

Joint SDG Fund
PORTOFOLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

Cover page

Country: Ecuador

Joint Programme title: Expanding the social protection system for young men and women in the informal economy

Short title: Social protection for youth in the informal economy

Start date (day/month/year): 06 January 2020

End date (day/month/year): 05 February 2022

RC (name): Lena Savelli

Government Joint Programme Focal Point (name and ministry/agency): Francisco Cepeda, (Deputy Director) Ecuadorian Social Security Institute - IESS; María Verónica Cando, (Viceminister of Social Inclusion) Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion - MIES; Paulina Durango, (Vice Minister of Employment and Wages) Ministry of Labor - MDT.

Representative of Lead PUNO (name and agency): Ítalo Cardona, ILO

List of PUNOs: ILO, UN Women, UNDP, RCO.

RCO Main JP Focal Point (name): Francisco Mejia, E-mail: francisco.mejia@un.org

Lead Agency Main JP Focal Point (name): Pablo Casalí, E-mail: casali@ilo.org

Contact person for Joint Communications (name): Daniela Arias, E-mail: ariasd@ilo.org

Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): 1,997,630.72

Overall budget (with co-funding): 2,747,464.86

Total estimated expenditure (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Dec 2021): USD 1.746.901,93

Total estimated commitments (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Dec 2021): USD 150.524,62

Short description of the Joint Programme (max 1 paragraph):

The project is intended to incorporate the youth population (aged 18 - 29), in four territories (Quito, Guayaquil, Machala and Loja) in conditions of economic informality, into the social protection system and enable their access to decent work. Special emphasis is given to young mothers and fathers working in informality. To do this, innovative policy instruments and models have been 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.

Executive summary

In the two years of project duration, the JP has successfully strengthened the institutional capacity of its counterparts. Firstly, the JP designed an innovative scheme composed of 10 different elements, including progressive programmed coverage extension, reduced contribution rates for young people, health coverage for partners, incentives for collective bargaining affiliation to social security, flexible payment plans, among others, to allow young people and independent workers to access contributory social protection in a progressive manner. The proposal was constructed jointly with IESS and the Ministry of Labor. In addition, the JP has advocated and created awareness among young people regarding their right to access social protection, including the right to paternal leave to foster care co-responsibility, through the social media campaign 'Hablemos La Plena'. The campaign has reached approximately 2.7 million young people in the country and will be transferred to IESS for its continuity after the JP finishes. Further, the JP has developed a social business model to fulfill the care needs of young parents and to become a source of livelihoods for caregivers in Guayaquil, as well as the interinstitutional protocol for implementation of the care system in Machala. Likewise, the JP created a national register for young people in informality to better identify the target population together with the Social Registry Unit (URS in Spanish). As a complement to the national register, the JP created a digital platform to collect information on young people in labor informality and offer services to promote decent work and the extension of social protection. The platform, which is being developed and will be finished in January 2022, was developed through an innovative challenge with the participation of young people.

As for the strategies to promote formalization, the JP partnered with academic institutions to implement training and vocational programs on soft, digital and entrepreneurship skills, as well as on STEM, care services and the Start Your Business Idea program in the four territories. By December 2021, 4039 certifications have been awarded to young people who participated in the training programs. Furthermore, the JP established a strategic partnership with the World Council of Credit Unions and the Central Bank to promote financial education with gender lenses for youth and contributed to incorporating a gender focus in the latter's National Strategy of Financial Inclusion. Further, the JP developed three mechanisms to promote financial inclusion and to tackle the lack of financial guarantees and/or endorsement, income uncertainties and volatility, and lack of understanding of savings and poor saving practices. Additionally, a smart search engine within the public job search platform was developed and transferred to the Ministry of Labor, which once implemented, will have a direct impact on the decision-making process of applicants (39% of the public job platform are users between 18-29 years of age) by providing more accurate information on the current labor market. Finally, a national formalization strategy proposal has been developed, which will contribute to the government's efforts to promote formalization. The strategy focuses on 5 main lines of action: expanding social protection, employment policies, formalization mechanisms for small and medium enterprises, labor and social security compliance, and social dialogue.

Result 1: To improve the access of young people in four territories (Quito, Guayaquil, Machala and Loja) in the informal work sector to the formal job market guaranteeing decent labor, financial inclusion and access to the social protection system.

Estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021:96%

Result 2: Address root causes that prevent this group from accessing social protection: informality, childcare responsibilities, weak skills and knowledge required by an increasingly challenging job market, and limited access to finance, through studies, public policy proposals, strategies and recommendations on financial inclusion, care services model, and training programs, at the local and central government level.

Estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021:97%

I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

I.1 Context and the overall approach

Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP

- Due to the pandemic and economic context in the country, the assumptions made in the Theory of Change did not hold and the extent of the results that could be achieved through the duration of the program were revised. To work out the multiple challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the target population and to position the agencies' assistance to the JPs counterparts more strategically, the program redirected its efforts to recover employment and developed strategies to integrate efforts from different key actors and prevent the scattering of efforts.
- The JP experienced delays and difficulties to move forward as planned due to virtuality driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and change of government in mid-2021 that left decision-making power on hold. As a result, the JP developed strong partnerships and a communication strategy and adapted/redesigned activities, signed agreements and/or reached out to new institutional partners at different levels (political, technical, and institutional), to remain relevant and increase its visibility.
- Public programs and services adapted to virtuality while others were closed. Hence the JP adapted its strategies to virtuality as well; however, it could not pilot a local care system in an early childhood center due to their closing. The approach was adapted to develop two alternative solutions for two cities.
- The low credibility of and high instability (in terms of personnel turnover and changing institutional priorities) in the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute made it difficult to attract young people who were already skeptical about the social security system to trust it and become part of or to re-enter the system. In addition, the multiple changes of authorities (four in two years), limited the possibility to implement the proposals developed. Hence, the JP emphasized mechanisms of participation, incentives, communication, and awareness raising on labor rights to workers and the private sector, as well as building alliances with key community stakeholders, firms and the local governments.

Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework

- The 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. Recently ILO, UN Women and UNDP, among the other UN agencies, contributed to the formulation of the UN Socio-economic response plan to COVID-19 in Ecuador, especially with inputs for pillar two: Protecting People, Social Protection and Basic Services. The three agencies actively participated in the UNDAF 2020 results reporting activities in 2020 and in the operational planning of 2021, especially in the group of "Persons." The JP is aligned with Outcome 1: "By 2022, people, especially priority groups that have historically been excluded, can exercise their rights to increase their access to high-quality social services and protection, and improve their capacity for resilience, promoting gender equality and reducing violence" and Outcome 4: "Ecuador has strengthened, coordinated institutions favoring public governance and citizens' participation in protection for rights, consolidating democratic society, peace and equality". The strategic lines related to the JP are: a) Integrated technical assistance for the formulation of legal regulations and for the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies; b) Strengthening capacities for efficient and coordinated public management; c) Advocacy and technical assistance to improve quality and efficiency of social investment; d) Knowledge management; and e) Addressing and eradicating sociocultural patterns that favor violence and discrimination.

COVID-19 impact

- ILO, UN Women and UNDP, among the other UN agencies, contributed to the design of the UN SERP to COVID-19 in Ecuador, as explained before.

- Due to the COVID crisis, the PUNOs provided support to the government on the development of a National Social Protection and recovery strategy, led by the Government's National Social cabinet. The UNS also supported a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for the period March-May 2020. The impact analysis was presented to the National Assembly on August 25, 2021. Later, this analysis was extended to cover March -December 2020, and results were widely disseminated within the public sector, with the incoming government and with IFIs and diplomatic community.
- The JP's activities added a focus on job retraining and alternatives to recover livelihoods carried. Young informal workers were trained using the ILO's Start and Improve your Business (SIYB) training program and training and retraining programs were developed and implemented after a rapid assessment of employer's needs on reskilling and upskilling.
- Care and STEM sectors were identified as key to promoting gender equality during the recovery phase of the pandemic. A program tailored for youth in informality was developed and implemented in 2021 in liaison with private universities, national and local governments.
- The JP designed four, not exclusive but complementary, mechanisms of financial inclusion considering long-lasting but also current barriers youth face due to the pandemic, particularly for entrepreneurship. This comes together with financial education.

I.2 Update on priority cross-cutting issues

UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level

- There are risks associated with the implementation of the project, which have become more pressing during the pandemic. In this context, the three agencies have become much more responsive, adaptable, and innovative in the approaches, and strategies used. Through the JP, the agencies applied integrated approaches to limit scattered efforts and maximize results, avoiding duplications and seeking complementarities.
- Additionally, the integrated approach as a Joint Program allowed the agencies to interact with government counterparts and other actors (employers' and workers' organizations, youth organizations and academia) as one front. This made it easier to involve these actors across different JP activities with different agencies and to create strategic partnerships with various stakeholders, thus strengthening the cooperation between the parties.
- Finally, the JP has contributed to strengthen the UN system's work with the government through the broader interagency "Social Protection Group" in which the three agencies are part of, and through which the UN System assisted the government in the development of a National Social Protection strategy.

Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale

- **Collaborative financial inclusion solutions:** The solutions to eliminate financial inclusion barriers and unmet care needs were co-created directly with the target group, as well as key actors in each sector, including public and private institutions, academia, and civil society organizations. In this way, the JP made sure to design tools that young people are interested in using/accessing. Also, the methodologies used kept a user-centered approach during the process.
- **Tailor-made solutions:** Regarding care services, instead of having one-size-fits-all solutions, the proposals were developed for the specific characteristics and needs of the population. Namely, i) an inter-institutional management model for a popular market in Machala and, ii) a social business model to provide care services in Guayaquil.
- **Scaling up training and certification programs:** The job retraining strategy for care services provision was implemented through a partnership with academia. Given the success of the program, the university will continue offering the certification beyond the project's duration.
- **Using new technological tools for virtual settings:** consultations on the Youth Platform were made to public sector institutions through virtual workshops using online digital collaboration tools such as "mural.co". This work methodology allowed for observations and comments from government counterparts to be collected in a short period of time.
- **Generating new sources of information:** In April 2020, an online survey was carried out to size the effects of the pandemic on young informal workers' labor and socioeconomic conditions, to better design the solutions and policy tools. The data was gathered with an open data lens and was made available for the public in various formats to ease the use of it.

- **Expanding skills within the community in the use of data:** An online Data School was implemented to promote the learning of new skills on data management and analysis to generate insights on key topics related to youth informal work by processing quantitative databases.
- **Generating an alternative mechanism for national registers:** A digital platform, which is in its final stage of development was created to improve the employment situation of young people with informal jobs, while at the same time, to collect data in a safe and ethical manner to feed the national register of young informal workers for evidence-based policy purposes. The functionalities of the platform were co-created with young people through an Innovation Challenge, and a user-centered-design lens was used to incorporate users' feedback along the process.
- **Using technology and social media to reach the target population:** A social media campaign was implemented to create awareness among young people on their right to access social protection and parental leave to foster care co-responsibilities. The campaign reached 2.7 million young people in the country and was implemented on Instagram and TikTok. Instead of running a traditional campaign, young influencers participated in the campaign generating more empathy from the audience.
- **Supporting the government on the country's recovery:** The PUNOs provided support on the development of a National Social Protection and recovery strategy, led by the Government's National Social cabinet, as well as in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). This allowed the JP to remain relevant and strategic with the program's official counterparts and has opened the possibility to develop new partnerships with other institutions.
- **Adapting training to virtual settings:** given the restrictions due to the pandemic, the PUNOs adapted the training programs, both for employment skills development and entrepreneurship, so they can be taught virtually. The programs were tested on small groups of participants and later implemented at large scale.

SDG acceleration

JP has contributed to SDG acceleration as follows:

- SDGs 1 and 10: The JP is tackling the inequality and poverty that arises from young people being excluded from the formal labor markets, social protection system and other systems through the design of a national registry of informal youth, which will enable the government to identify the population better and design social protection and labor policies. Additionally, the JP designed a more flexible scheme for the contributory social protection system, which, once implemented, will allow more than **400.000 young independent workers nationwide**, to access social security more easily.
- SDG 8: the JP has promoted decent jobs with equal opportunities for men and women in the frame of inclusive development. In this sense, the Ministry of Labor received technical assistance to strengthen its public employment platform, while the Ministry of Social Inclusion incorporated an area dedicated to foster youth employment and inclusion. Further, 4.039¹ young people are better trained to find a job through the development of soft, digital, entrepreneurship, STEM and care services skills (SDG target 4.4). Additionally, a mentorship and support program has been developed for the training program. In addition to this, the JP developed three financial inclusion mechanisms and is working on developing a national formalization strategy.
- SDG 5: Women's needs and priorities were incorporated in the design of all the strategies of the JP. Through awareness-raising mechanisms, the JP has promoted the importance of shared responsibility within the household and between state, private sector, social organizations, and families (SDG target 5.4). Further, the JP developed 2 innovative care provision models at the local level to increase access to quality early childhood development and services. These models are based on users' needs (user-centered approach) and the JP is proposing new ways to fulfill care needs. First, it is a social business model and, second, a multisectoral model. Therefore, it is a participative approach.

