

Joint Programme Document

A. COVER PAGE

- 1. Fund Name:** Joint SDG Fund
- 2. MPTFO Project Reference Number**
- 3. Joint programme title:** Expanding the social protection system for young men and women in the informal economy
- 4. Short title:** Social protection for youth in the informal economy
- 5. Country and region:** Ecuador - Latin American and the Caribbean
- 6. Resident Coordinator:** Mrs. Lena Savelli, savelli@un.org

7. UN Joint programme focal point:

ILO: Pablo Casalí, casali@ilo.org and Daniela Arias, ariasd@ilo.org;
UN Women: Alison Vásquez, alison.vasquez@unwomen.org;
UNDP: Fernando Pachano, fernando.pachano@undp.org;
RCO: Francisco Mejía, francisco.mejia@un.org

8. Government Joint Programme focal point:

Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS): Mr. Jorge Enrique Madera Castillo (Deputy Director) jorge.madera@iess.gob.ec

Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES): Mrs. Susana Santiestevan (Vice Minister of Social Inclusion) susana.santiestevan@inclusion.gob.ec

Ministry of Labor: Mrs. Paulina Durán (Vice Minister of Employment and Wages) paulina_duran@trabajo.gob.ec

9. Short description:

The project is intended to incorporate the youth population (aged 18 - 29), in conditions of economic informality, into the social protection system and enable their access to decent work. It is estimated that the target group reaches 1.4 million people. The project has been designed to achieve short and mid-term impacts. In the mid-term (early 2022), it is expected to formulate policy and normative proposals, as well as strategies that contribute to the transition of young people to formality. Furthermore, it is expected to reach more than 3.500 young people through the design of pilots and testing prototypes of training, inclusion mechanisms, and care services. Thus, it is expected to have at least 70% of youth in four territories (Quito, Guayaquil, Loja and Machala) who can improve their access to formal labor and financial inclusion, out of which at least 50% will be women. Similarly, and considering that almost 7 out of 10 youngsters are not protected by the social protection system, it is expected that at least 42% of the youth population may

improve their access to the contributive social protection system. Special emphasis is required on young mothers and fathers who face vulnerable conditions. The LNOB approach has been used to select the target group.

To do this, innovative policy instruments and models will be designed to incorporate youth, in the selected territories, in contributory-based social security, while progressively promoting formalization (capacities, abilities and inclusive financial resources); and, eliminating barriers to access formal work, by providing adequate childcare services and access rights regarding parental leaves.

10. Keywords:

- Informal economy
- Decent work
- Contributory social protection
- Transition mechanisms for youth

11. Budget overview:

Joint SDG Fund contribution	USD 1,997,630.72
Co-funding 1 (<i>ILO</i>)	USD 350,000.00
Co-funding 2 (<i>UN Women</i>)	USD 324,401.14
Co-funding 3 (<i>UNDP</i>)	USD 75,432.80
TOTAL	USD 2,747,464.86

12. Timeframe:

Start date	End date	Duration (in months)
6 th January 2020	5th February 2022	25 <u>months</u>

13. Gender Marker: 2.7 (see annex)

Total scoring 2.7

14. Target groups:

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	Direct influence	Indirect influence
Women	X	
Children		X
Youth	X	

Indigenous peoples		X
Migrants		X

15. Human Rights Mechanisms related to the Joint Programme

UPR 2017: Expand social security coverage and ensure equal access for ethnic minorities (China);

CRC 2017: Hold targeted consultations with families, children, children’s rights organizations and civil society organizations on the issue of child poverty, with a view to strengthening the strategies and measures for fulfilling children’s rights in poverty reduction strategies (para. 36c);

ICCPR 2016: increase efforts to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding the role and responsibilities of men and women in the family and in society (par. 8);

CEDAW 2015:

- In consultation with the private sector, adopt a national action plan to increase the coverage of social security schemes for women working in the informal sector (para. 31.b);
- Distinguish in its policies and programmes between general social and economic policies that benefit women and temporary special measures under Article 4.1 of the Convention that are necessary to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men (para. 17.b);

ESCR Committee 2012: develop a plan for guaranteeing universal social security coverage and establishing specific mechanisms for assisting indigenous and Afro women. (para. 20)

16. PUNO and Partners:

16.1. PUNO

- ILO (convening agency):
 - Casali, Pablo, Senior Specialist in Social Security, casali@ilo.org, +(51) 913741927, pablo032
 - Arias, Daniela, National Project Coordinator, ariasd@ilo.org; +(593) 990498389, daniarias572
- UN Women:
 - Vásquez, Alison, Programme Specialist, alison.vasquez@unwomen.org; +(593) 999197828, alison.vasquez.rodriguez
- UNDP:
 - Pachano, Fernando, Democratic governance and social development Responsible, fernando.pachano@undp.org, +(593) 999204545.

The three agencies involved have a shared background of lessons learned on these issues, summarized in the document “Women at the Center of Sustainable Development: social protection and gender equality. An experience from Latin

America and the Caribbean". Furthermore, all these agencies have operating capacity and are currently assisting the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS), the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion.

16.2. Partners

- National authorities:
 - o Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS): Mr. Jorge Enrique Madera Castillo, Deputy Director, jorge.madera@iess.gob.ec; Mrs. Alexandra Harnisth, Deputy Director's Advisor, aharnisth@iess.gob.ec
 - o Ministry of Social Inclusion: Mrs. Susana Santiesteban, Vice Ministry of Social Inclusion, susana.santiesteban@inclusion.gob.ec
 - o Ministry of Labor: Mrs. Paulina Duran, Vice Minister of Employment and Wages, paulina_duran@trabajo.gob.ec, +593 99 524 2377
- Other public institutions
 - o Ecuadorian Service for Professional Training (SECAP): Mr. Washington Enrique Barragán Tapia, Executive Director, w.barragan@secap.gob.ec, +593 2 394 4000, ext. 403
 - o National Statistics Institute (INEC): Mr. Roberto Castillo Añazco, Executive Director, roberto_castillo@inec.gob.ec, +593 2 223 4164
 - o National Council for Gender Equality: Mrs. Nelly Piedad Jácome Villalva njacome@igualdadgenero.gob.ec; +593 2 255 6518 ext. 402.
 - o Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Nancy Ampudia; International cooperation analyst; nampudia@cancilleria.gob.ec; +593 99 624 2068
 - o Internal Revenue Service: Mrs. Marisol Andrade, General Director; mpandrade@sri.gob.ec; +593 2 393 6300 ext. 18900
- Local Municipal Governments
 - o Quito: Secretary of Social Inclusion, Mr. Javier Madera, javier.madera@quito.gob.ec, Social Inclusion Management Director, + 593 98 493 1554. .
 - o Economic Promotion Agency of Quito, (CONQUITO): Javier Albuja, jalbuja@conquito.org.ec, Territorial Development Coordinator; +593 98 761 6953
 - o Guayaquil: Mónica Menéndez, Project Cooperation Planning Adviser, monmennv@guayaquil.gov.ec, +593 99 195 7225
 - o Machala: Social and Productive Development Directorate, Mrs. Mayra Aguilar Cazares, maaguilar@machala.gob.ec, +593 7 296 8440 Ext. 264
 - o Loja: Municipal Advisor, Mr. Juan Pablo Montoya, +593 98 223 6171, jpmontoya@loja.gob.ec
- Private sector:
 - o Ecuadorian Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance (AEI): Mr. Andrés Zurita, Executive Director. azurita@ceie.ec, +593 99 877 4841
 - o Chamber of Industry and Production (CIP): Mr. Zambrano Pablo, CEO, pzambrano@cip.org.ec; +593 99 146 4025
 - o Small Industry Chamber for Guayas (CAPIG): Mrs. María Cristina Vera,

- Executive Director, capig@capig.org.ec; (593-4) 228 1524
- Pichincha's Small and Medium Industry Chamber (CAPEIPI): Mr. Marcelo Larrea, Executive Director, mlarrea@capeipi.org.ec; (593-2) 244 3388
- Civil Society organizations:
 - Working Women's National Front: Marcela Arellano, Vice president marcela.arellano.villa@gmail.com, +593 99 773 1202
 - Ecuadorian Center for Development and Alternative Studies: Mrs. Patricia Galvez, Executive Director, pgalvez@cedead.org, +593 99 454 0677
 - Carlos Mariátegui Studies and Research Center: Mrs. Patricia Calero, Coordinator and activist, patriciacaleroteran@gmail.com, +593 99 610 3200
 - Domestic Workers' Association, Mrs. Leni Quiroz,
 - Workers' Front (FUT), Angel Sánchez Zapata, President. angeleduardos73@gmail.com, +593 99 396 7100
 - Confederation of Workers' Organizations (CEDOCUT), Mesías Tatamuez, President, presidenciacedocut@gmail.com, +593 98 484 5526
 - Young Entrepreneurs Association, Hector Delgado, President, +593 99 479 4362
 - Young Entrepreneurs Network, Luis Córdova, Coordinator, info@jovenesemprendedores.org, +593 98 271 6695
 - INVESTORIA Youth Organization, Álvaro Andrade, Executive Director, alvaroandrade@investoria.org, +593 99 651 9980
- Academia
 - Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences FLACSO Ecuador, Mr. Felipe Burbano de Lara, Director, fburbano@flacso.edu.ec, +593 2 294 6800
 - Simón Bolívar University, Observatory of Small and Medium-sized enterprises, Mr. Wilson Araque, Director, wilson.araque@uasb.edu.ec
 - Loja Technical University, Baltazar Calvas, smartland@utpl.edu.ec, +593 7 370 1444 Ext. 2476
 - Technical Business University of Guayaquil (UTEG), Gorki Dimitrov Aguirre Torres, Community Engagement, gaguirre@uteg.edu.ec.
- FIs
 - BANEQUADOR, Lupe Solange Velasco Wiesner, Lupe.Velasco@banecuador.fin.ec , +593 2 294 6500
 - Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Lenin Parreño, lparreno@caf.org, +593 2 222 2107
 - Populorum Progressio Ecuadorian Fund, Mr. Luis Hinojosa, Executive Director, direccion@fepp.org.ec, 59322520408
 - National Network of Social Finances, Mr. Carlos Ordoñez, President, renafipsecuador@gmail.com, 593 98 885 6226, ext. 701.
 - Popular and Solidary Finances National Corporation, Board Chairman, Roberto Romero von Buchwald, roberto.romero@finanzaspopulares.gob.ec

SIGNATURE PAGE

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<p>Resident Coordinator <i>Date and Signature</i> 31 oct / 2019</p>	<p>National Coordinating Authority IESS Mr. David Ruales Date Signature and seal 31 oct / 2019</p>
<p>Participating UN Organization (lead/convening) International Labour Organization (ILO) Mr. Philippe Vanh <i>Date</i> 4/11/2019 <i>Signature and seal</i></p>	
<p>Participating UN Organization United Nations Women Empowerment of Women Mrs. Bibiana A <i>Date</i> 30-10 <i>Signature and seal</i></p>	
<p>Participating UN Organization United Nations Development Programme Mr. Fernan <i>Date</i> 30 OCT <i>Signature and seal</i></p>	

B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. Call for Concept Notes: 1/2019

2. Relevant Joint SDG Fund Outcomes

- Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale
- Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement

3. Overview of the Joint Programme Results

The joint programme, intends as a midterm result, that the youth population, in conditions of economic informality, improve their access to the social protection system (contributory and non-contributory) promoting decent labor conditions.

3.1. Outcomes

Outcome 1:

Strengthened national institutional capacity and sustainability of the social protection system to serve the young population (aged 18-29 years) working in the informal economy.

Outcome 2:

Men and women working in the informal economy in the cities of Quito, Guayaquil, Loja and Machala, have access to services and training for transitioning to formality, decent working conditions and contributory social protection schemes.

3.2. Outputs

- 1.1. Design and validate an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-based social security system.
- 1.2. Design the social protection model's financial sustainability strategy
- 2.1. Design strategies to accelerate the target group's transition to decent working conditions, including vocational/technical training
- 2.2. Design and validate a locally-based care service model for young mothers and fathers in the informal economy

4. SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme

4.1. List of SDG targets

- **SDG target 1.2:** Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national

- definitions;
- **SDG target 1.3:** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
 - **SDG target 2.2:** End all forms of malnutrition, including the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons
 - **SDG target 3.8:** Achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
 - **SDG target 4.2:** Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
 - **SDG target 4.4:** Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
 - **SDG target 5.4:** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate,
 - **SDG target 5.a:** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
 - **SDG target 8.3:** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
 - **SDG target 8.5:** Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
 - **SDG target 8.b:** Develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact
 - **SDG target 10.4:** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

4.2. Expected SDG impact

The catalytic potential of the intervention is based on the direct linkages among informality, lack of social protection, and poverty. Focusing on the young population and improving youth’s labor opportunities, will contribute to reducing inequalities through improving employment conditions, income, protection and access to services. The intervention aims to improve inclusion mechanisms to support the transition to decent job conditions through the access to relevant skills including technical, vocational skills (SDG target 4.4) and financial inclusion (SDG target 5.1 and 8.3). The program will provide youth with increased capabilities, more opportunities and self-esteem (SDG target 8.b). Additionally, the intervention will

reduce levels of multidimensional poverty since youth normally generate positive externalities among their families (SDG target 1.2). The implementation of a nationally appropriate social protection system (SDG target 1.3) focused on young population but scalable, means direct returns to the economic growth, promotes the achievement of decent employment (SDG target 8.5,8b) and fosters universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health-care services (SDG target 3.8). Similarly, the increased opportunities for access to care services to young fathers and mothers will ensure higher impact in the reduction of malnutrition, including stunting in children under 5 years of age (SDG target 2.2), increase access to quality early childhood development and care (SDG target 4.2), and recognize and value unpaid care and promoting shared responsibility within the household and the family (SDG target 5.4); and promote greater equality (SDG target 10.4).

The proposal considers that improving opportunities and conditions in the workplace for youth will accelerate SDG attainment. Drivers for this acceleration are: adequate provisions by the contribution-based systems; care services and capacity-building to formalize youth, including financial resources; national technical and vocational training and financial inclusion mechanisms. The project will incorporate a cross-cutting approach of innovation through UNDP's Laboratory to accelerate the SDGs, which will mentor the design and application of policy instruments and cutting-edge technological information-generation tools.

UNDP has warned that global human development (as a combined measure of education, health and living standards) could decline this year for the first time since the introduction of this concept in 1990 (UNDP, 2020). Before the pandemic, the Human Development Report (UNDP 2019) highlighted the importance of reducing inequalities that occur (and sometimes accumulate) over the course of people's lives. Despite the progress made before the pandemic, especially in access to health and education services, many households continued to have unsatisfied basic needs, while new inequalities arose as a result of gaps in the quality of services and access to technologies, among others. With the arrival of the pandemic, ECLAC (2020) projects that the region's GINI index would increase between 1% and 8% from 2019 to 2020, and that Ecuador's could increase from 0.473 in 2019 to 0.5 in 2020.

The United Nations Socio-Economic Response Framework proposes five strategic pillars: a) protecting health systems and services; b) improving social protection and basic services; c) protecting jobs, small and medium sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers; d) macroeconomic policies that benefit everyone; and e) promoting peace, good governance and trust to strengthen social cohesion.

There is no area of human life or society that has not been touched by the disease and the measures adopted to contain it. The setbacks that are foreseen for individual and collective well-being can dangerously affect the cohesion within countries and endanger the fulfillment of national and global goals.

The goals of the 2030 Agenda most at risk are: SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG 2: Zero hunger; SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-

being for all at all ages; SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; SDG 5: Gender equality; SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth; and SDG 10: Reduced inequalities.

