

## Final Narrative Report: Joint Programmes in the Seed Funding Tracks

### INTRODUCTION

**Reporting period: From the start date to the end date of the joint programme (JP).**

- Please be succinct and to the point, focusing on the most important accomplishments and issues that you want to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level.
- Please do not exceed the word limit for each narrative question.
- Kindly ensure that the information provided is duly reviewed and approved by the RC and all PUNOs involved in the JP.
- Please contact [rena.hinoshita@un.org](mailto:rena.hinoshita@un.org), [maria.berenguer@un.org](mailto:maria.berenguer@un.org), [vittoria.gemelli@un.org](mailto:vittoria.gemelli@un.org), and/or [maya.marquez@un.org](mailto:maya.marquez@un.org) for questions and support.

**Submission deadline from RCOs to the Joint SDG Fund: No later than 2 months from the JP end date via MS Form (<https://forms.office.com/e/zYeyMiXjAv>)**

### PROFILE

JOINT PROGRAMME (JP) PROFILE:	
<b>UN Country Team</b>	Ecuador
<b>JP Title</b>	"Innovating for Equality: transforming local social protection mechanisms through digitalization"
<b>Funding Round</b> (Select the applicable funding round for the JP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Skills <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Access and Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Policy and Capacity Building <input type="checkbox"/> SDG Localization
<b>Cross-fertilized SDG Transitions</b> (Select up to 2 main SDG Transitions that are reflected in the JP progress to date)	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, Pollution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Skills <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Access and Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems Transformation
<b>Contribution to Cooperation Framework Outcomes</b>	<i>Outcome 1: By 2026, people, considering their age, gender, ethnic self identification and diversity, particularly those in vulnerable situations and in emergency contexts, increase their equal and equitable access to social protection and quality social services, including food, health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, housing, care and culture.</i> <i>Output 1.1 Strengthened capacities, norms, policies and instruments produced for the implementation of a social protection floor, sensitive to the most vulnerable groups and emergencies, that improves coverage, quality, equity, governance and sustainability of the system, promoting</i>

	<i>an adequate articulation between the contributory and non-contributory regimes and the provision of social services</i>
<b>Actual Start Date</b> (i.e. fund transfer date)	17/07/2024
<b>Duration</b>	12 months
<b>Actual End Date</b> (i.e. operational closure date)	17/07/2025
<b>Total Approved Funding from the Joint SDG Fund</b>	USD 250.000
<b>Planned Financial Closure Date</b>	17/07/2026
<b>Fund Management Modality: Administrative Agent (Pass-through Only)</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, <a href="mailto:mari.matsumoto@undp.org">mari.matsumoto@undp.org</a> Sara Ansari, Finance Manager, <a href="mailto:sara.ansari@undp.org">sara.ansari@undp.org</a>
<b>JP TEAM:</b>	
Resident Coordinator	Inka Mattila <a href="mailto:inka.mattila@undp.org">inka.mattila@undp.org</a>
JP's RCO focal point	RCO, Francisco Mejía Partnerships Officer <a href="mailto:francisco.mejia@un.org">francisco.mejia@un.org</a>
Lead PUNO focal point	UNDP, Fernando Pachano Coordinator of the Governance and Inclusive Development <a href="mailto:fernando.pachano@undp.org">fernando.pachano@undp.org</a>
Other PUNOs focal points	ILO, Pablo Casali Social Security Specialist <a href="mailto:casali@ilo.org">casali@ilo.org</a>
JP's designated communications focal point	Melina Loayza <a href="mailto:melina.loayza@undp.org">melina.loayza@undp.org</a>

## OVERVIEW

### 1. Overall self-assessment of the JP achievements.

The primary objective of the Joint SDG Fund's seed funding track is to provide countries with support and resources to incubate and pilot transformative solutions and approaches (including actions to develop and implement national roadmaps or priorities) that can subsequently lead to accelerating progress across [key SDG Transitions](#) at scale. Towards this objective, please evaluate the performance of the JP.

**1.a. Rate the overall performance of the JP:** Did the JP deliver its key results as planned in the ProDoc?

**Unsatisfactory, Marginal Achievement:** Less than 50% of expected results delivered.

**Satisfactory Achievement:** 50-75% of expected results delivered.

**Very Good, Solid Achievement:** 100% of expected results delivered; implementation completed on schedule.

**Exceptional, Outstanding Achievement:** 100% of expected results delivered ahead of schedule, with additional results or improvements delivered.

