

Joint SDG Fund
PORTFOLIO ON INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LNOB

Joint Programme 2020 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

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Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): 1.997.630,72

Overall budget (with co-funding): 2.743.063,16

Annual Financial Delivery Rate (35,4%)

Rate of Committed Funding (36.3%)

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

The project intends to incorporate the youth population (aged 18 - 29), in conditions of economic informality, into the social protection system and enable their access to decent work. It is estimated that the target group reaches 1.4 million people. The project has been designed to achieve short and mid-term impacts. In the mid- to long-term, it is expected that up to 70% of the youth population in four territories (Quito, Guayaquil, Loja and Machala) can improve their access to formal labor and financial inclusion (at least 50% will be women). Similarly, and considering that almost 7 out of 10 youngsters are not protected by the social protection system, it is expected that at least 40% of the youth population may access the contributive social protection system. Special emphasis is required on young mothers and fathers who face vulnerable conditions. To do this, innovative policy instruments and models will be designed to incorporate youth, in the selected territories, in contribution-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 2020, the JP focused on characterizing young informal workers and social protection (SP) gaps, as well as defining the challenges the government faces to identify informal youth. This initial phase enabled to commit **the government's Social Registry Unit and the 'Toda una Vida' Technical Secretariat to host and update the registry** (for the informal youth) in the coming year.

On the other hand, the JP has successfully collected and analyzed data on social protection and informality and has determined the effects of the pandemic on the informal youth, as a mean to strengthen **institutional capacity and foster the transition to formality**. As a result, the JP has contributed to the **development of several policy documents and strategies** (financial inclusion, cost estimation of social protection gaps, awareness-raising strategy on the right to social protection, and a care bill) together with the government counterparts. Similarly, the JP worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labor to **promote access of young people to decent work**. This includes the improvements of **digital job search platforms and employment programs**, the creation of a **Best Business Practice Certification** for companies that hire young people, the systematization of **good practices** from Ecuadorian institutions and firms aligned **with parental licenses**, and the **assessment of training and educational needs** that have emerged due to COVID-19.

Moreover, the JP (through UNDP's Acceleration Laboratory) incorporated an **intersectoral approach to innovation** to promote the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals. To do so, the JP worked directly with young people in the four cities on job-seeking cybersecurity issues and developed an innovative **add-on prototype** to flag misleading job alerts, especially targeting women. It also implemented a **School of Data program** that aimed at developing young people's skills to analyze and use statistical data. Further, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the JP implemented **training programs for informal entrepreneurs** as an alternative to recover livelihoods.

Finally, the JP provided support to the development of a **National Social Protection and recovery strategy**, led by the Government's National Social cabinet, as well as to the **Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)** led by the national government.

A. Annual Progress

A.1 The overall approach

Broader context and JP changes

The pandemic has had an unprecedented effect on Ecuador's economy. In the labor market, 234.475 people have exited the social security system since the onset of the pandemic up until November 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. This implies that the mechanisms to incorporate the target population to social protection need to take into account the worsening of young people's livelihoods and the feasibility for the target group to enter a contributory scheme, and thus could affect negatively on meeting some of the expected results. Furthermore, the economic crisis has limited the fiscal space (to apply countercyclical policies, increase government spending in goods and services and in transfers to vulnerable groups) and monetary policy tools to deal with the crisis. This also affects the JP and calls for more coordination between institutions related to social protection and economic inclusion at the national and local level with the ministry of finance. In terms of political stability, at the coordination level, constant changes in top authorities from the JP's counterparts have also led PUNOs to adjust their strategies to cope with delayed responses from the government, and changes in the overall vision of the new authorities of how public policies should be implemented. Similarly, at the general level, Ecuador is approaching a general electoral process, which has already had an impact on the availability of public institutions and will most likely have an impact on the JP's overall strategy to cope with a possible policy turn due to a new administration. Finally, virtuality became the new tool for all communication activities including meetings, interviews, training programs, data compilation, among others. Therefore, virtual activities have freed resources that have allowed to broaden the scope of some activities.

Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic

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, have contributed to the definition 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 have 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.

Due to the pandemic, the JP repurposed 20% of the budget on activities that aimed at diminishing the impact of the crisis on the target population. In particular, the JP launched a "Citizens Co-Lab," a platform where the general public as well as institutions can voice their proposals to mitigate the impact of the health crisis on people's needs. Moreover, the activities planned to design and implement certified technical and vocational training programs in the four territories were broadened to include job retraining programs to mitigate the crisis as requested by the Ministry of Labor. Hence, 581 informal workers were trained using the ILO's Start and Improve your Business (SIYB) training program as an alternative to recover livelihoods. In addition, 40 representatives from various government, employer, employee and civil society organizations participated on a webinar on business continuity and recovery, which was launched to provide tools for Micro and Small Enterprises to mitigate the impact of the crisis on businesses. The gender focus of job retraining programs will prioritize women to provide them with skills and tools to participate in the labor market in traditionally

male dominated economic sectors (STEM and construction) and care services, the latter being a key sector especially since the emergency. Moreover, through UNDP's Acceleration Laboratory, the JP designed innovative mechanisms to lessen the impact of COVID: a MOOC was developed and launched to strengthen digital security competencies for 74 participants, and an innovative add-on prototype was developed to flag misleading job alerts in job search platforms, especially targeted to women. Further, in order to promote trade at the neighborhood level as a measure of economic reactivation, the Acceleration Laboratory started a pilot project of social currency "Tienditos" in alliance with IMPAQTO and Tesalia CBC, in two neighborhoods of Quito: San Enrique de Velasco and Santa Clara of Millán. In the last quarter of 2020, 32 trainings were carried out in 60 days as well as seven field visits. Overall, 20 neighborhood stores participated in the initiative and 12 young people in a situation of informality were involved as promoters of the social currency.

The training programs geared at entrepreneurship as a method to recover livelihoods were successfully implemented, as well as the cybersecurity course. The activities focused on job retraining centered in carrying out a rapid assessment of reskilling and upskilling needs in response to the COVID-19 crisis and a proposal for training and retraining programs was developed at the end of 2020. The implementation of the program is planned to take place during the first quarter of 2021 in liaison with the government's public professional training service (SECAP in Spanish) as well as public and private universities.

Due to the COVID crisis, 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) also led by the national government. This allowed the JP to remain relevant and strategic with the programme's official counterparts and has opened the possibility to develop new partnerships with other institutions.