5. Relevant objectives from the national SDG framework

- To guarantee an improved quality of life with equal opportunities for all (Objective 1 from National Development Plan 2017-2021 – Toda una Vida)
- To protect the most vulnerable population by implementing social protection floors to provide greater coverage for beneficiaries. The additional resources, obtained by optimizing fuel subsidies, are to be allocated to programmes assisting the low-income population, in order to reduce the poverty gap. (Prosperity Plan 2018-2021)
- To develop an inclusive National Social Protection Strategy together with the Central Government.
To provide access to the formal financial system through the development of a National Financial Inclusion Strategy led by the Ecuadorian Central Bank.

6. Brief overview of the Theory of Change of the Joint programme

6.1. Summary:

Young people (aged 18-29) face structural barriers to access the labor market, decent working conditions and social protection services. The problem is deeper among women. This group has no choice but to search for informal activities to fulfil their livelihood needs. This situation implies, in most cases: a lack or limited access to contributory social protection coverage, poor or risky working conditions and low access to social protection and inclusion services. State policy solutions and programmes are neither integral nor adequate for this segment of the population. Some of the challenges that youth encounters include: lack of specialized social protection services, including adapted contributory social protection schemes; lack of adequate and accessible daily care and childhood development services for parents with children under 5 years; and, lack of specialized and vocational training to access the formal labor market or mechanisms for economic inclusion.

Furthermore, young people working in the informal economy are not only involved in unsafe workplaces and unhealthy working conditions, they often present low levels of **skills and productivity, and** poor access to information, markets, **finance, training** and technology. The lack of vocational and technical training prevents young people from finding better jobs or start their own businesses in the formal economy. Their technical and soft capacities do not meet the formal labor market needs, thus, the informal economy becomes their best alternative due to low education, skills, technology and capital requirements. Hence, providing or enhancing vocational and technical training for young people would drive the transition from informality to formality.

The project's rationale is to facilitate the transition and access to decent working conditions and social protection services for youth, mainly women. For that purpose,

a comprehensive and integrated approach will be implemented through four pathways and expected results. **First**, a suitable social protection scheme for youth in the informal economy will be designed collaboratively, validated and tested. Awareness raising strategies on the importance of long-term social protection will also be put in place. The **second pathway** will take into consideration youth perspectives and sustainability considerations including fiscal sustainability. The **third pathway** will focus on strategies to accelerate the transition of youth to decent labor conditions. The overarching view of this component includes vocational, technical training and retraining/reskilling (to cope with the effects due to COVID-19) in prioritized sectors (care services, green economy and digital technology), inclusive financing mechanisms as well as human rights awareness activities. The **fourth pathway** endeavors to include young mothers and fathers socially and economically in equal conditions, by designing and adapting daily care services for working youth in the cities of Quito, Guayaquil, Machala and Loja.

The model will be developed and implemented jointly with government institutions, the private sector and the community and it is expected to be replicated and scaled up to other population groups, at the local and national level. In order to achieve a long-term impact, IESS, MIES, the Ministry of Labor, and the Social Registry Unit must sustain a strong institutional commitment, promote normative changes and allocate the necessary funding. Similarly, the private sector must maintain its engagement and play an active role in the implementation of the programme; and finally, young persons and their organizations need to be empowered and aware of their rights. Coordination mechanisms together with the design of policy instruments will aim to implement integrated actions at the national level and within the selected territories. The purpose of the institutional arrangements and project governance is to build a common strategy among contributory and non-contributory sectors within the country.

6.2. List of main ToC assumptions to be monitored:

- The political conditions that began these reforms will hold over time;
- Youth will improve their perception and trust in the social security system;
- Labor market conditions will not change significantly.
- There is a sustained commitment from local governments, chambers, trade unions, training centers, academia and women and youth organizations.

7. Trans-boundary and/or regional issues

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a worldwide crisis with unprecedented impacts on economies and labor markets. The global youth has been especially affected and has experienced a regression in living conditions, access to social protection and rights. According to ECLAC (2020), indicators show that Latin America is the region most affected by the pandemic within the emerging world due mainly to its previous structural fragile labor markets, informality and inequality.

C. JOINT PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

1. Baseline and situation analysis

1.1. Problem statement

The National Social Inclusion and Equality System in Ecuador has the responsibility to ensure social protection to its population. It comprises contributory and non-contributory schemes. The **contributory** scheme consists of three social insurance programmes that cover formal workers. It is mandatory for this group and includes saving mechanisms (World Bank, 2019). It functions under the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS). The **non-contributory** scheme comprises conditional and unconditional cash transfers and social services, provided by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES).

The Ecuadorian social protection system (contributory and non-contributory) reflects the country's economic structure, where informal activities, underemployment and low productivity are part of the conditions for the people accessing the labor market. According to the Ecuadorian statistics office -INEC-, based on the National Employment and Unemployment Survey (ENEMDU), in 2019 only 32% of young workers (formal and informal) had access to the contributory social protection scheme.

Important differences arise between formality and informality. 65% of people with formal employment have access to contributory social security while only 17% of people in underemployment, including informal activities, have coverage (2019)¹. Access to the contributory scheme is 4.5 points higher for men compared to women between 2007 and 2014² (ILO, 2016). According to the latest Economic Census, women, having the highest rates of instability and lowest survival probability, own the smallest self-employed and informal economic units. Under these circumstances, young people face daunting labor market conditions. About 20% of youth in developing countries are neither in school, nor receiving training or working (Ahn, and others, 2019). In Ecuador, 9% of youth is unemployed, particularly in urban areas (4 points above the national level, December 2019). Furthermore, **7 out of every 10 young people (aged 18-29) are working informally**. This likelihood increases by 20 points in the female population. Informality reduces young men's employment opportunities by 6 hours a week and represents 20% less income; for young women, it represents 12 hours and 35% less income.

Access to the contribution-based social security system constitutes a challenge for the young population. In the country, only 39.5% of total young workers (formal and informal) are covered by the contributory social security system: 7 out of 10 young

¹ Approximately 1.4 million people (aged 18-29) work in conditions of economic informality, which limits their access to an adequate living standard

² 14,2 for male and 9,7 for female

persons are not included in the social protection system. Important differences can be found within the youth population; while 56.9% of young formal workers are covered by the contribution-based social security system, only 9% of informal young workers are protected.

Due to the pandemic, 234.475 people have stopped contributing to social security since the onset of the crisis between March and November of 2020; 47% of those affected are people between 21 and 30 years of age.

Adolescents (aged 10-18) and young people (aged 18-29) encounter other types of challenges. Ecuador has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates, along with Venezuela and Bolivia, mainly associated with poverty, lack of education and violence against girls and adolescents. Being a member of a poor household (first quintile), increases 3 or 4 times the likelihood of early pregnancy among adolescents in Latin America. The same applies to uneducated teenage women (primary school), where the probability increases 4 times (OPS/UNFPA/UNICEF, 2018).

The Ecuadorian Government has undertaken a social protection agenda (Plan Toda una Vida) which prioritizes life-long non-contributory social protection services. It includes: early childhood (Misión Ternura); youth (Impulso Joven); elderly (Pensión para Adultos Mayores en Extrema Pobreza - Mis mejores años). The Plan also includes social protection programmes (Menos pobreza más desarrollo); housing solutions (Casa para Todos); programmes for persons with disabilities (Las Manuelas and Las Joaquinas), and a gender equality programme (Plan Mujer). Additionally, the government has developed a National Social Protection Strategy in an attempt to improve the access of vulnerable populations to the social protection system, as well as to enhance the junction of the social assistance and social insurance schemes.

The missions target poor and extremely poor households by providing social protection and economic inclusion services. MIES provides: Child Development Services (CDI's) for children from 0 to 3 years old, including day care and child development, education for parents and caregivers of children from 0 to 3 years of age (Growing with our children) on nutrition, nourishment and recreation.

Statistics show that 15% of young men and 22% of young women have children under 5 years of age and 22% of youth working in the informal economy live in households with children under 5 which increases the chances of being employed informally by 10% due to the lack of adequate care services. 80% of mothers who take maternity leaves or limit their economic activity due to maternity, take more than 3 years to fully recover their previous income generating activity (INEC, 2018). Due to COVID restrictions, presencial care services were closed and have not been reopened.

There is also insufficient access to information on social protection and economic inclusion mechanisms, as well as limited capacities and skills to search for opportunities in the labor market, pushing young people into the informal economy.

The problem is aggravated in urban areas, where migration throughout the country

increases pressure on young people, due to inadequate integration efforts.

According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix of the WB (DTM), 61.9% of surveyed Venezuelans are young (18-30 age group) and of those travelling with family, 32.8%, have a member with specific needs: pregnant women, lactating infants, children under 5. Most of this population is either self-employed or operates in the informal sector (75.8%). There is evidence that Venezuelan migration in Ecuador has led to an increase in the informality rate³ (World Bank, 2019), affecting the average employment quality in the country.

These new and pre existing conditions decrease the possibilities for the youth to engage in decent jobs, and to achieve SDG targets 1.3, 4.4, 5.4, 5.a, 8.5, 8.b and 10.4. To sum up, relegation to the informal economy and the shortage of decent jobs and social protection for young men and women is the main problem to address. These people are invisible to social protection policy although they are more exposed to greater risks.

Policy makers and other partners are expected to identify, test and implement innovative solutions and strategies, designed to efficiently address youth unemployment and informality, by providing better transition mechanisms (learning, training opportunities and information), a suitable social protection mechanism (contributory and non-contributory) and financial services.

Consequently, the expected change and SDG accelerator is that young men and women, in the informal economy can access better employment opportunities and decent living conditions through their inclusion in the contribution-based social protection system, while promoting gender equality.

1.2. Target groups

The principle of “leaving no one behind” (LNOB) calls for social protection systems - age and gender sensitive- with focus on supporting transition from the informal to the formal economy. The objective is to offer decent work opportunities and social protection for young individuals between 18 and 29 years of age in Ecuador, accounting for almost 20% of the total population.

Among all poor populations, youth represents up to 19%. Employment is a key factor when it comes to upward social mobility. In Ecuador 42% of young workers find themselves in the informal economy. That means that they are working in businesses or activities that are not regulated and therefore they are vulnerable and at risk of not fulfilling their rights. It is also important to highlight that 4 out of 5 young individuals are not contributing to the social security system. For those working in formal activities, only 56.9% have coverage from contributory social protection schemes. There is a 4-percentage point difference when compared to the national level, where 65% of the population with a formal job has access to social security, whereas young people working in informal activities and contributing to social

³Mainly in territories with high concentration of Venezuelan citizens. The report used three categories. Effects were found in territories, with a density of more than 5 percent. in territories with high concentration of Venezuelan citizens

security account only for 9%. This is particularly worrisome because it implies that this population will not be able to access health services, loans and will face risky retirements in the future. Furthermore, 32% of young people are entrepreneurs; most entrepreneurs are between 25 and 34 years of age. Ecuador has the highest entrepreneurship rate in the region; however, 12% of businesses are based on a necessity rather than on opportunities for innovation (ESPAE, 2019 & Global Entrepreneurship Monitor: Ecuador, 2013).

The project promotes the incorporation of young workers (aged 18-29 years) to a social protection floor, through sustainable access to the social protection system; the promotion of proper training (capacities, training including vocational training, abilities, retraining and reskilling, and inclusive financial resources); and, the elimination of barriers to access formal work, by providing adequate child care services.

In this context, the project is designed to be implemented in four territories where the rate of contribution to social security, the employment conditions and level of governance are different. On one hand, big cities with strong local governments and dynamic economies were selected. These cities are the biggest in the country: Guayaquil and Quito, and are deemed as the most important cities in Ecuador, both from an economic and political perspective. The levels of youth poverty (average of 8%) are below the national rate (21%), informality among youth reaches 31% in Guayaquil and 15% in Quito, while the non- contribution to social security rates are higher (74%). On the other hand, slightly weaker local governments rule the cities of Loja and Machala. In Loja, the number of young people is lower than in the other cities (15%), informality is higher (25%) and it is here where the largest proportion of youth (81%) does not contribute to social security in comparison to the other localities selected. Furthermore, this city is receiving migrants. This is a factor to consider given the current migration phenomenon that Ecuador is experiencing. Finally, Machala, which is also a hosting location for migrants, has a relatively small local government, and high rate of non- contribution; its informality and poverty rates are 26% and 9%, respectively. These factors are interesting to note because they can provide insights on the networks, the ecosystem and resources that young people can resort to in a small city with a small economy and government.

Youth population rates					
City	Population	Employment	Poverty	Informality	non-contribution**
Machala	0,20	0,57	0,09	0,26	0,66
Guayaquil	0,19	0,59	0,08	0,31	0,59
Quito	0,19	0,49	0,07	0,15	0,43
Loja*	0,15	0,63	0,23	0,52	0,72
National	0,18	0,58	0,21	0,42	0,68

* There is no data available for the city of Loja. The data used in this chart corresponds to the province.

Source: Employment and Unemployment Survey, 2019

** Measured as employed young people who has no access to contributory social security.

Youth population in economic informality is left behind in their access to social protection. As a result, around 1,1 million young men and women working in

formal/informal activities, do not have access to social security. Furthermore, 423.000 young people do not have access to non-contributory social protection, which represents a 64% coverage gap (INEC, 2019).

The gap is deeper regarding social protection services. Even though child protection services prioritizes the attention to poor households, there is only an estimated 47% coverage for this target group. Within the youth, the current coverage of childcare services for young families who have unstable incomes is only 15%. The lack of access to childcare services reduces working hours and forces them to take part-time jobs.

Priority will be given to 1.1 million young male and female workers, in economic informality, that have neither access to the contribution-based social security system nor to the non- contribution protection schemes. From this group, special emphasis is required, on young fathers and young mothers, facing double vulnerability conditions. Policy solutions are expected to benefit the whole target group; however, the models will be tested and validated within a reduced universe in the four selected territories in the cities of: Quito, Guayaquil, Machala and Loja.

The programme intends to “close the gaps”, by designing and testing innovative models and responses with a focus on youth men and women excluded from the contributory and non- contributory social protection system. Institutional strengthening is one of the expected results, to promote new public policies to foster the transition of youth to decent working conditions.

Gender mainstreaming

The project has been designed with the participation of women’s organizations and advocates. Ministries working for women and specific social areas in other public institutions participated in the diagnosis to target population and consultations. Diagnosis, baseline and evaluation of the project will be gender sensitive by considering differential situations of women and men, specific needs due to gender gaps and biases, and structural barriers for accessing services. Diagnosis and information gathering will consider equal participation of women and men as information providers and qualified informers. The project will also encourage contributions and participation of women and men in parity and equality of opportunities, considering possible gender- based restrictions such as the need for childcare, schedules and security issues regarding exposure to risks and violence.

The project also includes activities and recommendations targeted to women as well as activities for closing gender gaps. This project will be backed by the Accelerator Lab Ecuador, which will include gender participation parity, criteria, proposals and leadership to approach different needs and contributions for prototyping and modelling the solutions. Training activities and contents will also be carefully designed in order to include women’s rights and interests, inclusive and non- violent respectful language and contents, and the promotion of equality of participation of women in traditionally masculine-related economic activities (STEM and construction). Further, the project is adapting to the pressing situation women face due to the pandemic

regarding an increase in their workload. One of the results expected from this project is a proposal of a local care system. This system will be designed considering the current massive closure of both public and private children centers to promote women's participation in the labor market, to generate and sustain livelihoods, and to ensure good quality of childcare services (triple dividend). This model aims at recognizing unpaid care and domestic work within youth and to alleviate women's burden by reducing the tension between employment and family responsibilities. In this regard, the project is committed to promote the care sector as a job-creator sector in the four localities, through the training and certifying of traditional and community caregivers in order to generate livelihoods and recognise their work.

Activities directed at closing gender gaps account for 32% of the project budget. Activities directed specifically to women account for 15% of the project budget.