**1.b. Incubation and validation of solutions/approaches/roadmaps:** How much results did the JP reach in incubating innovative approaches/national roadmaps and/or piloting transformative solutions during the 12 months?

**Limited Results:** None of planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilot solutions were rolled out.

**Moderate Results:** Planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilots began but remain at the early stages or within the limited scope at the time of the JP closure.

**Good Results:** Planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are fully operational and validated.

**Excellent Results:** All planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are completed and validated ahead of schedule, showing promising potential or early sign of scale-up.

**Not Applicable:** The JP did not plan to incubate ideas, roadmaps or conduct pilots during this phase.

**1.c. Sustainability and scalability potential:** To what extent did the JP achieve in establishing pathways for future viability and scale-up of the innovations/solutions beyond the 12-month implementation?

**Marginal Achievement:** Concrete sustainability or scale-up plan was developed but not operationalized; only preliminary discussion with potential partners/funders took place.

**Moderate Achievement:** Sustainability and scale-up strategies were rolled out; potential scale-up pathways identified; active engagement with potential partners/funders underway.

**Solid Achievement:** Comprehensive sustainability and scale-up strategies achieved a broad uptake; viable pathways for expansion secured; engagement with potential partners/funders deepened and showing promising outcomes.

**Exceptional Achievement:** Robust sustainability and scale-up plans were implemented ahead of schedule; multiple viable scale-up pathways activated; strong commitments from partners/funders obtained; additional opportunities for expansion identified beyond initial plans.

**Not Applicable:** The JP has not yet reached the stage of planning for sustainability and scalability.

## RESULTS OF THE JP

### A. Results-Based Narrative

#### 2. Overall results of the JP (600 words / 1.5 pages max)

Using bullet points, describe the key achievement made by the JP, especially around how it contributed to incubating and piloting new ideas and approaches (including actions to develop and implement national roadmaps/priority areas) to propel the [key SDG Transitions](#). Your response should cover how the JP made changes around '[enabling actions](#)': 1) developing new policy and regulatory frameworks; 2) identifying

new pipelines of solutions; 3) strengthened capacities of key stakeholders; 4) enhanced partnerships and financing mixes to ensure sustainability and scale, and other transformative shifts. Please include specific reference to the SDG targets identified in the ProDoc.

The JP piloted a first generation of digital innovations — a social services management system with a modular and scalable architecture, an interoperability model, standardized forms, a costing tool, a monitoring dashboard and high data availability and contingency prioritized by the Social Registry— that improves the efficiency, coverage capacity, and governance of local social protection services. It strengthened the institutional capacities of the Municipality of Quito and provided support to the Social Registry Unit, mobilized local financing, and built pathways for replication and scalability with national partners and the World Bank. These results directly advance SDG 1.2, 1.3, and 8.6, while establishing a foundation for systemic transformation of social protection in Ecuador.

#### **Policy and regulatory frameworks**

- The service delivery model was reflected in digital tools and processes for managing social services, benefiting mainly youth.
- It advanced a management and interoperability model in Quito municipality, laying foundations for stronger governance, coverage, and service quality.
- The implemented digitalization, together with the designed interoperability framework, currently under negotiation, represents a significant step toward building a more integrated social protection system, directly contributing to SDG 1.2 (reduce poverty) and SDG 1.3 (implement social protection systems).

#### **New pipelines of solutions**

- Output 1.2 produced a microservices-based platform to digitize workflows and standardize information for children, adolescents, and youth. It improved data quality and accuracy, enabling efficient and equitable service delivery.
- Under Output 1.3, three digital tools were designed:
  - A costing tool to analyze financial gaps in services.
  - A vulnerability index combining socioeconomic and geographic data for more precise targeting.
  - A monitoring dashboard for real-time coverage and effectiveness tracking.
- Together, these solutions form a replicable pipeline that can be scaled to other municipalities, other services, and integrated into national systems, supporting SDG 8.6 (reduce youth unemployment).

#### **Strengthened capacities of key stakeholders**

- Municipal staff were trained in platform management, module design, and interoperability.
- The Social Registry Unit reinforced its database with high-availability and contingency architecture, ensuring continuity of national data updates. Municipal staff also trained in digital forms, the vulnerability index, dashboard, and costing tool, building local ownership.
- The Municipality strengthened technical capacity to digitize processes and manage interoperability with national systems.
- These efforts enable sustainability and expansion of digital tools beyond the JP's lifecycle, reinforcing institutional resilience.