Policy integration and systems change

¹ As of December 2021. Note that a person might have taken one or more courses of the different training programs.

- **Local care system:** The JP managed to set interinstitutional roundtables to discuss and establish short term articulated actions. This is the ground for long-lasting political decisions of state and municipalities over care systems reflected in the public policy proposal. Further, all the pilot activities were successfully promoted and carried out, primarily, with a strong commitment of civil society organizations, and, eventually, the local and central governments got involved resulting in coherent articulated actions.
- **Training programs:** Economic and social areas in the municipalities brought efforts together to train youth on entrepreneurship, soft skills and formalization and to create awareness on, co-responsibility of care and rights, including, care, gender equality and elimination of violence against women.
- **Financial inclusion:** The agreement between UN Women and the Central Bank will provide the legal basis to assist the government in the implementation of the intersectoral gendered public policy proposal for financial inclusion.
- **Innovative scheme:** The design of the innovative scheme was done using an intersectoral approach so that the different sectors of the government work together from the onset of the design process so that the proposal is coherent and more easily implemented. Also, the national register of young people in informality is a valuable tool in intersectoral decision-making.
- **National social protection and recovery strategy:** The JP supported the Ecuadorian government in the development of a National social protection and recovery strategy. The strategy was coordinated through the Social Cabinet, aiming to be implemented by various Ministries within the social sector. The strategy aims to broaden the social protection coverage to the most vulnerable population who were affected by the pandemic.

Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups

- The JP works directly for youth and women. In this sense, the project established work agendas with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) and Ministry of Labor, particularly with areas dedicated to work with youth and women.
- A pilot project of social currency "Tienditos" was carried out in alliance with IMPAQTO and Tesalia CBC in two neighborhoods of Quito to promote trade at the neighborhood level as a measure of economic reactivation. Overall, 20 neighborhood stores participated in the initiative.
- An innovative add-on prototype for Mozilla was developed to flag misleading job alerts in job search platforms (Multitrabajos and Computrabajos), targeted especially to women.
- In partnership with another ILO Project that targets migrants, 1135 young people and migrants were trained in the Start and Improve your Business (SIYB) methodology. Similarly, the JP worked with the MIES to train young people who participate in their social assistance programs. Also, the JP strengthened the analytical skills of youth from social organizations on labor market, gender gaps and social protection through the School of Data.
- 77 young men and women gained more knowledge on their financial consumer rights, access to financial products and services and benefited from financial education programs.
- Young men and women from prioritized neighborhoods actively participated in the designs of a local care system which empowered them to demand their rights in front of local authorities.
- Through the Youth Platform, the JP seeks to have a direct impact on the insertion of young people into the labor market.
- Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts in 2020-2021:
 - 4.039 young people who participated in training and vocational programs. Percentage of women and girls: **69% (2.777)**
 - 956 young people participated in surveys and workshops, in various components of the JP such as: care system design, financial inclusion, Youth Platform design. Percentage of women and girls: **70% (670)**
 - 23 young people who applied for a credit (solidarity or joint guarantee). Percentage of women and girls: **47,8% (11)**
 - The awareness-raising campaign 'Hablemos la Plena' reached **2,7 million people.**

Mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment

- The project promoted gender equality by raising awareness on the importance or recognizing, redistributing, and reducing care work women are bearing. The JP has collected information from youth to analyze the context, establish baseline and diagnosis and is developing methodologies to include and determine the differentiated needs of young men and women.
- The JP has worked closely with the MIES, whose main target population are women in poverty and the area that promotes gender equality in the Ministry of Labor. At the local level, the JP worked closely with areas of the Municipalities that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Further, women's organizations and young women leaders were invited to participate in the project. In collaboration with these women, the JP was able to run diagnostics on their situation regarding employment, social protection, financial inclusion, and care responsibilities.
- A training program was developed on STEM directed specifically to young women to promote their participation in traditionally male dominated occupations. Similarly, men were encouraged to participate in the care sector through workshops and by offering a training certification on care (16% of people certified in elderly and early childhood care are men).
- The JP provided technical assistance to public and private institutions to strengthen gender focus in their programs and services. Thus, 2 credit unions and 1 university applied to become Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) members, and 15 firms were sensitized in men's right to parental and paternity leaves.
- The estimated percentage of overall disbursed funds spent on Gender equality and Women empowerment by the end of 2021 was 33,08%.

Human rights

- The project considered in its implementation a rights-based approach since its main objective is to promote the right of youth population to work, to having free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and social protection coverage. In addition, the JP considered a rights-based approach throughout the components and activities, particularly in reinforcing youth knowledge and skills. It is of interest to the project to build solid foundations of the youth regarding the importance of human rights fulfillment to increase equality, social inclusion, poverty reduction, equal opportunities for men and women.

Partnerships

- **Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS):** permanent and collaborative work towards the development of the innovative scheme, as well as a pension culture strategy and the campaign on the right to access social protection.
- **Ministry of Labor:** permanent and joint actions towards institutional strengthening by developing Best Business Practices Certification for firms that hire young workers, implementing training programs and through improvements to the public job search platform.
- **SECAP:** the JP has developed a close relation and is in process of signing an MOU with the public service for professional training to implement and institutionalize the SIYB program.
- **Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion:** The JP has strengthened this relationship and is coordinating activities to complement efforts from economic and social inclusion areas, and to implement training programs directed at beneficiaries of social assistance programs.
- **Ecuadorian Central Bank:** contribution to the development and promotion of the National Strategy of Financial Inclusion. An agreement was signed in December 2020.
- **Social Registry Unit (URS in Spanish):** The JP partnered with the URS to construct the registry of youth in informality and an MOU was signed.
- **Technical "Toda una Vida" Secretariat - Social Protection Group:** The PUNOs collaborated with other SNU agencies to contribute and support the central government in the development of the National Social Protection Strategy.
- **Local governments (Quito, Guayaquil, Machala y Loja):** joint work to implement training and retraining programs. In Machala, an agreement will be signed in January 2021. Additionally, an agreement was also signed in November 2021 with a local financial institution.
- **Civic society organizations:** work with organizations of workers, employers, youth, women to engage with direct beneficiaries and better reach the target population.
- **Private sector:** work with Telefonica to collect information via surveys sent through text messages.

Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing

- Due to the pandemic and economic crisis the country has experienced in the last 2 years, Ecuador has limited fiscal space to deal with the crisis. For this reason, it has been challenging to leverage additional funding from the Government. The IESS had previously expressed their interest to contribute to the implementation of the innovative contributory scheme designed to ease social security coverage to young informal workers, yet it remains to be confirmed if the new authorities will secure funding for these activities.
- To test one of the financial inclusion mechanisms developed, the JP sought support from financial institutions. One credit union committed human and financial resources to implement the methodology among youth in Quito city. Further, the JP successfully developed a partnership with the National Corporation for Popular and Solidary Finances (CONAFIPS in Spanish) to offer the institutions' Guarantee Funds to young people who need financing for their business ideas.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP launch event - Jan 2020 • Donors' event - December 2020 • Partners' event - February 2021
Other strategic events	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Youth's Day events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth Forum on the impacts of the pandemic and the challenges to achieve SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10² ○ Discussion Panel: "LNOB...What direction should public policy take?"³ ○ Participation in the "YouthLead Innovation Festival"

Innovation, learning and sharing

- Applying design thinking, UNDP's Accelerator Lab created a Digital Prototype to help youngsters identify misleading job ads. This is a Mozilla add-on that quickly grades ads based on information it provides, and inappropriate ads can be reported.
- The Accelerator Lab analyzed the behavioral insights experience to assess whether designing communication messages that respond to cognitive biases towards social security can be an effective tool to encourage young informal workers to enroll in social security.
- The database of the digital survey was used by the 26 youth organizations that were part of the "Data School" to learn how to analyze data to transform information into insight.
- Relying on collective intelligence and co-creation, an Innovation Challenge was launched to find a digital solution to collect young informal workers' information. The JP worked closely with three participating teams to incubate their ideas to develop the digital solution. Further, the development of the Youth Platform "Mi Futuro es Hoy" uses user-centered-design methodology to incorporate users' suggestions throughout the process.
- The JP developed methodologies based on social innovation ensuring participation of youth, government, academia and private and third sectors. Solutions of financial exclusion of youth were built through the "game of financial inclusion" developed by UNDP.

II. Annual Results

Overall progress

- On track (expected annual results achieved)
 Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved)
 Not-satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not yet achieved)
 Please, explain briefly:

² shorturl.at/nHQZ3

³ shorturl.at/bkvJN

Most of the expected results have been achieved during the JP. Yet, the pandemic has had a big impact on the labor market; 234.475 people exited the social security system since the onset of the pandemic up until November of 2020, out of which 47% were people between 21 and 30 years of age. Under these circumstances, encouraging young people to become part of the contributory social protection system and to make social security contributions has become more challenging. Also, due to the daily care centers closing, it was not possible to fully test a local care system, instead, the models were developed both from the perspective of interinstitutional organization and from private efforts, supported by local government. In terms of the training programs developed, the number of young women trained in digital competences for computer technical support was not the expected and a greater interest was shown by male students. As for the work on financial inclusion, the JP faced some complications related to contracting times, however, it is expected to meet the objectives initially set.

Further, the pandemic shifted attention and prioritization of activities (by government counterparts) to deal with the emergency. This coupled with changes of top authorities in the three main counterparts of the project: the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute, Ministry of Labor, and Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion, directly affected the achievement of some of the project's activities in a temporary manner, while a new relationship was forged with the new authorities. In this sense, there were activities that had to be modified together with the local counterparts, while other activities were executed earlier than planned to mitigate possible delays.

Contribution to Fund's global results

Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

- The JP has contributed to the Joint SDG outcome 1: integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement, through the technical support given to the Government's National Social cabinet to develop a National Social Protection and recovery strategy. The strategy included identifying education, health, labor, and social protection policies to help mitigate the impacts of the health crisis on the most vulnerable population and to better their access to inclusion mechanisms and social mobility.

Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

- In terms of outcome 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented, the JP was able to contribute to the development of a financial inclusion national strategy together with the Ecuadorian Central Bank. To strengthen this strategy, the JP collaborates with private and public financial institutions and regulatory institutions to develop inputs for a financial inclusion policy focused on youth which will allow young people in informality to gain access to the formal financial market and thus accelerate the achievement of SDG target 8.3.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outputs**

Output 1:

- In the 2020-2021 period, the JP developed an innovative scheme to progressively incorporate the young independent workers into the contribution-based social security system, which has 3 phases starting with health coverage. In the second phase occupational risk insurance and unemployment insurance is added; and lastly in the third phase old age, disability and survivor's insurance is added. The proposal was developed in collaboration with the IESS and Ministry of Labor. The JP also estimated the current situation of social protection, including a cost estimation of closing social protection gaps (gender and age) in the four territories, through consultations with institutional and local actors, including young women and men.

- Successful design and implementation of an awareness-raising campaign 'Hablemos la Plena' on the right to access social protection, which was validated by IESS, launched on Instagram and TikTok (approx. 2.7 million young people reached⁴). In addition, a proposal was developed for a retirement planning and saving culture strategy.
- Furthermore, through UNDP's Acceleration Lab, the JP developed a board game based on game theory to influence the behavior of companies to comply with the obligation to affiliate workers to social protection and to maintain jobs.
- An Innovation Challenge "For more data about informality" was co-designed and launched by UNDP Accelerator Lab (80 teams participated). From the winning proposal, a 'Youth Platform' is being developed to collect information and provide services to promote decent work and social protection. On a related note, the JP also provided technical assistance to MIES for the management of public databases of non-contributory social protection beneficiaries.
- A survey was carried out to characterize young people in informality and the results were disseminated through visual materials for social networks targeting youth and decision makers.
- A MOOC⁵ was developed by the Acceleration Lab to strengthen the digital security competencies of 74 participants, and an innovative add-on prototype was developed to flag misleading job alerts in job search platforms, especially targeted to women.
- The JP successfully identified financial education initiatives, tools and platforms and mapped successful cases of financial inclusion (savings banks). In addition, four mechanisms for financial inclusion were proposed: (a) credit tailored to youth needs; (b) youth lending groups; (c) Guarantee Fund available to guarantee productive credits of popular economy with emphasis in youth (through a partnership with CONAFIPS), and (d) cashback or rewards for good financial behavior.

