

Anual Report 2022



 **FCAS**

**Cooperation Fund
for Water and Sanitation**



MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN



aecid



Cooperación
Española



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 **FCAS**

**Cooperation Fund
for Water and Sanitation**



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* Dominican Republic is, in Spanish, "República Dominicana".

We keep this order to follow the same pagination than the Spanish version.



List of abbreviations and acronyms

AECID:	Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency.
ANDA:	National Aqueduct and Sewage Authority (El Salvador)
ASADAS:	Managing Associations of Communal Water Supply and Sanitation Systems (Costa Rica).
CEDEX:	Hydrographic Studies Centre (Spain)
CENTA:	New Water Technologies Centre (Spain)
CIAPAS:	Interinstitutional Committee for Potable Water and Sanitary Sewerage (Panama)
CODIA:	Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors.
CONEANFO:	National Commission for the Development of Alternative Non-Formal Education.
CORAASAN:	Santiago Aqueduct and Sewage Corporation (Dominican Republic).
DINEPA:	National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (Haiti).
DISAPAS:	Directorate of the Sub-sector of Potable Water and Sanitary Sewerage (Panama)
DWTP:	Drinking Water Treatment Plant.
EIB:	European Investment Bank.
EIS:	Environmental Impact Statement
ESSAP:	Paraguayan Sanitation Services Company.
FCAS:	Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation.
FONPRODE:	Development Promotion Fund.
GADM:	Decentralised Municipal Autonomous Government (Portoviejo, Ecuador)
IADB:	Inter-American Development Bank.
IGME:	Spanish Geographic Mining Institute (Spain)
INAPA:	National Drinking Water and Sewage Institute (Dominican Republic).
INDRHI:	National Institute of Water Resources (Dominican Republic)
INFOM:	Municipal Development Institute (Guatemala).
INRH:	National Institute of Water Resources (Cuba).
IWRM:	Integrated Water Resources Management.
JAARS:	Rural Water and Sanitation Administrative Boards (Panamá)
JASS:	Service and Sanitation Management Boards (Peru).
LAIF:	Latin American Investment Facility.
MARN:	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (El Salvador).
MINSA:	Health Ministry (Panama)
MT:	Management Team
NWSS:	National Drinking Water and Sanitation Strategy (Ecuador).
PORTOAGUAS:	Portoviejo Public Water and Sewage Company (Ecuador).
RALCEA:	Latin American Network of Water Resources Management Knowledge Centres.
RIOCC:	Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices.
SANAA:	National Autonomous Service of Aqueducts and Sewerage (Panama)
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals.
SENAGUA:	National Water Secretariat (Ecuador).
SP:	Service Providers.
SWA:	"Sanitation and Water for All" initiative
W and S:	Water and Sanitation.
WPS:	Wastewater Pumping Station.
WWTP:	Wastewater Treatment Plant.

1 Introduction

In 2022, the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation continued working towards the fulfillment of Human Rights to Water and Sanitation by supporting partners in the region to deliver access to safe drinking water to more than 340,000 people and sanitation to 145,000. In addition to the beneficiaries of previous years, the Fund has reached almost **4.4 million beneficiaries since its launch in 2009**.



This year, efforts have also focused on strengthening the institutional capacity of partner countries by promoting the creation of regulatory frameworks and instruments to improve sector governance.

Likewise, in 2022, following pre-investment work, the execution of three programs began (these are underway in El Cantón de San Lorenzo (Ecuador), Siguatepeque (Honduras), and El Salvador, at a national level), and two new initiatives were approved, both of which are still in the design phase. These initiatives will be undertaken in Ecuador and the municipality of Suchitoto, in El Salvador, and will focus on rural regions, emphasizing environmental management and gender equality.

The results are now beginning to reveal a trend. The number of beneficiaries is not growing as rapidly as in the Fund's early years. However, **other indicators, such as training, the number of people sensitized, the number of operational and management documents, and other matters involving support for the development of public policies, have seen significant growth**. This is because the new initiatives focus on issues that go beyond the provision of water

and sanitation and are centered on technical and institutional support, the promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management, and the development of plans and regulatory and strategic frameworks that improve the overall management of water and sanitation in the regions concerned and enhance the sustainability of such initiatives.

In addition, 2022 has also seen the completion of several projects that began some time ago. Among others, the program carried out in rural communities of the Mancomunidad del Río Santo Tomás (AMSAT), Cusco, and Apurímac in Peru (PER-029-B) came to an end; in Chile, the drinking water and sanitation coverage program in rural areas of Araucanía (CHL-001B) and the Dominican Republic, the Drinking Water and Sanitation Investment Program (DOM-001-M) came to a close. There were also two other initiatives completed in Nicaragua and Colombia.



"Session on Human Rights to Water and Sanitation held at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar (Senegal). It was attended by Carmen Magariños, Director for Africa and Asia in the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation; Pilar Cancela, Secretary of State for International Cooperation; and Pedro Arrojo, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to safe drinking water and sanitation".

As well as work conducted in the field with partner countries, the Fund has also participated in national and international meetings to share experiences, learn about innovative approaches, and establish alliances. The Fund was at the World Water Forum in Dakar, the region's largest sanitation meeting, Latinosan (held in Bolivia), and the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA). In addition, it participated in seminars on financing for water security and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation. It organized its event with key stakeholders to advance towards SDG 6. As a result, the work of the FCAS was recognized with the iAgua ODS award for its work to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. In short, it was a remarkably successful year, from which we would like to highlight some milestones:



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

JANUARY

The Program to reduce drinking water deficit and sanitation coverage in La Araucanía, Chile, was completed.



FEBRUARY

The water reaches the historic center of Cap Haitien (Haiti)



MARCH

Online meeting: Partnerships to move towards SDG 6



The FCAS and the Spanish Cooperation attended the World Water Forum in Dakar.



APRIL

EU Delegated Cooperation: more than 30,000 people benefited from the COVID-19 emergency program in Manabi and Esmeraldas, Ecuador.



JUNE

Laying of the first stone of La Honduras dam in Santa Rosa de Copan



MAY

New Water Treatment Plant in Masaya (Nicaragua)



OCTOBER

Inauguration of the water supply and sanitation works in Chicani-Chinchaya, Bolivia, with the visit of the director of AECID.



NOVEMBER

FCAS takes part in the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors, meeting in the Dominican Republic to continue advancing water resource governance.



JULY

More than 5,000 people in rural and remote areas of the Cuzco and Apurimac regions (Peru) gain access to drinking water and sanitation services.



AUGUST

Strengthening and emergency prevention work with the municipality of Sololá, Guatemala.



Inspiring principles of the Water Fund

The Water Fund promotes the practical realization of the **Human Rights to Water and Sanitation**, with particular attention given to the most disadvantaged populations, particularly those living in **rural and peri-urban areas**. The Fund's interventions have been incorporating the **gender approach** for more than a decade, promoting the inclusion of women in decision-making bodies on water and sanitation and their empowerment through social components of the programs. It also strives to incorporate the values and knowledge of indigenous peoples