#### **Enhanced partnerships and financing mixes**

- Through the management model, the JP created a structured collaboration space between the departments of Quito's Municipality and fostered a working channel with

the Social Registry Unit, enhancing institutional ownership of the solutions developed and strengthening vertical coordination.

- Strategic dialogue with the World Bank explored synergies to scale digital tools and align with national reforms.
- The Municipality committed co-financing through a dedicated investment project, demonstrating political will to sustain digitalization.

#### **Other transformative shifts**

- A rights-based and LNOB approach was embedded in all solutions, integrating variables on sex, age, ethnicity, disability, literacy, care, employment, and gender-based violence, ensuring services respond to women, youth, and marginalized groups.
- Standards on data security, privacy, and digital public goods were applied to protect vulnerable populations.
- By implementing digital innovations at municipal level, Quito positioned itself as a pioneer in Ecuador's digital transformation of social protection, generating tools, evidence, and models to inform national reforms and contribute to the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.

### **3. Constraints, adjustments and lessons (500 words / 1 page max)**

In bullet points, please explain any constraints, including risks identified in the ProDoc's Risk Matrix, that were encountered and any adjustments that were made or mitigation actions taken by the JP team to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

In describing lessons learned, please be candid about both successes and failures, explaining what was learned from each experience and how these insights can inform future programming or scale-up efforts.

#### **Constraints and Adjustments**

##### **Institutional turnover and delays**

- At the start, changes in authorities and staff in Quito's Secretariat for Social Inclusion and the Social Registry Unit delayed the schedule and affected continuity.
- *Adjustment:* The JP held regular follow-up meetings, co-designed an acceleration strategy, and formalized agreements with the Social Registry Unit and municipal entities to secure ownership.

##### **Institutional reorganization**

- Quito's approval of a new institutional structure created coordination challenges and slowed technical decision-making.
- *Adjustment:* The JP reinforced collaboration with Patronato San José <sup>1</sup> and the Secretariat for Social Inclusion to keep activities on track.

##### **Complex national-local political context**

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Patronato San José is responsible for executing the social policy of the Municipality of Quito through comprehensive social services for care, protection, and violence prevention, which are directed at the most vulnerable population in the city of Quito.

- Strained relations between central and local governments, especially during elections, hampered alignment and support for interoperability with the National Social Registry.
- *Adjustment:* The JP facilitated high-level dialogue and technical coordination, sequencing activities flexibly to adapt to political agreements.

#### **Risk of limited sustainability financing**

- The ProDoc flagged risks of insufficient resources to sustain tools.
- *Adjustment:* The Municipality embedded digitalization in a local investment project, securing co-financing and signaling commitment beyond seed funding.

#### **Risks related to data governance**

- Concerns emerged on data security, privacy, and alignment with national standards.
- *Adjustment:* The JP applied digital public goods principles, standardized procedures, and disaggregated variables in line with human rights and national rules, such as the Organic Law on Personal Data Protection. The Social Registry database was also strengthened to ensure the effective use of information.

#### **Expectations risk**

- The Risk Matrix identified high expectations around the permanent updating model and youth engagement in digital tools.
- *Adjustment:* By involving officials and youth in workshops, expectations were managed, and speculation minimized.

#### **Operational risk**

- The JP faced limited interoperability and technological capacity in Quito.
- *Adjustment:* A modular interoperability model was designed with open-source software and monitoring tools, tailored to municipal capacity.

#### **Lessons Learned**

- **Institutional instability affects continuity:** High turnover delayed progress and required constant reintroduction of the JP. Flexible planning and facilitation by UNDP and ILO sustained progress. Future projects should anticipate turnover with rapid induction strategies. Despite delays, milestones were met. Local and national counterparts have committed to scalability.
- **Coordination and coherence were essential:** Clear division of roles between UNDP and ILO created positive synergies. Strengthening internal communication among municipal entities is necessary to avoid the duplication of actions. Early planning, joint workshops, and communication protocols are crucial.
- **Digitalization requires governance:** Tools alone are insufficient. Sustainable transformation depends on legal, organizational, and regulatory frameworks. Modular open-source platforms proved effective, but their impact relies on governance and interoperability with national systems, which must be driven through established channels from local governments.
- **Ownership and participation drive sustainability:** Technical endorsement by the Municipality strengthened appropriation, but lasting use requires resources, ongoing training, manuals, and communication strategies, such as those that were provided in the project.
- **Capacity development is key:** Training public staff in digital tools fostered local ownership. Technology adoption must advance alongside institutional capacity.
- **Seed funding enables scaling:** Linking local needs with national strategies, such as the Social Registry, allowed piloting replicable innovations. This approach supports national targets and extends benefits to other municipalities and vulnerable groups.

