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Social mobility, care policies and social protection: towards a sustainability approach

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Context

Mexico is a country of low social mobility

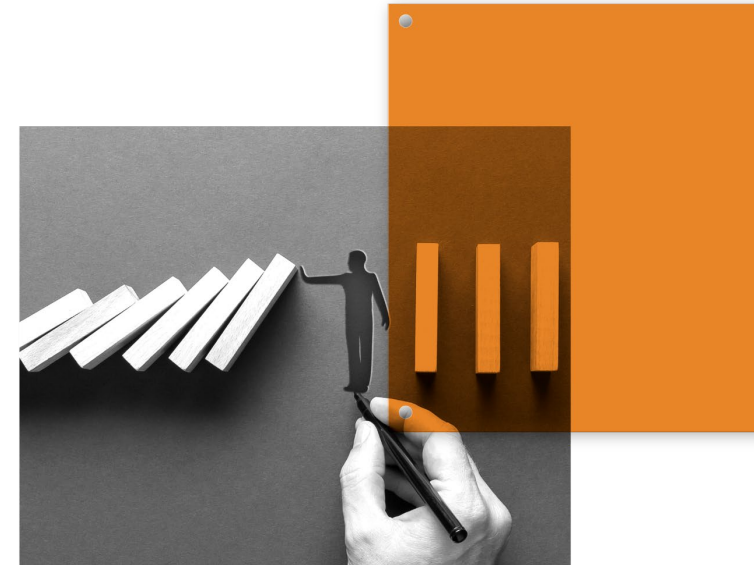
There are circumstances beyond the control of people that are decisive, among these are the following:

- 1 Born at the bottom of the social ladder.
- 2 Born in regions or states at south of the country.
- 3 Being a woman.



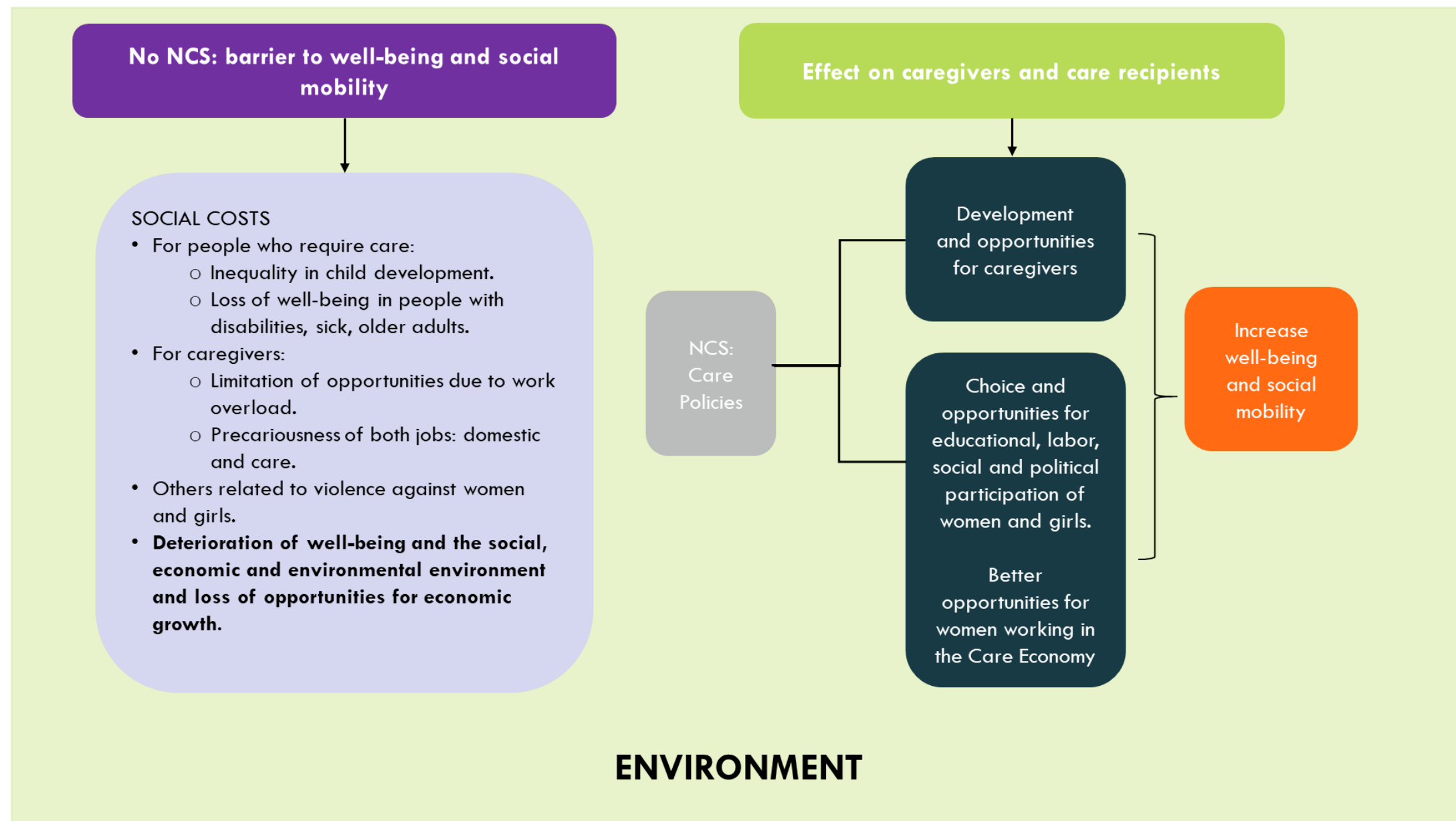
There are reasons that explain the **barriers to the social mobility**