1.3. SDG targets

The social protection proposal will contribute to reducing inequalities through improving employment conditions, income, protection and access to services. Thus, the intervention will allow to reduce levels of multi-dimensional poverty (SDG target 1.2); implement nationally appropriate social protection systems (SDG target 1.3); reduce malnutrition, including stunting in children under 5 years of age (SDG target 2.2); increase access to quality early childhood development and care (SDG target 4.2); recognize and value unpaid care and promoting shared responsibility within the household and the family (SDG target 5.4); increase decent employment (SDG target 8.5); promote greater equality (SDG target 10.4) and foster universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health-care services (SDG target 3.8). The programme will reinforce youth relevant skills including technical and vocational skills, facilitating their access to decent job conditions (SDG target 4.4), and financial inclusion (SDG target 5.a and 8.3).

The achievement of expected goals in contributory and non-contributory access to social protection for youth are interlinked. The programme's success relies on an integrated implementation of contributory and non-contributory mechanisms, supporting young women and men, in their access to decent work conditions.

The National Statistical Office (INEC) has implemented a Statistical Development Plan to identify, articulate and manage the statistical information on SDG compliance. Indicators are calculated using official national surveys. SDG targets information will prioritize information provided by INEC. However, in some cases, information has been prepared by UN agencies using National Surveys of administrative data. Detailed information with the SDG baseline, can be found in Annex 9.

1.4. Stakeholder mapping

The RCO strategically engages relevant stakeholders and promotes joint planning, programmatic coherence and quality monitoring and alignment with SDGs, the principle of leaving no one behind and the gender-approach. Externally, the RCO undertakes high-level political dialogues to ensure the necessary commitment and

visibility of the proposal and its results.

The IESS and MIES, with the Vice-Presidency endorsement, are the leading national partners due to their legal mandate for social protection policies. Policies and models design, and testing will be jointly developed.

The Ministry of Labor is key to articulate the programme's intervention by designing strategies for the transition of young people from informality to decent working conditions. The Ministry of Labor will provide information on the target group as well as experience in labor certification programmes. SECAP will be also an important actor, as the public provider of professional and vocational training.

Additionally, the Social Registry Unit will be key in providing information on registered and unregistered young workers as well as other governmental institutions in the social sector involved in the development of a National Social Protection strategy.

Considering the selected territories, strong local government participation and commitment is required. Consultations with Quito, Guayaquil, Machala and Loja municipalities and public enterprises have been carried out. The programme will be aligned with economic inclusion local strategies providing new approaches to ensure youth access to local services.

Workers, women and youth organizations will provide first-hand information on their conditions and needs and will participate in the development of tailor-made solutions. These organizations include labor unions and young entrepreneurs' networks and associations. Academia and NGO's are expected to advise and provide information and data, regarding the target group.

Public financial institutions, namely BanEcuador and the Popular Finances National Corporation, and private FI's will support the programme and public institutions, facilitating access to financial products for youth. These products and services will be complemented with social economy financial institutions. Furthermore, the Ecuadorian Central Bank (ECB) will have an important role in the mainstreaming of financial services to young people as part of their National Financial Inclusion strategy.

ILO leads the programme and oversees: i) adequate development of the scheme to include the target group into the contributory social-security system together with the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS); ii) formalization and financing strategies for the social protection model; iii) financing, actuarial and fiscal capacity analysis.

UN Women will be responsible for the following initiatives: i) care system component and its linkage with the MIES social inclusion policy; ii) prototype of financial inclusion mechanisms, jointly with MIES, ECB, public and private financial institutions, and academia; iii) engage the private sector to promote parental leave compliance; iv) ex-ante evaluations of the proposed social security scheme developed by the ILO taking into account macrosocial variables and gender gaps, as well as sustainability

analyses of fiscal capacity and financing mechanisms, to complement the actuarial models made by ILO; v) monitor compliance with the gender marker.

UNDP brings its experience and tools on social protection and its Innovation Laboratory for SDG Acceleration. The latter are designed to explore new and innovative mechanisms in order to: i) host design and implementation of proposed public policy instruments, strengthen data generation mechanisms, exploring non-traditional sources of information; ii) launch an innovation challenge aimed to find new digital mechanisms to collect information about young informal workers; iii) promote South-South cooperation to accelerate formalization of young workers; and, iv) support development of a sustainable financing model.

The three implementing agencies have jointly drafted the proposal and strategically engaged the relevant partners in the country, namely IESS, MIES, the Vice-President's Cabinet, Ministry of Labor, Social Registry Unit, Technical Secretariat Plan Toda una Vida, Municipalities from the four cities, the Chamber of Industry, World Bank, Datalat Ec, OpenLab ec, and the UNCT Social Protection Advisory Group.

2. Programme strategy

2.1. Overall strategy

SDGs progress

The proposed outcomes are key-multidimensional and comprehensive policy interventions to make a difference in the target group's livelihoods and trigger further benefits for them. Outcomes target structural causes behind the lack of social protection: weak skills and knowledge required by the job market, limited access to information related to social protection mechanisms, limited access to child-care services, and lack of access to inclusive financing. This group will be better equipped to access decent work and increased productivity. They will be able to contribute to tailored social security schemes, which will help to reduce inequality and gender disparity gaps. Women will have equal opportunities to access to social protection; hence, they will be better protected against gender-based violence and discrimination. Improving access to the contributory social protection scheme (including pensions), also provides a long-term strategy to reduce personal and social risks.

Quick transitions and progress in SDG compliance rely on an integrated strategy with local counterparts.

What is different:

The proposal will be implemented in the framework of severe economic restrictions, an IMF- agreement, a national dialogue on social security and a sanitary and socio-economic crisis. To better perform the programme, some key elements should be highlighted:

1. Strong focus on supporting the transition from the informal to the formal economy;
2. Outcomes that bring together contributive and non-contributive schemes, currently operating through separate streams;
3. Interventions tailored to this group: making social protection systems age- and gender-sensitive/responsive;
4. Interventions and alternatives will be strictly evaluated to ensure fiscal sustainability.
5. Strong focus on community and local organizations participation.
6. Strong emphasis in communication and access to information for young people.
7. Social innovation labs to test out-of-the-box policy solutions;
8. Financial sustainability strategy.

Catalytic and multiplier effect on SDG and leveraging financing:

The catalytic potential of the intervention is based on the direct link among informality, lack of social protection, and poverty. By including this population in the social-protection foundation (1.3) their income and standard of living will be improved. This entails reducing poverty (1.2), end malnutrition (2.2), provide access to early-childhood care (4.2), value unpaid care and share responsibility within the family (5.4), create decent-employment (8.5), promote equality (10.4) and provide universal-health coverage (3.8). Social protection floors provide an analytical and political framework to foster the programme.

The intervention aims to improve training and inclusion mechanisms, to support the transition to decent job conditions through access to relevant skills including technical and vocational skills (SDG target 4.4) and financial inclusion (SDG target 5.1 and 8.3). The programme will provide youth, with more capabilities, more opportunities and self-esteem and therefore, better access to decent job conditions (SDG target 8.b). Leverage of additional financing has been secured: related initiatives will be included in the UNSDCF JWPs and will also be articulated with an ongoing World-bank programme. IESS will also allocate resources and promote interaction with financial institutions. One of the outcomes also aims at developing a financial sustainability strategy that will promote increasing fiscal resources and exploring innovative sources to sustain the model. The Ministry of Finance will be part of the consultations related to the model sustainability in the contributory scheme.

Alternative and approaches/prototypes:

The common alternative approach to social protection is to intervene at a macro-level in the contributive and non-contributive sectors. In contrast, this proposal puts forward strategies that integrate both sectors to tackle structural barriers excluding this group from social protection. Outcomes will be prototyped and tested through UNDP's Accelerator Lab, in prioritized territories, to design suitable methods to increase informal young workers' enrollment in social security, and with the support of UN Women as per financial inclusion and care systems. Should this prototype work for them, the process could be replicated to meet the needs of other groups in the informal economy.

UNDP's Accelerator Lab will act as a "think tank" for the project, contributing with regional best practices and innovative solutions for the development of policies, models and mechanisms from the user's perspective and by applying open participatory methods.

Consultations with government and other partners:

The proposal was discussed with IESS and MIES and the Ministry of Labor. To confirm relevance and complementarity, the following actors were consulted: Vice-Presidency, Municipalities (Quito, Guayaquil, Machala, Loja), Young Entrepreneurs Association, Young Entrepreneurs Network, Chamber of Industry, Social Economy Chamber (Pichincha), Banecuador, Banco del Pacífico, WB, Alliance for Innovation and Social Protection Group, SECAP, Academia (FLACSO, Simón Bolívar University, Technical and Private Loja University), National Corporation of Popular Finances, Populorum Progresum Ecuadorian Fund, (eight UN agencies).

The programme is also consistent with the World Bank programme that supports the strategy to reinforce Ecuadorian social protection systems. The World Bank Loan intends to strengthen the social safety net by improving the equity, integration and sustainability of selected social safety programmes. Equity means a focus on improving coverage of the extreme poor by strengthening the Social Registry⁴. Inclusion means linking cash benefits with social services for extreme poor households in a coordinated manner. Sustainability would be achieved through successful exit strategies of beneficiaries from the safety net programmes.

The proposal was validated through bilateral meetings and a joint workshop between UN agencies and government institutions. The latter took place during the preparation of the final project document. The discussion included an exhaustive revision of the results matrix considering the expected activities and responsibilities definition. Formal commentaries from the authorities were received and included as part of the project document.

How this JP builds on what has been done before:

UN Agencies work with IESS under a joint UN-MoU: UNDP, institutional strengthening; UN WOMEN, gender equality; UNODC, transparency; PAHO, health-care model; and, ILO: social dialogue, institutional governance and financial management. WB: non-contributory system.

2.2. Theory of Change

The problem: 7 out of every 10 young people are working informally. Being female increases this likelihood by 10 points. Being in the informal economy reduces young men's job opportunities by about 6 hours a week and by 20% less income; for young women, 12 hours and 35% less income. This makes it difficult for youth to get decent

⁴ Social Registry is the Ecuadorian mechanism to identify poor and extreme poor households. It uses a Proxy Means Test methodology once a survey was applied to the household.

jobs, and to achieve SDG targets 1.3, 4.4, 5.4, 5.a, 8.3, 8.5, 8.b and 10.4. Therefore, relegation to the informal economy and the shortage of decent jobs for young men and women is the main problem to be addressed.

The expected change and SDG accelerator are for young women and men in the informal economy to improve their access to better work opportunities and conditions through inclusion in contribution-based social security, under conditions of gender equality.

Key interventions regarding acceleration drivers will be: 1) design a scheme to incorporate them into contribution-based social security; 2) design a sustainable financing strategy for the social protection model, through actuarial models and analysis of fiscal capacity; 3) design strategies to accelerate the target group's transition to decent working conditions, including vocational, technical training, retraining, financial education and financial inclusion mechanisms and; 4) Design a locally-based community care service model suited for young mothers and fathers informally employed.

Such interventions would tackle structural gaps such as childcare expected from women, work-family balance culture, outdated skills and knowledge in an increasingly changing labor market and unequal opportunities between men and women. Interventions not addressing these issues comprehensively will fail to achieve the multiplier effects intended by this proposal.

The project will also address the weak coordination between institutions related to social protection and economic inclusion at the national and local level and the insufficient articulation between government and private sector, at the national and local level, to support programmes to facilitate job seeking and job allocation for youth.

The models and prototypes will be jointly designed and validated/implemented with government institutions, the private sector and the community. For the long-term impact generation, it is expected that IESS, MIES and the Ministry of Labor take ownership of the models and strategies and establish strong long-term institutional commitment and funding to replicate them. Similarly, it is expected that the private sector keeps its interest and commitment; and civil society, particularly working young persons, become empowered and aware of their rights.

The implementation of the social protection floor approach and the definition of a comprehensive and integrated public policy under the SDG goals is expected to create a sustainable ground to achieve impact results in the mid and long term, after the programme's closure. It is expected to facilitate the validation/implementation of a sustainable contributory social protection system, to create capacities for youth in informality, to enhance rights fulfillment regarding labor conditions and parental leaves, and to promote an accessible locally based care system for youth. Considering the Ecuadorian context, a budgeting for results and outcomes methodology will be considered from the beginning.

Basic Assumptions:

1. The political conditions that began these reforms will hold over time;
2. Youth will improve their perception and trust in the social security system;
3. Labor market conditions will not change significantly.
4. There is a sustained commitment from local governments, chambers, trade unions, training centers, academia and women and youth organizations.

Risks:

1. Young people's lack of any culture of preparing for the future;
2. Economic dynamics shrink the labor market.
3. Political conditions change due to government transition
4. Prolonged economic crisis caused by the pandemic and slow recovery due to fiscal constraints.

Validation. The theory of change has been designed and validated by the Government (IESS, MIES and Ministry of Labor) and by members of the private sector and working women's organizations. To implement the theory of change iteratively and adaptively, each UN agency has been assigned responsibility for each of the Programme's expected results. Teams have been formed with IESS for participatory, effective programme implementation. Political commitment and high-level agreements have been considered.

2.3. Expected results and impact

The Programme proposes to incorporate the youth population, under conditions of economic informality, into the social protection system and enable them to access decent working conditions. Special emphasis will be given to young mothers and fathers working in informality.

The social protection proposal will contribute to reducing inequalities through improving employment conditions, income, protection and access to services. Thus, the intervention will allow to reduce levels of multi-dimensional poverty (SDG target 1.2), implement nationally appropriate social protection systems (SDG target 1.3), reduce malnutrition, including stunting in children under 5 years of age (SDG target 2.2), increase access to quality early childhood development and care (SDG target 4.2), recognize and value unpaid care and promoting shared responsibility within the household and the family (SDG target 5.4), increase decent employment (SDG target 8.5), promote greater equality (SDG target 10.4) and foster universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health-care services (SDG target 3.8). The programme will reinforce youth relevant skills including technical and vocational skills, facilitating their access to decent job conditions (SDG target 4.4), and financial inclusion (SDG target 5.a and 8.3).

Two main outcomes are expected from the programme implementation. The first outcome is a strengthened national institutional capacity and sustainability of the social protection system to serve the young population (aged 18-29) working in the

informal economy. The second outcome is that men and women working in the informal economy in the cities of Quito, Guayaquil, Loja and Machala, have access to services and training for transitioning to formality, decent working conditions and contributory social protection schemes.

To do this, **four results** are expected and “**quick wins**” for each one. These activities and its results have been discussed and agreed with government counterparts.

1. Design and validate an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-base social security system.

- 1.1. Technical assistance to identify social protection gaps among youth working in informal economic activities.
- 1.2. Technical assistance to develop and implement a national register, designed with innovative inputs brought by UNDP’s Accelerator Lab, for young people working in informal activities. Database will be integrated into existing IT systems.
- 1.3. Technical assistance to design and validate a contributory scheme for the target group.
- 1.4. Technical assistance to review the legal framework related to the contributory scheme and propose changes.
- 1.5. Technical assistance to design incentives and awareness-raising mechanisms to accomplish the right to social protection and design innovative sensitization mechanisms within IESS targeted on young people.
- 1.6. Technical assistance to design and develop financial inclusion mechanisms for youth, based on existing services (public and private) and on inputs from south-south cooperation.

2. Design the social protection model’s financial sustainability strategy

- 2.1. Technical assistance to analyze and propose a financial sustainability strategy for the contributory scheme as well as formalization strategies.
- 2.2. Technical assistance to evaluate the financial sustainability for the designed social protection mechanisms within the social protection floors.

3. Design strategies to accelerate the target group’s transition to decent working conditions, including vocational / technical training and retraining

- 3.1. Technical assistance to design and implement innovative certified technical, vocational training and retraining programmes to foster youth in their transition into the labor market with a special focus on key areas that have emerged during the pandemic as potential employment generators, such as the care sector.
- 3.2. Technical assistance to promote, strengthen and implement a financial education program to foster financial inclusion and financial wellbeing among the informal youth, with a gender focus.