In the SERP 2020, challenges and strategic lines were identified in the four pillars defined in the UN socio-economic response framework. In pillar two, Protecting People, Social Protection and Basic Services, UNCT defined the following strategic lines related to JP:

1. Promote analysis and generate evidence of impacts, differentiated by sex, ethnicity and age, and emergency response measures, with an emphasis on people in situations of greater vulnerability.
2. Support the strengthening of systems of social protection and its role in emergencies in order to improve the articulation between the contributory and non-contributory regimes, its performance in terms of coverage, sufficiency and sustainability, as well as the identification and care of the population in greater vulnerability.
3. Support national efforts that ensure the right to adequate living conditions for vulnerable groups. This includes maintaining health services; accessible education, adapted to the new context; food security; quality water and sanitation; housing and temporary accommodation for groups with specific needs; childcare, and promoting co-responsibility and recognition of care work.

A.2 Update on priority issues

SDG acceleration

The JP contributes directly to the acceleration of the following Sustainable development goals: SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 8 and SDG 10, and indirectly contributes to SDG 3 and SDG 4. The JP's main goal is to support youth and provide the tools to transit to formality; this transition ensures livelihoods, which has direct consequences on upward social mobility, poverty and inequality reduction. JP has contributed to SDG acceleration as follows:

- SDG 5: Women's needs and priorities are incorporated in the design of all the strategies of the JP. The agencies are committed to mainstream gender focus and to contribute to increase women's participation, reduce gender wage gap, increase their access to social security. To develop the national registry, PUNOS has taken additional steps and alternative mechanisms to register women who have never been registered in any national record. The JP strategies to foster informal youth transition to formality prioritize the generation of equal opportunities for young men and women. It implies developing training courses that suit adequately women's particular care responsibilities and time use needs. To complement this strategy, local care systems designs are intended to fulfill caretakers' needs for them to be able to access the labor market in decent conditions. In addition to this, JP is prioritizing youth entrepreneurship. After employment loss due to the crisis, youth have chosen entrepreneurial activities. One of the main barriers women face is the lack of access to

banking, lending, productive credit or other non-financial services that can boost their business. To respond to this, the JP is developing methodologies to incorporate women's particular needs in the financial product design and development.

- SDG 8: the JP is promoting decent jobs in equal opportunities for men and women in the frame of inclusive development. The JP has a twofold purpose of strengthening public capacities and facilitating youth its access to training programs. In the former, the Ministry of Labor received technical assistance to strengthen its public employment platform, while the Ministry of Social Inclusion recently incorporated an area dedicated to foster youth employment and inclusion. The JP has strengthened this relationship and is coordinating activities to identify the population, which will benefit from financial and economic inclusion strategies in the prioritized cities. In the latter, the SIYB program was implemented by 25 trainers to 581 direct beneficiaries. Furthermore, significant efforts have been made from the JP to establish strong and close relationships with local counterparts, particularly local governments.
- SDG 1 and SDG 10: young people in informality are less likely to fully participate in social, economic and political spheres of society. This is due to young people being excluded from the formal labor markets, social protection system and other systems that ensure the fulfilment of their rights. The JP is tackling this inequality and poverty when designing the national registry of informal youth, which will enable the government to identify and design social protection and labor policies. Furthermore, the strategy will be complemented by training and retraining programs and with the local care services designs, whose main goal is to provide better opportunities to enter the labour market to young parents.

Vulnerable groups

- The JP works directly for youth and women. During this first year, the project has established agendas with public institutions including the Ministry of Social Inclusion and Ministry of Labor, particularly with areas dedicated to work with youth and women. The technical assistance of the JP indirectly contributes to support these groups by design strategies that promote their inclusion.
- Furthermore, the JP enhances the analytical skill of youth from social organizations on labor market, gender gaps and social protection. These organizations are able to transfer this knowledge to other youth. With this activity, the project supports youth providing them with tools to participate in public decisions that affect them.
- 581 workers in informality were trained on the Start and Improve your Business (SIYB) program as an alternative to recover livelihoods.
- in order to promote trade at the neighborhood level as a measure of economic reactivation, the Acceleration Laboratory started a pilot project of social currency "Tienditos" in alliance with IMPAQTO and Tesalia CBC in two neighborhoods of Quito: San Enrique de Velasco and Santa Clara of Millán. In the last quarter of 2020, 32 trainings were carried out in 60 days, as well as 7 field visits. Overall, 20 neighborhood stores participated in the initiative and 12 young people in a situation of informality were involved as promoters of the social currency.
- A MOOC was developed and launched by UNDP's 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.

In 2020, and in partnership with the ILO Project Economic integration of Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees in Peru and Ecuador through decent work, 581 people were trained in the SIYB program. The target group was youth in informality and migrants. For 2021, the JP expects to reach 1.500 new beneficiaries from the two vulnerable groups nationally.

By the end of the programme, it is expected to engage 500 young men and women in the design of local based care models, financial inclusion mechanisms and training programs. Further, it is expected to reach 26.000 young parents who are beneficiaries of public services of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion; out of these, at least 100 will participate in the designs of local care services and financial inclusion mechanisms. It is of the interest of this JP to benefit our target group from all the products and services contributing to transition towards formality, including labour reconversion programs.

Gender marker

- 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, as well as the barriers that stress gender differences in the inclusion of women into labor and financial markets and social protection systems. This information is disaggregated by sex.
- The JP has been working closely with public institutions whose main target population are women in poverty (Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion) and the area that promotes gender equality in the Ministry of Labor (Direction for Vulnerable Groups). At the local level, the JP worked closely with areas of the Municipalities that promote gender equality and women's empowerment particularly in Loja, Quito and Guayaquil. In Machala, there is not a specific area dedicated to it but as a project, the JP emphasized the implementation of the gender focus in the activities with this Municipality.
- During this year women's organizations and young women leaders were invited to participate in the project. In a joint collaboration with these women, the JP was able to run diagnostics on their situation regarding employment, social protection, financial inclusion and care responsibilities. Women from the four cities participated in forums, focal groups and surveys.
- Due to the crisis, it was considered that component 3 needed to be strengthened in order to contribute to women's labor reconversion/retraining. In this way, the output focused on transition to formality has a specific activity that will exclusively consider the female population.
- The budget dedicated to close gaps is 32% and based on the changes made in component 3, the budget dedicated to the inclusion of women as direct beneficiaries increased 3 percentage points to 15%.