Output 2:

- The PUNOs carried out a study to determine fiscal space in the country and the possible alternatives to finance social protection. Also, a study was carried out to estimate social protection gaps under ILO's recommendation 202 on social protection floors and estimate the costs of closing gaps on pensions for elderly, people with disabilities and for maternity, as well as for children and adolescents.
- In addition to this, a study is being carried out to define the characteristics and elements of a universal childcare system, estimate the costs associated with its implementation, and determine the medium term direct and indirect effects on employment.

Output 3:

- The JP successfully implemented the SIYB program and trained 835 young people in informality. Further, a proposal for training and retraining was developed as a result of two rapid assessments of skilling and reskilling needs due to Covid-19 and 2 training programs were developed in partnership with 2 universities, which included soft, digital, entrepreneurship, care services provision and STEM-related skills and 2.838 young men and women benefited (71% women).
- To improve working conditions, the JP evaluated the state of the usage and application of parental leave, and the level of responsibility the State has on this issue. As a result, 20 private sector officials were made aware of the importance of promoting gender equality and care co-responsibility, and a proposal to improve parental and parental leave registration and control is being developed.
- Similarly, the JP facilitated a learning space in collaboration with Datalat to launch a School of Data. 26 scholarships were granted to young representatives from several civil society organizations to develop the participants' skills on information gathering, analysis, and data visualization.

Output 4:

⁴ The campaign reached 5.6 million people. Based on the age ranges from the campaign's followers/users, approximately 2.7 million young people between 18-29 years of age saw or interacted with the campaign.

⁵ <https://aula.lalibre.net/login/index.php>

- A local care model proposal composed of three levels was developed: (1) a strategic level that sets long term goals aligned with national development plans and the 2030 Agenda; (2) a tactic level to ensure the interaction between different institutions involved and to articulate, monitor and evaluate plans and programs; and (3) a technical level to collaboratively tailor plans, programs, and services for the cities.
- JP trained and raised awareness of 92 young people on topics such as care co-responsibility, new masculinities, health and nutrition, gender equality and entrepreneurial, financial, business, customer service and leadership, in the four cities.
- An inter institutional service model was developed for a popular market in Machala, including adaptations of the space for care, women’s empowerment, and educational services. In Guayaquil, a business model was developed to provide care services and generate labor opportunities for women in the prioritized neighborhood. 91 families will benefit in both cities.
- Finally, the JP generated strategic documents for national public policy based on the inputs of the local care system implementation.

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outcomes**

- In terms of the first outcome, the JP has worked closely with national government counterparts to develop a National Social Protection Strategy, led by the Technical Secretariat “Plan Toda una Vida.” In addition, the JP supported the Central Bank on the development of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy and mainstreamed the gender focus. The JP promoted collaborative work between the Central Bank, academia, regulatory entities, CSOs and public and private financial institutions. Moreover, the JP established a strategic partnership with the World Council of Credit Unions, Banecuador and the Central Bank to promote financial education with a gender focus for youth, and a financial inclusion public policy proposal was built.
- The JP has strengthened the knowledge of local and national governments regarding care systems through workshops with international experts and learning and sharing spaces. Likewise, a national register for young people in informality was created to better identify the target population together with the Social Registry Unit, and a proposal to develop a public registry of parental and paternity leave was developed together with the Ministry of Labor.
- 11 scholarships were provided to the IESS to strengthen skills on public finance for social protection analysts. In addition, 6 scholarships were granted to the MIES, Ministry of Labor, SECAP and Épico to be trained on strategies to promote gender equality through the development of STEAM skills.
- Regarding the second outcome, the JP partnered with two universities to implement training and vocational programs. Additionally, a smart search engine within the public job search platform was developed and transferred to the Ministry of Labor, as well as a Best Business Practice Certification for companies that hire young people.
- The JP strengthened youth knowledge on products and services available for them in the financial market and partnered with a credit union to facilitate youth access to credits.
- Further, a national formalization strategy proposal has been developed that focuses on 5 main lines of action: expanding social protection, employment policies, formalization mechanisms for small and medium enterprises, labor and social security compliance, and social dialogue.
- Finally, the JP developed a corporate awareness strategy to be implemented by firms to promote youth parental leave rights.

⇒ **Monitoring and data collection**

- Much of the data collection has been done digitally. There were a couple of data collection exercises with specific methodologies. At the beginning of the pandemic, online surveys were conducted by the JP to document the effect of the health crisis on youth employment. This was done through a partnership with Telefonica as a strategy to adapt in an innovative manner to the pandemic. The JP also collected information on the financial inclusion situation and knowledge, and care needs of young people in the cities. Considering that the age group usually has mostly digital literacy and internet access, the use of digital tools to collect data worked effectively. As mobilization measures relaxed, the JP was able to collect data through in-person surveys and some in person interviews with the counterparts. Yet, this was generally the exception and not the rule.

Lessons learned and sustainability of results

- Strong partnerships are needed to secure the commitment of the central and local governments in the activities. Not much can be expected from government counterparts if the rate of turnover is very

high and if priorities change constantly. Thus, it is important to involve mid-level management to guarantee continuity.

- Strong awareness-raising and capacity building processes are needed to assist governments, either local or national, to test innovative solutions and policies. These actions could strengthen the commitment and engagement of strategic partners. The formalization and institutionalization of the processes is necessary to ensure their sustainability.
- Another lesson learned is that administrative timelines for contracting, budget execution and interagency administrative procedures should be considered in the planning to avoid delays.
- Fluent communication between the agencies is key to limit scatter efforts and strengthen the link with the project's counterparts.

III. Plan for the final phase of implementation

Towards the end of JP implementation

In the final period of implementation, the JP will present to the IESS the legal analysis and recommendations regarding the normative and legal changes needed to implement the innovative contributory scheme. Further, the pension culture strategy will be presented to the IESS for its future implementation by the institution, as well as the improvements and changes made to the IESS' mobile app that incorporate new functionalities to allow independent workers to sign up for social security more easily.

In terms of financial inclusion, the JP expects to conclude the testing of one of the financial inclusion mechanisms developed, which is being done with a local, private financial institution, Cooprogreso, as well as with public institutions devoted to work with young people in informality.

Additionally, the JP expects to evaluate the JP proposals to improve parental leave compliance and create a public registry together with public institutions and the private sector. Similarly, the JP will present MIES the study on the universal childcare system.

In regards to training programs and mechanisms to promote formalization, the JP will sign an agreement with one of the academic institutions that participated in the program to provide the rights to offer training courses and certification on elderly and early childhood care skills on a regular basis.