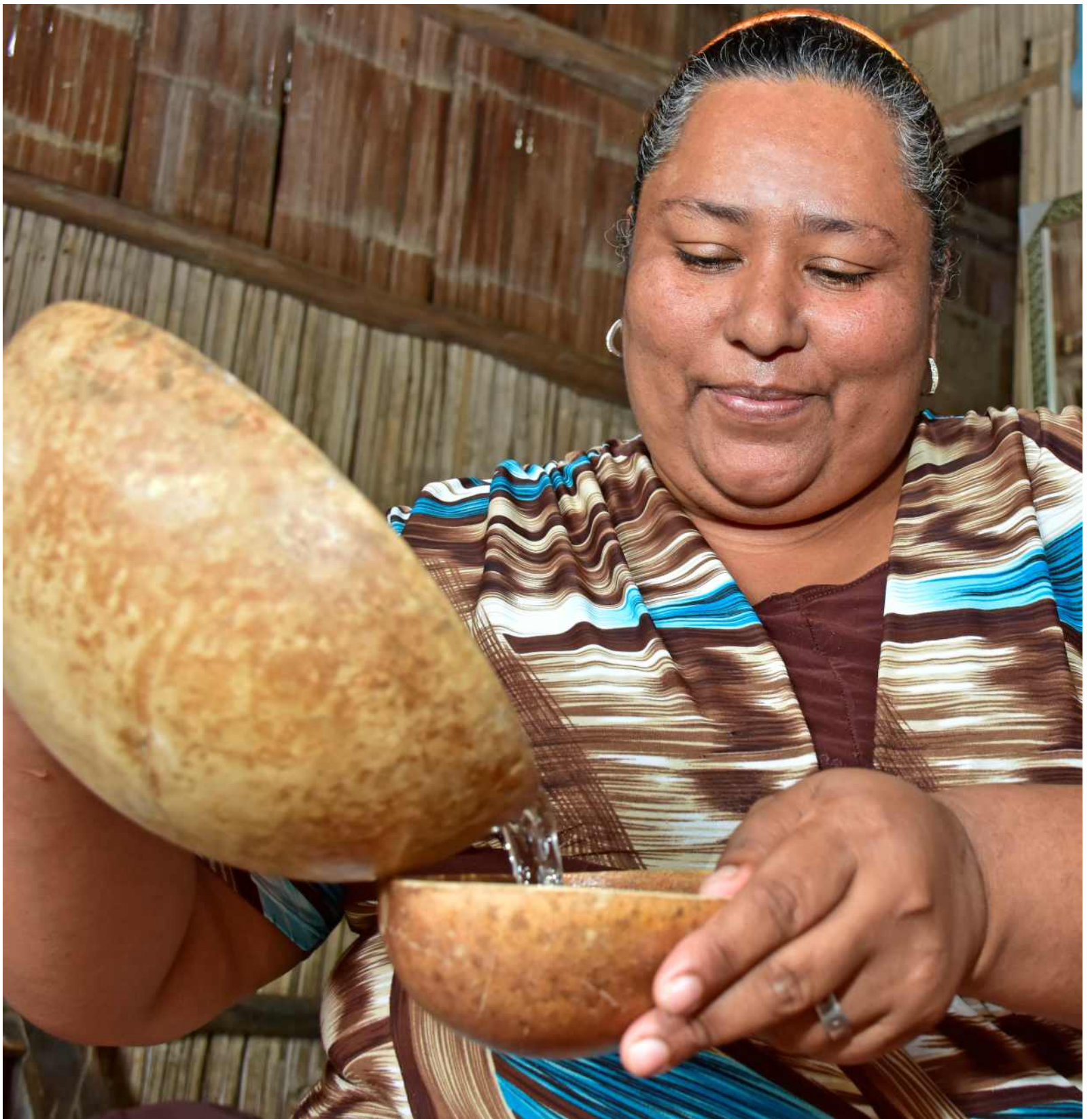
based on respect for cultural diversity and their institutions.

In addition, the FCAS promotes the **institutional strengthening** of partner countries, deepening public policies, sectoral planning, and **Integrated Water Resource Management** to improve the sustainability of water and sanitation systems and promote **global water governance**. This helps mitigate the effects of climate change and boosts the resilience of populations, favoring adaptation measures to extreme events, such as droughts and floods.



INSPIRATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF THE WATER FOUNDATION





2

The Fund at a glance

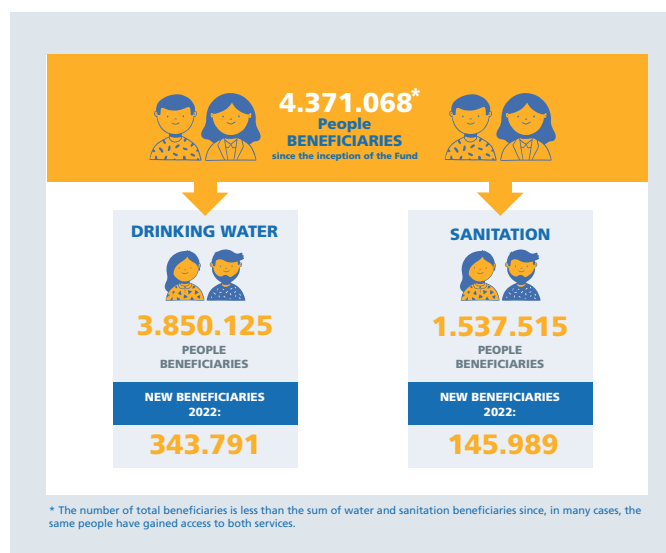
2 The Fund at a glance



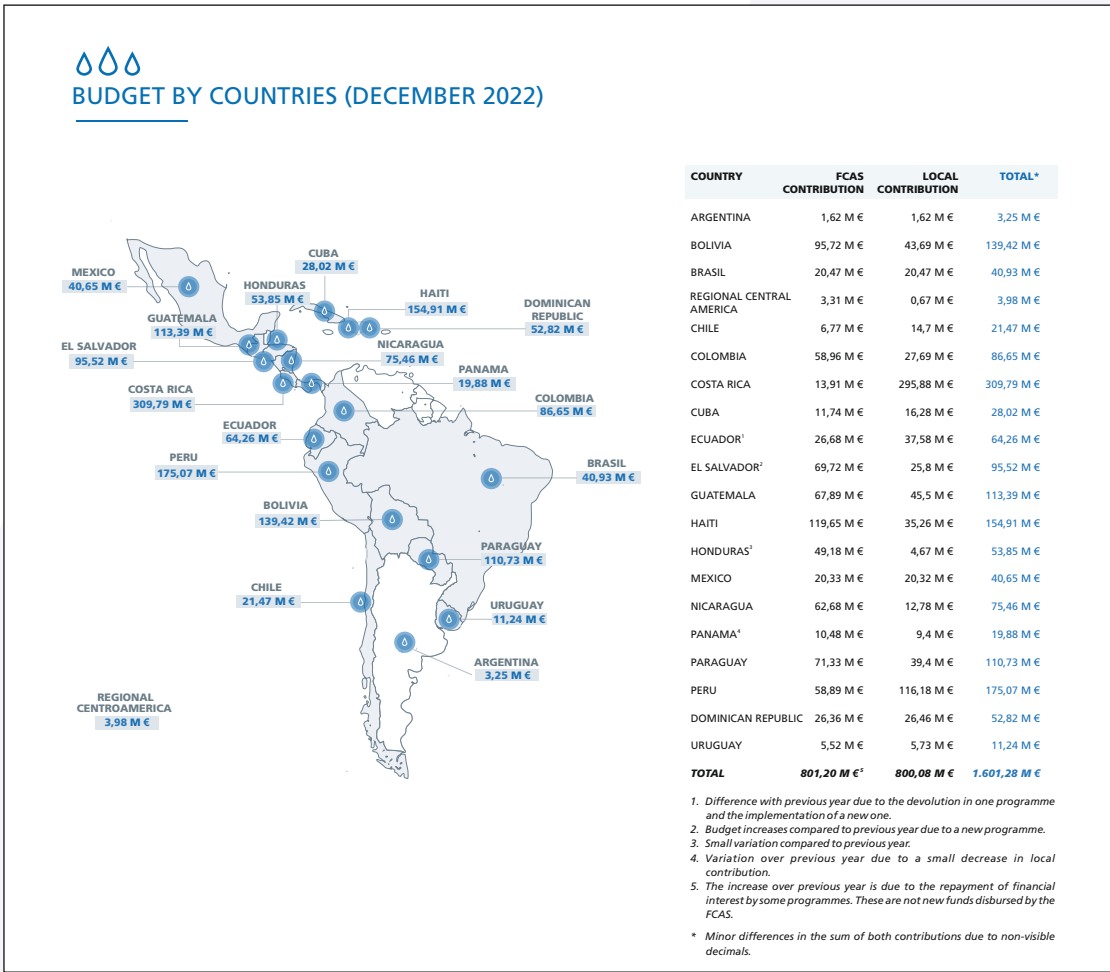
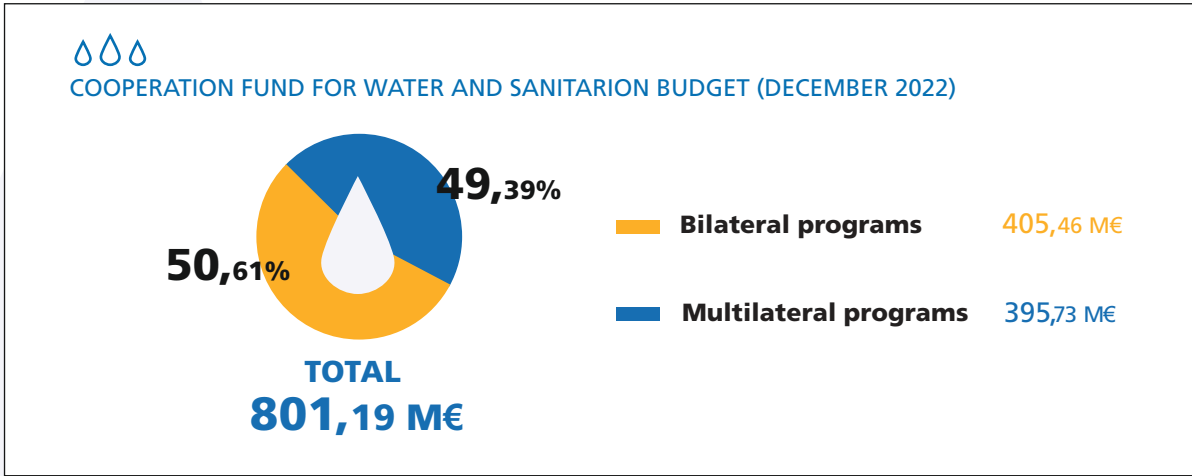
COOPERATION FUND FOR WATER AND SANITATION AT A GLANCE (DECEMBER 2022)