- 3.3. Technical assistance to support IESS to improve social security compliance controls within organizations and firms.
- 3.4. Technical assistance to improve compliance of paternity and maternity leave with firms and workers.
- 3.5. Technical assistance to design and implement job search tools through the strengthening of the public employment services platform.

4. Design and validate a locally based care service model for young mothers and fathers in the informal economy.

- 4.1. Develop a study of the daily care services demand and available supply within the territory.
- 4.2. Implement participatory consultations with young men and women, public and private institutions, to develop and test a proposal (prototype) of locally based care systems.
- 4.3. Evaluate a prototype of a locally based care system in selected territories, focused on vulnerable young fathers and mothers.
- 4.4. Develop instruments and inputs for model implementation at a local level and scaling up at national level
- 4.5. Technical assistance to systematize best practices and lessons learned to develop a proposal of a national care public policy.

After the joint programme is completed (25 months), a comprehensive and integrated public policy to foster youth in the transition to formal labor market and decent work should be designed. Institutions at national and local level are expected to be empowered and facilitate financial resources as part of a long-term financial strategy. Young women and young men in selected territories should improve their access to social protection mechanisms (contributory and noncontributory), to decent working conditions and financial markets. A change in perceptions regarding contributory social protection schemes within youth is an indirect effect.

Emphasis is given to women's inclusion to decent working conditions and formal labor activities. An empowerment in fatherhood within the target group in selected territories can be expected. The project will sensitize technical counterparts, firms, chambers, organizations and local level institutions in the differences and gaps between men and women. Data and information will be gathered and prepared in systematic reports as part of the process.

There are five risks and bottlenecks identified during the preparation of the programme. In the first place, young people have little culture of providing for the future, so social security is not a priority. To mitigate this problem, sensitization campaigns for young people on the importance of being covered by the system will be developed. Secondly, due to the health crisis, the economic crisis has deepened and the fiscal space available for social protection programs have substantially decreased. The current economic situation coupled with possible labor deregulation measures could make it more difficult for young people's access to social security as well as affect the financial sustainability of the social security system. In fact, during the first months of the crisis the "Humanitarian Law" (Ley Orgánica de Apoyo

Humanitario) was approved with direct effects on labor deregulations, which has also had an effect on the IESS's financial situation (less contributions). In the third place, the Labor market conditions have been affected due to the COVID-19 crisis and to more Ecuadorians entering the informal economy to mitigate the effects of the crisis. Furthermore, informality has increased due to the massive influx of Venezuelan citizens in Ecuador. It is estimated that 1.4 million people will fall into poverty (measured by income) due to the pandemic. Focalization and prioritization strategies will be discussed and agreed with the government and municipalities to reach people in human mobility and those who were affected by the pandemic. In the fourth place, a new risk has also been identified which is related to a possible political instability scenario. The country is going through a government transition process, which might affect the expected results of the JP due to a change in public policy direction and weak commitment. Further, due to COVID-19 in situ local work remains limited, therefore the institutional relation with local counterparts could be affected. Lastly, the absence of joint implementation and coordination mechanisms among contributory and noncontributory social protection programs, could increase social protection gaps within vulnerable groups.

2.4. Financing

The programme's total implementation cost is USD 2,747,464.86: 73%: USD 1,997,630.72 requested to the Fund and the remaining 27% to be covered by participating agencies, USD 749,834.14. **These resources will be spent on:**

- i. Designing and piloting the financial inclusion mechanisms for the target population;
- ii. Designing formalization strategies with a gender approach, including sensitization campaigns, capacity-building, training, retraining and vocational training, evaluating application of parental leave, and improving workplace inspections on social security;
- iii. Designing participatory locally-based care models (prototypes) adapted to informal-employment needs, including management models, guidelines to build networks with public, private and other actors;
- iv. Designing and costing the proposed social protection model including the methodological design for ex ante impact evaluations, inter-agency analysis and evaluations using the tools comprising the Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessments (CODI, among others), analysis of fiscal capacity and actuarial analysis of the model's sustainability; and training on actuarial analysis.
- v. Testing the proposed strategies through UNDP's Accelerator Lab and launching an innovation challenge for innovative creation of a national roster of beneficiaries; and;
- vi. Exchanging South-South experiences about accelerating the transition toward formality for youth with informal employment in the formal sector.

The costs versus expected benefits have been compared to justify the programme's cost- efficiency. If the planned results are achieved, approximately 1.4 million youth will be in better conditions to get a decent job, having invested about USD 1.95 per beneficiary; so, the Programme's scope and results justify its funding.

47% of the total counterpart (USD 749,834.14) will be contributed by ILO (USD 350,000), 43% by UN Women (USD 324,401.11), and 10% by UNDP (USD 75,432.80). IESS had expressed interest in mobilizing resources and in promoting the interaction with financial institutions once the programme started its implementation. However, the current fiscal constraints could affect the institution's capacity to allocate resources to some activities. In addition, leverage additional financing has been secured; related initiatives will be included in the UNSDCF-JWPs and will also be articulated with the ongoing World-bank programme on social protection (noncontributory scheme).

Long-term sustainability of the joint programme will be achieved in two ways. First, one of the outcomes of the proposal refers to strengthening the institutional capacity and sustainability of the social protection system to assist youth working in informal activities. Second, one of the outputs of the programme refers to the design of the social protection model's financial sustainability strategy. This strategy means that every model will be previously tested and validated with the main national implementing partners to guarantee the sustainability of the scheme. Norms, protocols and instruments will also be designed and validated.

The project focuses on closing gender/age gaps and promoting equal opportunities of young men and women to social protection floors. The project includes gender sensitive outputs, a specific output considering care systems, and complement the third outcome that aims to incorporate youth in the formal market through a gender sensitive financial inclusion strategy and training programs that contribute towards closing gender gaps in the labor market and in fulfilling access to social security benefits. Specifically, 32% of the Budget is dedicated to closing gender gap activities, and 15% of the budget is dedicated to the inclusion of women as direct beneficiaries of the project.

2.5. Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

The government will lead the implementation through its public institutions in charge of social protection policies. Four of them will have an active and leadership role in the implementation of the programme.

The Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) is the institution that governs the social security system based on contributions and has legal powers and competence to expand the coverage of the system to the informal economy. For this reason, the IESS will lead the implementation of the programme within those components that refer to the social protection contributory system. In order to ensure the correct implementation of the programme, the IESS has already informed the names of the focal points and the people who will oversee the implementation. In addition, IESS has expressed interest in allocating resources once the programme begins its implementation.

The Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) is the institution governing the non- contribution-based Social Security system and child development policy,

including care services. MIES also has all the necessary attributes and competency to implement the proposal and has already designated its focal point who will be responsible for implementing the programme.

The third public institution is the Ministry of Labor, who will take a very important and active role in the design of strategies to accelerate the target group's transition to decent working conditions. To better support the transition strategy, Ecuadorian Service of Professional Training (SECAP), as the public sector provider of professional and vocational training, as well as other partners, will be included in the design and implementation at national and local level.

The Social Registry Unit (URS in Spanish) is the fourth public institution, which is in charge of administering and carrying out the social register, a national database that includes information of people in vulnerability. The URS will be key in the design and implementation of the registry for the informal youth.

In addition, coordination strategies have been established with local institutions in order to access information and ensure their collaboration.

PUNO's unique contribution lies in the experience and multidimensional approach that can be brought together in order to face the main gaps of youth in economic informality. ILO, who will lead the programme, is nowadays providing technical assistance to IESS to strengthen its social security system. ILO has experience in developing national social protection strategies: national societal dialogue using Assessment-Based National Dialogue (ABND), evaluation and analysis of social protection systems using Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessments (ISPAs), sustainable funding sources, actuarial evaluations, extending social protection coverage to the informal economy and creating a culture of social protection.

UN Women will bring to the table all its experience and knowledge in generating public family responsibility policies and standards, for male and female workers, and promoting the right to care as part of the social protection foundation. UNDP will facilitate innovation tools where some strategic actions of the programme will be tested with the aim to increase social protection coverage for the target group. Grassroots innovators and civil society entrepreneurship will be mapped. UNDP has experience assessing and analyzing social protection systems, including an environmental perspective; multidimensional poverty analysis; national rosters of users and beneficiaries; and financial inclusion programmes.

The three agencies have a shared background of lessons learned on these issues, summarized in the document "Women at the Center of Sustainable Development: social protection and gender equality. An experience from Latin America and the Caribbean". Further, all these agencies have operating capacity and are currently assisting IESS. Furthermore, the three agencies provided technical assistance to the central government and carried out a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) applied to the crisis due to COVID-19. Finally, the three agencies designed and held a training course on social protection for government officials and civil society and other stakeholders.

The target group will have an active role in the implementation of the programme. Youth organizations as well as women organizations will be consulted at every stage of the programme. These organizations include labor unions and youth entrepreneurs' networks and associations. NGOs are engaged to advise every stage and to provide information and data, regarding to the target group.

Academia is a key stakeholder mapped in the project. National and local universities play a twofold role, as implementing and advisory partners. On the one hand, the project has found allies in the universities, specifically to implement activities that require technical expertise and the capacity to reach the target group such as training activities and community engagement. The project partnered with the Health Enterprise of the University of Cuenca to design the care system, the fourth output. On the other hand, academia contributes to advise the project in different areas such as policy, data and research. In order to make this more concrete, universities are incorporating youth themes into their research agendas.

Public financial institutions including National Corporation of Popular and Solidary Finances (CONAFIPS), BanEcuador and Pacific Bank, will participate in the programme, coordinating and facilitating access to financial products for youth. These products and services will be complemented with private FI's services. Coordination with social economic financing networks and organizations, will be part of the process as well as with the Central Bank and the financial regulatory entities, which will contribute to strengthen financial inclusion strategies for the target population.

The design of the strategies and methodologies will be participatory and tested. Local governments in selected territories play a key role under their competencies. Alignment with their actions and programmes will be part of the strategies. The Gender Equality Council, and the Human Rights Secretariat will also participate as strategic partners. The WB will be another strategic partner with all the technical assistance being developed for the non- contributory-based social protection system.

3. Programme implementation

3.1. Governance and implementation arrangements

The programme aims to cope with structural problems regarding labor market, inclusion and transition mechanisms to formal work for youth. In this context, challenges have been identified in terms of contributory and non-contributory schemes, including institutional coordination and integrated agendas among the stakeholders. Considering the disconnection between the systems providing social protection services in Ecuador, an innovative and multisectoral strategy is necessary.

To facilitate the process, high political level agreements have been reached as part of the preparation stage. RCO has encouraged dialogue between Government authorities including the Vice President's Office, IESS, MIES, Ministry of Labor, Social Registry Unit, and Technical Secretariat 'Toda una Vida'. The Vice-presidency plays a key role since currently it is in charge (together with the National Planning Secretary)

of implementing the 2030 Agenda and monitoring, among others, the Social Sectoral Councils Agenda entailing the social protection public policies as well.

On the one hand, the Ecuadorian Social Security System is actively involved, at the operational level, in designing, implementing and testing an innovative contributory social protection scheme for youth working in informal activities. As the institution in charge of managing the contribution-based social security system, it has the legal authority and competency to expand the system's coverage to the informal economy by testing and implementing innovative models. Furthermore, ILO will bring its expertise in developing national social protection strategies, evaluation and analysis of social protection systems, actuarial evaluations, extending social protection coverage to the informal economy and creating a culture of social protection.

On the other hand, in the non-contributory system, MIES has under its responsibilities the definition of public policies regarding daily care services and childhood development; and other social protection mechanisms, including cash transfers and economic inclusion services for populations in vulnerability. The MIES' coordination role is framed in supporting and facilitating the design and implementation of prototypes in selected territories, and evaluation of the sustainability and efficiency of a daily care service for young working mothers and fathers. In this regard, UN Women, with its experience, will provide knowledge and technical assistance to promote, under the umbrella of the social protection foundation (social protection floors), public family responsibility policies for vulnerable young workers. This will be carried out through the recognition of care and domestic work, parental leave entitlement of both father and mother, and the shared responsibility of child care between families, the state, and society.

The Ministry of Labor will be actively involved in all the elements of the project concerning labor rights, employability, training and retraining. For this project, labor policy is a cross-cutting area, in that sense, the participation of this Ministry will provide the ground to put in place and reinforce the transition of young workers to formal activities; to encourage, supervise and require compliance with the law particularly regarding social security contribution, legal working hours, fair salaries, parental leaves and any other norm or instrument that contribute for young working mothers and fathers to achieve decent work.

Due to the nature and complexity of the intended actions, the economic and employment perspectives, innovative approaches and solutions needed are posed. UNDP brings to the table its vast experience and tools on social protection and its Accelerator Lab. The latter is intended to explore new and innovative mechanisms considering the country's conditions and youth perspectives.

When it comes to the fieldwork, local participation will be ensured. Consultations and participation processes with young men and women working in informal conditions, including fathers and mothers, will be carried out as part of the design innovative process. RCO in coordination with the involved agencies (ILO, UN Women and UNDP) will promote formal dialogues with the private sector and if possible, establish public-private partnerships to jointly test and implement proposed models. These dialogues

and active local participation will disclose territory conditions and target group characteristics. In that sense, workers, women and youth organizations will provide first-hand information on their conditions and needs, as well as other actors such as chambers or firms will contribute to develop tailor-made solutions providing their point of view. Therefore, models will be designed, tested and evaluated with local counterparts.

Given this interconnected multi-sectoral scenario, well-defined coordination and implementation mechanisms are required. In order to manage and implement the project, the following structure has been established:

Steering Committee: Vice presidency or delegate, UN Resident Coordinator, President of the IESS Board of Directors or delegate, Minister of the MIES or delegate, Minister of Labor or delegate, Technical Secretariat Plan Toda una Vida or delegate, and heads of implementing agencies (ILO, UNDP and UN Women.)

The Steering Committee will be in charge of providing strategic direction to the programme implementation and to ensure that the programme remains coherent, relevant, contributes to national priorities, and to SDGs selected goals and targets. Also mandated to oversight, the programme fully integrates a HRBA, gender and LNOB principles.

Technical Committee: Programme officers of implementing UN agencies, delegates of IESS, MIES, Ministry of Labor, Social Registry Unit, national development planning entity, National Statistics Institute and the local municipalities from the four territories. The committee will be in charge of managing the adequate implementation of the programme and providing substantive direction. Mandated to ensure the project complies with the expected results and budget execution. Also mandated to ensure innovative solutions, participation of target groups and inter-agency coordination.

Advisory Committee: Selected individuals, at national and community level, who will bring unique and diverse knowledge and background to complement those of the technical committee, in order to guide more effectively the programme implementation. Target groups to be part of the committee include: trade unions, employers, youth and women organizations and local representatives. Furthermore, other actors from the government and the private sector as well as other agencies will be consulted: SECAP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gender Equality Council, Internal Revenue Service, Chambers of Production, the World Bank, young entrepreneurs networks and associations, social economy financial organizations, NGOs and academia, open data CSOs, among others.

A coordination team will be hired, to support the implementation process including the preparation of monitoring and evaluation reports. The team will complement and coordinate activities with the technical counterparts.

The Joint Programme is complementary to other initiatives, including Social Safety Net Loan from World Bank, which aims to improve the equity, integration and

sustainability of selected social assistance programmes from MIES.

3.2. Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be results-oriented, and evidence based. Each PUNO will provide the Convening/Lead Agent with the following narrative reports prepared in accordance with instructions and templates developed by the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat:

- Annual narrative progress reports, to be provided no later than one (1) month (31 January) after the end of the calendar year, and must include the result matrix, updated risk log, and anticipated expenditures and results for the next 12-month funding period;
- Mid-term progress review report to be submitted halfway through the implementation of Joint Programme⁵; and
- Final consolidated narrative report, after the completion of the joint programme, to be provided no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the activities of the joint programme.