Furthermore, the JP expects to finish the development of the Youth Platform. For its sustainability, the JP will define a management model with government and civil society counterparts, to set up a public-private partnership to manage the Platform and ensure that the information generated by it is kept as a public good. In addition, a communication campaign will be carried out to promote the Platform among the target group based on a bold communication strategy in networks (e.g., challenges on Tik Tok).

Regarding the strategies for raising awareness of social protection mechanisms, a document on the lessons learned is expected to be shared with IESS. Further, the 'Hablemos la Plena' campaign will be transferred to the IESS to guarantee its sustainability over time. Also, the development of the board game will be completed, and it will be promoted with public and civil society actors.

Finally, the support to the promotion strategy of the Guarantee Fund of CONAFIPS, which involves visiting and collecting information from 149 cooperatives, is expected to be completed in January. Due to complications related to the new COVID-19 variants, most of the visits will be carried out virtually. This process will be sustained to the extent that CONAFIPS considers the need to extend the visits to more cooperatives and more territories.

Risks and mitigation measures

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. In addition to this, the current precarious situation of the IESS (diminishing reserves) has become a strong disincentive for informal workers, especially young ones, to formalize and start contributing to the system. As a mitigation measure, the JP has implemented the awareness-raising campaign directed at young people on their right to access social protection, as well as it has developed a strategy to promote a retirement saving culture among youth.

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. To cope with the context of economic austerity, the project has carried out studies on fiscal space and financing strategies for social protection.

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 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. Due to the pandemic, poverty rates have increased in 2020 to 33% of the population, a total of 5.8 million Ecuadorians (ENEMDU - December 2020). Further, a risk associated with the Youth Platform is its sustainability and maintenance so that the data in the registry of young people in informal labor situations is kept current and updated. To mitigate this risk, a management model is being designed that contemplates the transfer of the platform to a group of public and private actors with the capacity to sustain its operation in the long term.

Lastly, due to the new variants of the SARS-COV2 virus, the latent risk is that it will not be possible to carry out on-site visits, which will make both the delivery of publicity material and the gathering of information more difficult. As a result, the visits will be done virtually, and the material will be sent to each of the cooperatives.

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 has also reached out to new institutional partners to remain relevant, increase its visibility and provide recurring updates on the JP and its implementation. The technical team has also considered the priorities of local and central government counterparts to ensure their constant engagement with the JP.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global Fund’s programmatic results

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

Select up to 3 SDG *indicators* that your Joint Programme primarily contributed to (in relation to SDG targets listed in your JP ProDoc)

SDG: 2.3

SDG: 1.7

SDG: 8b

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

Outcome indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ⁶	1	2		
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public policy proposal for financial inclusion of youth in informality with gender focus. National Social Protection Strategy 				
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ⁷	0	2	The policy proposal is intended to provide inputs to scale results to other cities.	
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public policy proposal of a national care system National Child Care Plan 				

Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Output indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
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⁶Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

⁷Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

<p>3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1. Youth Platform. 80% successful</p> <p>2. Proposal of financial Inclusion for youth in informality public policy with gender focus 50% successful</p> <p>2.1 Financial inclusion mechanism: lending group mechanism tested 30% successful.</p> <p>3. Local care system governance model and a care service model. 75% successful</p>	<p>1. During the development of the platform, several workshops have been held with young people to test and identify if the platform's functionalities meet their needs.</p> <p>2. The JP was able to develop inputs for financial inclusion for youth in informality and advise its implementation in coherence with the financial inclusion strategy. This strategy has been kept on hold and it was not possible to be implemented.</p> <p>2.1. The JP looked for options to test at least one mechanism of financial inclusion as an early implementation of the proposal.</p> <p>3. The governance model has 3 levels: strategic, tactic and technical. The technical and, partially, the tactic level were tested in 3 out of 4 cities. To implement the strategic level the JP encountered multiple challenges, among them, the most crucial was lack of agreements at political level between institutions. The closure of care centers precluded the possibility to test any care services,</p>	
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		<p>3.1. National care system policy proposal 50% successful</p>	<p>however, the model proposals were collaboratively developed.</p> <p>3. To design and implement a National Care System Policy in a country where it has not been officially discussed yet; it is necessary to start a dialogue between different actors from the government, establish the technical basis and inputs for this dialogue by collecting, systematizing and proposing a national care policy and a plan. The JP was able to develop these inputs and to start the dialogue.</p>	
<p>3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1. Best Business Practice Certification</p> <p>2. Innovative scheme</p> <p>3. National Financial Inclusion Strategy</p>	<p>1.The certification was developed and transferred to the Ministry, yet it has not been implemented yet due to changes in the head of the Ministry.</p> <p>2. The innovative scheme has been validated by IESS, yet it has not been implemented because it requires changes in the Social Security Law which have to be approved by congress.</p> <p>3. Although the Financial inclusion national strategy was officially developed and launched in 2020, due to the government transition in mind-2021, its financial</p>	

			authorities and priorities changed and therefore, the implementation is kept on hold.	
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Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020-2021?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: the JP contributed to carry out activities with civil society organizations, and, eventually, the local and central governments resulting in coherent articulated actions related to the local care models. Furthermore, the JP articulated with public institutions and promoted discussion over care systems and public policy. As for financial inclusion, the JP aided the government in the implementation of the intersectoral gendered public policy proposal for financial inclusion. On a related note, the design of the innovative scheme was done using an intersectoral approach so that the different sectors of the government work together from the onset of the design process so that the proposal is coherent and more easily implemented. Finally, the JP contributed to economic and social areas in the municipalities to train youth on entrepreneurship, soft skills and formalization and to create awareness on, co-responsibility of care and rights, including, care, gender equality and elimination of violence against women.

