




165 million reasons

A call for investment
in adolescents and youth





165 Million Reasons: A call for investment in adolescents and youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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**165 million
reasons
to invest
in our future**

Today's adolescents and youth are members of the largest cohort of young people in history. In Latin America and the Caribbean, they will no doubt have tremendous influence on the way our shared future takes shape. Will it be one of thriving societies? Or of shrinking opportunities and despair?

Our choices today can make a difference. What we do for and with adolescents and young people will impact our families, communities, societies, and economic and political systems.

Globally, the world is home to 1.8 billion young people. Latin America and the Caribbean now has an estimated 165 million people between the ages of 10 and 24¹, one in every four people is young.

On balance, today's adolescents and young people are more educated, more mobile, more tech savvy, more aware of their rights. These attributes offer great hope for the coming years. Yet much more remains to be done to support them in realizing their rights fully. Many of their unique realities and needs are still overlooked. Millions are left behind, shut out of chances to succeed in their lives.

Too many young people encounter obstacles as they move from childhood to adulthood. High adolescent pregnancy rates and poor employment prospects are among the many issues requiring urgent action. If such bottlenecks are not addressed, including through the right investments, the region will face



**Young people
are our present
and future.
Investments**

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