The Convening/Lead Agent will compile the narrative reports of PUNOs and submit a consolidated report to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, through the Resident Coordinator.

The Resident Coordinator will be required to monitor the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data and information when requested. As a minimum, joint programmes will prepare, and submit to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, 6-month monitoring updates. Additional insights (such as policy papers, value for money analysis, case studies, infographics, blogs) might need to be provided, per request of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat. Joint programme will allocate resources for monitoring and evaluation in the budget.

Data for all indicators of the results framework will be shared with the Fund Secretariat on a regular basis, in order to allow the Fund Secretariat to aggregate results at the global level and integrate findings into reporting on progress of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs will be required to include information on complementary funding received from other sources (both UN cost sharing, and external sources of funding) for the activities supported by the Fund, including in kind contributions and/or South-South Cooperation initiatives, in the reporting done throughout the year.

PUNOs at Headquarters level shall provide the Administrative Agent with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with its accounting and reporting procedures, consolidate the financial reports, as follows:

⁵ This will be the basis for release of funding for the second year of implementation.

- Annual financial reports as of 31st December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint SDG Fund Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period; and
- A final financial report, after the completion of the activities financed by the Joint SDG Fund and including the final year of the activities, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closing of the project activities.

In addition, regular updates on financial delivery might need to be provided, per request of the Fund Secretariat.

The joint programme will be subjected to a joint final independent evaluation. It will be managed jointly by PUNOs as per established process for independent evaluations, including the use of a joint evaluation steering group and dedicated evaluation managers not involved in the implementation of the joint programme. The evaluations will follow the United Nations Evaluation Group's (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System, using the guidance on Joint Evaluation and relevant UNDG guidance on evaluations. The management and implementation of the joint evaluation will have due regard to the evaluation policies of PUNOs to ensure the requirements of those policies are met and the evaluation is conducted with use of appropriate guidance from PUNOs on joint evaluation. The evaluation process will be participative and will involve all relevant programme's stakeholders and partners. Evaluation results will be disseminated amongst government, development partners, civil society, and other stakeholders. A joint management response will be produced upon completion of the evaluation process and made publicly available on the evaluation platforms or similar of PUNOs.

3.3. Accountability, financial management and public disclosure

The Joint Programme will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent (AA) under which the funds will be channeled for the Joint Programme through the AA. Each Participating UN Organization receiving funds through the pass-through has signed a standard Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

Each Participating UN Organization (PUNO) shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Programme in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. Each PUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs will be 7%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs.

Funding by the Joint SDG Fund will be provided on an annual basis, upon successful performance of the joint programme.

Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

Each PUNO will take appropriate measures to publicize the Joint SDG Fund and give due credit to the other PUNOs. All related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, provided to the press or Fund beneficiaries, will acknowledge the role of the host Government, donors, PUNOs, the Administrative Agent, and any other relevant entities. In particular, the Administrative Agent will include and ensure due recognition of the role of each Participating Organization and partners in all external communications related to the Joint SDG Fund.

3.4. Legal context

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2019-2022 signed by the Government of Ecuador in June 2018. Includes the signatures of the three implementing agencies.

Agency name: UNDP

Agreement title: Agreement between the government of Ecuador and the United Nations Development Programme

Agreement date: January 19th, 2005

The Government and the United Nations Development Programme (hereafter referred to as UNDP) entered into a basic agreement that will govern the UNDP assistance to the country (the Basic Agreement Model of Assistance or SBAA), signed by both parties on 19th January 2005. According to paragraph 2 of article I of SBAA, UNDP's assistance shall be provided and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent organs of UNDP and is subject to UNDP having the necessary available funds. In its decision 2005/1 of 28th February 2005, the UNDP Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules as well as new definitions of "execution" and "implementation" that allow UNDP to fully implement the new common country programming procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative.

With the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), the Basic Assistance Model Agreement (SBAA) agreed between the Government and UNDP on 19th January 2005, mutatis mutandis applies to UN Women, their assets, funds, assets and officials in the Republic of Ecuador.

Agreements with Governmental entities

SNU and the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute:

Framework Agreement on Inter-institutional Cooperation between the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) and the United Nations System in Ecuador (Convenio Marco de Cooperación Interinstitucional entre el Instituto Ecuatoriano de Seguridad Social y el Sistema de Naciones Unidas en el Ecuador)
09/01/2019 - 09/01/2021

SNU and the National Assembly
Memorandum of understanding between the National Assembly and the United Nations System in Ecuador (Memorando de entendimiento entre la Asamblea Nacional y el Sistema de Naciones Unidas en el Ecuador)
05/07/2019 - 05/07/2021

SNU and Ombudsman's Office
Inter-institutional Cooperation Agreement (Convenio de Cooperación Interinstitucional) 28/05/2015 -28/05/2020

ILO and The Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS)
Social Security Technical Assistance Programme - Inter Institutional Cooperation Agreement 2018 - 2022

UNDP and Ministry of Labor
Initiation Plan for the Design and Implementation of a Gender Equality Seal in Ecuador 2018 - 2019

UN Women and Ministry of Labor
Memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the empowerment of women and the Ministry of Labor in Ecuador
2019-2021

UN Women and Central Bank
Memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the empowerment of women and the Ecuadorian Central Bank
2020-2022

ILO and the Government of Ecuador
Basic Agreement between the International Labor Organization and the Government of Ecuador to provide Technical Assistance
Current since May 15, 1951

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Annex 1. List of related initiatives

Name of initiative/ project	Key expected results	Links to the joint programme	Lead organization	Other partners	Budget and funding source	Contact person (name and email)
Social Security Technical Assistance Program	Strengthen social dialogue among its actors, institutional governance and human resources capabilities, as well as implement strategies to improve the main processes of the social security system and strengthen the financial management of the IESS	<p>Program exclusively related to strengthen the social security system.</p> <p>Politics to increase the social security coverage for independent workers. Technical assistance during the process of the social dialogue aiming to achieve an overall agreement about social security</p>	ILO	IESS	USD 2.3 Million Funding source: IESS	Pablo Casali casali@ilo.org
Promotion of labor market inclusion for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, in South America and the Caribbean, through decent work and inclusive economic growth	<p>Migrant workers count with employment inclusive policies and micro and small enterprises that are part of a value chain.</p> <p>Public employment services are reinforced and more efficient in the regions with high presence of migrants Workers' organizations and employers' organizations , incorporate labor</p>	Transition from the informal to the formal labor market.	ILO	Ministry of Labor (indirect beneficiary)	USD 1 million (Ecuador and Perú); USD 394.710 only Ecuador, source: ILO (core funding)	María Isabel Sánchez sanchezm@ilo.org

	<p>migration and socio-economic integration topics into their work agendas to strengthen public policies for migrants and refugees.</p>					
<p>Strengthening Social Protection System for Unemployment Benefits in Ecuador</p>	<p>Improved or new Protection mechanism in case of unemployment for formal and informal workers Improved or new definition of scope of application, defined benefits (sufficient) and qualifying conditions, Sustainable financing of the social insurance-based unemployment benefits All protected workers have access to job training programs and employment services, considering gender gaps. An instance of consultative participation of social actors is created.</p>	<p>Program related to strengthening the social security system and transition from the informal to the formal labor market</p>	<p>ILO</p>	<p>IESS</p>	<p>USD 186.963 Source: European Union</p>	<p>Pablo Casali casali@ilo.org</p>

Promote universal access to medical care, by improving the coordination of the national health system	Promote effective access to health care services through an efficient model of economic recognition of health benefits between institutions that considers gender gaps and population groups. Strengthened capacities of ILO constituents to build a gender-sensitive and articulated health system that optimizes service delivery.	Strengthening of social security system and access to health care through institutional coordination and capacity building	ILO	IESS, ISSFA, ISSPOL, Ministry of Health	USD 270.00 Core funding	Pablo Casali casali@ilo.org
Gender mainstreaming in social security systems	Evaluation of social security regimes for paid homeworkers Evaluation of social security for unpaid homeworkers	Policy recommendations for IESS on social security	Un Women	IESS	Core resources	Alison Vásquez Alison.vasquez@unwomen.org
Promotion of gender equality in labor policy	Policy instruments for social security rights enforcement with emphasis in labor inspections, parental leaves, violence and harassment and employability	Social security rights enforcement, recognition of the unpaid care and domestic work	UN Women	Ministry of Labor	USD 10.000 Core Resources	Alison Vásquez Alison.vasquez@unwomen.org
Social and economic inclusion for women in the transborder zone	Women in the northern and southern border zone increase their possibilities for access to	Social and economic inclusion mechanisms and tools for women in mobility	UN Women	MIES Local Governments	USD 600.000 PRM	Alison Vásquez Alison.vasquez@unwomen.org

Ecuador-Colombia and Ecuador and Peru	social protection and livelihoods	and host communities				
Implementation of equal pay tool for determination of gender pay gaps	Equal pay tool is validated and included in national policy tools for monitoring labor rights WEP companies apply the tool and develop measures for reducing gender pay gaps	Sensitization of private sector in gender mainstreaming, labor and human rights management, and fulfillment of women's rights	UN Women	Ministry of Labor	10.000 USD Core resources	Alison Vásconez Alison.vasconez@unwomen.org
Ecuadorian women's labor agenda towards SDGs	Locally based participatory proposals for gender equality and women's labor rights to accomplish SDG agenda and Beijing platform commitment	Consultations and proposals of women, regarding economic inclusion, economic and labor rights and social protection and security	UN Women	National Council for Gender Equality	20.000 USD Core	Alison Vásconez Alison.vasconez@unwomen.org
Technical audit of the Social Registry data focused on the achievement of the DLIs (Disbursement-linked Indicators) (WB SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROJECT LOAN)	Analyze the achievement of DLI2 and DLI 8: "At least 2.4 million households, of which 720,000 are classified d1 to d3 by the 2018 Social Registry Index, included in a validated database."	Database analysis with the Social Registry Unit for the identification of mechanisms to improve the non contributory social protection system	UNDP	Social Registry Unit World Bank	404.096 USD	Fernando Pachano fernando.pachano@undp.org
Social Protection National Strategy	Public policy technical assistance. Design a national social protection	Social protection mechanisms for vulnerable groups, including	Social Protection UNCT Group: RCO UN-WOMEN	Technical Secretariat at Toda una Vida	USD 68.000	Alison Vásconez Alison.vasconez@unwomen.org

	strategy	youth	UNDP ILO WFP UNICEF UNHCR			
Social safety net program	Strengthen the social safety net by improving the equity, integration and sustainability of selected social safety programs. Equity means a focus on improving coverage of the extreme poor by strengthening the Social Registry ⁶ . Inclusion means linking cash benefits with social services for extreme poor households in a coordinated manner. And Sustainability would be achieved through successful exit strategies of beneficiaries from the safety net programs	Noncontributory social protection mechanisms including childcare and childhood development programs	WB	MIES	USD 350 millions	Nelson Gutierrez Ngutierrez1@worldbank.org
Credit for youth (Impulso Joven)	Access to credit (up to USD 59.100) for young people (18-29) to finance economic activities	Financial inclusion for youth	Banecuador	None	N/A	

⁶ Social Registry is the Ecuadorian mechanism to identify poor and extreme poor households. It uses a Proxy Means Test methodology once a survey was applied to the household.

Young employment	<p>Promote youth population employment , through government economic incentives to the private sector in order to reduce youth unemployment</p> <p>Enhance young skills and knowledge through technical training.</p>	Strategies to accelerate young population's transition to decent working conditions	Ministry of Labor	None	N/A	<p>Jessahe Navarrete carla_navarrete@trabajo.gob.ec</p>
Training municipal programme	<p>Promotes professionalization and technification abilities. Expands opportunities for access to training and job skills development</p> <p>Guides young entrepreneurs.</p>	Training for young people	ConQuito	None	N/A	<p>Javier Albuja jalbuja@conquito.org.ec</p>

Annex 2. Overall Results Framework

2.1. Targets for Joint SDG Fund Results Framework

Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale.

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021
1.1: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ⁷	0	1
1.2: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ⁸	0	0

Joint SDG Fund Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021

⁷ Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added, or mechanisms/systems replicated.

⁸ Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

2.1: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope ⁹ (disaggregated by source)	0	0
2.2: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scale ¹⁰ (disaggregated by source)	0	0

Joint SDG Fund Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021
3.1: # of innovative solutions that were tested ¹¹ (disaggregated by % successful- unsuccessful)	0	3
3.2: # of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	0	3
3.3: # and share of countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened	0	0

Joint SDG Fund Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021
4.1: # of integrated financing strategies that were tested (disaggregated by % successful/ unsuccessful)	0	1
4.2: # of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead ¹²	0	1
4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate progress on SDGs made operational	0	1

Joint SDG Fund Operational Performance Indicators

- Level of coherence of UN in implementing programme country¹³
- Reduced transaction costs for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other joint programmes in the country in question
- Annual % of financial delivery
- Joint programme operationally closed within original end date
- Joint programme financially closed 18 months after their operational closure
- Joint programme facilitated engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector)
- Joint programme included addressing inequalities (QCPR) and the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”
- Joint programme featured gender results at the outcome level

⁹ Additional resources mobilized for other / additional sector/s

¹⁰ Additional resources mobilized for the same multi-sectoral solution.

¹¹ Each Joint programme in the Implementation phase will test at least 2 approaches.

¹² This will be disaggregated by (1) government/public partners (2) civil society partners and (3) private sector partners

¹³ Annual survey will provide qualitative information towards this indicator.