Human rights

- The project considers in its implementation 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 our youth regarding the importance of human rights fulfilment in order 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 design and validation of an innovative scheme to incorporate youth into the contribution-based social security system. In this regard, the joint work has focused on pinpointing the challenges to identify young people in informality and on accessing social protection; on characterizing young informal workers, identifying social protection (SP) gaps as well as estimating the cost of these gaps; and in the strategy that will be used to sensitize young workers on their right to access social protection. Finally, the JP partnered with IESS to implement a behavioral insights intervention, which was key in co-designing the initiative based on their information and expertise in social security schemes.
- **Ministry of Labor:** permanent and joint actions towards institutional strengthening by developing Best Business Practices Certification for firms that hire young workers, reinforcing training programs through rapid assessments of training and retraining needs and through the strengthening of the public job search platform to better reach target population needs.
- **SECAP:** the JP has developed a close relation with the public service for professional training to implement the SIYB program, and which is expected to be institutionalized by the SECAP in 2021 so that more beneficiaries can be reached.
- **Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion:** this Ministry is the governing entity in inclusion and the JP established a strategic alliance to reach the target population, particularly women who are in vulnerable conditions and receive social benefits. The Ministry recently incorporated an area dedicated to foster youth employment and inclusion. The JP has strengthened this relationship and is coordinating activities to complement efforts from economic and social inclusion areas.
- **Local governments (Quito, Guayaquil, Machala y Loja):** joint work to design road maps that include design and implementation of training and retraining programs, implementation of an awareness-raising strategy as well as collaborative construction of financial inclusion mechanisms, a financial strategy and a care model.

- **Ecuadorian Central Bank:** contribution to the development and promotion of the National Strategy of Financial Inclusion. The JP promotes collaborative work between the Bank and the regulatory institutions and other financial actors, including Fintech to promote the strategy, design products and test them with youth and women.
- **Social Registry Unit (URS in Spanish):** The JP partnered with the URS to construct the registry of youth in informality. The institution will host and update the registry and will foster a fluid communication with other government institutions to guarantee the constant exchange of information.
- **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.
- **Human Rights Secretariat:** Leads the national strategy of Violet Economy. This strategy is intended to empower women and provide opportunities to generate livelihoods. The Secretariat facilitates the creation of interinstitutional spaces to promote dialogue, which will contribute to the JPs efforts to expand financial inclusion for women.
- **Private and Public Financial Institutions:** the JP has worked together with several national financial institutions to identify youth financial inclusion barriers and challenges. These spaces contributed to recognize the limitations of these institutions to provide financial services to the target population.
- **Regulatory Financial Institutions:** The JP collaborated with the regulatory entities to obtain normative and regulatory advice on the financial products to be developed by the JP and strengthen the proposed National Financial Inclusion Strategy.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
JP launch event	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>in person</i>
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>virtually</i>

Funding and financing

- Due not only to the pandemic, but to an ongoing economic crisis, Ecuador has limited fiscal space (to apply countercyclical policies, increase government spending in goods and services and in transfers to vulnerable groups) and monetary policy tools to deal with the crisis. For this reason, it was challenging to leverage additional funding from the Government. Nevertheless, the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute had previously expressed their interest to contribute in the implementation of the innovative contributory scheme designed to ease social security coverage to young informal workers. The JP expects to continue the work to secure additional funding in 2021.
- The stakeholder mapping carried out to identify key actors to design financial inclusion mechanisms suggests that private financial institutions can provide in-kind support. Some financial institutions have experience developing prototypes and testing them in their financial innovation labs, they have expressed their interest in collaborating with the JP. On the other hand, public institutions and financial institutions are getting funding to reactivate the economy and will be allocated in financial products for women and youth with potential allies like National Corporation for Popular and Solidary Finances (CONAFIPS in Spanish) and the Violet Economy Strategy (Economía Violeta). This is considered as an opportunity to indirectly leverage funds to test inclusive mechanisms through productive credits.
- In 2021, the JP plans to leverage additional funding through the European Commission as part of the funds the EU has allocated for international cooperation.

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 also applied behavioral insights to evaluate whether designing communication messages that respond to cognitive biases towards social security can be an effective tool to nudge young informal workers to enroll in social security. An RCT was applied by randomizing individuals into a control and treatment group, the latter of which received e-mail and SMS messages highlighting health coverage benefits vs. other social security benefits such as household loans, pensions, occupational hazard insurance, life insurance.
- The database of the digital survey was used by the 23 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 and Innovation Challenge was launched to find a digital solution to collect young informal workers information. The framework given to think outside the box was to go beyond:
 - SURVEYS thinking in new ways to collect data and considering that informal workers may not have access to smartphones or internet connection.
 - BILATERAL RELATIONS (data provider-> data manager) guaranteeing a democratic use of data where various actors can access it and use it (open data)
 - "COMMON" DATA MANAGEMENT MODEL generating a data model without a "middle-man" and assuring users' data ownership and protection.

Strategic communications

- STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN to determine the key audiences, messages and communication materials that are necessary to achieve JP objectives.
- SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS to promote participation in surveys and training programs developed by the JP.
- PERIODICAL ARTICLE PUBLICATION to cover JP events, actions and results
- LESSONS LEARNED materials, as articles and blog entries, to account for the data collection, focus group and experimentation processes.
 - <https://jointsdgfund.org/author/paulina-jimenez>
 - <https://www.jointsdgfund.org/author/ana-maria-grijalva>

B. 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:

Most of the expected results were achieved during 2020. 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, 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.

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 as a way to mitigate possible delays.

Contribution to Fund's global results

During 2020, 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.

In terms of outcome 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented, the JP was able to make progress in the development of a financial inclusion strategy together with the Ecuadorian Central Bank, private and public financial institutions and regulatory institutions 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. Further, a Best Business Practice Certification was developed, which will be implemented in 2021 via Ministerial Agreement by the Ministry of Labor, and thus contributing to the achievement of SDG target 8.5. Lastly, the JP has moved forward in the institutionalization of the Start and Improve your Business program with government counterparts in order to encourage people in vulnerable situations to improve their sources of employment, either by recovering/improving their current businesses or creating their own employment through entrepreneurship, thus accelerating the achievement of target 4.4.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

Achievement of expected outputs:

In 2020, the JP has made progress in the development of an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-based social security system and results have been achieved through the estimation of the current situation of social protection (contributory and non-contributory) in the four territories. This result was achieved in consultation with institutional and local actors, including young women and men, and it included an estimation of the magnitude and cost to close social protection gaps (gender and age) to support the strategy's financial sustainability proposal. Further, progress was made in the development of a national register for persons working in informal activities through the identification of the challenges public institutions have to identify young people in informality. Similarly, the JP made progress in identifying international experiences and lessons learned in terms of expanding social security coverage to informal workers, especially the self-employed, in order to develop an innovative contributory scheme together with the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute and the Ministry of Labor. An additional output achieved was the design of a sensitization campaign on the importance of the access to the right to social protection, which was validated by IESS and will be implemented in 2021. It is expected that the campaign will reach at least half of the target population in the four territories.