BENEFICIARIES OF THE WATER FUND PROGRAMS (DECEMBER 2022)

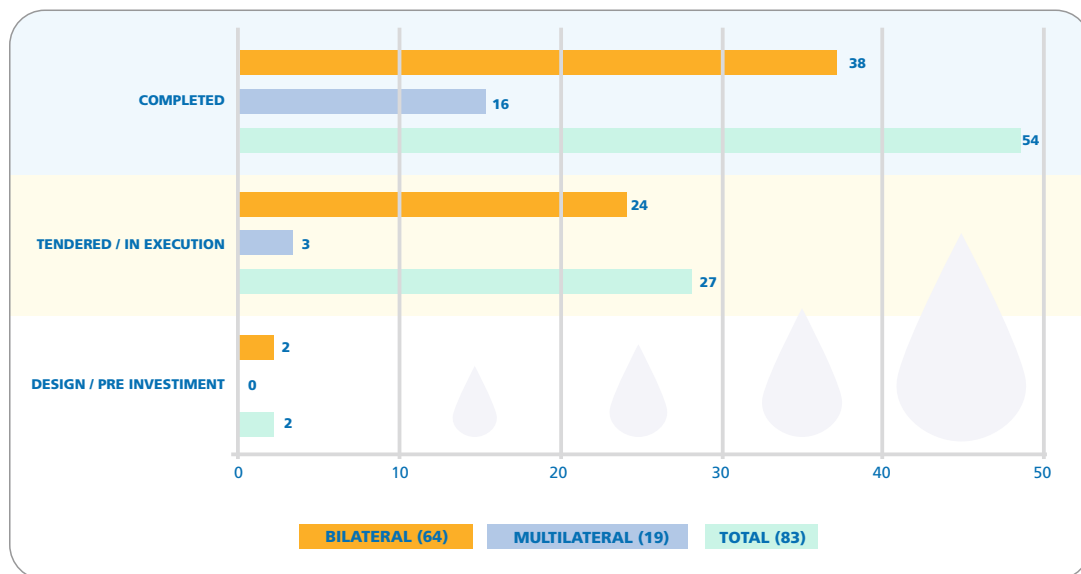


* The number of total beneficiaries is less than the sum of water and sanitation beneficiaries since, in many cases, the same people have gained access to both services.

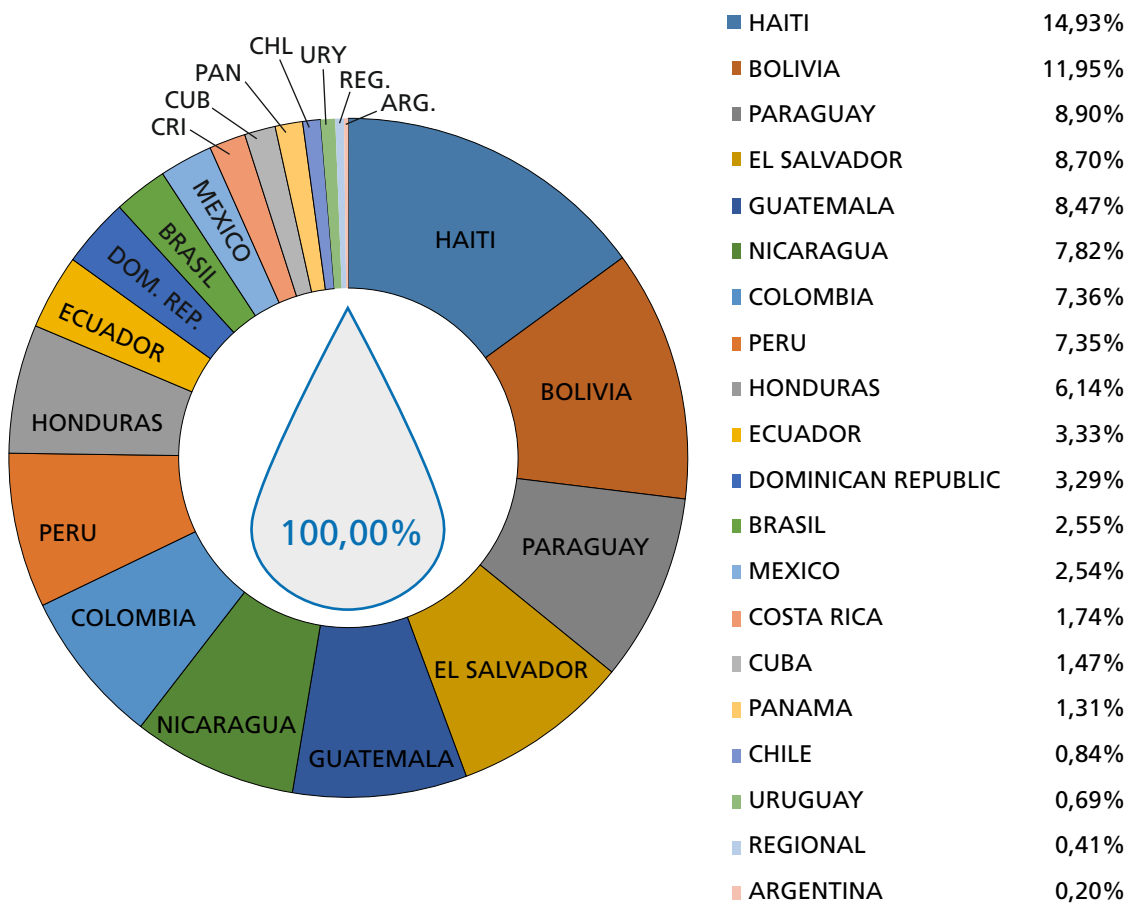




STATUS OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMES (DECEMBER 2022)



WATER AND SANITATION COOPERATION FUND BUDGET (DECEMBER 2022)





SDGs
on which
the Fund
has an
impact.

SDGs 1.- End poverty in all its forms. Running water in the home means time can be spent on other productive tasks and costs much less than purchasing water from distribution trucks.

SDGs 3.- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages. Drinking water prevents the prevalence of intestinal disorders and contributes to improved health and hygiene in households. Similarly, safely managed sanitation also contributes to the reduction of disease.

SDGs 4.- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Having sanitation and running water at home makes it easier to attend school. Time spent fetching it is saved, illnesses that negatively impact school attendance are prevented, and student personal hygiene is improved. In addition, having adequate restrooms at schools is vital to keeping girls in school during menstruation.

SDGs 5.- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Access to water and sanitation facilitates the lives of women, who are the leading providers of water and food for their families. In addition, the Fund's programs incorporate a gender approach to support women's empowerment, promote their presence in positions of responsibility, and their effective participation in decision-making.