- Joint programme undertook or draw upon relevant human rights analysis, and have developed or implemented a strategy to address human rights issues
- Joint programme planned for and can demonstrate positive results/effects for youth
- Joint programme considered the needs of persons with disabilities

- Joint programme made use of risk analysis in programme planning
- Joint programme conducted do-no-harm / due diligence and were designed to take into consideration opportunities in the areas of the environment and climate change

2.2. Joint programme Results framework

Results/indicators	Baseline ¹⁴	2020 Target	2021 Target	Means of Verification	Responsible Partner
By 2021, Ecuador has put in place norms and integral and innovative policy solutions and instruments for decent work generation, sustainable livelihoods, and economic inclusion of young population, with equal opportunities for women and men	There are not comprehensive policies addressed to the youth, to foster decent working conditions and social protection		A comprehensive gender - sensitive social protection policy for informal young workers	Documents, reports, methodologies , protocols, guidelines, handbooks	IESS MIES Ministry of Labor
Youth population in selected territories who can improve their access to formal labor and financial inclusion (at least half are women)	68%		70%	Baseline and Final line information Program reports	IESS MIES Ministry of Labor
Youth population that can improve their access to the contributive social protection system	38%		42%		
Percentage of youth in selected territories, have access to vocational/ technical training.	6.000 young people in the selected territories directly involved in youth employment and formalization		65% (3.900 beneficiaries)		

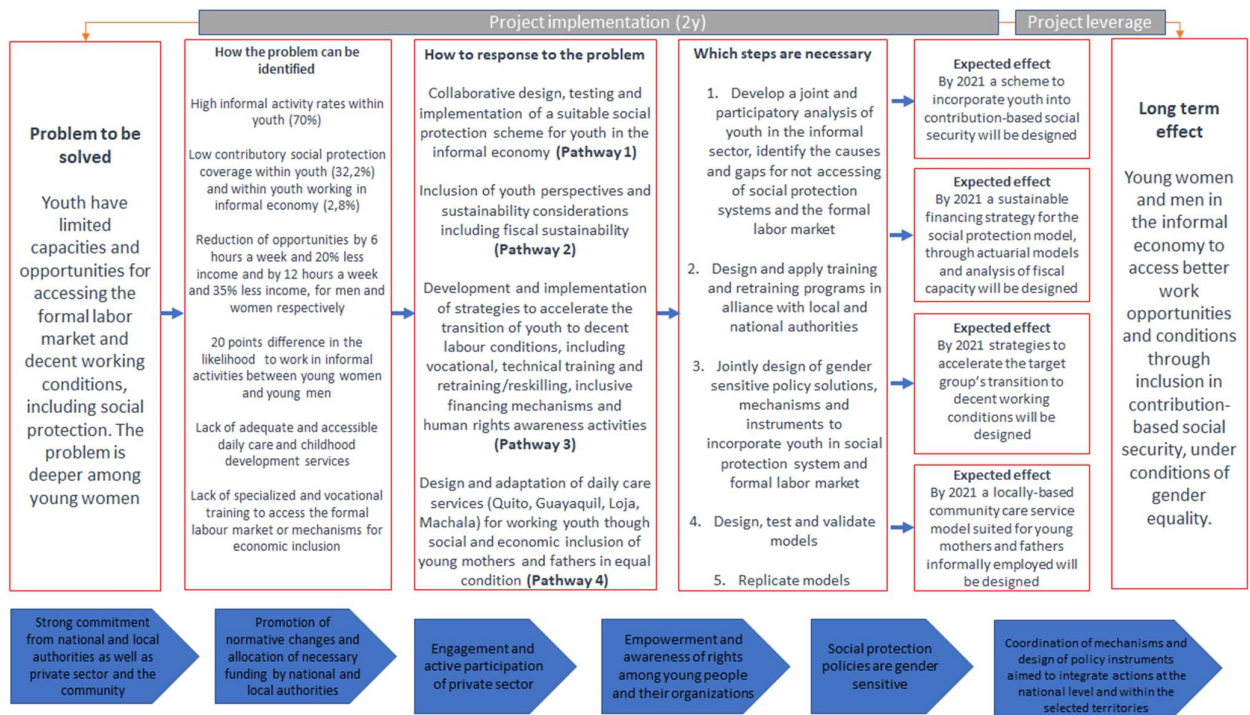
¹⁴ Statistical data was obtained from the Statistics Office Household Survey for December 2020. Due to the pandemic, there were changes made to the sampling methodology, thus data is not comparable to previous years and should be used with precaution.

	programs from local and national government				
Percentage of women as part of the young population accessing vocational and technical training.	6.000 directly involved in youth employment and formalization programs from local and national government		45% (2.700 beneficiaries)		
Percentage of young women are technically trained in traditionally masculine-related activities.	2.300 directly involved in youth employment and formalization programs from local and national government		30% (690 beneficiaries)		
Youth in selected territories, have increased access to services of the local care system that promote their employment including daily care services	20% young parents in informality who access to daily care services after closure		At least 10 percentage points (2.000) 15% young parents will participate in the care system design and pilots (300)		
Young male fathers' dependent workers in selected territories increase their opportunities to access to parental license	There is no official registry of paternal or parental leaves.		Improved data collection instruments for monitoring parental licenses. incentive mechanism for parental leave compliance validated by public and private sector 50% of young parents in informal economy in the four territories		

			<p>improve their knowledge on parental and paternal licenses</p> <p>At least 30% of workers and employers of the from WEP and Global Compact firms increase their awareness on child care co-responsibility</p>		
Design and validate an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-based social security system					
By 2020, social protection gender/age gaps have been identified and different costing scenarios have been evaluated.	There is not a gender/age gap study within the country	Study has been conducted		Program reports	IESS
By 2021, a contributory scheme design has been developed and validated within IESS.	There is not an adapted contributory scheme.		Scheme has been validated	Program reports Guidelines, handbooks protocols	IESS
By 2020, a financial inclusion strategy will be strengthened and validated and put in place directed to informal sector workers, with focus on small scale economic units and social programs beneficiaries	4 participatory workshops to identify needs and ideate solutions held, 1 per locality		Inclusion strategy has been implemented and validated		
Design the social protection model's financial sustainability strategy					
By 2021, a financial sustainability model for contributory and non -contributory social protection mechanisms have been identified, discussed and validated.	There is not a sustainability model for the contributory scheme.		Model has been identified and discussed	Program reports	IESS
By 2021, a fiscal sustainability report, regarding social protection for youth, has been	There is not a sustainability report regarding social protection	1 fiscal sustainability strategy developed	Fiscal report has been conducted	Program reports	IESS

conducted and validated.					
Design strategies to accelerate the target group's transition to decent working conditions, including vocational / technical training					
By 2021, new gender sensitive strategies and models to support and accelerate the transition to decent work for youth, considering future labor market conditions, have been designed and tested in a pilot	There are not gender sensitive strategies and programs to support transition to decent work for youth.		Models have been designed and tested	Program reports Guidelines, handbooks protocols	Ministry of Labor
Gender/age sensitive sensitization program validated and in place for encouraging young workers to access to labor rights, particularly social security and protection			Sensitization program validated and in place	Program reports Guidelines, handbooks protocols, campaigns	Ministry of Labor
Design and validate a locally-based care service model for young mothers and fathers in the informal economy					
By 2021, an innovative model based in local-supplier networking (public-private partnerships and community initiatives) to provide daily care for young fathers and mothers, has been developed, validated and tested (pilot) in selected territories.	No studies of local care services available. The baseline will be defined in territories 51 key actors mapped	1 Participatory study of care service gaps elaborated	At least 15 key actors in the territories partake in local care system prototype 1 proposal of a national care policy, presented and discussed with national relevant actors (MIES, National Council of Gender Equality, Ministry of Labor and IESS) 1 proposal of a national care law discussed and validated	Program reports Guidelines, handbooks protocols	MIES

Annex 3. Theory of Change graphic



Annex 4. Gender marker matrix

N°	Indicator	Score	Findings and Explanation	Evidence or Means of Verification
	Formulation			
1.1	Context analysis integrate gender analysis	3	Context analysis, baseline, diagnosis and motivation of the problem includes sex disaggregated data and focus on differentiated needs by young men and women. The analysis highlights specific barriers that stress gender differences in the inclusion of women into social protection systems and rights in the country. Target groups and LNOB analysis focus on gender equality and youth inclusion.	Section 1: Baseline and situation analysis. Goals of the project
1.2	Gender Equality mainstreamed in proposed outputs	3	The project focus is in closing gender/age gaps and promoting equal opportunities of young men and women to social protection floors. The project includes gender sensitive outputs that aim to incorporate youth in the formal market through a financial inclusion strategy, and training programs with gender focus. Further, there is a specific output that considers the design of care systems, which contributes to close gender gaps in the labor market and in fulfilling access to social security benefits.	Logical Framework Work plan Budget
1.3	Programme output indicators measure changes on gender equality	2	The project includes closing gender gaps and gender equality indicators in 2 out of 4 outputs.	Logical Framework

2.1	PUNO collaborate and engage with Government on gender equality and the empowerment of women	3	The program design includes consultation with public institutions whose main target population are women in poverty (Ministry of Social Inclusion), as well as the areas responsible for the promotion of gender equality within Ministries: Direction for Vulnerable Group of the Ministry of Labor, and the National Council for Gender Equality (Ecuadorian women's machinery). The institutions will be consulted in the design of different activities and to guaranteeing their compromise when the project is in place. The project aims at the inclusion of gender equality in contributive social security schemes, fulfillment of women's labor rights and promoting gender equality in public policy and services, particularly training, certification and care systems.	Commitment Letters Registry of participation to workshops
2.2	PUNO collaborate and engages with women's/gender equality CSOs	3	The program design included consultation with women's organizations, including those promoting gender equality and participation of women in development projects, as well as women's rights advocates. Due to the locally and community- based nature of the project, one of the main counterparts will be young women's organizations, particularly workers and advocates; the project will also promote associativity and organization of young workers, enhancing parity in participation of women and men.	Project Document Report of consultations (UN Women)
3.1	Program proposes a gender-responsive budget	2	32% of the Budget is dedicated to closing gender gap activities 12% of the budget is dedicated to the inclusion of women as direct beneficiaries of the project.	Activities and budget
Total scoring		2.7		

Annex 5. Communication Plan

Communications Plan

1) Overall narrative of the joint program

7 out of every 10 young men and women in Ecuador are working informally. The informal economy reduces young people's possibilities to exercise their right to an adequate standard of living. Moreover, this situation negatively impacts the country's production potential and fiscal income, leads young people to mistrust economic systems and erodes social cohesion.

As a response to these concerns and under the principle of the 2030 Agenda 'Leaving no one behind', the United Nations joint program (ILO, UNW and UNDP) 'Expanding the social protection system to young men and women in the informal economy' works to incorporate young people under conditions of economic informality (especially women) into the social protection system and enable them to access decent working conditions.

This project will promote the formalization of this young population's working activities (capacities, abilities and inclusive financial resources), the elimination of barriers for accessing formal work, childcare services and access to rights for parental responsibilities.

The Institute of Social Security (IESS) and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) will lead implementation and they will coordinate with the Ministry of Labor, the Statistics and Census Institute, the Gender Equality Council, Social Registry Unit and Technical Secretariat 'Plan Toda una Vida'.

The intervention will allow to reduce levels of multi-dimensional poverty, implement nationally appropriate social protection systems, end malnutrition, including stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, increase access to quality early childhood development and care, recognize and value unpaid care and promote shared responsibility within the household and the family, increase decent employment, promote greater equality, and foster universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health-care services.

Pitch of the Program

Young people are key champions of the transformations Ecuador needs in order to achieve sustainable development and become a prosperous, safe and inclusive country.

As such, they all have the right to access decent jobs and be protected by the social security system. This Program seeks to fulfill these legitimate demands addressing labor and social barriers and strengthening the capacities of this group.

By recognizing and formalizing their work activities, we will encourage their self-esteem, improve their skills, and give an opportunity to their projects and dreams to become real and improve the well-being of their communities.

2) Strategic approach to key audiences

The Communications Plan has a human rights, gender and intercultural approach. Together with the Ecuadorian Government, UN agencies, funds and programs communication channels will disseminate key messages periodically to reinforce the lines and objectives of the program.

To communicate effectively with targeted audiences, the plan categorizes stakeholders into three groups.

Primary audience, main target: young people (18-29 years old).

This group will require the greatest effort and dedication, having a special emphasis on educational communication to train them about rights, get a decent job and access institutional mechanisms for formalization in the National Security System.

An information campaign that will be led by recognized social media influencers at national and local level will disseminate the incentives of the program and raise awareness to change the perception of young people about social security. This campaign will be complemented through online events and workshops. The information campaign will include the production of audiovisual materials, such as short documentary videos, testimonials and photo reportages, to communicate

human stories about youth in informality and the actions implemented through the SDG Programme to face this problem.

Interpersonal online communication (public hearings, public contests, etc.), digital, audiovisual interactive materials and traditional media (digital banners, community radio, etc.), and multimedia (Microsite, social media Instagram, WhatsApp, etc.) will also be used.

Contents, messages and materials will have to be adapted to this group's socio-economic, cultural and generation contexts.

Secondary level: implementers, allies and influencers.

Advocacy activities will be carried out to achieve the involvement and commitment of different political, economic and social actors:

- Parents/families: given their influence on young people's lives and careers, some communication actions will be implemented for parents and legal tutors.
- Government (at national and local levels) and other relevant state institutions at national and local level will be requested to disseminate the campaign and information for young people.
- Public workers: with an educational communication approach, public workers will be trained to access young people regarding the benefits of the program.
- Development partners (international cooperation agencies, donors, embassies, etc.) and organizations promoting decent work for youth: they will be informed about the program's progress and will be invited to support raising awareness about the vulnerable working conditions of young people.
- Private sector: this public is essential to increase the chances of employability of young people. Specific brochures will be produced for this audience to inform about workplace inspections but also the opportunities and advantages of including young talent. Workshops and one to one meeting will be organized to get their involvement and engagement in the program. Likewise, they could be part of a recognition/seal for their inclusive policies for young people, especially female-householder's families.
- Academia: the program will promote workshops in universities and research institutes to foster interest in the topic, raise public awareness and generate inputs for public policy.
- Media: through a free-press strategy, the program will promote the generation of news, reports and Op-Eds, among others, regarding young people's employment.

Tertiary audience: civil society

Civil society will be informed about the challenges of young people to get a decent job and the necessary mechanisms to offer more opportunities. This public will be reached through an information campaign on social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and through conventional media.

3) Objectives of the strategic communication plan

In line with the overall SDG communication plan of the UNCT and the national government communications strategy, the proposed objectives of this plan are:

General objective: Improve the perception and promote a positive attitude of young people in the informal working sector of Ecuador regarding the benefits of social security and the importance of being covered by the system.

Specific objectives:

Inform and train about human rights, functioning of social security, youth problems related with employment

Position the Joint Program in the country, and build and strengthen partnerships to achieve a greater impact

Influence on decision makers, stakeholders and relevant audiences to support and implement actions that contribute to the Joint Programme

To measure the progress and the effectiveness of the Communications Plan and its objectives, the Program will be looking at the following key performance indicators:

1. Potential reach. Sum of viewership for publications and websites in which the coverage is featured.
2. Share of voice. Percentage of coverage for the Programme, messages or high-profile spokesperson and analyze the corresponding media coverage.
3. Social media engagement. Number of followers, shares and comments the campaign receives.
4. Sentiment. Tone of the articles mentioning the Program and topics related.
5. Media outreach. The number of press releases and pitches the Program is sending out and how they are performing, and measure of the progress in building relationships with journalists.
6. Quality of coverage. The placement of the Program mentions (headline, body) and its prominence in the article's content.
7. Geographical presence. Volume of coverage based on location.
8. Number of participants. How many people are taking part or participating in events, workshops, conferences and partnerships.
9. Earned traffic. The number of visitors driven to the microsite website.
10. Crisis communications. If trouble hits, how quickly the Program team gets things back to normal.

To standardize communications guidelines and provide an organizational structure for operating in times of crisis, the Program will propose a Protocol based on the document 'Communicating together in times of crisis: Standard Operating Procedures for the UN system'.

4) Main activities

The communication activities will be approved and supervised by the national leader institutions and by the UN agencies, funds and programs which take part in the Joint Program.

The implementation of this Plan will oversee a core communications group led by designated communications specialists from the UN agencies involved. An external and specialized communication agency or expert will be hired to develop a communications strategy and deliver products according to the instructions and the monitoring of the previously mentioned core communications group.

Every six months, the coordination team of the Program will receive a report of the accomplished activities.

As it is required, the Plan will respect the Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines and donor visibility requirements.