As for the expected results on the development of a financial inclusion strategy directed to informal sector workers, the JP supported the Central Bank to develop and promote the National Strategy and mainstreamed the gender focus. An executive decree is expected to be issued the first quarter of 2021, which will kick-off the implementation of the strategy. The project promoted collaborative work between the Central Bank, academia, regulatory entities, CSOs and public and private financial institutions to prepare the implementation of the National Strategy focused on young men and women in informality. In addition, a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the current situation of financial inclusion of youth in informality in the selected territories was conducted and shed light on the priorities to consider when it comes to implement the National Strategy. Finally, a systematization of good practices in the global south on financial inclusion were identified and these will be an input in the design of financial inclusion mechanisms.

In terms of achieving the expected results related to strategies to accelerate the target group's transition to decent working conditions, including vocational/technical training, the JP successfully implemented the SIYB program and trained 581 people in informality. Further, a proposal for training and retraining was developed, which includes soft, digital, entrepreneurship, care services provision and green-job related skills, which will be tested and implemented in 2021.

Achievement of expected contributions to outcomes:

In terms of the first outcome: strengthened national institutional capacity and sustainability of the social protection system to serve the young population (aged 18-29 years) working in the informal economy, 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." Further, the JP has strengthened the knowledge of

local governments regarding care systems through workshops with international experts and learning and sharing spaces.

In regards to the second outcome: “men and women working in the informal economy in the cities of Quito, Guayaquil, Loja and Machala, have access to services and training for transitioning to formality, decent working conditions and contributory social protection schemes,” the JP has made progress in identifying the reskilling and upskilling needs of employers and in proposing a training program that is expected to be tested and implemented jointly with the public service for professional training (SECAP) and private and public universities, through an implementation agreement to be signed in 2021.

Moreover, the JP facilitated a learning space in collaboration with open data civil society organization Datalat to launch a School of Data. In this initiative, 28 scholarships were granted to young representatives from several civil society organizations to develop the participants’ skills on information gathering, analysis, and data visualization.

Workplan

- JP workplan was modified
 - JP workplan was not modified
- Explain briefly:

Due to restrictions on large concentrations of people that were put in place for 6 months, the activities that involved large gatherings with different actors were suppressed; hence, the workplan was modified and the funds were relocated to other activities requested by the Ministry of Labor on result 3 “strategies to accelerate the target group’s transition to decent working conditions.” To accommodate these new requests, the design of an awareness-raising strategy towards the right to social protection was moved from output 3 to output 1: “design and validate an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-base social security system.”

Furthermore, a quarter of youth has exited from the contributory security system during the pandemic. This implies there has been an increase in the number of young people who are in informality. Moreover, the pandemic has unleashed an unprecedented economic crisis with a forecasted growth rate of -9% for 2020. The JP is committed to undertake all the efforts to reach youth in informality at least in the same proportion as proposed pre-pandemic. In order to do that the workplan and final targets are currently being revised.

C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation

Next year

The focus of the JP for the final year will be the construction of the national registry for the informal youth, which will also be a key input for the design and validation of the innovative scheme to incorporate the target population into the social security system. In this sense, the JP will continue the work with the URS, IESS and Ministry of Labor to strengthen the institutional capacity and sustainability of the Ecuadorian social protection system. The national registry will be complemented by the implementation of the Innovation Challenge, which will allow collecting young informal workers’ information through innovative technological tools. Furthermore, the JP will develop the legal framework needed to implement the innovative scheme, as well as the financial strategy to make the proposal sustainable, focusing on social protection floors and care policies. The JP’s technical work will be accompanied with the implementation of the awareness-raising campaign on the right to access social protection and with behavioral experiments to promote youth insertion in the proposed contributory mechanism. In addition to this, the JP will focus on the implementation of a gender sensitive financial inclusion mechanism by taking advantage of Fintech developments in the region and South-South cooperation to evaluate inclusion mechanisms adapted to pre-existent services.

In terms of the outcome 2: “men and women working in informal activities have access to services, knowledge and capabilities to foster their transition to formality, decent working conditions and contributory social protection schemes,” the JP will focus on the implementation of innovative certified technical and vocational training programs to foster youth in their transition to the labor market. The training programs will

be gender sensitive and will take into account the new world of work. Moreover, the JP expects to institutionalize the SIYB program through partnerships with the Ecuadorian professional training service institution (SECAP), as well as universities, NGOs and civil society organizations that were certified in 2020. Furthermore, the JP will implement the training and retraining programs that were proposed and came as a result of the rapid assessments carried out in 2020 in the four territories, in four main areas: digital skills, soft skills, green economy, and entrepreneurship, as well as financial education, and training in occupations traditionally associated with men (STEM and construction).

In regards to the tools developed to foster access to decent working conditions, the JP will continue to strengthen the public job search platform of the Ministry of Labor by developing a web tool and a mobile app. This tool will provide more detailed information about vacancies, required skills, mean salary, industry and occupation classifications and other labor market information so that young people can make a more informed decision when searching or applying for jobs and better their chances of being hired. Furthermore, the JP will continue to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Labor in the implementation of the Best Business Practices Certification for firms that hire young workers.

Finally, the JP is expected to design and validate the local based care model developed in close coordination to the local governments of the four territories, test the prototypes developed and report on best practices applied and learned lessons. These activities will be key inputs in the design of a national care policy that can be scaled up at the national level and replicated in other territories, and propose a care bill.

Towards the end of JP implementation

One of the expected final results is that 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 the young population, with equal opportunities for women and men. This is expected to be achieved through the implementation of the National Social Protection strategy developed by the national government with the support from the UNS.

In terms of the result related to the development of a contributory scheme, validated and implemented within IESS, it will be accomplished by designing the innovative contributory scheme to incorporate young people to social security together with IESS and the Ministry of Labor, through forming coordinated technical groups and with the advice from experts from the PUNOs.

In terms of the financial sustainability model, the JP expects to form a team of experts, which will include technical experts from different institutions as well as from the participating PUNOs. Further, the JP will use specialized tools to identify the financing gaps based on the existing provisions and allocations of resources to social protection and to conduct a fiscal space analysis to examine financing options to fill the financing gaps.

In the outcome 3, it is expected by 2021 that gender sensitive strategies and programs support and accelerate the transition to decent work for youth, considering future labor market conditions, have been designed and tested in a pilot. Further, the JP will develop and implement training programs based on the results obtained in the rapid assessment for reskilling and upskilling needs, prioritizing four areas: soft skills, digital skills, green economy, entrepreneurship, care services and training in occupations traditionally associated with men to foster women's participation in sectors such as STEM and construction. These programs will be complemented with financial education and a gender/age sensitive sensitization program to encourage young workers to access to labor rights, particularly social security and protection. Further, the results are expected to be accomplished through the contribution and technical assistance on the efforts to implement the National Financial Inclusion Strategy with focus on young men and women in informality. Lastly, the JP will provide the Central Bank with evidence on the impact generation of financial education programs to define the criteria for designing a complementary National Financial Education Strategy.

