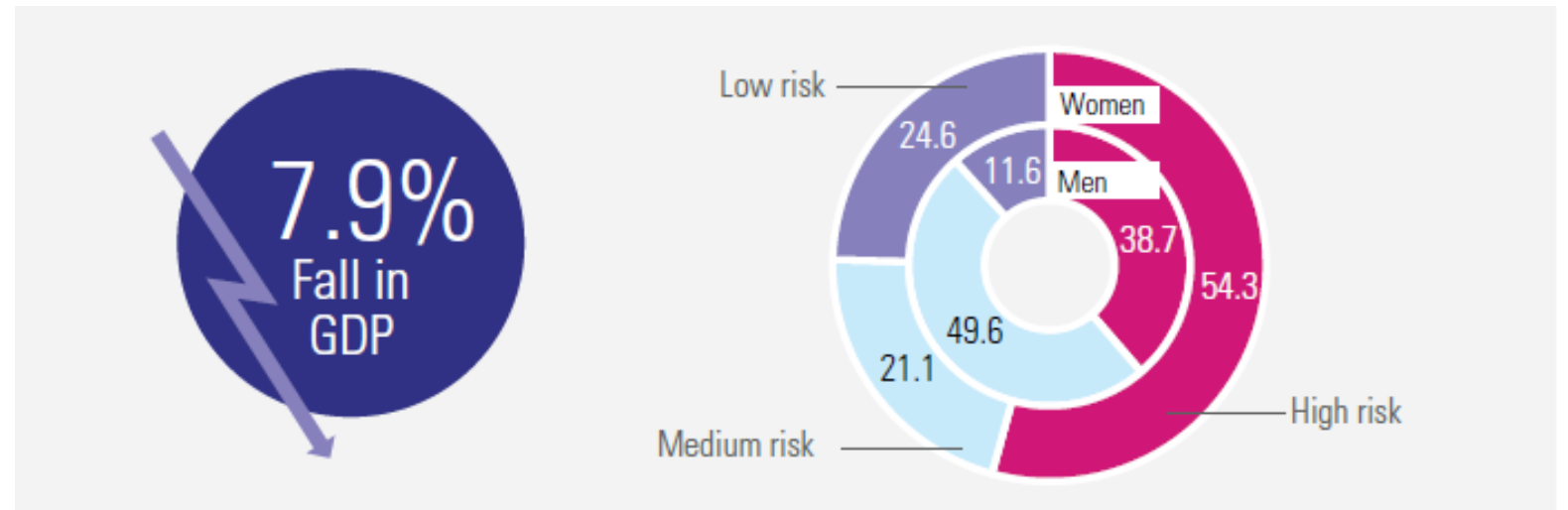
Latin America



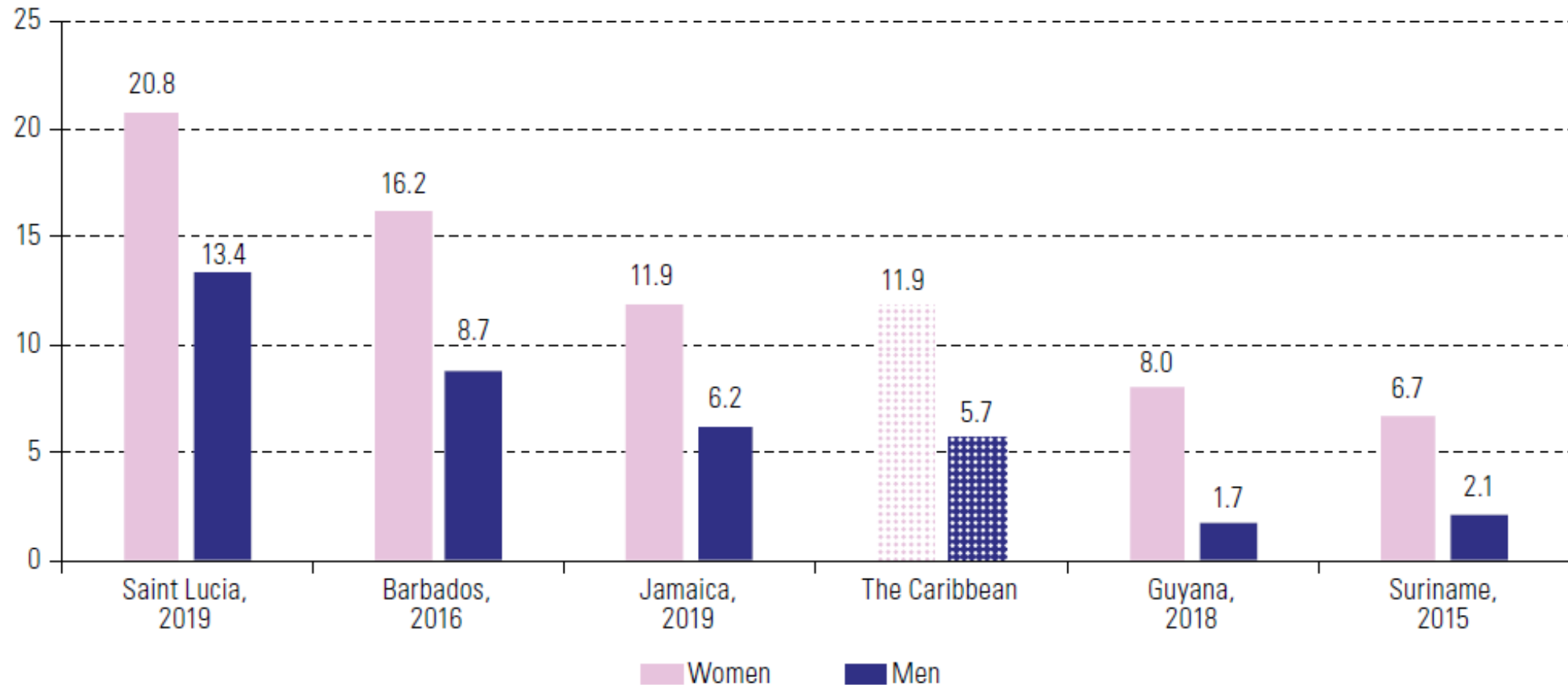
Women work in sectors with higher economic risk

LAC: Fall in GDP (2020) and working population by sex and economic risk

Caribbean



Caribbean: women's employment is very high in tourism which has been especially hard hit



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of International Labour Organization (ILO), ILOSTAT [online database] <https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/>.

International trade: a means to a recovery with gender equality?

- Short term: Reorient international trade towards a transformative socioeconomic recovery with gender equality.
 - Equal access for women to the different instruments and response mechanisms of employment support and financing for economic recovery.
 - Strengthen regional productive integration and complementarity and promote the participation of women workers and entrepreneurs in production chains in dynamic sectors through affirmative measures
- Long term: A gender perspective in trade policies contributes to an understanding of the distributive impacts of trade and provides new paths for the design of policies aimed at sustainable development with gender equality.
- ECLAC work on trade and gender
- Trade, gender and social inclusion (GESI) project

What role for the WTO?

- Build the principle of non-discrimination between men and women into the WTO agreements
- Strengthen and engender existing instruments such as Trade Facilitation and Aid for Trade
- Mainstream gender into ongoing negotiations (investment facilitation and e-commerce)
- Seek a convergence between the WTO reform process and SDGs (SDG 5 of gender equality)
- Strive for gender focus at MC12



Thank you

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