#### 4. Scale up and pathways for transformative systems change (Select all that apply)

Please select all relevant pathways that the JP applied with the aim of scaling up systematic transformation:

**Capacity-building & local ownership:** Strengthening capacity of individuals, local institutions and communities to independently implement and sustain activities; or transferring ownership and management to local organizations for sustained impact.

**Cross-sectoral collaboration & partnerships:** Partnering with diverse stakeholder groups to address interconnected issues and amplify impact; engaging with private and public sector to replicate successful programme components; or institutionalize participatory governance mechanisms to ensure inclusivity and intensify effectiveness.

**Policy integration & mainstreaming:** Incorporating successful programme elements into national or local policies and regulations to ensure wider adoption and impact; or integrating programme components into existing systems and structures for wider reach, efficiency and sustainability.

**Resource mobilization & financial sustainability:** Developing innovative financing mechanisms and attracting new donors/investors to ensure financial sustainability and expansion; or influencing existing financing mechanisms or diversifying resource streams to support long-term programme viability and growth.

**People-centred technology adoption & innovation:** Leveraging technology and solutions to increase reach, efficiency, impact of activities; or using technology and innovation to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and scale-up of impact.

**Others.** Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. Measures taken with a focus on sustainability (500 words / 1 page max)

In bullet points, please elaborate how the JP has ensured the mid- to long-term sustainability and scalability of the JP results beyond its 12-month implementation period. Your response should focus on 1) measures taken to ensure financial, institutional, and community-level sustainability of the JP outcomes, 2) '[enabling actions](#)' that supported sustainability and ownership, 3) the exit strategy that facilitated the scalability and replication of the successful JP interventions.

The JP took deliberate steps to ensure that results achieved in its 12-month implementation would be sustained and scaled over time. These measures focused on strengthening institutional ownership, securing financial commitments, building technical capacities, engaging communities, and defining clear exit and replication pathways.

**Ownership and governance**

- Municipal staff co-designed the platform, including infrastructure, modules, and functionalities. They trained on creating modules and using tools such as digital forms, the vulnerability index, dashboard, and costing tool.
- An acceleration strategy was co-designed with the Mayor to consolidate the interoperability model with the National Social Registry, providing a governance framework to sustain Output 1.1 and anchor digitalization in policy instruments.
- By involving the Social Registry Unit of the Government of Ecuador, the JP fostered initial vertical coordination and created conditions that may support future institutional ownership and potential replication in other municipalities.
- A multi-institutional steering mechanism reviewed progress and provided oversight, promoting accountability and coordination beyond the JP.

### **Financial sustainability**

- The Municipality committed resources through a local investment project to sustain and expand digitalization, signaling strong political will.
- Strategic dialogue with the World Bank aligned municipal pilots with national reform agendas and explored financing for scale-up.
- By embedding tools into municipal planning and budgeting, the JP reduced reliance on external funds and created financial continuity.

### **Capacity development for long-term**

- Municipal technical were trained in the design, implementation, and maintenance of all the digital solutions created. This investment in capacity ensures that tools can be independently updated and applied after the project's closure. Social Registry staff was also trained on the high-availability architecture designed.
- User manuals and standardized procedures strengthened institutional memory and mitigated staff turnover risks.
- Capacity-building also emphasized the integration of disaggregated variables (sex, age, ethnicity, disability, etc.), reinforcing inclusive use of data and alignment with LNOB principles.

### **Community-level sustainability**

- Youth, women, and marginalized groups were engaged in the design of digital tools, including feedback mechanisms to validate the digital form. This participatory approach enhanced relevance and fosters continued use by service providers and beneficiaries.
- Communication strategies were implemented to disseminate the benefits of the new tools, raising awareness among users and strengthening demand for continuity and expansion.

### **Exit strategy**

- Digital solutions were built with modular, open-source design, allowing adaptation to other services and municipalities. This approach ensures flexibility for future integration and interoperability with national platforms.
- The interoperability model (Output 1.1) relies on agreements between Quito and the Social Registry Unit; the JP supported initial discussions, shaping a framework replicable by other local governments.