SDGs 6.- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The Fund's work directly impacts SDG 6, addressing all of its targets as a whole: universal access to water and sanitation, improved quality, implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management, protection of ecosystems, etc. In addition, it works specifically on the two cross-cutting targets of SDG 6: Management capacity building and Support for the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

SDGs 10.- Reduce inequality within and among countries. The gap in access to water and sanitation is still significant between urban areas and rural or dispersed areas, and the differences widen when we talk about indigenous or Afro-descendant populations. For this reason, the FCAS targets its interventions to the most vulnerable groups, specifically those living in rural areas, peri-urban areas of cities, and indigenous communities, with more ambitious interventions in the most fragile countries.

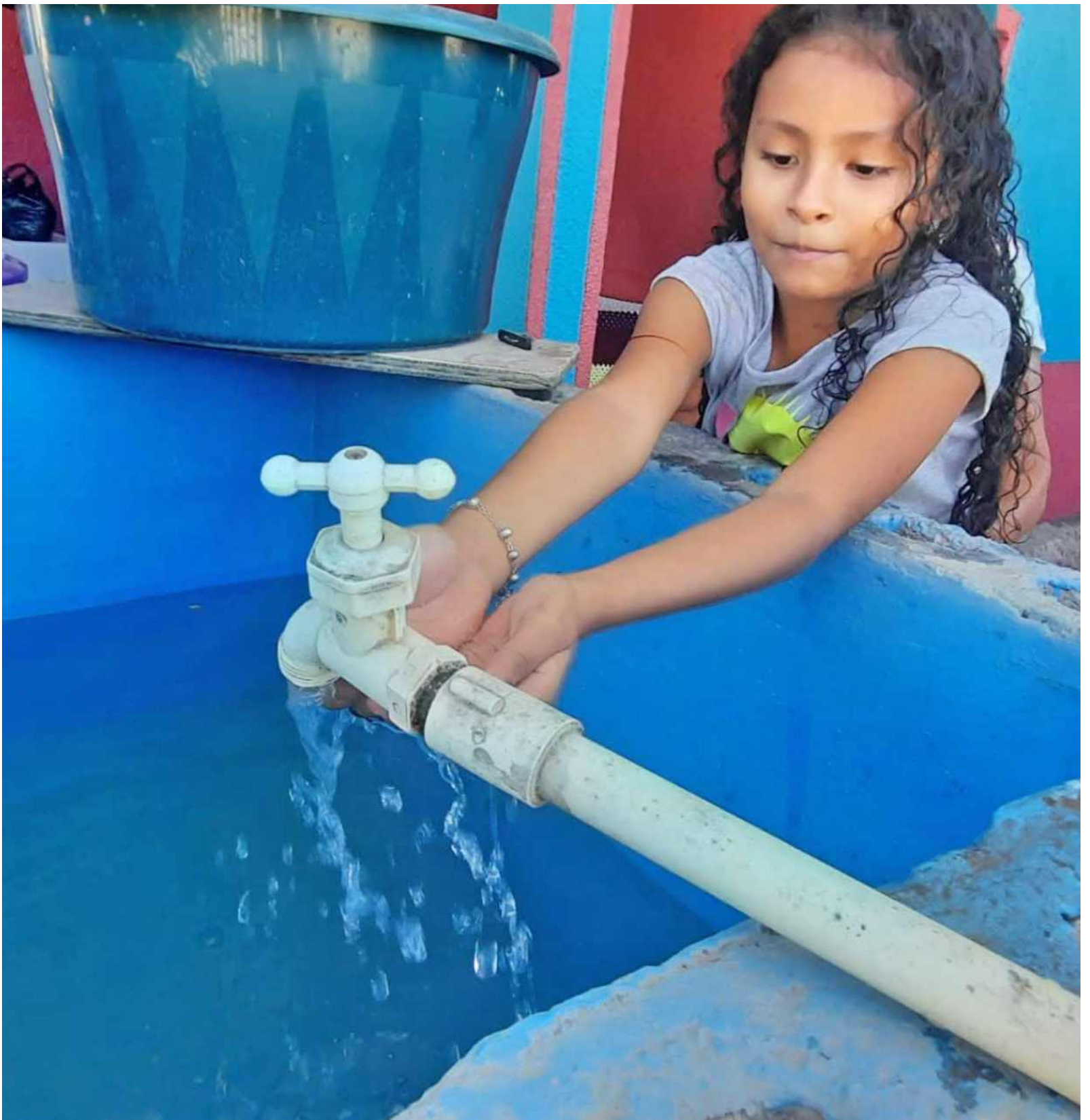
SDGs 11.- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Water purification and sewage systems are crucial to achieving sustainable spaces and improving people's quality of life.

SDGs 13.- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The Water Fund gives great importance to environmental issues, from an IWRM approach and adaptation to climate change through adequate solutions to the needs and capacities of the population. In addition, the entire sanitation and wastewater treatment field directly and immediately affects the environment.

SDGs 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss. Adequate water resource management at the basin level, proper hydrological planning, the reforestation and revegetation activities implicit in the Fund's programs, and the purification of wastewater impact the life of terrestrial

SDGs 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Good water management and governance are essential, which is emphasized in all projects. The Fund works with a regional vision, specifically through a Technical Cooperation called "Transboundary Water Resources: a water security framework for transboundary basins in Latin America and the Caribbean," executed by the IADB and supported by EU delegated cooperation funds through the Regional LAIF.

SDGs 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Over the years, the FCAS has built a network of support and collaboration with partner countries, creating a close and trusting dialogue at the highest level. In addition, it works hand in hand with numerous key players and networks, both national and international.



3 Current status of the Fund

3 Current status of the Fund

3.1. Context

With the two new programs approved in 2022, the Water Fund has launched 83 programs since it was established in 2009. These initiatives have been conducted in 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries and have positioned FCAS as a benchmark institution that maintains a prominent level of direct dialogue with partner countries.

The actions always respond to the needs of the partner countries and are of varying types:

◆ **Financed by the Water Fund and partner countries:**

- Bilateral: Managed directly by the Fund, they are called Bilateral Programs (identified with the letter "B" throughout this Report). They make up 50.6% of the total portfolio, have received financing of 405,466 million euro, and are distributed among 64 programs (including the last two, approved in 2022), of which 38 have already completed their execution as of December 2022. Another 24 are under execution, and two more are in the design process.
- Multilateral: They are conducted **in collaboration with the Inter-American**

Development Bank (IADB) and are called Multilateral Programs (identified as "M"). They represent 49.39% of the Fund's total budget and represent 19 programs, although only three are still active as of December 2022, since the rest have already come to a close. In addition to these projects, a percentage of the economic allocation managed by the IADB has been implemented in the form of "technical cooperation," which are concrete actions that, unlike the Programs, are executed directly by the IADB and whose purpose is to have an impact on technical aspects of the programs and help make them sustainable. (See section 4.4.1, technical cooperations conducted by the IADB).

◆ **Financed in conjunction with Delegated Cooperation initiatives:**

- Delegated Cooperation programs rely on donations that the European Union entrusts to member countries to conduct cooperation actions. This participation is carried out through two instruments: the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). In these programs, the FCAS often provides additional funding to focus on specific aspects, such as extending programs to the most dispersed populations or strengthening the human rights approach.



Global data

As of December 2022, the Water and Sanitation Cooperation Fund has provided 801 million euro in grants, attracting an additional 800 million euro in local counterpart funding.

One thousand six hundred and one million have been directed to rural or peri-urban areas in the most vulnerable countries or regions. Haiti has received the most donations (almost 120 million euro), followed by Bolivia (95.7 million euro) and Paraguay (71.3 million euro).

In addition, FCAS programs have been used to raise delegated cooperation funds amounting to almost 128 million euro, promoting global programs totaling more than 870 million euro. In these programs, the Fund acts as a unifying agent, coordinating the intervention of different financing instruments, incorporating the technical cooperation of Spanish public institutions, and promoting leveraging funds to prioritize the water agenda.

The objectives of the Fund, according to the Royal Decree by which it was established, are as follows:

- a) To contribute to extending **sustainable access to drinking water and essential sanitation services**, especially in the **most vulnerable and underserved areas**.
- b) Promote **public, integral, and participatory management** of water resources.
- c) **Strengthen the countries' institutional system for proper water sector management** that favors public, transparent, and participatory resource management.
- d) Contribution to establishing **sustainable systems** to provide water and sanitation services.
- e) Adopt **mechanisms to improve the quality of support**.