By 2021, it is expected to have an innovative care system model design based on local-supplier networking (public-private partnerships and community initiatives). To propose a care system that provides daily care for young fathers and mothers in selected territories, the JP will carry out a participatory impact mapping exercise to identify local priorities and aspirations regarding care. This is the main input to establish the

guidelines for designing a care system. The work on social innovation methodologies will continue its development to ensure collecting users' needs and to co-create the systems prototypes and models that could fulfil the needs of young men and women with children under 5 year of age. When it comes to testing prototypes, the JP will articulate stakeholders and direct their actions toward setting up the models, collecting learning experiences and improving the prototypes. This process is relevant to be undertaken in each territory because it will provide evidence to propose a care system model that will fulfill youth care needs and generate impacts. Therefore, the achievement of the expected result of designing a care public policy will rely on collaborative, iterative and learning processes.

A quarter of youth has exited from the contributory security system during the pandemic. This implies there has been an increase in the number of young people who are in informality. Further, the pandemic has unleashed an unprecedented economic crisis with a forecasted growth rate for the country of -9% for 2020. The JP is committed to undertake all the efforts needed to reach youth in informality at least in the same proportion as proposed pre-pandemic. In order to do that the workplan and final targets are currently being revised.

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 has become a strong disincentive for informal workers, especially young ones, to formalize and start contributing to the system.

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

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

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

Further, the absence of joint implementation mechanisms among contributory and noncontributory social protection programs, could lead to tensions at national and local level.

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 in order to remain relevant, increase its visibility and provide recurring updates on the JP and its implementation. The technical team will take into account the priorities of local and central government counterparts to ensure their constant engagement with the JP.

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

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (annual)

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

List up to 3 main SDG targets that your Joint Programme primarily focused on in 2020

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

1.1 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scope¹ in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

The JP has worked closely with national government counterparts and UN Agencies to develop a multisectoral National Social Protection Strategy, led by the Technical Secretariat "Plan Toda una Vida." 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.

1.2 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scale² in 2020? (if so, brief explanation)

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

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

1.3 Number of innovative solutions tested in 2020

Total number disaggregated by % successful and unsuccessful:

Provide the list: Financial inclusion strategy (progress); Best Business Practice Certification (progress); Start and Improve your Business program (progress); Digital Prototype to help youngsters identify misleading job ads (1 tested and 1 successful, 100%).

Explain briefly:

¹Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

²Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

-The JP was able to make progress in the development of a financial inclusion strategy together with the Ecuadorian Central Bank. Further, a Best Business Practice Certification was developed, which will be implemented in 2021 via Ministerial Agreement from the Ministry of Labor, and thus contribute to the achievement of SDG target 8.5. Lastly, the JP has moved forward in the institutionalization of the Start and Improve your Business program with government counterparts in order to encourage people in vulnerable situations to improve their sources of employment.

- UNDP's AcCLab carried out a participatory workshop to understand digital risks associated with e-commerce and online job hunting. As a result, an online course was developed to train young people so they can use tools to identify those risks. 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.

1.4 Number of integrated policy solutions implemented with the national partners in lead in 2020

Total number: 0

Provide the list

Explain briefly:

1.5 Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

1.6 Did your Joint Programme develop a functioning partnership framework for integrated policy solutions to accelerate progress on SDGs in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

2. Selected global performance indicators (annual)

2.1. Did your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of overall UNCT coherence in 2020?

Yes, considerably contributed

Yes, contributed

No

Explain briefly:

The interagency social protection group was activated after the COVID-19 pandemic. This group is led by UN women and several agencies of the United Nations system have an active participation. The implementing agencies of the JP have played an important role in the group and have helped to consolidate the proposals for socio-economic recovery in pillar 2: social protection.

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to reduced transaction costs for participating UN agencies in their interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other Joint Programmes?

Yes,

- No
- N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly:

Despite the fact that there is another JP in the country, it began its implementation recently so a comparison cannot be made. The three agencies have coordinated the inter-institutional relationships to avoid duplication or transaction costs.

2.3. Was your Joint Programme aligned with the UNCT Results Groups in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The three agencies have actively participated in the UNDAF 2020 results reporting activities in 2020 and in the operational planning of 2021, especially in the group of "Persons".

2.4. Did your Joint Programme secure additional funding resources in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

The JP expects to continue the work to secure additional funding in 2021.

3. Results as per JP Results Framework (annual)

Results/indicators	Baseline	Expected 2020 Target	2020 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected 2021 Target	Expected final target (if different from 2021)
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	
Percentage of youth population in selected territories who can	Base line will be prepared in selected territories, in the				70%	

improve their access to formal labour and financial inclusion (at least half are women)	beginning of the implementation					
Percentage of youth population with access to the contributive social protection system					40%	
Percentage of youth in selected territories, have access to vocational/ technical training.					65%	
Percentage of the young population accessing vocational and technical training are women.					45%	
Percentage of young women are technically trained in traditionally masculine-related activities.					30%	
Youth in selected territories, have increased access to daily care services.					At least 10 percentage points.	
Young male fathers' dependent workers in selected territories increase their effective access to parental license					At least 15 points.	
Percentage points increase in youth participation in formal labor market.					At least 9 points	
Design and validate an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-based social security system						
By 2020 social protection gender/age gaps have been identified and different	There is not a gender/age gap study within the country	Study has been conducted	3 studies were conducted: • Report on the Profiling of the Young			

costing scenarios have been evaluated.			<p>Population in Informality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Status of Social Protection for the Informal Youth. • Report on the Costing Model to Close Social Protection Gaps. 			
By 2021 a contributory scheme design has been developed, validated and implemented within IEES.	There is not an adapted contributory scheme.					Scheme has been implemented and validated
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 has been designed and validated by Central Bank however this strategy has not been implemented yet	The Central Bank developed the strategy and the JP contributed to the incorporation of the gender focus. Currently, an executive decree is being elaborated to put the strategy in place. It is expected to be issued during the first quarter 2021.		
Design the social protection model's financial sustainability strategy						
By 2021, a financial sustainability model for contributory and non - contributory social protection mechanisms	There is not a sustainability model for the contributory scheme.					Model has been identified and discussed