- The interoperability model (Output 1.1) depends on agreements between the Municipality of Quito and the Social Registry Unit. The project supported some initial discussions in this regard, contributing to the design of a framework that could be replicated by other local governments.
- For Outputs 1.2 and 1.3, the Municipality plans validation and institutionalization in 2025, with ongoing training and adjustments.
- Engagement with the World Bank and national authorities creates a pathway for national scaling, while Quito’s pioneering role generates lessons for replication in Latin America.

## B. Indicator-Based Performance Update

This section is based upon the JP results framework and workplan.

### 6. The JP results framework (Upload Excel)

Please assess the JP performance against the indicators identified in the ProDoc's Annex 1: Integrated results framework, namely 1) JP outputs and 2) JP contribution to Joint SDG Fund global indicators.

### 7. Key documents produced by the JP (Upload max. 10 files if available)

Please feel free to share up to 10 key documents, including, but not limited to, policy briefs, strategy papers, guidance notes, knowledge products and training materials that the JP would like to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level. File types can be Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, image, video and audio, but each file size must be below 1GB.

### 8. Number of people directly benefited by the JP

Direct beneficiaries are individuals, groups or organizations who actively participate in JP activities and directly benefit from its interventions, such as civil servants attending workshops, small business owners receiving training, or households accessing services provided by the JP. It is important to disaggregate the primary beneficiaries by sex and age as per table below when possible.

Type of engagement	Total Number of People	Number of Women and Girls*	Number of Children (ages of 0-14) *	Number of Youth (ages 15–24)*
Training/workshops for targeted groups	119	68	N/A	33
Awareness raising campaign for broad audience	24	14	N/A	N/A
Dialogues/consultations with relevant stakeholders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Coordination meetings with key partners	71	47	N/A	N/A
Access to expanded services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Others (Please specify): _____	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*\* Note that it is allowed to have overlaps in the reporting of women/girls and children/youth columns.*

## 9. Contributions to marginalized and vulnerable groups (250 words / 0.5 page max)

In bullet points, please provide a summary of how the JP benefited the marginalized and vulnerable groups identified in the ProDoc. Include results achieved at both institutional/policy and local/human levels. Please find the 20 standard LNOB groups in footnote 28 on page 17 of the UNSDG Output Indicator Framework's [Implementation Guide](#).

The JP was explicitly designed to advance the **LNOB** principle by addressing the needs of groups historically excluded from social protection. It generated results at both institutional/policy and local/human levels.

### **Institutional and policy level**

- Built a platform with customizable digital forms that collect disaggregated data (sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and other LNOB variables), enabling evidence-based decisions and visibility of marginalized groups such as youth, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities.
- Developed a vulnerability index that combines socioeconomic and geographic variables, allowing more precise targeting of social services.
- Strengthened the interoperability framework between the Municipality of Quito and the National Social Registry to improve identification and inclusion of households in poverty and extreme poverty, ensuring access to municipal and national programs.
- Integrated human rights and inclusive design standards across all digital tools, aligning with Ecuador's commitments under ICESCR, CEDAW, CRPD, and ILO Recommendation 202 on social protection floors.

### **Local and human level**

- Prioritized young people (18–29), especially women, youth with disabilities, and those at risk of exclusion, as key beneficiaries of digitalized municipal services.
- Engaged youth in the validation of digital forms, incorporating their perspectives to improve service relevance.
- Introduced a digital dashboard and costing tool that empowered authorities to identify service gaps and allocate resources more effectively to marginalized groups, including migrants, displaced persons, older persons, and caregivers.
- Strengthened outreach and communication strategies, involving women's and youth organizations in awareness-raising, fostering trust, and encouraging vulnerable populations to adopt digital services.

## 10. Financial resources mobilized/leveraged

Please indicate the financial resources (in USD) mobilized or leveraged through the JP. Please clarify the source of funding/financing and the source type, such as PUNOs and Government contributions, public-private partnerships, private sector investments, and financial commitments from IFIs, DFIs and other donors.

Source of Funding/Financing	Type of Source (e.g. PUNO, PPP, DFI, donor, etc.)	Expected amount planned in the ProDoc	Actual amount mobilized as initially planned in the ProDoc	Additional amount newly mobilized beyond the ProDoc expectation
Local Government Contributions	Quito's Municipality	\$ 200.000,00	\$ 129.000,00 (planned)	\$ 0,00
Local Government Contributions	Social Registry Unit	\$ 93.240,00	\$ 0,00	\$ 0,00

## 11. Cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind (LNOB)

For each question, select the relevant response. If yes, please list 1-2 examples of actions taken/results delivered, and if no, please provide a brief 1-2 sentence explanation in the table.

