USAID Ecuador: 52 years of partnership

Since 1961, the Government of Ecuador and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have worked in partnership on countless innovative and sustainable programs to advance Ecuador's development objectives, including most recently the country's National Plan for Good Living.

Our common goal has been to strengthen the capability and potential of Ecuador and its people. This alliance has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Ecuadorians nationwide through economic opportunities, biodiversity conservation, infrastructure, civic participation, health services, education, housing, and disaster prevention and mitigation, among others.

Throughout 52 years of partnership, USAID has invested a total of $809 million to advance the health and wellbeing of the Ecuadorian people.

Some recent achievements of USAID partnerships in Ecuador include:

- **Rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure:** More than 600,000 people in the northern border provinces benefited from the construction and rehabilitation of 451 infrastructure projects such as water systems, sanitation, vehicular and pedestrian bridges, roads and irrigation systems.
- **Productivity:** More than 23,000 families in the northern border provinces achieved improved production, marketing, sales and export of products such as cocoa, coffee, grains, cereals and dairy products.
- **Investment attraction:** With USAID's technical assistance, the Investment Attraction Agencies of Azuay and Manabi attracted $470 million in new investments, benefiting more than 7,000 families.
- **Tourism:** USAID supported tourism enterprises to make them more competitive in local and international markets. Three tourism clubs were organized with Quito colonial hotels, Sierra's haciendas, and Amazonian eco-lodges. More than 3,000 families have realized greater employment and business opportunities in the tourism sector.
- **Mobile banking:** Mobile banking booths - SíCentros – are helping thousands of farmers of Carchi and Imbabura provinces to access financial services in their communities. To date, more than 11,000 people have opened savings accounts in rural areas, more than 6,000 producer organizations have received loans, and about 185,000 people have purchased insurance.
- **Biodiversity conservation:** Over the past five years, USAID has contributed to the conservation of 2.7 million hectares of unique biodiversity in protected areas and indigenous territories while supporting sustainable management and development of human talent in communities that depend on these ecosystems.
- **Inclusiveness:** The first Official Ecuadorian Sign Language Dictionary was developed with the assistance of USAID, to facilitate the teaching of sign language, and strengthen communication between deaf and hearing communities. The Vice Presidency of Ecuador and the Ministry of Education supported this initiative.
- **Protection of water funds:** The Water Fund for Quito (FONAG) was established with funding and technical assistance from USAID to conserve watersheds that provide water

to Ecuador's capital. USAID also supported the development and strengthening of water funds in Tungurahua, Paute, Loja, Zamora and Espindola.

- **Strengthening municipal governments:** With USAID's assistance, twenty-seven municipalities improved delivery of public services, widened citizen participation in public processes, and leveraged more than $32 million from various sources such as the State Bank, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, and the National Secretariat of Water.

Over the past half-century, USAID cooperation has had a profound impact on the lives of Ecuadorians across various sectors and in every corner of the country. Below we highlight some of the most significant historical achievements:

- **Road Infrastructure:** In the 1960s, USAID provided technical and financial support to build major highways such as the Loja-Macara section of the Panamerican highway, and roads between Quito-Quevedo, Quevedo-Babahoyo, and Babahoyo Duran. These roads facilitated agricultural trade and improved communication.
- **Electricity:** The power plants in Cuenca, Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, Riobamba and Santa Elena were built through a partnership between USAID and the Ecuadorian Institute of Electrification (INECEL).
- **Institutional strengthening**: USAID's support helped create several public and private institutions that have played an important role in Ecuador's development, such as la Corporación Financiera Ecuatoriana de Desarrollo Industrial (COFIEC), la Corporación Financiera Nacional (CFN), el Centro de Desarrollo Industrial (CENDES), and el Banco Ecuatoriano de la Vivienda (BEV).
- **Agricultural development:** USAID supported the Ecuadorian government to increase agricultural production and productivity to improve the quality of life of poor, rural farmers. Research, agricultural education, credit for small farmers, road improvements, construction or renovation of communal houses, and development and transfer of appropriate technologies are examples of USAID's many contributions.
- **Education:** Between 1965 and 1972, 987 schools were built and more than 700,000 textbooks for first and second graders were edited for the benefit of children previously excluded from basic education.
- **Galapagos Conservation:** During the 1990s, USAID supported the efforts of the Ecuadorian government to conserve the Galapagos Islands. USAID helped to develop the Special Law for the Galapagos and its regulatory documents that became the basis for the conservation of the archipelago, trained technical personnel in natural resource management, provided equipment for research and monitoring of species, and restored wetlands on Isabela Island.
- **Maternal and child health:** For nearly three decades, USAID cooperated in strengthening the Ministry of Health's efforts to modernize, decentralize, and improve maternal and child health service delivery. It also provided resources for vaccination programs, control of diarrheal and respiratory diseases, and nutrition.
- **Southern border integration:** After the signing of the Peace Agreement between Ecuador and Peru, USAID supported the Ecuadorian government in its efforts to develop the country's southern border. From 2000 to 2007, half a million Ecuadorians in the

provinces of El Oro, Loja and Morona Santiago benefited from the construction of 111 water systems, 5,000 health centers, and improved service delivery of 26 municipalities.