2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2021 target	2021 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Social Protection Strategy successfully developed and transferred to the government. - Financial inclusion of young informal Ecuadorians with a gender approach [Policy brief and Complete version] - Proposal for a public policy and national care plan with a local focus, worked with key stakeholders [Policy brief and Complete version] 		

<p>Youth population in selected territories who can improve their access to formal labor and financial inclusion (at least half are women)</p>	<p>68%</p>	<p>70%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 64% youth population in selected territories not in the informal sector (ENEMDU Jul-Sep 2021). - 4039 young people participated in training and vocational programs - Smart search engine developed - 119 young people improved their knowledge about financial inclusion mechanisms. - The Ministry of Social Inclusion incorporated in its economic inclusion methodology some elements to guide youth in lending group methodology implemented by FIs. - 23 young people applied for a credit (solidarity or joint guarantee). 	<p>The source of the information for the main indicator is the Ecuadorian Labor Force Survey (ENEMDU), however, due to methodological changes and the delay of the publication of the data from December 2020, the baseline was estimated using historical data and projections.</p>	
<p>Youth population that can improve their access to the contributive social protection system</p>	<p>38%</p>	<p>42%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 33% have access to the contributive social protection system (ENEMDU Jul-Sep 2021). - Social media campaign on the right to access social protection with a reach of 2.7 million young people - Contributive social protection scheme for young people developed 	<p>The source of the information for the main indicator is the Ecuadorian Labor Force Survey (ENEMDU), however, due to methodological changes and the delay of the publication of the data from December 2020, the baseline was estimated using</p>	

				historical data and projections.	
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 programs from local and national government	65% (3.900 beneficiaries)	- 4039 young accessed vocational and technical training		
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)	- 2.777 young women accessed vocational and technical training		
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)	- 384 young women were technically trained in traditionally masculine-related activities.	The level of interest of young women (in the 4 cities) to participate in the courses was low even though 2 different calls to participate were opened.	

<p>Youth in selected territories, have increased access to services of the local care system that promote their employment including daily care services</p>	<p>20% young parents in informality who access to daily care services after closure</p>	<p>At least 10 percentage points (2.000)</p>	<p>- 93 young people benefited from pilot activities and it is expected that 91 will benefit directly from the care service models.</p>	<p>It was expected that at least 500 parents would benefit from care services. Nevertheless, all daily care centers remain closed. Political changes, pandemic restrictions and virtuality prevented the JP from reaching the target. The JP looked for alternatives to benefit young parents when the restrictions of the pandemic relaxed. An inter institutional community service model and a social business model were collaboratively created and it is expected these models will benefit directly around 91 parents from the care services.</p>	
		<p>15% (300 people) young parents will participate in the care system design and pilots</p>	<p>279 young people participated in the care system design (186) and pilots (93)</p>	<p>In the context of the system proposal in the 3 cities, political changes, pandemic restrictions, particularly the virtuality and social distancing made it difficult to implement.</p>	

<p>Young male fathers' dependent workers in selected territories increase their opportunities to access to parental license</p>	<p>There is no official registry of paternal or parental leaves.</p>			<p>However, the JP managed to work with 279 young people.</p>	
		<p>Improved data collection instruments for monitoring parental licenses.</p>	<p>A register and monitoring instrument were developed to collect information on parental and paternity leave compliance.</p>		
		<p>Incentive mechanism for parental leave compliance validated by public and private sector</p>	<p>Mechanisms developed to increase opportunities to access to parental license with focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning campaign with corporate reputational component • Reputational incentives • Fiscal incentives 		
<p>50% of young parents in informal economy in the four territories improve their knowledge on parental and paternal licenses</p>	<p>60% young parents in the informal economy in the four territories improved their knowledge on parental and paternal licenses</p>	<p>The indicator is an approximation based on the reach the posts related to parental licenses had during the campaign, since it is not possible to know exactly how many young people who interacted with the campaign are young parents.</p>			

		At least 30% of workers and employers from WEP and Global Compact firms increase their awareness on child care co-responsibility	32% (16 firms from WEP and Global Compact) increased their awareness on childcare co-responsibility through parental licenses		
OUTPUT 1 Design and validate an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-based social security system					
Output 1.1 indicator 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				achieved in 2020
Output 1.2 indicator By 2021, a contributory scheme design has been developed and validated within IESS.	There is not an adapted contributory scheme.	Scheme has been validated	Scheme developed with IESS and the Ministry of Labor, and validated by IESS		
Output 1.3 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	The National Financial Inclusion strategy designed and validated by the Central Bank. Furthermore, inputs for a financial inclusion public policy for youth with gender focus was designed and validated by national financial and regulatory entities. It is expected to be implemented together with the National Financial Strategy.	The National Financial Inclusion strategy has been designed and validated by the Central Bank; however, this strategy has not been implemented yet due to delays from the JP's counterparts and the change in government.	

OUTPUT 2 Design the social protection model's financial sustainability strategy					
Output 2.1 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	<p>A study to estimate social protection gaps under ILO's recommendation 202 on social protection floors and scenarios to implement 3 guarantees developed.</p> <p>A study to analyze the provision of universal childcare has been developed.</p>	An actuarial model is being developed by the IESS. The study is not yet finished due to delays from the side of the JP's counterpart.	
Output 2.2 By 2021, a fiscal sustainability report, regarding social protection for youth, has been conducted and validated.	There is not a sustainability report regarding social protection	Fiscal report has been conducted	Budget report for the implementation and sustainability of public policies on social protection including the identification of possible sources of financing		achieved in 2020
OUTPUT 3 Design strategies to accelerate the target group's transition to decent working conditions, including vocational / technical training					

<p>Output 3.1 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</p>	<p>There are no gender sensitive strategies and programs to support transition to decent work for youth.</p>	<p>Models have been designed and tested</p>	<p>Several gender sensitive strategies to support transition to decent work for youth were developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum on childcare and elderly care developed, tested and implemented • Curriculum on entrepreneurship and digital tools for women tested and implemented • Curriculum on IT technical assistance for women tested and implemented • Labor formalization strategy • Proposal for an integrated financial education program designed 		<p>The integrated financial education program will be transferred to BanEcuador in January 2022</p>
<p>Output 3.2 Gender/age sensitive sensitization program validated and in place for encouraging young workers to access to labor rights, particularly social security and protection</p>		<p>Sensitization program validated and in place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization program validated and implemented - 2.7 million young people reached • Guide for the dissemination and awareness of paternity and parental license within companies developed • Proposal to improve the registration of paternity and parental license at the public and private level. 		
<p>OUTPUT 4 Design and validate a locally-based care service model for young mothers and fathers in the informal economy</p>					

<p>Output 4.1 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.</p>	<p>No studies of local care services available. The baseline will be defined in territories</p>	<p>At least 15 key actors in the territories partake in local care system prototype</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 key actors participated in local care system prototype 		
	<p>51 key actors mapped</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>Proposal for a public policy and national care plan with a local focus, developed with key stakeholders</p>	<p>Change of authorities and priorities at local and national level prevent the JP to reach early agreements between our key counterparts (municipalities and MIES). This delay impacted on the continuity of the process and the possibility of positioning the proposal to new actors.</p>	<p>2022</p>
		<p>1 proposal of a national care law discussed and validated</p>		<p>Only during the fourth quarter of 2021 an environment of stability was reached and multiple actors were able to discuss and start a collaborative work.</p>	