Question	Yes	No	Comment
The JP has adequately implemented environmental and social standards/safeguards to avoid and address adverse impacts on people and the planet.	X		The JP effectively integrated ILO and UNDP's social and environmental safeguards. While no significant environmental risks were identified, the project addressed social risks through clear role definitions, institutional coordination, and staff training. Sustainability was reinforced by strengthening public capacities, incorporating digital tools, and ensuring political commitment. The JP also followed national policies and applied mitigation strategies to prevent unintended harm to vulnerable groups, including responsible data governance and privacy safeguards.

<p>The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address human rights issues, undertaking and drawing upon relevant human rights analysis.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>A rights-based approach was embedded across outputs, particularly in the monitoring dashboard and digital forms. By collecting disaggregated data on sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and exposure to gender-based violence, the JP enhanced visibility of vulnerable groups and supported evidence-based decisions that expand equitable access to social protection, in line with Ecuador’s human rights commitments.</p>
<p>The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing women and girls.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>The JP prioritized women and girls—especially those living in poverty—by embedding gender-sensitive variables in the digital form and social protection data collection. This enabled more accurate identification of gendered vulnerabilities and informed municipal decision-making to design services that respond to women’s specific needs.</p>
<p>The JP has demonstrated positive results / effects for youth in accordance with the principles in Youth 2030.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>Through the digitalization of municipal social services and youth-focused data collection, the JP enhanced Quito’s ability to identify and respond to the needs of young people, particularly those at risk of exclusion. This aligns with Youth 2030 principles by improving data-driven policy-making and creating conditions for tailored employability and social protection programs for youth.</p>
<p>The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing marginalized and vulnerable persons in any other LNOB groups. Please specify which groups: _____</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>The JP strengthened inclusion of multiple LNOB groups by promoting interoperability between the Social Registry and municipal systems, allowing comprehensive data integration on households living in poverty and extreme poverty, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and migrants. This enabled more equitable targeting and strengthened national–local coordination of social protection responses.</p>

*C. Strategic Communications and Partnership Update*

## 12. Strategic communications

Please provide the links to written articles published by the JP, or the draft outline of a written article to be finalized in the coming weeks. Examples of human-interest stories, practical guidance on storytelling, other useful tools to produce impactful written articles can be found in the Joint SDG Fund's [Communications Guideline for Seed Funding Tracks](#) on [UNSDG Knowledge Portal](#) (NB: PUNOs may need to request access first).