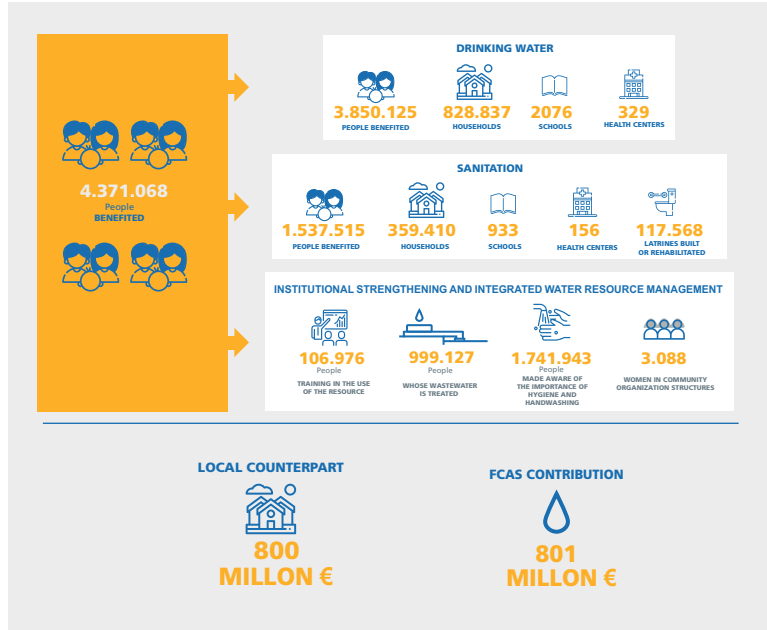
3.2 Results

3.2.1 Beneficiaries

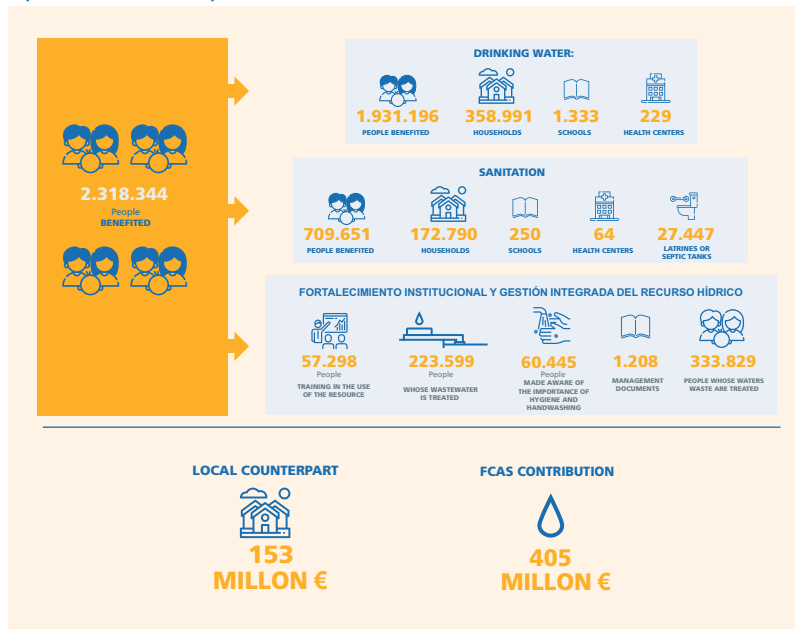
Since its inception in 2009, the cumulative work of the Water Fund and partner countries has benefited 4.3 million people. Of these, 3.8 million have gained access to safe drinking water and 1.5 million to sanitation. Specifically, in 2022, 343,791 people had improved access to water and 145,000 to sanitation. In addition, to ensure the systems' sustainability over time and promote community development, the Water Fund has also worked on other aspects, such as training the personnel of local, regional, and national institutions and raising awareness on the use of this resource.



IMPACTS OF THE WATER AND SANITATION COOPERATION FUND (DECEMBER 2022).



IMPACT OF BILATERAL PROGRAMS (DECEMBER 2022)



3.2.2. Public Policy Impact

The work to promote global water governance, fostering the strengthening of the sector and public policies in partner countries, has had significant impacts beyond the quantitative data of the people who benefited. These aspects are essential to ensure better water management and guarantee that the positive effects are sustained over time. For the Water Fund it is a line of work of strategic importance due to its contribution to advancing the achievement of the SDGs in the region and the realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.

In this regard, technical support has been promoted for developing the legal and institutional framework of the countries with an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach, both at the strategic and hydrological planning level and in terms of institutional capacity building.

Some of the actions carried out throughout the year 2022:

- ◆ **Accompanying the National Institute of Water Resources of the Dominican Republic:** Since 2019, extensive work has been carried out to accompany this institution in the development of the country's National Water Resources Development Plan under the DOM-017-B program, assistance that has intensified in 2022.
- ◆ **Works for the preparation of a Technical Guide for Hydrological Planning at the regional level with an IWRM vision:** In 2022, the Fund continued to work, in coordination with CODIA, in various areas:

 - Conducting a study to characterize Latin America's legal and institutional framework for resource management and water planning. This study was presented at the 2022 CODIA meeting and will serve as a starting point for developing the guide adapted to the region's countries, as it constitutes the first part of it.
 - The development of Block 2 of the Hydrological Planning Guide is to be finalized in 2023, whose objective is defining the conceptual framework and establishing the basic general concepts of what is and what can be expected from a hydrological plan with an IWRM vision.
 - The collection of proposals from countries and institutions on practical cases that can illustrate the Planning Guide with the countries' experiences regarding the aspects and contents of a hydrological plan.
 - The bidding process for the complete development of the Planning Guide.
- ◆ **Support for the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bolivia:** In 2022, work continued to support the development of Drought Management Plans in Bolivian cities to provide a tool to facilitate and support decision-making in drought situations, such as the one the country has been experiencing in recent years in certain areas lacking in water.
- ◆ **Support for the National Institute of Water Resources of Cuba (INRH):** We have worked with INRH to exchange pro-

grams and train the institution's technicians and managers to use technologies to manage water resources and use new tools to facilitate decision-making. In 2022, INRH staff undertook an internship in Spain, visiting different Spanish organizations related to water management: CEDEX, IGME, Confederación Hidrográfica del Tajo, Canal de Isabel II and Confederación Hidrográfica del Ebro. This internship will be complemented by specific courses given to Cuban technicians by Spanish experts in 2023.

- ◆ **Support to El Salvador** in the construction of a public policy that guarantees the sustainability of the drinking water and sanitation subsector through two primary programs (Phase I and Phase II), with a total budget of 6,050,000 euro of funds donated in their entirety by the FCAS.

Course on sectoral planning and water and sanitation policy. It was held in March 2022 in virtual format for Paraguay. The

training was supported by CEDEX, IADB and EMASESA, as well as the Dirección de Agua Potable y Saneamiento (DAPSAN) and the Ministry of Public Works and Communications of Paraguay (MOPC).

3.3. Progress in financial execution

As of December 2022, the financial execution figures have reached over 95% of the budget in terms of funds committed and over 90% in terms of funds paid out. The reinvestment of the funds received at the end of December 2021, which could not be realized in the same year, began in fiscal year 2022.

The difference in the percentage of funds "awarded" and "paid" is due to the regular operation of the programs, in which the bids and awards for each project are made first (funds awarded), and only once the contracts have been executed are payments made.