have been identified, discussed and validated.						
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	1 fiscal sustainability strategy developed	Budget report for the implementation and sustainability of public policies on social protection including the identification of possible sources of financing		Fiscal report has been conducted	
Design strategies to accelerate the target group's transition to decent working conditions, including vocational / technical training						
By 2021, new gender sensitive strategies and models to support and accelerate the transition to decent work for youth, considering future labor market conditions, have been designed and tested in a pilot	There are not gender sensitive strategies and models to support transition to decent work for youth.				Models have been designed and tested	
Gender/age sensitive sensitization program validated and in place for encouraging young workers to access to labor rights, particularly social security and protection					Sensitization program validated and in place	
Design and validate a locally-based care service model for young mothers and fathers in the informal economy						
By 2021, an innovative model based in local-supplier networking (public-private partnerships and community initiatives) to provide daily care for young fathers and	1 Participatory study of care service gaps elaborated 4 daily care model proposals elaborated via consultations (participatory workshops) with the	1 Locally - based daily care model implemented and tested	Quantitative diagnosis completed	It was necessary to carry out a quantitative baseline to identify gaps	1 proposal of a national care policy, presented and discussed with national relevant actors (MIES, National Council of Gender	

mothers, has been developed, validated and tested (pilot) in selected territories.	local actors, 1 per locality		Stakeholder mapping developed Impact mapping developed User centered methodology developed to design the model		Equality, Ministry of Labor and IESS) 1 proposal of a national care law discussed and validated	
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Annex 2: List of strategic documents

Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Jóvenes en situación de informalidad - Mapeo del problema. [Young informal workers: Issue Mapping].	04/20	Report on issue mapping of young informal workers that participated in two workshops that took place in Quito and Guayaquil. The study compiles qualitative information related to the target population and an early analysis of its characteristics and challenges to become part of the contributory social protection system.
Sistematización de políticas y programas de licencias de maternidad y paternidad vigentes en América Latina [Systematization of parental leave policies and programs in Latin America].	05/20	Comparative analysis of normative and policies on parental leave and other social benefits for workers with family responsibilities in the region.
Mapeo de soluciones de alternativas de afiliación social [Solutions mapping on alternatives for social affiliation]	06/20	Research and compilation of alternatives for social affiliation as inputs for the design of an innovative scheme to incorporate the target group into the contribution-based social security system.
Informe del taller sobre Desafíos de Seguridad Digital en la Búsqueda de Trabajo y Economía Popular por Internet [Report on the workshop on the challenges on digital security and online job search].	06/20	Report on the results of the workshops carried out with women to identify digital risks in the labor market. As a result, an online course was developed to train young people so they can use tools to identify those risks.
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].	08/20	Report on the results of quantitative and qualitative research about expectations that young people working in informality (in the formal sector) have regarding the social protection system in Ecuador.
Desafíos en los Sistemas de Registro e Identificación de Trabajadores Informales [Challenges in the Registration Systems to Identify Informal Workers].	09/20	Report of challenges identified among young people in informality to access the current social protection system. This research is also an input for the design of an innovative scheme to incorporate this population.

Informe de la Caracterización de la Población Joven en Informalidad [Report on the Profiling of the Young Population in Informality].	09/20	Characterization of the target population.
Reporte sobre las brechas de la protección social para jóvenes en informalidad [Report on the Status of Social Protection for the Informal Youth].	09/20	Quantitative research on social protection gender and age gaps to better design actions and policies for incorporation of youth to the contributory social security system.
Costeo del cierre de brechas de protección social [Report on the Costing Model to Close Social Protection Gaps].	09/20	Quantitative study to determine costs to close social protection gaps previously identified in the report of profiling of the target population. The research is an output to design the innovative scheme to incorporate this population.
Informe de resultados de la encuesta a jóvenes en la informalidad [Report on the Results of the Survey to the Informal Youth].	09/20	Report on statistics gathered through the virtual survey applied to the target population. The study strengthens the report on the profiling of this population.
Reporte de la situación actual y propuestas para la mejora del cumplimiento de licencias de maternidad, paternidad y lactancia [Report on Current Status and Proposals to Improve the Compliance of Parental Leaves].	09/20	Analysis of situation and good practices of parental leaves compliance and other benefits to reduce conflict between employment and family responsibilities in Ecuador.
Estrategia de Sensibilización del Derecho al Acceso a la Protección Social [Report on the Sensitization Strategy on the Right to Access Social Protection].	10/20	Quantitative and qualitative study through surveys and interviews applied to the target population complemented with interviews to focal points of PUNOS, strategic actors from national government, employers and workers' organizations. The study results led to the development of the sensitization strategy.
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].	12/20	Collaborative work with the Ministry of Labor towards the development of the certification manual in order to encourage enterprises to hire young people applying best business practices so the target population can access decent work conditions.
Evaluación Rápida de necesidades de cualificación y recualificación de competencias y propuesta de programas de capacitación, cualificación y recualificación para los jóvenes en situación de informalidad, con enfoque de género [Rapid assessment of reskilling and upskilling needs in response to the COVID-19 crisis and a proposal for training and retraining programs].	12/20	Qualitative and quantitative quick study applied to business in order to determine reskilling and upskilling needs regarding the target population. The study led to the development of proposals for training and retraining programs that will be implemented by national and local government institutions from 2021.
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]	12/20	Research on successful mechanisms of social protection in the Global South and comparative analysis that led to the development of a proposal to be applied in Ecuador by taking into account pre-existing contributory and non contributory schemes.
Diagnóstico cuantitativo y cualitativo de la oferta y demanda de cuidados, a nivel nacional y local con énfasis en las respuestas a la crisis de la COVID-19 y el cierre de centros [Qualitative and quantitative study of care services supply and demand with focus on COVID-19 responses]	12/20	Qualitative and quantitative study of the care services demand and supply of youth in the selected territories. This study sheds light on the current demand of care services for children under 5 and the new forms of social organization of care in response to the closure of centers during the crisis; and examines the situation of care services supply.

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Nota técnica para ayudar a orientar la discusión sobre las políticas para promover el trabajo decente de los jóvenes en Ecuador [<i>Technical note to lead the discussion on the promotion of decent work policies for young people in Ecuador</i>]	06/20	

Annex 3: Strategic communication results

3.1. Have you created a strategic communication plan for the Joint Programme?

- Yes
- No

Explain briefly:

An external communication consultant was appointed to create the strategic communication plan. The final document was reviewed by the UN agencies that are part of the Joint Programme. The strategy includes the main communication objectives, messages, target publics, and communication materials suggested to accomplish the SDG Programme objectives. An estimated budget for the communication materials and actions was developed. Some adjustments will be made to this communication plan in order to reach the current activities schedule and the restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2. What percentage of the annual budget towards communications was utilized from the total budget? (Note that the entire JP comms budget must be min 5% of the total JP budget)

Explain briefly:

2.3% of the annual budget was utilized towards the communication area. At the end of 2020, a communication assistant was hired as part of the project staff; this will help to achieve communication objectives and budget execution for the next year.