- 1 High inequality of opportunity.
- 2 Limitations of economic growth that accompany lack of social infrastructure and profitable investment in human capital.
- 3 **Duality of the labor market, the absence of social protection mechanisms and the lack of formal care schemes.**



NCS: an engine for social mobility

- The absence of a National Care System (NCS) increases the inequality of opportunities in Mexico and limits social mobility.
- This affects those who give and receive care.
- The highest cost is concentrated in women due to socially assigned roles.



Source: Own elaboration from Trevilla e Islas (2021), CEEG (2021), Orozco et al (2022).

Why is important to consider a sustainability approach

- The environment is related to the resources available to people, the capabilities that they can develop, and has an impact on their well-being.
- From the perspective of feminist economics, **to place the care at the center is the best alternative to reproduce and sustain life in human, social and ecological terms, which allows the creation of admissible conditions for all people.**

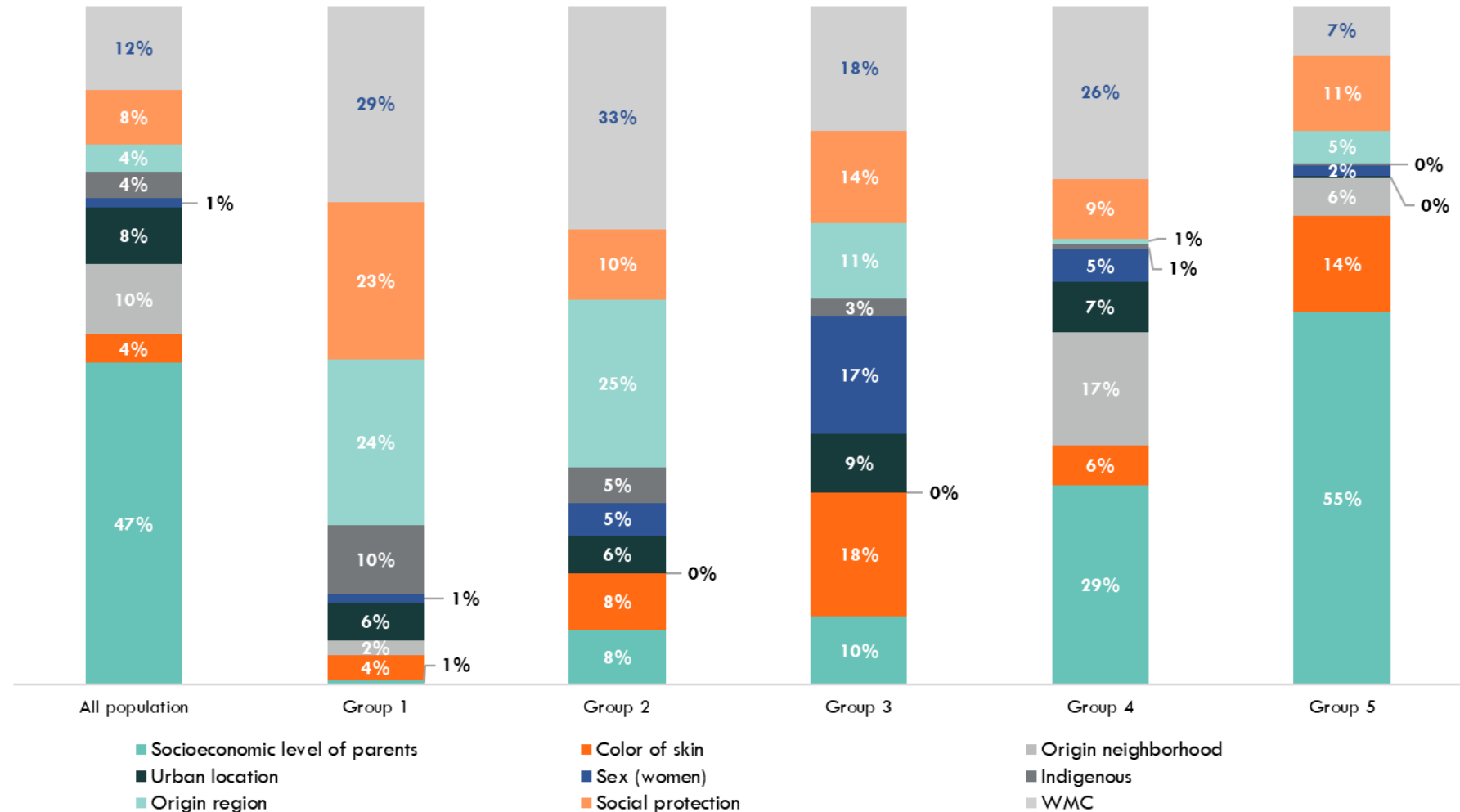
Inequality of opportunities and social mobility

The weight of the presence of waste management centers in the inequality of opportunities is greater (29 %) for the population with low socioeconomic origin, compared to the total population (12 %).