### List of links to written articles of human-interest stories:

- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DAHTzfPO3Y4/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DAHTzfPO3Y4/?img_index=1)
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/169LWeKqPZ/>
- <https://www.undp.org/es/ecuador/comunicados-de-prensa/quito-avanza-hacia-una-proteccion-social-digital-e-inclusiva-para-su-juventud>
- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DLNjaYWu-us/?img\\_index=4&igsh=bDg3NGZpN3E2ODNq](https://www.instagram.com/p/DLNjaYWu-us/?img_index=4&igsh=bDg3NGZpN3E2ODNq)
- [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1129283905895417&id=100064414553045&rdid=GewH42Uj7FJ2CrHo#](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1129283905895417&id=100064414553045&rdid=GewH42Uj7FJ2CrHo#)
- [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/pnudecuador\\_quito-avanza-hacia-un-desarrollo-m%C3%A1s-inclusivo-activity-7342607162105356288-lhk5?utm\\_source=social\\_share\\_send&utm\\_medium=android\\_app&rcm=ACoAAAkNlVMBYalL1BkIRK0akHsXneCi\\_F1WPYw&utm\\_campaign=whatsapp](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/pnudecuador_quito-avanza-hacia-un-desarrollo-m%C3%A1s-inclusivo-activity-7342607162105356288-lhk5?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAAAkNlVMBYalL1BkIRK0akHsXneCi_F1WPYw&utm_campaign=whatsapp)
- <https://x.com/PNUDEcuador/status/1936841471807652144?t=Rj5LY46Om9erxgB5ul1cFQ&s=08>
- <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DLNYBwyuDkN/?igsh=OGhwcmE3ZnYyMzB2>
- [https://www.tiktok.com/@patronatoquito/video/7518818331911130424?is\\_from\\_webapp=1&web\\_id=7288387712766723590](https://www.tiktok.com/@patronatoquito/video/7518818331911130424?is_from_webapp=1&web_id=7288387712766723590)
- <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1691327044828824>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1691327044828824&rdid=Pcz8E7ciiYKyVKwB>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DLX5J7Bx2lq/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/100064414553045/posts/1132583138898827/>
- <https://x.com/PNUDEcuador/status/1938296701900484984>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:share:7344062407209590784/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/reel/709956371819916>
- [https://x.com/PatronatoSJ/status/1942747502631084217?t=sxIDS\\_Nl4HqKKU94ZgVEkA&s=19](https://x.com/PatronatoSJ/status/1942747502631084217?t=sxIDS_Nl4HqKKU94ZgVEkA&s=19)
- <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DL3fKtJNO36/?igsh=OG1wZHE1bXprODIx>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1K82ULG95V/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DMJJEOXTECY/?igsh=ZzNnb2wzemU0djY1>
- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DMIxoG\\_JAc0/?igsh=MWNleWNobHppZnBtdQ%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/p/DMIxoG_JAc0/?igsh=MWNleWNobHppZnBtdQ%3D%3D)
- <https://x.com/OITAndina/status/1945272898018591031?t=OOdc7Xe1QFeCzdYbUiFgaw&s=08>
- <https://x.com/OITAndina/status/1945272900279275808?t=JblFYwfuZFWofKPDT2U2SA&s=08>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16a5qr7Jxz/>
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- X:<https://x.com/PNUDEcuador/status/1947688734129897812>
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- <https://youtu.be/xMYlayfbRu8>
- <https://x.com/PNUDEcuador/status/1952036798151934188>
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**Draft outline of a written article of a human-interest story (500 words / 1 page max)**

### **Innovating for Equality: A Turning Point in Quito's Social Protection**

On July 17, the *Innovating for Equality* project presented results that mark a turning point in how social services are managed and delivered to the most vulnerable youth of the Metropolitan District of Quito, through a digital transformation of the social protection system.

This initiative demonstrates how innovation, collaboration, and commitment to inclusion can transform realities at the local level. Progress reflects joint efforts led by this UN interagency project, implemented by UNDP and ILO with support from the Joint SDG Fund, and in close coordination with the Municipality of Quito, the Secretariat for Social Inclusion, and the Patronato San José.

At the launch event, Laura Melo, UN Resident Coordinator in Ecuador, highlighted the value of coordination between UN agencies and different levels of government to drive sustainable solutions. She emphasized that the project's success lies in interagency cooperation and recognized Quito's openness to co-create innovative initiatives. "Working in an integrated way," she said, "is key to achieving effective impact in the territory."

Jacques Ramírez, Quito's Secretary for Social Inclusion, stressed that the project is an important step toward building a more integral social protection system adapted to local realities. He expressed the Municipality's commitment to scaling this experience to other groups and reaffirmed the strategic role of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda, where global commitments become concrete actions. "The SDGs become real solutions in territories," he stated, calling for continued strengthening of such initiatives through UN support.

#### **Key Results**

In just one year of implementation, the project delivered a set of tools, methodologies, and lessons designed to strengthen Quito's social protection system. All knowledge has been integrated into a digital platform that will allow the Municipality to consolidate a fairer, more inclusive, and efficient model. Main achievements include:

- **Modular management platform:** Automates processes of identification, registration, and user monitoring, optimizing service delivery and use of public resources.
- **Management and interoperability model:** Facilitates integration and information-sharing across municipal areas, fostering coordinated approaches.
- **Youth vulnerability index:** Evaluates each young person's situation across seven dimensions (education, economy, health, housing, violence, family environment, and inclusion) to prioritize services based on real needs.
- **Digital monitoring dashboard:** Provides real-time data on coverage and efficiency, disaggregated by age, gender, type of service, and location.
- **Costing tool:** Estimates per-beneficiary costs and supports evidence-based decisions.
- **Technical training:** Built municipal staff capacity in digital tools and data management.

This inclusive and sustainable digital model not only addresses the needs of vulnerable youth but also sets a clear path toward achieving SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

#### **Youth Engagement and Commitment**

As part of implementation, the project launched the **#ConectaJuventud** contest, encouraging youth participation through videos sharing their experiences with municipal social protection services.