EVOLUTION OF THE FCAS BUDGET.
FUNDS COMMITTED BY YEAR (MILLION EUROS). DECEMBER 2022

AWARD (donations FCAS)	BILATERAL million euros	MULTILATERAL million euros	TOTAL FCAS million euros
Budget 2017	382,85	396,97	779,82
December 2017	284,55	333,08	617,62
%	74,32%	83,90%	79,20%
Budget 2018	403,60	396,97	800,57
December 2018	304,06	358,17	662,24
%	75,34%	90,23%	82,72%
Budget 2019	403,65	397,68	801,33
December 2019	316,43	379,75	696,18
%	78,39%	95,49%	86,88%
Budget 2020	403,65	395,73	799,38
December 2020	332,88	390,97	723,85
%	82,47%	98,80%	90,55%
Budget 2021	403,71	395,73	799,44
December 2021	349,35	395,04	744,39
%	86,53%	99,83%	93,11%
Budget 2022	405,46	395,73	801,19
December 2022	372,73	393,62*	766,35
%	91,93%	99,47%	95,65%

*Decrease in the awarded budget due to adjustments in the program Paraguay 014-M



EVOLUTION OF THE FCAS BUDGET,
FUNDS PAID BY YEAR (MILLION EUROS). DECEMBER 2022

AWARD (donations FCAS)	BILATERAL million euros	MULTILATERAL million euros	TOTAL FCAS million euros
Budget 2017	382,85	396,97	779,82
December 2017	234,89	299,10	533,99
%	61,35%	75,35%	68,48%
Budget 2018	403,60	396,97	800,57
December 2018	272,38	319,48	591,86
%	67,49%	80,48%	73,93%
Budget 2019	403,65	397,68	801,33
December 2019	292,15	346,01	638,15
%	72,38%	87,01%	79,64%
Budget 2020	403,65	395,73	799,38
December 2020	298,71	356,06	654,76
%	74,00%	89,97%	81,91%
Budget 2021	403,71	395,73	799,44
December 2021	323,15	376,66	699,81
%	80,04%	95,18%	87,54%
Budget 2022	405,47	395,73	801,20
December 2022	338,89	387,32	726,21
%	83,58%	97,87%	90,72%



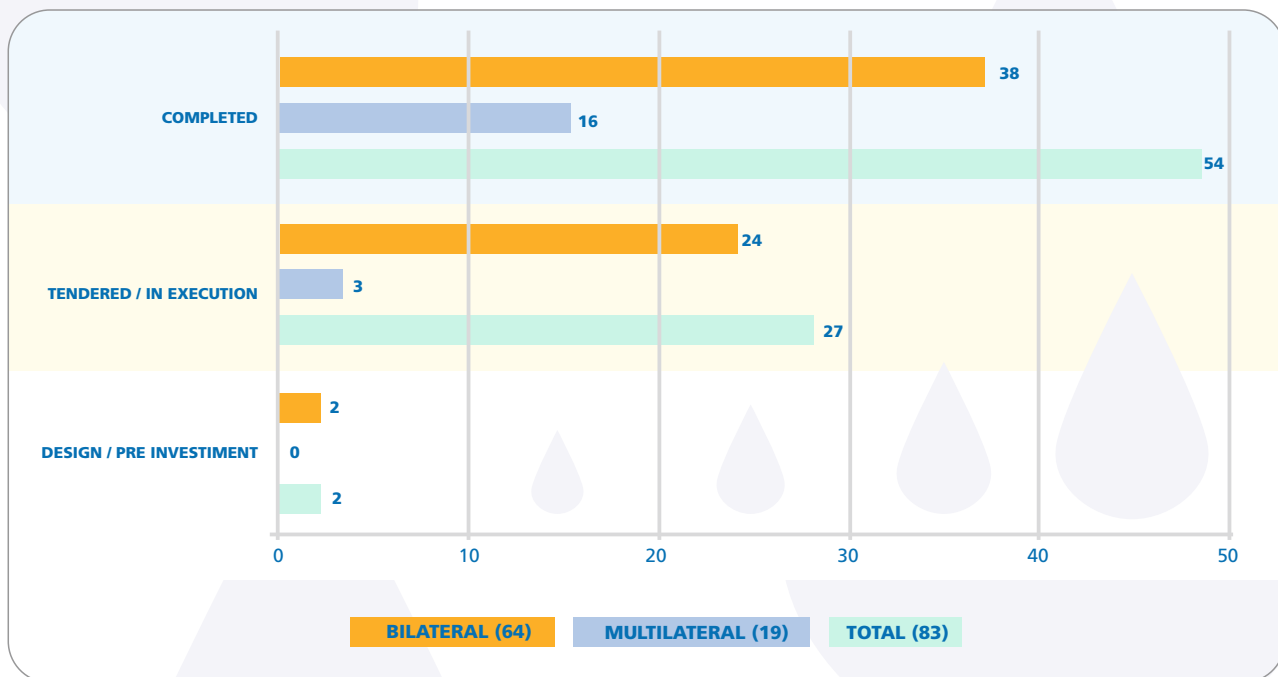
3.4 Program status

Since its inception and as of December 2022, the FCAS has implemented 83 programs, of which 54 have now been completed. Another 27 are underway, with

expected completion dates between now and 2026, and a further two have been approved this year in Ecuador (**ECU-053-B**) and El Salvador (**SLV-061-B**), both of which are still in the design and planning phase.



STATUS OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS (DECEMBER 2022)



3.5 Forecast for program execution

Forecasts indicate that the programs currently underway will be completed in 2026. However, it may be the case that some of them request an extension. In addition, two new initiatives are underway, **ECU-053-B** and **SLV-061-B**; since they are both in the design

phase, their execution will undoubtedly extend beyond said date.

Regarding the programs executed with the IADB (Multilateral), of which only three remain in operation, it is estimated that they will all be concluded by the end of 2024. This includes the months allocated for project justification.



4

The Great Fund

After almost 15 years of work, the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation has positioned itself as a unifier of other financiers, achieving an impact far beyond the initial 800 million euro in donations. In recent years, the FCAS has participated in more extensive programs, with funding from other entities and through the coordination of instruments (EU delegated funds, reimbursable cooperation from FONPRODE, and bilateral funds from AECID), forming new combined operations. The coming together of all these water and sanitation initiatives configured around the FCAS is called the Great Fund. It allows the impact of the original Water Fund to be multiplied.

In this way, large operations have been formed to maximize the impact of interventions, contribute more significantly to the sector's transformation, and simplify management for partner countries.

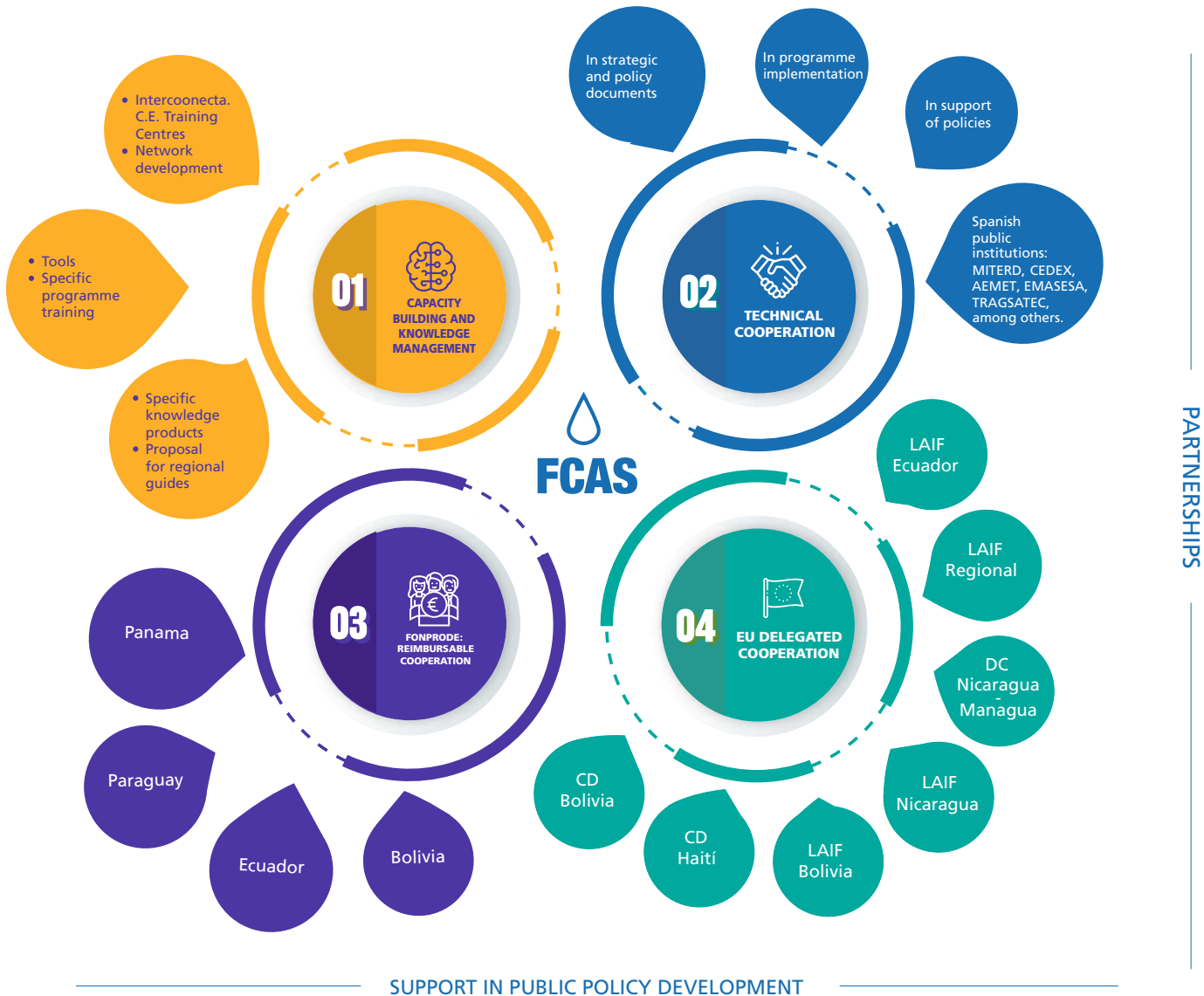
These actions are based on three main lines of action:

- ◆ The articulation of actors through partnerships, in the spirit of SDG 17, which aims to create a Global **Partnership** for Development. The Fund has served as a bridge and catalyst for joint initiatives in the sector.
- ◆ Support for developing **public policies** to implement the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWSS) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).
- ◆ **Knowledge management and promoting capacity building** through AECID's tools, such as the Intercooneccta program (Knowledge Transfer, Exchange, and Management Plan) and the network of Spanish Cooperation training centers.

This Great Fund brings together the work carried out in five major areas: 1) European Union Delegated Cooperation, 2) reimbursable cooperation, 3) AECID bilateral cooperation, 4) technical cooperation, and 5) significant partnerships.



THE GREAT FUND



4.1 Delegated Cooperation

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation coordinates various water programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, thanks to the confidence of the EU, through two mechanisms: LAIF (Latin America Investment Facility) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). In these operations, the

contribution of the FCAS is usually directed to the most remote and vulnerable populations to promote the realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, the development of public policies and actions of institutional strengthening in the sector.

As of 2022, eight Delegated Cooperation programs are underway:

Delegated Cooperation 2022					
Country	Programme	Type	EU Funds*	FCAS Funds	Total funding, including other entities **
Bolivia	Integrated Water Management Program in Urban Areas	DCI	14,1	3	129,1
Bolivia	Support for the Water and Sewerage Program in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas	LAIF	15	5	125,55
Ecuador	Sustainable drinking water and sanitation for the rural population of Portoviejo	LAIF	10	2,3	113,99
Haiti	Urbayiti: access to essential water and sanitation services	DCI	3	1	4
Nicaragua	Integral Sectoral Water and Human Sanitation Program (PISASH)	LAIF	50	65,1	314
Nicaragua	Program to improve the drinking water service in the Altamira – Managua sector	DCI	10	0	18,9
Paraguay	Water and sanitation for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción – Lambaré Basin.	LAIF	10	1,2	165,5
Regional	Promote adaptation to climate change and Integrated Water Resources Management in the water and sanitation sector in Latin America within the framework of the Water Fund	LAIF	15,00	-	The EU's contribution has had an impact on Water Fund programmes worth €367 million and IADB programmes worth €640 million.

Data expressed in millions of euros.
 *EU funds: not including funds earmarked for program management and administration (overhead).
 **Other funding include loans and grants from other entities such as FONPRODE, IDB, local governments, other international development banks, etc.

Delegated cooperation in Bolivia:

Support for the Water and Sewerage Program in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas (Bolivia)

125.5 million to invest in various cities and peri-urban areas of Bolivia has been made possible thanks to the articulation of multiple actors and financing mechanisms. On the one hand, the Water Fund provides five million euro in donations, to which the European Union adds another 15 million euro through the LAIF funds delegated to Spain. On the other hand, it has the national contribution of Bolivia (22 million euro), an IADB loan of 55 million euro, and complementary funds from the Spain-Bolivia debt swap program of 27 million euro.

Integrated Water Management Program in Urban Areas (Bolivia)

This program benefits from a donation of 3 million euro from the Water Fund and another 15 million euro, including administration and management costs, delegated by the European Union, in addition to other financiers, such as the IADB, with a loan of 85.5 million euro, and FONPRODE, with 25.6 million euro. Together, they will generate a total of 129.1 million euro. This initiative helps the peri-urban population have new or improved access to essential sanitation services. It promotes IW/RM in urban areas, with the objective, among others, of reducing the impact of climate change on the population. The Program will finance interventions for expanding and



improving drinking water and sanitation services, focusing on measures to mitigate water supply crises caused by droughts. Still, it will also contribute to comprehensively enhancing water supply and demand management. Implementation began in July 2021, and throughout 2022, the program's operational documents and the bidding processes for the sanitation projects in the towns of Viacha and Tucsupaya have been launched.

Delegated cooperation in Ecuador

LAIF Ecuador. Sustainable drinking water and sanitation for the rural population of Canton Portoviejo, province of Manabí

In Portoviejo, the municipal government has launched an ambitious program to improve the population's access to water and sanitation. A broad alliance of donors has been formed to make this a reality. Spanish Cooperation has an essential participation through three mechanisms (EU delegated funds, reimbursable financing from FONPRODE, and a donation from the Water Fund). This program aims to establish an ample 47 km drinking water and sewerage system along the Chico River and small projects to serve dispersed rural areas that cannot be connected to the general system. It also incorporates actions for community development and institutional strengthening, such as the reinforcement of the Portoviejo (Portoaguas) Municipal Public Company for Drinking Water and Sanitation through a twinning agreement with the Metropolitan Public Company for Water Supply and Sanitation of Seville (EMASESA).

The total operation amounts to 114 million euro and combines various financing and donations. On the one hand, there is the so-called "base project" based on credits, and on the other, the specific program to extend benefits to the most remote populations, which the FCAS and the EU finance

The distribution of funds is as follows: A credit operation between the EIB (€54.44 M), FONPRODE (€15.45 M), the IADB (€25 M), and the Autonomous Decentralized Municipal Government (GADM) of Portoviejo, in addition to a donation provided by the FCAS-AECID funds, the LAIF project and the GADM of Portoviejo, to provide drinking water and sanitation to the dispersed rural communities and offer integral support for the execution of the base project. The program has significant positive impacts, both social and environmental. It has a strong community development component to ensure the participation of the beneficiary population in all phases of the program to achieve the sustainability of the systems.

Delegated cooperation in Haiti

Urbayiti: access to essential water and sanitation services.

This program has a total financing of 4 million euro, of which 1 million corresponds to a donation from Spain through the Water Fund, and 3 million corresponds to funds delegated by the EU.

URBAYITI is based on the principle of coordination between donors -AECID and the European Union- and Spain was chosen to manage the project because it is one of the

leading donors to the water and sanitation sector in the country, generating a close relationship with the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) of the state.

The objective is to strengthen the resilience of cities and urban populations by improving access to essential services and creating the conditions for water supply and sanitation compatible with the integrated development approach in the area. Specifically, work is being done to improve access to essential services in Port-au-Prince, Jérémie, and Les Cayes. It is expected that 7,350 people will benefit from new access to drinking water and approximately 2,000 from sanitation services. The intervention also includes rehabilitating and constructing sanitary blocks in schools, markets, health centers, and other community facilities.

Delegated cooperation in Nicaragua:

Integral Sectoral Water and Human Sanitation Program (PISASH)

The three Water Fund programs that have been part of PISASH are:

The NIC-014-B program, which was completed in 2021 and served to improve access to drinking water in the cities of Acoyapa, Santo Tomás and Bluefields, and sanitation in the first two, provided a total of 76,000 people with drinking water and more than 21,000 with sanitation services.

The NIC-056-M program, executed by the IADB, facilitated access to safe water for the

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The **NIC-056-M** program, executed by the IADB, facilitated access to safe water for the most vulnerable population, enabling 60,000 people belonging to the Miskito communities in the city of Bilwi to gain access to safe water.

Program **NIC-013-B, Improvement and Expansion of the Sanitary Sewage System of the City of Masaya**, which is nearing completion, has enabled the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the city's sanitation network to be put into operation.