Target Audience	Communication Activities, Tools & channels	Timing/ Milestones	Expected Result / Indicator of Achievement	Resource Requirements	Responsible CO Unit/Persons
Young people (18-29 years old)	<p>Produce Audiovisual stories, short video documentaries and photo reportages to communicate human stories to communicate about youth in the informal economy and the SDG Project actions</p> <p>Instagram official account (Youth sensitization campaign)</p> <p>WhatsApp (as a direct communications channel)</p> <p>Social Media Campaign with national and local influencers</p> <p>Periodic Social Media messages published and spread through the UN agencies Social Media Accounts.</p> <p>Participatory video</p> <p>5 digital stories</p>	<p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The target population will have greater, better knowledge and capacities to maximize their working conditions. - Scheme to incorporate target group to contributory social security based on the Unified Registry of beneficiaries - Community-based system to establish local demand of child care services - Key focus groups of target population will change their perception. 	<p>participants</p> <p>#communications products</p> <p>Social Media and Microsite Metrics</p> <p>Survey</p>	15,000	Communications Officers

	<p>Brochure</p> <p>Workshops on Soft Skills and self-esteem (and Human Rights and Decent Work)</p>				
Parents/families	<p>Social Media Campaign with national influencers (Facebook, twitter, Instagram)</p> <p>Public hearings and brochure distribution through digital channels</p>	Every quarter	<p>participants</p> <p>#communications products</p> <p>Social Media and Microsite Metrics</p> <p>Survey</p>	1,000	Communications Officers
Government (at national and local levels)	<p>Press releases</p> <p>Fact Sheets, reports, a brochure and another advocacy material on Youth Working conditions</p> <p>National Presentation Event</p>	<p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design an innovative, affordable technological system for a national roster of workers in the informal sector. - Design of the mechanisms for scaling up and adjusting to the national child care model - Actuarial studies and analysis of the fiscal space ready for discussion with relevant actors. Such discussions will build on the UNCT solid working relations with the Ministry of Economy, production chambers and local governments, and the support of UNDP acceleration labs. 	<p>participants</p> <p>#communications products</p> <p>Social Media and Microsite Metrics</p> <p>Survey</p>	2,000	<p>Communications Officers</p> <p>IESS and MIESS Communications Coordinators</p>
Public workers	Workshops	<p>Year 2</p> <p>Biannual</p>	<p>participants</p> <p>#communications products</p>	1,000	<p>Communications Officers</p> <p>IESS and</p>

			Social Media and Microsite Metrics Survey		MIES Communications Coordinators
Development Partners (International cooperation agencies, donors, embassies, etc.) and organizations promoting decent work for youth	Press releases National event Brochure Reports	Year 2 - Design an innovative, affordable technological system for a national roster of workers in the informal sector.	participants #communications products Social Media and Microsite Metrics Survey	1,000	Communications Officers IESS and MIES Communications Coordinators
Private sector	Campaign/Seal or recognition One to one approach Brochure	months after the launch and every month	# Allies # of participants #communications products Social Media and Microsite Metrics Survey	2,000	Communications Officers
Academia	National conferences	1 per year	#Participants	1,000	Communications Officers
Media	Op-eds Articles Press releases Training for journalists	Every month	Media coverage Press clippings	1,000	Communications Officers
Civil Society	Social Media Campaign with national and local influencers (Facebook, twitter, Instagram) Periodic Social Media messages, published and spread through the UN agencies Social Media Accounts.	Every month for six months, starting on year 2	participants #communications products Social Media and Microsite Metrics Survey	7,500	Communications Officers

Annex 6. Learning and Sharing Plan

1) Strategic approach to learning and sharing

The project aims to strengthen existing public, private and community services, and national and local policies that respond to informal youth needs. In this regard, one of the mechanisms implemented by the technical team is to identify, systematize and enable learning and sharing of the current initiatives that impact positively to youth. It is of particular interest for this project to facilitate spaces where local governments can transfer knowledge to their counterparts of other cities, and where the national government can acquire knowledge from other governments in the region or in the Global South.

As part of the process, an evaluation and systematization of the implemented models will take place. Systematizing an experience can be understood as a method aimed to improve practice based on a critical reflection and interpretation of lessons learned from the realization of a certain activity. Under this perspective, systematizing the experience will provide to the project and the stakeholders with a valuable instrument to create structured knowledge. From this starting point, the next elements can be expected: identification of required adaptations to scale up the models; identification of best practices during the implementation process; identification of critical elements and risks related to the implementation process; Facilitate transfer of models, experiences, lessons learned to different contexts, to those where the experience originated.

Generating evidence and implementing innovative responses, including tested and validated models, facilitates the construction of a body of knowledge that can support the public policy consolidation, not only during the project, but also in the mid and long term. Information generated during the program will be discussed and validated with the institutional counterpart, to create awareness and sensitize policy makers, emphasizing the problems that are being solved, and how the selected alternatives work in its solution. The coordination team will prepare reports on a regular basis, and discussion workshops and meetings will take place to validate and revise the information. Reports, workshops and discussions will encourage the use of the generated information, in the decision-making process.

On the other hand, the systematization will show learned lessons and best practices to scale up and enhance the model (and its instruments) application. The systematization document will be discussed and validated with national and local counterparts, and it will take into consideration, their perceptions and experiences related to the models and its sustainability. National and local workshops will take place to discuss, as a case study, the model implementation. Adaptation and implementation manuals will be developed as part of the consolidation of public policy. These will include training manuals (based on the adjusted model and the systematization process).

2) Objectives/ 3) activities of learning and sharing

Objectives	Activities	Methods	Focal Point	Milestones
Sensitize and prepare, policy makers and technicians, in the use of accurate	Preparation of reports with structured data and information	Reports	Coordination team	Regular base reports

information for the monitoring and decision-making process				
	Discussion and validation workshops (national level)	Workshops	Coordination team	workshop
Provide adjusted information and knowledge for the model implementation and scalability	Systematization process and document	Gathering of information	Coordination team	
	Discussion and validation workshops (national level)	Workshops	Coordination team	workshop
	Design of a training kit for technicians and authorities at national and local level	Document and instruments	Coordination team	workshop
	Training workshops	Workshops	Coordination team	workshop

Annex 7. Budget and Work Plan

7.1. Budget per UNSDG categories

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	ILO		UN WOMEN		UNDP		TOTAL	
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)
1. Staff and other personnel	241.076	350.000	30.046	324.401	107.000	75.433	378.122	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	0		1.100		400		1.500	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	2.642		15.840		4.000		22.482	
4. Contractual services	530.843		432.800		145.953		1.090.596	
5. Travel	1.000		5.000		0		6.000	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	194.239		55.650		0		249.889	
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	45.851		38.958		14.547		118.356	
Total Direct Costs	1.015.651				579.394			
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	71.096		40.558		19.033		130.686	
TOTAL Costs	1.086.746	350.000	619.951	324.401	290.933	75.433	1.997.630	749.834
<i>1st year</i>	746.598	207.491	352.764	160.000	152.967	47.146	1.252.328	414.637
<i>2nd year</i>	340.148	142.509	267.187	164.401	137.966	28.287	745.302	335.197

The programme's total implementation cost is USD 2,747,465; 73% requested to the SDG Fund (USD 1,997,631) and the remaining 27% will be covered by participating UN agencies (USD 749,834).

The resources will be spent on designing and validating a national register for persons working in informal activities, where an integration of the existing database system within the implementing partners will be achieved; designing and piloting the financial inclusion model for the target population; designing formalization strategies with a gender approach, including sensitization campaigns, capacity-building, evaluating application of parental leave, and improving workplace inspection; designing locally-based care models adapted to informal-employment needs, including participatory construction of demand, management model, and suppliers' network with public – private partnerships, and costing; designing and costing the proposed social protection model including the methodological design for ex ante impact evaluations, interagency analysis and evaluations using the tools comprising the Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessments (CODI, among others), analysis of fiscal capacity and actuarial analysis of the model's sustainability; vi) testing the proposed strategies in SDG acceleration laboratories and launching innovation challenges for innovative creation of the national register of beneficiaries previously mentioned; training on actuarial analyses and South-South experience exchanges about accelerating the transition toward formality for youth with informal employment in the formal sector; designing an innovative system to monitor and report the results of the joint program with a strategic communications; and carrying out and independent evaluation of the program at the end of the implementing period.

PUNO counterparts will strengthen all the components and ensure the achievement of the outcomes and outputs of the joint program. The total PUNO counterparts have been calculated considering agencies' institutional capacities and the related initiatives that are being carried out with the same national implementing partners involved in the proposal.

7.2 Budget per SDG targets

SDG TARGETS		%	USD
1	1.2 Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.	8%	227.264
2	1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.	14%	371.923
3	2.2 End all forms of malnutrition, including the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.	1%	25.285
4	3.8 Achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	5%	124.591
5	4.2 Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	5%	135.796
6	4.4 Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.	8%	221.827
7	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	17%	456.753
8	5.A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.	8%	210.123
9	8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.	6%	151.258
10	8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	11%	289.191
11	8.B Develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact.	10%	283.778
12	10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.	9%	245.273
TOTAL		100%	2.743.063,16

The budget per SDG target's table has been developed considering all the activities planned in the program. Therefore, the budget calculated by activities has been allocated to each of the SDG targets based on the objectives and results pursued by these activities and by articulating with the goals of each SDG target.

Target 1.3, 3.8 and 10.4 of the SDGs, are positively affected by one of the outputs of the program that seeks to design and validate an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-based social security system.

On the other hand, all activities aiming at designing and validating a locally-based care service model for young mothers and fathers in the informal sector and employment, positively impacts the achievement of goals 2.2, 4.2, 5.4 and 5.A.

In the same sense, activities aiming to design strategies to accelerate the target group's transition to decent working conditions, including vocational and technical training, helps to achieve goals 4.4, 8.3, 8.5 and 8.B.

All activities proposed in the program, aims to reduce the levels of multi-dimensional poverty, accelerating the consecution of target 1.2.

7.3. Work Plan

The Work Plan includes all the activities planned for the correct achievement of the outputs and outcomes proposed by the program. The implementation period is 25 months. All the activities will be completed during the mentioned period.

The budget by output considers the joint work of the implementing agencies, where in response to the integrality of the proposal, the three agencies participate with different degrees of responsibility in achieving the different outputs.

In order to describe the type of costs related to each output, the program considers three types of cross-cutting costs. The first one is hiring experts who will technically assist the design of the main activities of the program, the second one is holding workshops with involving partners to ensure the validation process of all outputs designed within the program, and the last one refers to the communication material such as information campaigns, cultural festivals, exhibitions, and printed media.

Aside from the three cross-cutting costs, output 1 will consider socialization workshops with all involving partners, and technical events regarding other countries' experiences including youth population into the social protection system. Output 2 will consider training workshops about actuarial and financial social protection models. Output 3 will include events and social awareness workshops. Finally, output 4 will include carrying out consultation workshops as well as hiring experts for the creation of handbooks and manuals.

The Work Plan identifies two important activities separately for the correct execution of the program. On the one hand, the design of an innovative monitoring system that allows to report the progress of the program in a frequent and efficient manner. The monitoring strategy includes the design and implementation of an impact evaluation that will help to identify the real impact of the program on the target group. This evaluation includes gathering information for a baseline, as well as for the end of the intervention.

The proposed program is accompanied by a transversal communication strategy that will highlight the main milestones of the program, as well as to make it visible with

direct beneficiaries, national implementing partners, government and civil society.

Both monitoring and communication activities have been assigned a specific amount of the total budget requested to the SDG Fund, representing 5.01% of the total.

On the other hand, activities planned for an independent and mandatory evaluation of the program have also been assigned a specific budget. The joint program planned to implement a final evaluation which could identify the real results of the proposed in an objective way. This activity represents a 2.01% of the total requested budget to the SDG Fund.

Annex 8. Risk Management Plan

The proposal has identified four main risks. Young people have little culture of providing for the future, so social security is not a priority risk mitigation strategy for them. The inter-generational phenomenon of shortsightedness means the public at large and young people do not emphasize coverage for medium- and long-term social risks, such as old age. Further, the pandemic has enhanced this risk, as 47% of those who have exited the social security system were people between 21 and 30 years of age, thus, coverage to social security has become less of a priority over basic needs such as food consumption.

The second risk relates to economic austerity. In this sense, due to the health crisis, the economic crisis has deepened and the fiscal space available for social protection programs have substantially decreased. The current economic situation coupled with possible labor deregulation measures could make it more difficult for young people's access to social security. Similarly, employers might be unwilling to contribute to family responsibilities and access to care services, and employees might be afraid to request parental leave because they might be replaced. Fiscal austerity may also affect the possibility of upscaling and increasing investment in care services, or diversifying their availability to meet demands for diverse, flexible working arrangements.

A third risk identified is the rise of informality rates in the labor market. Labor market conditions are affected due to COVID-19 crisis and to more Ecuadorians entering the informal economy as a measure to mitigate the effects of the crisis. Furthermore, informality increases due to the massive influx of Venezuelan citizens in Ecuador. It is estimated that 1 million people will fall into poverty due to the pandemic. Focalization and prioritization strategies will be discussed and agreed with the government and municipalities to reach people in human mobility and those who were affected by the pandemic.

A new risk has also been identified which is related to a possible political instability scenario. The country is approaching general elections in February of 2021, which could affect the expected results of the JP due to a change in public policy direction and weak commitment. Further, due to COVID-19 in situ local work remains limited, therefore the institutional relation with local counterparts could be affected.

As strategies to mitigate the above risks, the project has emphasized mechanisms of participation, communication and sensitization, as well as building alliances with the private sector, other community stakeholders and the local governments, taking advantage of commitments to the 2030 Agenda and the potential of acceleration laboratories. The JP has also reached out to new institutional partners in order to remain relevant, increase its visibility and provide recurring updates on the JP and its implementation. The technical team will take into account the priorities of local and central government counterparts to ensure their constant engagement with the JP.

Finally, the JP designed an awareness-raising campaign for young people, which will be implemented in 2021. Likewise, to cope with the context of economic austerity, the project will make actuarial models, to make sure the new contributory schemes have a positive impact on the system's sustainability.

Risks	Risk Level	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org/Person
Contextual risks					
Young people have little culture of providing for the future, so social security is not a priority risk mitigation strategy for them; precarious IESS situation might discourage young people from contributing to social security	4		5	<p>Mechanisms of participation, incentives, communication, sensitization, education and information dissemination on labor rights to workers and firms.</p> <p>As strategies to mitigate the above risks, the project has emphasized mechanisms of participation, incentives, communication and sensitization on labor rights to workers and the private sector, as well as building alliances with key community stakeholders, firms and the local governments, taking advantage of commitments to the 2030 Agenda and the potential of acceleration laboratories. The JP will implement a behavioral insights intervention oriented towards young people to improve their social security culture.</p>	UN IESS
The country's context of economic austerity, the health crisis, as well as labor deregulation measures ("flexibilization"), might influence the labor market's performance and change current legal systems for affiliation and	4		4	<p>The project will make actuarial models and fiscal scenarios analysis to allocate funds for social protection programs and make sure the new affiliation schemes make a positive contribution to the system's sustainability. Additionally, ILO will assist in the Government's social dialogue aiming to achieve an overall</p>	UN IESS

Due to COVID-19 mitigation measures local work remains limited, therefore the institutional relation with local counterparts is affected	3		3	Permanent communication and recurring updates on the JP and its implementation. The technical team will take into account the priorities of local and central government counterparts to ensure their engagement with the JP.
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Institutional risks

The absence of joint implementation mechanisms among contributory and noncontributory social protection programs, could lead to tensions at national and local level.	3		3	<p>Definition of formal coordination and decision-making rules will be agreed as part of the program implementation.</p> <p>The Vice-president's office will assist and support in the implementation process.</p>	UN agencies
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Fiduciary risks

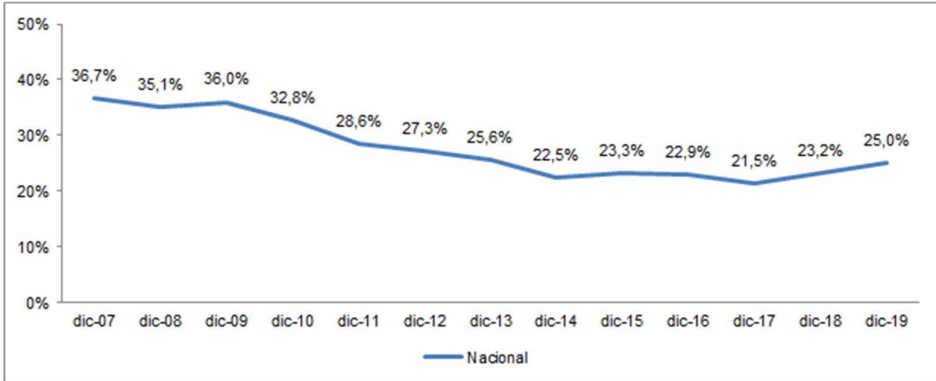
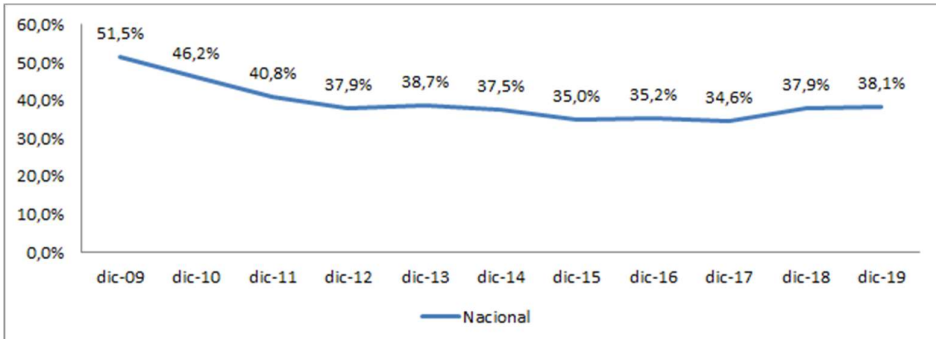
After the contributory scheme is designed and tested, including an actuarial study, it is not sustainable over time.	3		3	Actuarial models and analysis will be conducted, formerly to the testing of the contributory scheme.	UN agencies
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Annex 9. SDG indicators

List of targets

- SDG target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. National definition: Reduce multidimensional poverty.