3.3. Have visibility outcomes increased due to the provided funding for JP strategic communications?

- Yes
- No

Explain briefly:

The provided funding for strategic communication has contributed to the creation of a strategic communication plan. This planning tool is essential for achieving the Program outcomes' visibility through the correct definition of the messages, target groups, and materials. Additionally, the communication assistant will execute the actions determined on the strategic plan and adjust the communications activities according to the completed activities and outputs.

3.4. Does the Country Profile Page on the Joint SDG Fund website contribute to your JP outreach?

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

The Country Profile Page is essential for the JP Outreach; it allows the JP to have a unified platform for finding all the information needed about the Programme, as well as the related articles and technical documents. The SDG web page and the UN brand is important for the reliability and credibility of the Programme in the eyes of the different stakeholders and UN Agencies.

3.5. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc) about JP were published by an external media outlet (Non-UN published)?

Total number: 7

Explain briefly:

Several stakeholders published articles about the JP Programme and the actions completed. Notably, the Ecuadorian Institute for Social Security announced the JP launch through press releases and social media posts, and video materials. An expert insight was published in the Financial institutions' Digital Magazine regarding financial inclusion for young men and women in the informal economy.

3.6. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc) about the Joint Programme were published by the UNCT and JP PUNOs?

Total number: 13

Explain briefly:

13 articles were published by UNCT and JP PUNOs, including UN Women, UNDP, ILO, UN Ecuador, and the Joint SDG Fund. The variety of platforms for publishing the articles allows the JP to reach different audiences. Several subjects were addressed: data gathering process, financial inclusion, the impact of COVID-19 in the labor market, training programs, and cybersecurity, among others. The different themes were approached through

blog entries, press releases, human interest stories, and expert insights. Moreover, the publications were written in English and Spanish, making them accessible to a wider audience.

3.7. Have you received an increase of social media followers?

Yes

No

Total number: (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly:

The Joint Programme does not have individual social media accounts; consequently, it is not possible to determine a growth in social media followers.

Multi-Media Faucets

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Ecuador's Joint Programme: Social Protection for Young Men and Women in the Informal Economy Project	04/2020	Article - Workshop and the focus group to identify the main causes that prevent youth insertion into the formal economy. https://www.jointsdgifund.org/article/ecuadors-joint-programme-social-protection-young-men-and-women-informal-economy-project
Llueve sobre mojado: Algunos desafíos de jóvenes en situación de informalidad [When it rains, it pours: Some challenges for young people in an informal situation]	04/2020	Blog post - Workshop, focus group to identify the challenges faced by young people in informality https://medium.com/@ecuadorpnud/llueve-sobre-mojado-c91de0922453
When it rains, it pours: Some challenges for young people in an informal situation	04/2020	Article - Workshop, focus group to identify the challenges faced by young people in informality https://www.jointsdgifund.org/article/when-it-rains-it-pours-some-challenges-young-people-informal-situation
United Nations Project will Promote the Social Protection of Young People in Ecuador	04/2020	Press release - Launch of the SDG Project: Expanding the social protection system for young men and women in the informal economy. https://www.jointsdgifund.org/article/united-nations-project-will-promote-social-protection-young-people-ecuador
COVID-19 and Social Protection: Ecuador's Joint SDG Program has become a key instrument to develop social protection strategies	05/2020	Expert Insight- Importance of social protection during the COVID-19 crisis https://jointsdgifund.org/article/covid-19-and-social-protection-ecuadors-joint-sdg-program-has-become-key-instrument-develop
Life in times of COVID-19 and informality	05/2020	Human interest story - Informality and the story of a young worker in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador

		https://jointsgdfund.org/article/life-times-covid-19-and-informality
OIT capacita a MYPIMES para promover la continuidad empresarial en el Ecuador [ILO training to MSME to promote business continuity in Ecuador]	06/2020	Press release - Training programs for young entrepreneurs https://www.ilo.org/lima/sala-de-prensa/WCMS_752800/lang--es/index.htm
Desafíos en ciberseguridad: Diálogo con mujeres internautas de la economía informal [Cybersecurity challenges: conversations with young women in informality]	07/2020	Human interest story - Online Job Searching and Cyber Security for young women https://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/blog/2020/desafios-en-ciberseguridad--dialogo-con-mujeres-internautas-de-l.html
Jóvenes en la informalidad y lo que sabemos sobre sus condiciones de trabajo: Parte 1, levantamiento de información [Young people in the informal economy and what we know about their working conditions: Part 1: Data gathering]	08/2020	Blog Post - Innovation in data recollection about young people in informality https://www.ec.undp.org/content/ecuador/es/home/blog/2020/jovenes-en-la-informalidad-y-lo-que-sabemos-sobre-sus-condicione.html
Proyecto "Expansión del sistema de protección social para hombres y mujeres jóvenes en situación de informalidad", presenta sus avances del primer año [First year progress report of the JP "Expanding the social protection system for young men and women in the informal economy" to donors]	12/2020	Press release - First Year Progress report https://ecuador.un.org/es/106200-proyecto-expansion-del-sistema-de-proteccion-social-para-hombres-y-mujeres-jovenes-en
First year progress report of the JP "Expanding the social protection system for young men and women in the informal economy" to donors	12/2020	Press release - First Year Progress report https://www.jointsgdfund.org/article/first-year-progress-report-jp-expanding-social-protection-system-young-men-and-women
Escuela de Datos: Diagnóstico colaborativo sobre la realidad laboral de los jóvenes en Ecuador	01/2021	Press release - School of Data training and student graduation event https://www.ilo.org/lima/sala-de-prensa/WCMS_766860/lang--es/index.htm
Ecuador launches the School of Data initiative: A collaborative diagnostic on young people in informal employment	01/2021	Press release - School of Data training and student graduation event https://www.jointsgdfund.org/article/ecuador-launches-school-data-initiative-collaborative-diagnostic-young-people-informal

Social Media Campaigns

Title of the document	Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/Etc.)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
International Youth Day Ecuador	Twitter	Infographic images with data of young people in informality, in Ecuador. https://jointsgdfund.org/index.php/article/international-youth-day-ecuador