Annex 2: Strategic documents

2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies and legal frameworks

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	<i>If published, provide the hyperlink</i>
Informe de Resultados de Investigación para la Estrategia de Sensibilización [Report on the field research and results for the development of the awareness-raising strategy].	06/2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Desafíos en los Sistemas de Registro e Identificación de Trabajadores Informales [Challenges in the Registration Systems to Identify Informal Workers].	09/2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Estrategia de Sensibilización del Derecho al Acceso a la Protección Social [Report on the Sensitization Strategy on the Right to Access Social Protection].	10/2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Report of recommendations to promote compliance with maternity and paternity licenses	10/2020	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	

Manual para el otorgamiento del sello de buenas prácticas empresariales con enfoque en jóvenes y género para implementación a través del Ministerio del Trabajo del Ecuador [Best Business Practice Certification Manual].	12/2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Estudio y análisis comparativo de mecanismos exitosos de protección social diseñados para la inserción de jóvenes de entre 18 y 29 años en informalidad en el Sur global; y propuesta género-sensible de mecanismos de protección social para jóvenes informales en Ecuador [Comparative research of successful mechanisms of social protection applied in the Global South]	10/2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
National care system Bill	11/2020	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Proposal for an integrated financial education program	04/2021	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	
Identificación rápida de necesidades de cualificación y recualificación de competencias en Quito, Guayaquil, Machala y Loja. Efectos de la COVID-19 en la demanda laboral [Rapid assessment of reskilling and upskilling needs in response to the COVID-19 crisis and a proposal for training and retraining programs].	10/2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://www.ilo.org/lima/publicaciones/WCMS_828570/lang--es/index.htm
Social Protection gaps in system contributive and non-contributive of young informal ecuadorians [Policy brief and Complete version]	10/2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Corporate awareness strategy to promote youth parental leave rights and Co-responsibility	10/2021	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Diagnosis of the Supply and demand for care in Quito, Guayaquil, Loja and Machala The gaps of care service for young informal people [Policy brief and Complete version]	10/2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Propuesta de un esquema innovador de afiliación para la inclusión de los trabajadores independientes en la seguridad social del Ecuador [Innovative affiliation scheme of independent workers in Ecuador]	11/2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Inputs for financial inclusion public policy.	11/2021	Yes	yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Financial inclusion of young informal with a gender approach [Policy brief and Complete version]	11/2021	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	
Proposals to promote the right to parental and paternal licenses and co-responsibility for care in Ecuador	12/2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Business model for care services for the Nigeria neighborhood and management model for a community support center in a public market	12/2021	No	No	No	Yes	No	
Nota técnica: Obligatoriedad de la afiliación a la seguridad social de las personas trabajadoras independientes en el Ecuador [Technical note regarding obligatory nature of affiliation to social security in Ecuador for independent workers]	12/2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Nota técnica: diseño de una estrategia de cultura previsional en Ecuador [Technical note for the design of a pension culture strategy in Ecuador]	12/2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Propuesta de estrategia de formalización para Ecuador [Formalization strategy proposal for Ecuador]	12/2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Identificación rápida de necesidades de cualificación y recualificación de competencias en Quito, Guayaquil, Machala y Loja. Efectos de la COVID-19 en la oferta laboral. [Rapid assessment of reskilling and upskilling needs in response to the COVID-19 crisis and a proposal for training and retraining programs]	01/2022	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Proposal for a public policy and national care plan with a local focus, worked with key stakeholders [Policy brief and Complete version]	2022	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Nota técnica: análisis de las implicaciones en términos legales-normativos de un esquema innovador de afiliación para la inclusión de los trabajadores independientes en la seguridad social [Technical note of legal consequences of an innovative affiliation scheme for independent workers inclusion in the social security system]	2022	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Políticas de protección social y laboral en Ecuador	03/21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/es/home/library/human_development/politicas-de-proteccion-social-en-ecuador.html

2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
Escuela de Datos "Jóvenes e Informalidad laboral"	04/20	No	No	Yes	No	No		
Resultados de la encuesta en línea a jóvenes en situación de informalidad laboral	08/20	No	No	Yes	No	No		
Sin MIEDO a intentar algo nuevo (#2) Reto de Innovación "Por más datos de informalidad"	03/21	No	No	Yes	No	No		
Thinking outside the box Innovation Challenge "For more informality data"	03/21	No	No	Yes	No	No		

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
Evaluación Socioeconómica PDNA Covid-19 Ecuador Marzo-Mayo, 2020	12/20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Estrategia Nacional de Protección Social, 2020-2021 (various documents)	09/21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		

Annex 3: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

Risks	Risk Level:	Likelihood:	Impact:	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./ Person
Contextual risks (e.g. social, environmental, security and safety 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 awareness 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	4		4	The project will make actuarial models and fiscal scenarios analysis to allocate funds for social protection programs and	UN IESS

<p>performance and change current legal systems for affiliation and contribution to social security, affecting its sustainability. The fiscal space available for social protection programs have substantially decreased.</p>				<p>make sure the new affiliation schemes make a positive contribution to the system's sustainability.</p>	
<p>Labor market conditions are affected due to COVID-19 crisis impacts, and Venezuela's migration crisis. The informal economy increases.</p>	5		5	<p>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.</p> <p>The UN's SERP is aimed to strengthen the social protection system, institutional capacities at the national level and socioeconomic recovery measures; these actions will contribute to the JP efforts to mitigate this risk.</p>	
<p>Possible political instability scenario. The country is approaching general elections in February of 2021, which could impact the expected results of the JP due to a change in public policy direction.</p>	3		4	<p>The JP has reached out to new institutional partners at different levels (political, technical, institutional) to remain relevant and increase its visibility. Efforts have been made to sign agreements with strategic public institutions to ensure continuity. Social protection programs have been coordinated with national financial institutions that have financial commitments to the national government.</p>	

Programmatic/Operational risks

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 consider the priorities of local and central government counterparts to ensure their engagement with the JP.	
Institutional risks (e.g. political, regulatory 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		Definition of formal coordination and decision-making rules will be agreed as part of the program implementation. The Vice-president's office will assist and support in the implementation process.	UN agencies
Fiduciary risks (financial risks, fraud & corruption 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

Annex 4: Results questionnaire

- <https://forms.office.com/r/H4eZAKyx9H>