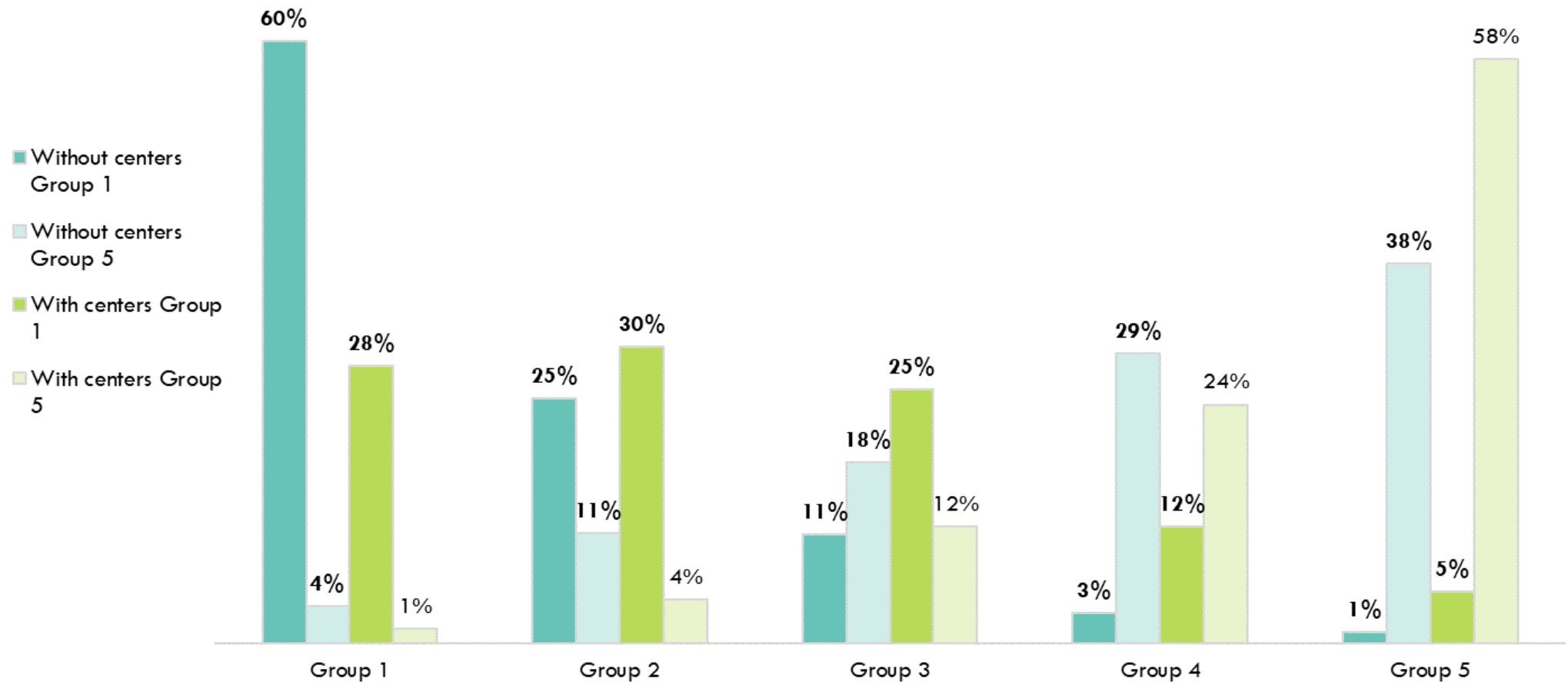
Fuente: Orozco et al. (2022) with data from ESRU-EMOVI 2017 & DENUE 2017.

Determining factors of inequality of opportunities according to socioeconomic quintile of origin.

Social protection = access to care services (for children, sick people, people with disabilities and older adults) and parental pension.



Social mobility and waste management centers



Conclusions

- Recognizing that **societies require care, considering the environment as a fundamental element**, is essential to reduce inequalities and promote social mobility.
- A NCS in Mexico could improve the social mobility of women.
- A **broad perspective of care implies not only caring for people, but also for the environment that affects their well-being**. When environmental perspective is considered, it is possible to notice that not only is care for the population with certain disadvantages important, but also that precariousness affects both the people dedicated to care tasks and life itself.



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