UNDP and ILO reaffirm their commitment to continue supporting the Municipality of Quito and other local governments, together with UN agencies, by providing specialized technical assistance and sharing global experience adaptable to Ecuador's diverse contexts.

### **13. Strategic partnerships (Select all that apply)**

What type of partnerships established during the JP made important contribution to the JP objectives?

- National Government Institutions (Please specify): Unidad de Registro Social.
- Sub-national Government Institutions (Please specify): Gobierno Autónomo Descentralizado del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito.
- International Financial Institutions & Development Finance Institutions (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Private Sector Companies or Industry Associations (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Civil Society Organizations, Philanthropic Organizations and Foundation (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Academic/Research Institutions (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Bilateral Development Partners (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Labour Unions or Organizations (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Others (Please specify): AECID

## ANNEX: SDG Localization Marker Survey

*ONLY for the JPs with SDG Localization's Marker 3 to respond.*

- 1) Please report on the SDG Localization monitoring indicators below. If an indicator is not applicable to your joint programme kindly state NA and briefly justify in the “Means of Verification” column.

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (year)	Evidence or means of verification
<b>Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders actively engaged in the programme design.</b>	# (type)	# (type)	
<b>Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders with clear roles and responsibilities within the programme.</b>	# (type)	# (type)	
<b>Number and type of persons or representative organizations involved in activities developed with the primary aim of enhancing local populations’ ownership and inclusion in sustainable development processes at the subnational level, led by local development stakeholders.</b>	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	
<b>Number and type of specific events, publications, or training materials aimed primarily at building capacity for local sustainable development/SDG localization in local development stakeholders.</b>	# (type)	# (type)	
<b>Number and type/description of specific coherent policies, regulations, and/or tools developed to enhance SDG localization (Disaggregated on policies, regulations, or tools focused on cross-sectoral or cross-level policy coherence).</b>	# (type / description)	# (type / description)	
<b>Number and type/description of mechanisms or activities developed to improve the transparent and accountable financing of SDG localization.</b>	# (type / description)	# (type / description)	
<b>Number and type of relevant initiatives/processes that the projects contribute to reach large scale, transformative impact.</b>	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	# (% women indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	
<b>Percentage of programmatic expenditures allocated explicitly to activities that directly impact local sustainable development processes and systems (e.g. food systems value chains, local health or education systems, energy and water management, local economic development, local climate action, multilevel governance) embedded in</b>	%	%	

<b>local SDG-related priorities which are expressed in local strategies.</b>			
<b>Number and type of local financial tools/instruments developed or strengthened to support SDG implementation at local level.</b>	#	#	
<b>Total amount (in USD) of additional public and private sector resources mobilized for local SDG implementation at the local level.</b>	\$	\$	
<b>Percentage of results contributing to SDG localization that have met their preplanned target/milestones.</b>	%	%	
<b>Number of local and regional governments and/or local service providers integrating aspects of policy coherence for sustainable development into their monitoring and reporting processes.</b>	# (type of actor)	# (type of actor)	

2) What action areas has your JP prioritized since launch to advance the SDGs at the local level? (Select all that apply)

- Empowering local authorities and communities (e.g. capacity building, leadership development, technical support)
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. participatory planning processes, community consultations)
- Strengthening multi-level governance (e.g. vertical coordination, central-local policy alignment)
- Localizing SDG financing (e.g. municipal finance mechanisms, local resource mobilization, local SDG budgeting)
- Enhancing local data systems (e.g. disaggregated data collection, community-based monitoring)
- Expanding social service access (e.g. last-mile delivery, integrated service provision)
- Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

3) To what extent has funding from the joint programme budget be directly channelled or mobilized to local-level actors (e.g. local governments, local community organizations, local service providers) to support SDG Localization efforts in the reporting period?

- 0% i.e. no resource has been directed to local-level actors.
- 1-24% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 25-49% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 50-74% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 75-100% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.

4) Please describe how the territorial or localization approach is applied in your joint programme. Include the following key aspects into your response.

- Alignment between joint programme and local development plans and integration of results in local processes, frameworks and SDG monitoring system.
- Role of subnational-level (local and regional) governments and other key local institutions/stakeholders in the implementation of the joint programme.
- Description on how capacities and innovation of local stakeholders for integrating SDG and multi-actor collaboration are identified and reinforced.

(500 words / 1 page max)

**- END -**