		<p>https://twitter.com/JointSDGFund/status/1295712461962784772?s=20</p> <p>https://twitter.com/JointSDGFund/status/1295712461962784772?s=21</p> <p>https://twitter.com/JointSDGFund/status/1295712461962784772?s=22</p> <p>https://twitter.com/JointSDGFund/status/1295712461962784772?s=23</p> <p>https://twitter.com/JointSDGFund/status/1295712461962784772?s=24</p>
<p>Online Survey for young people in informality and COVID-19 consequences on the labor market</p>	<p>Facebook Instagram</p>	<p>Social media campaign to encourage young people to participate in online survey.</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/p/B_xy9HugBtX/</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/p/B_2uQI2qb2V/</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/ecuador.pnud/photos/a.262441303949850/1564907623703205/?type=3&eid=ARAAm6o3J7sgh8ksdlL6IF6031MODap58DLv4Zojw3VY1dUa6mwsdPyAxtDj1PsztD-8eQXilTDjrUG&xts%5B0%5D=68.ARAfYGRo3SZGhy-MRb3yhzMelY NMenW6WiMGrvWcJcNtkWxIbknHI2xb UokmCOhcB1ArpZbJHppUmUrQjK-YixWBFvoTfbbx22rln1Nat1ejorx5qm1oLC5ASqpPOyqY7EDRWm7F5FWLVB64_aFmVj9FMTUNQJGVotcg1rJle2UVBqdBFV3jCT5EjMHx_E6DeOTO5MbAtJiliOe-ncAJqAH2I56NB0bsqZAaLtkUhwF4k3eaXp-3oK7GhKNM0KjuAEpu9a2--b5kzrMomrd-ZpVg13JwGtVCiWrgenJqJYuvBRhsL3zC54Gbx0N5bsqqPVWkgBzWmppGjZdcPwW6A&tn=EEHH-R</p> <p>https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fshorturl.at%2FImQ39%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1NmWJs3EcOJZgoNBDoqHnVChiYR6Fe3-IJN26siqUqBPZEzF5hPmcvnoo&h=AT0SXxplpx1GT2cMIz4M81AvmK0NXXqWQFwp2fPofX1NUwAF1RI-wOAYixIKzacO75RpHLho0Fd2VMo8m34fuQhbG0rWMuwuNWdKUs0V1Sf3OmslHYWe_w9FzB2n7M8FOY6eC34VJD_S7ej4YzuYuDKY852K5464_kFoxIKp6QzOOjiCgUqQwGQ90JmfdFFWz5t7E5C1IbQWvt51vPd2VgoHekZnm3qmRSSpOIVycbLxwQ260UWvsqFF6FqvN-wW5vGp-TS-6EaBawNw9rfPmLiqWxdZL9vErEdGnmP1XSckkTwwn-zpHIYLj5dfTzqAlqB33mn7wen5QRPOdG8ZiLYabDW0dE8Ji4R4mStMajcfp_4eaFbqFgrOqU8j7Acag38Ype447C2INGQFARwWGojOtp5KS8r34FNcfhYz8paFvJdiPwP3V5zAqM7xHWxRe3PSoA2YSAD_j5yB1WtzmNQQ1exNp6rWYAPa4ksq5h6UTteZft3ch5UL0g7CfwvxACJbVRrS8k-2iyYJX3DQ2wX8S4T9b9paWG1dhvMr4OEMBQctKbatelY_rolUY3Ojuu8UMsu2jn4tm3TWZwKgcUAccDc6_L6_q-ziqYD5qhASoWc1Wa5FQ4</p>

		https://www.facebook.com/ureportecuador/photos/a.267205537549856/551829715754102/?type=3&eid=ARCXx2QEvhFBAscjNI42w11yDK9JAKj6MMcCUY-AkJbLddixv7jdyjRNM2lz9psE9atjbUpNDGadB8i&_xts%5B0%5D=68.ARA4JUA55eQDqWabiCyyCDN6_-eZ82eelNVarpHt4prKqtZvIfQuxF_D_Dj4yyBS98X7MYJJ_SABoo47o7KVd_WGIVt4GWZUooBpYMINIC9jKjRJoZmPjEMTOIKIO45jkGpGCrsu_y1cGaiLub3MVxUNMftqYs6YrzQB15hPAm5zHb1rH-iBMISbEWt0UOdx74Lmnlh1ItRyjISOqtt1YifvVu2vghriVBkuxzZALWEd1Fm3jedS9aWRzTI23DOgRORy7EOLUR9wTOMxpJdO6fmyPSIxRT5tgb_32vbo3Hfa64gnUtocagsHWgKAI9yehQDMg-ZxFZpOGq5FjLFzCM&_tn=EEHH-R
School of Data Promotion	Facebook Instagram Twitter	https://www.facebook.com/ecuador.pnud/photos/1812872622240036?locale=es_ES https://www.facebook.com/ecuador.pnud/photos/1725681107625855/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CGNR5FsAgy3/ https://www.instagram.com/p/CJwoihfrrCc/ https://twitter.com/PNUDEcuador/status/1315306430401052672?s=20
Innovation Challenge, participation promotion	Facebook Twitter	https://www.facebook.com/ecuador.pnud/photos/1792508077609824?locale=es_ES https://twitter.com/PNUDEcuador/status/1338607422441721857?s=20

Annex 4: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

Risks	Risk Level:	Likelihood:	Impact:	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org/Person
Contextual risks					

<p>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</p>	4		5	<p>Mechanisms of participation, incentives, communication, sensitization, education and information dissemination on labor rights to workers and firms.</p> <p>As strategies to mitigate the above risks, the project has emphasized mechanisms of participation, incentives, communication and sensitization on labor rights to workers and the private sector, as well as building alliances with key community stakeholders, firms and the local governments, taking advantage of commitments to the 2030 Agenda and the potential of acceleration laboratories. The JP will implement a behavioral insights intervention oriented towards young people to improve their social security culture.</p>	UN IESS
<p>The country's context of economic austerity, the health crisis, as well as labor deregulation measures ("flexibilization"), might influence the labor market's performance and change current legal systems for affiliation and contribution to social security, affecting its sustainability. The fiscal space available for social protection programs have substantially decreased.</p>	4		4	<p>The project will make actuarial models and fiscal scenarios analysis to allocate funds for social protection programs and make sure the new affiliation schemes make a positive contribution to the system's sustainability. Additionally, ILO will assist in the Government's social dialogue aiming to achieve an overall agreement about social security.</p>	UN IESS

<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) in order to remain relevant and increase its visibility. Efforts have been made in order 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>	
<p>Programmatic risks</p>					
<p>Due to COVID-19 mitigation measures local work remains limited, therefore the institutional relation with local counterparts is affected</p>	3		3	<p>Permanent communication and recurring updates on the JP and its implementation. The technical team will take into account the priorities of local and central government counterparts to ensure their engagement with the JP.</p>	

Institutional risks					
The absence of joint implementation mechanisms among contributory and noncontributory social protection programs, could lead to tensions at national and local level.	3	3		<p>Definition of formal coordination and decision-making rules will be agreed as part of the program implementation.</p> <p>The Vice-president's office will assist and support in the implementation process.</p>	UN agencies
Fiduciary risks					
After the contributory scheme is designed and tested, including an actuarial study, it is not sustainable over time.	3	3		Actuarial models and analysis will be conducted, formerly to the testing of the contributory scheme.	UN agencies