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
SDG target	1.2. By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
Goal SDG target	National definition: Reduce multidimensional poverty

Indicators	1.2.1. Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line				
	1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions				
Baseline	<p>1.2.1. Proportion of the population living below the national poverty</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>dec-19</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> </table> <p>1.2.2. Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>38%</td> </tr> </table>	dec-19	25%	2019	38%
	dec-19	25%			
2019	38%				
Historical	<p>1.2.1. Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line</p> 				
	<p>1.2.2. Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions.</p> <p>National definition: Reduce multidimensional poverty.</p> 				
Data sources	National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (ENEMDU) - December				
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 10.				

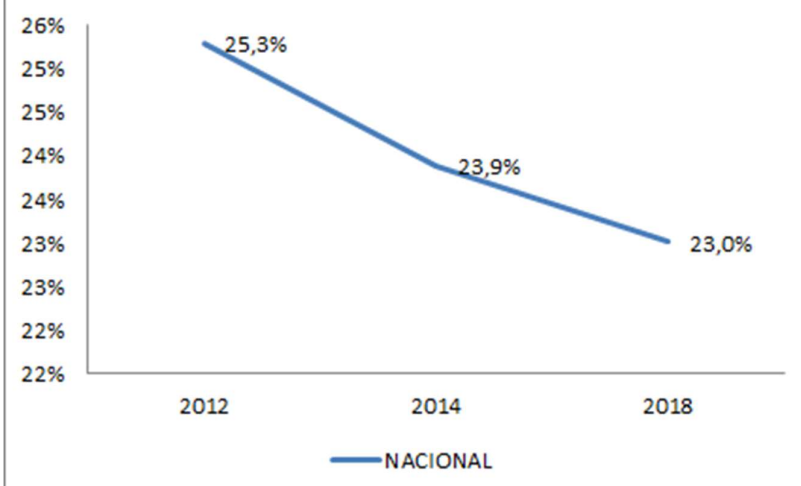
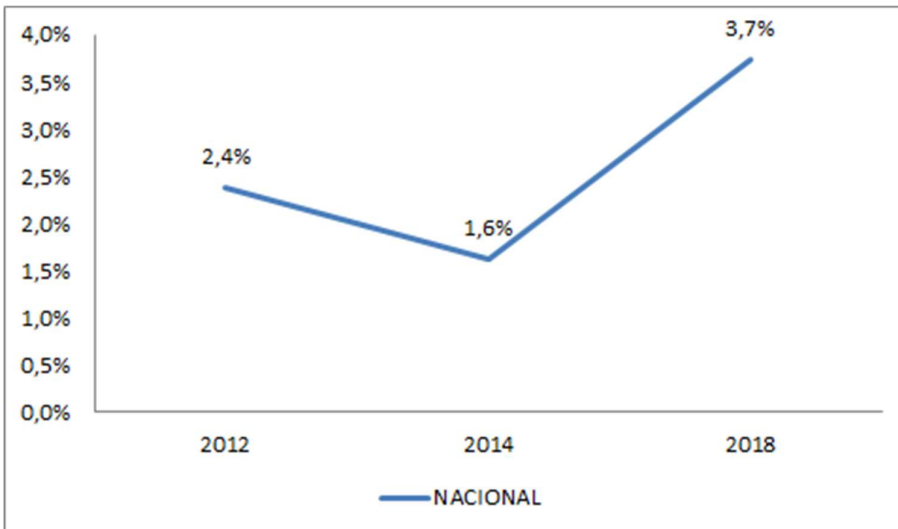
- SDG target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
SDG target	1.3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all
Goal SDG target	1.3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the

	vulnerable.		
Indicators	1.3.1. Contributory social protection coverage among youth		
	1.3.2. Contributory social protection coverage among youth working in informal activities		
Baseline	1.3.1. Contributory social protection coverage among youth <table border="1" data-bbox="448 457 980 516"> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>32%</td> </tr> </table>	2019	32%
	2019	32%	
1.3.2. Contributory social protection coverage among youth working in informal activities <table border="1" data-bbox="448 579 980 638"> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>8,7%</td> </tr> </table>	2019	8,7%	
2019	8,7%		
Data sources	National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (ENEMDU) - December		
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 10.		

- SDG target 2.2: end malnutrition, including stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age

Goal 2	Zero Hunger		
SDG target	2.2: End malnutrition, including stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age		
Goal SDG target	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.		
Indicators	2.2.1 Prevalence of stunted growth (height for age, standard deviation <-2 of the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) child growth patterns) among children under 5 years of age		
	2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (height weight, standard deviation > +2 or <-2 of the median of the WHO child growth patterns) among children under 5 years, broken down by type (wasting and weight excessive)		
Baseline	2.2.1. Prevalence of stunted growth among children under 5 <table border="1" data-bbox="448 1398 980 1432"> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> </table>	2018	23%
	2018	23%	
2.2.2. Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 <table border="1" data-bbox="448 1453 980 1486"> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>3,7%</td> </tr> </table>	2018	3,7%	
2018	3,7%		
Historical	2.2.1. Prevalence of stunted growth among children under 5		

	 <table border="1"> <caption>Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 (National)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Prevalence (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>25.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>23.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>23.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Prevalence (%)	2012	25.3%	2014	23.9%	2018	23.0%
Year	Prevalence (%)								
2012	25.3%								
2014	23.9%								
2018	23.0%								
	<p>2.2.2. Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 (National)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Prevalence (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>2.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>1.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>3.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Prevalence (%)	2012	2.4%	2014	1.6%	2018	3.7%
Year	Prevalence (%)								
2012	2.4%								
2014	1.6%								
2018	3.7%								
Data sources	Health and Nutrition Conditions National Survey (ENSANUT-2012), (ECV-2014)								
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 1, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 6, Goal 8, Goal 10.								

- SDG target 3.8: foster universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health-care services

Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
SDG target	3.8. Foster universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health-care services
Goal SDG target	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
Indicators	NA
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 1, Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 10, Goal 16.

- SDG target 4.2: increase access to quality early childhood development and care

Goal 4	Quality education
SDG target	4.2: increase access to quality early childhood development and care
Goal SDG target	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.
Indicators	Coverage of daily care and childhood development services for poor households
Baseline	47%
Data sources	National Census and MIES administrative information.
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 1, Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 10.

- SDG target 5.4: recognize and value unpaid care and promoting shared responsibility within the household and the family

Goal 5	Gender equality and women's empowerment		
SDG target	5.4: recognize and value unpaid care and promoting shared responsibility within the household and the family		
Goal SDG target	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate		
Indicators	5.4.1. Percentage of time that people 12 years of age and older devote to domestic work and unpaid care		
Baseline	5.4.1. <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2012</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14,39%</td> </tr> </table>	2012	14,39%
2012	14,39%		
Historical	NA		
Data sources	Use of Time National Survey		
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 10, Goal 16.		

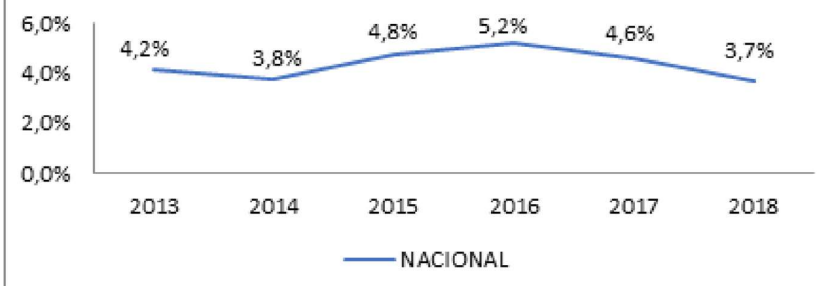
- SDG target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Goal 8	Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
SDG target	8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium- sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
Goal SDG target	8.3 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
Indicators	8.3.1. Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

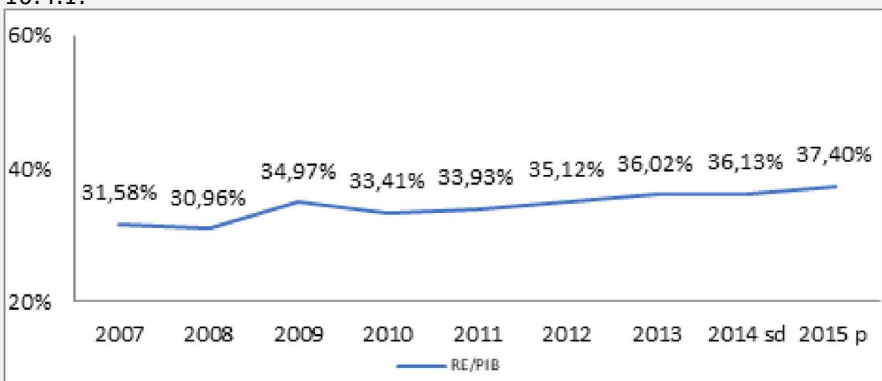
Baseline	N/A
Data sources	National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (ENEMDU) - December
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 10, Goal 16.

- SDG target 8.5: achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Goal 8	Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all																
SDG target	8.5: achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value																
Goal SDG target	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value																
Indicators	8.5.1. Average hourly income of women and men employed, broken down by occupation, age and persons with disabilities. 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, broken down by sex, age																
Baseline	<p>8.5.1. Average hourly income of women and men employed, broken down by occupation, age and persons with disabilities.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="3">2018</td> <td>Men</td> <td>2,9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women</td> <td>2,8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GAP</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> </table> <p>8.5.2 Unemployment rate, broken down by sex, age</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>Unemployment</td> <td>3,8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>Men</td> <td>3,3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>Women</td> <td>4,6%</td> </tr> </table>	2018	Men	2,9	Women	2,8	GAP	3%	2019	Unemployment	3,8%	2019	Men	3,3%	2019	Women	4,6%
2018	Men		2,9														
	Women		2,8														
	GAP	3%															
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Historical	<p>8.5.1. Average hourly income of women and men employed, broken down by occupation, age and persons with disabilities.</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Average hourly income of women and men employed (NACIONAL)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>8,4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>11,6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>11,8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>4,0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>7,8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>8,0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>8.5.2 Unemployment rate, broken down by sex, age</p>	Year	Percentage	2013	8,4%	2014	11,6%	2015	11,8%	2016	4,0%	2017	7,8%	2018	8,0%		
Year	Percentage																
2013	8,4%																
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2018	8,0%																

	
Data sources	National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (ENEMDU) - December
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 10, Goal 16.

- SDG target 10.4: promote greater equality

Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries		
SDG target	10.4: promote greater equality		
Goal SDG target	10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality		
Indicators	10.4.1 Labor participation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which includes salaries and social contributions from employers.		
Baseline	10.4.1. <table border="1" data-bbox="446 1039 657 1081"> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>38%</td> </tr> </table>	2018	38%
2018	38%		
Historical			
Data sources	National Accounts, Economic Integrated Table (CEI)		
Interaction others SDG target	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 6, Goal 7, Goal 8, Goal 11, Goal 16.		

Annex 10. Evaluation Annex

Guiding Principles for Joint Evaluations of Joint Programmes

Joint programmes are best served by joint evaluations in which each agency agrees on their respective roles, accountability and learning needs. The parties in this programme recognize that their organizational evaluation policies, timelines and procedures are congruous enough to allow for a joint work plan and joint templates

for evaluation outputs. A set of guiding principles will inform the process, including agreement on the composition of the evaluation team; a common TOR whenever possible; and the necessity for one final independent evaluation report.

Joint Evaluation Management Team

- The parties will each appoint an evaluation manager, with those managers constituting the joint evaluation management team.
- Evaluation personnel within the respective agencies will help coordinate and provide support and oversight to the joint evaluation management team and will ensure the correct and consistent application and interpretation of UNEG Norms and Standards as needed.

Joint Terms of Reference

The joint evaluation management team will prepare or oversee the preparation of the draft TOR based on consultations with the evaluators, project staff and other concerned stakeholders. One member of the joint evaluation management team will take the lead in developing and finalizing the TOR and serving as the contact point for the joint evaluation, while concurrently copying the other team member of the joint evaluation management team.

For each specific evaluation, the joint evaluation management team members will collaborate closely with one another to allow for key project-specific issues and institutional learning priorities to be assessed.

The joint evaluation management team will seek input to the TOR from the project stakeholders on the evaluation purpose, key questions, methodology, and other components, and then will develop a first draft of the TOR two months prior to carrying out the evaluation. This first draft will include a list of the stakeholders who were consulted.

The joint evaluation management team will circulate the first draft of the TOR to the project's principal parties, other relevant project staff and identified stakeholders, who will then provide feedback on the first draft TOR directly to the evaluation managers. The joint evaluation management team will incorporate all feedback, or explain why particular feedback was not incorporated, and then finalize the TOR.

Joint Evaluation Team

The joint evaluation team will consist at minimum of one qualified independent evaluator identified through a transparent process. Neither of the evaluators should have prior involvement with the project to be evaluated nor should they be directly employed by (or recently employed by) participating agencies.

The joint evaluation management team will come to an agreement on the general qualifications of project evaluators and, if necessary, further qualifications specific to a particular project evaluation. All qualifications for a particular evaluation must be determined prior to the start of the evaluation and preferably in advance of each organization's procurement action.

Joint Planning, Tool & Methodology Development

The evaluation team will work together on the various deliverable requirements including: a deliverable timeline, a review of project documents, a description of project background, refining of evaluation methods, development of evaluation tools, and development of the field itinerary (including a preliminary list of key informants, focus group discussions, site visit observations, and plans for the stakeholder conference).

Joint Evaluation Fieldwork

The evaluation team will work according to the agreed deliverable timeline and operate as a team during fieldwork, as per specific responsibilities. This includes any stakeholder evaluation workshop, in-country briefing and/or other events.

Project staff will provide logistical support for the evaluation fieldwork, including, but not limited to, making introductions to stakeholders, transportation, interpretation, the organization of a stakeholder meeting and/or dealing with other evaluation logistics.

Drafting the Joint Evaluation Report

The evaluation team is responsible for preparing the evaluation report and for the contents, conclusions and recommendations made in it. The report must be drafted in accordance with the TOR and the inception report as appropriate, including with respect to the content, format, and schedule for review and submission

Review of Draft Joint Evaluation Report

The evaluation team will send all drafts of the evaluation report to the members of the joint evaluation management team.

Relevant staff including project staff, will provide comments and questions on draft reports to the joint evaluation team through the evaluation management team. The joint evaluation management team will consolidate comments. All parties will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the revised draft before finalization, in accordance with the established work plan. The joint evaluation team will consider all feedback and provide an explanation in cases where feedback is not incorporated.