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Program NIC-013-B, Improvement and Expansion of the Sanitary Sewage System of the City of Masaya, which is nearing completion, has enabled the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the city's sanitation network to be put into operation. Nicaragua's Comprehensive Sectoral Program for Water and Human Sanitation (PISASH) has contributed to over-

coming the sector's structural problems and historical deficiencies in service coverage, enabling the expansion of drinking water, sewerage, and wastewater treatment services in 19 cities, as well as improving capacities for the operation, maintenance, and comprehensive management of water resources. The great transformation achieved by PISASH has been possible thanks to the confluence of the efforts of different agencies. Its origin lies in the Water Fund initiative, which, between 2009 and 2019, allocated €60 million in total (divided into three programs: **NIC-013-B**, **NIC-014-B**, and **NIC-056-M**).

During the preparation of these interventions, the need to implement a long-term strategy to solve the problems of operation and coverage and the structural conditions that limited them became apparent. In 2012, the EU joined the initiative with a €50 million grant promoted through its LAIF initiative that was implemented through AECID.

These resources were later joined by the Spain-Nicaragua Debt Conversion Program (3.79 million), the Nicaraguan government (7.44 million), and other smaller financiers (1.17 million euro). Finally, the budget added new resources from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Government of Nicaragua, and the German Cooperation (GIZ) for a final total budget of 320.9 million euro.

Overall, the program has benefited a total of 575,556 people. Almost all have improved drinking water access, and 243,858 have

improved sanitation services. The cities now have facilities designed with the possible population growth for the next four decades in mind.

According to surveys conducted in 11 of the cities surveyed, PISASH is contributing to the well-being of families and has substantially improved the situation of women (more free time for economic activities, perception of greater security due to the availability of toilets in the homes, and participation in the activities carried out). The program has also improved the environment, although it was not explicitly among the objectives. Thus, it has opted for the use of surface sources - as opposed to the traditional exploitation of subway sources, and wastewater is now correctly treated thanks to the construction of 13 new Wastewater Treatment Plants, among them those of the cities of Bilwi (with LAIF funds), or those of Acopaya and Masaya (carried out with FCAS funds). The latter, in particular, has made it possible to divert spills away from the Masaya Volcano National Park lagoon. Overall, it has had an important impact on institutional sustainability regarding the administration and technical operation of water and sanitation services.

Nicaragua-Altamira: Program to improve the drinking water service in the Altamira - Managua sector, focusing on sustainability and equity

This program, financed with 10 million euro from the European Union allocated to Spain, began in 2021 by the Nicaraguan public water and sewerage company, ENACAL. This project, which also has a US\$10 million

loan from the IADB, will help provide 247,000 people with a 24-hour drinking water service, reducing the amount of unbilled water by up to 15.15% and increasing water collection, which will make the service sustainable. The overall objective is to improve the population's living conditions and contribute to the practical realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.



Baseline development workshop in the Altamira program.

Delegated cooperation in Paraguay:

Paraguay: Water and sanitation for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción - Lambaré Basin.

This program involves funds from Delegated Cooperation, FCAS, and reimbursable cooperation. The objective is to expand the coverage of sanitary sewerage services in the region included in the Lambaré river basin, reduce pollution through the treatment and disposal of effluents, increase the efficiency of drinking water management, and contribute to the reduction of Paraguay's greenhouse gas emissions. The project is expected to directly benefit some

480,000 people in the municipalities of Lambaré, Asunción, Fernando de la Mora, and Villa Elis and indirectly benefit the more than two million people living in the metropolitan area of Asunción.

The intervention has 10 million euro of donation allocated by the European Union to Spain and 1.2 million donated by the Water Fund. In addition, FONPRODE will provide US\$60 million ('56 million) in reimbursable cooperation via a credit agreement signed in June 2022, and an IADB loan of US\$100 million ('98.2 million).

LAI Regional: Promote adaptation to climate change and integrated water resources management in the water and sanitation sector in Latin America within the framework of the FCAS.

This is a European Union blending project managed by the Water Fund of particular relevance. It aims to achieve greater impact of the Fund's programs and addresses challenges common to several regional countries, such as Adaptation to Climate Change (AAA) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The funds have been used to develop studies and analyses, strengthen entities associated with the sector, train operators, and review sectoral policies and regulations, among others. Since its inception in 2013, it has enabled the development of innovative knowledge products and platforms, increased the institutional capacity of regional governments, and provided support in modernization and local

strengthening. At the same time, it plays a vital role in supporting the pre-investment and post-investment processes necessary to carry out other projects and ensure their sustainability.

The program has two components:

◆ **I: Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC):**

The objective is to support the inclusion of adaptation measures, especially those related to water security and extreme events, such as droughts or floods, in policies and investments related to the water and sanitation sector.

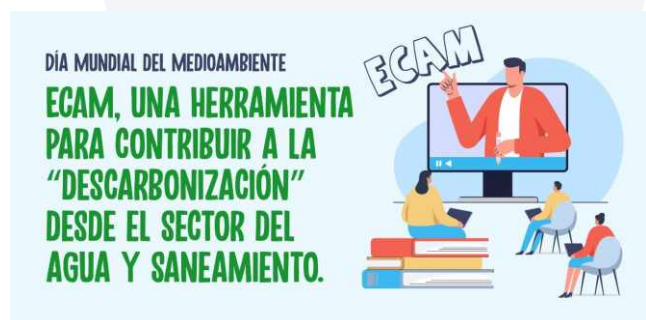
◆ **II: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM):** It influences the development of policies and investments in the sector by promoting solutions adapted to the needs and capacities of the population.

It is a regional program through which cross-cutting aspects are analyzed for possible implementation in different countries. In addition, it contributes actions in specific countries, such as Brazil (Ipojuca Basin), Paraguay (Ypacarai Basin and Patiño and Guarani aquifers), Guatemala (Guatemala City), Honduras, El Salvador, Ecuador (Quito), Nicaragua (Managua), Uruguay (Rio de la Plata) and Bolivia (La Paz and El Alto). So far, Paraguay has received 14% of the program's funds, followed by Bolivia, which has received 5%. The remainder has been allo-

cated to other countries or regional interventions.

In total, as of December 2022, the program has approved 29 operations for a total amount of 12,069,652 euro. Of these, 24 have been completed, and five are still in progress.

Throughout 2022, numerous actions have been carried out, including progress on the Pilcomayo River Basin Master Plan; the definition of a roadmap to improve hydro-climatic services through two pilot projects in Panama and Costa Rica; the development of guidelines to promote sewerage connectivity; the implementation of different tools (for the supervision of rural projects; for the design of sewerage systems or to identify measures to reduce gas emissions -the ECAM tool-), and the conceptualization of a methodology to strengthen small water operators, among others.



The LAIF Regional program is promoting the dissemination of the Carbon Emissions and Energy Performance Monitoring and Assessment (ECAM) tool through training workshops.

By 2023, work will be carried out on the five operations currently underway, which are as follows:

- Water Security, Circular Economy, and Wastewater Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean (RG-T3477)
- Management of water resources in the Pilcomayo River Basin (RG-T3294)
- Integrated water resources management in the Upper Paraguay River Basin (Pantanal) and the Lempa River Basin (RG-T3911)
- Strengthening of the "Saneamiento Óptimo" initiative (RG-T3524)
- Capacity building of small water and sanitation service operators in the region (RG-T3915)

4.2 Reimbursable Cooperation

Reimbursable cooperation makes it possible to offer credits under special financial conditions to promote countries' development. In the case of Spanish Cooperation, this type of action is carried out through FONPRODE, the Development Promotion Fund. In the water and sanitation sector, FONPRODE complements the FCAS portfolio by financing new projects or second phases of Water Fund programs. In fact, 70% of its reimbursable operations have been aimed at expanding access to water and sanitation, mainly in Latin America and the Caribbean. These interventions include those conducted in Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama, and Paraguay, detailed below. In most

cases, this funding is supplemented by grants directly from the FCAS or through the European Union's LAIF mechanism to extend projects to the most disadvantaged populations.

BOLIVIA

25.6 million from FONPRODE to co-finance the *Integrated Water Management in Urban Areas Program (GIAAU)*, in which the EU Delegated Cooperation, the Water Fund, and other donors are also participating. (See Delegated Cooperation section).

ECUADOR

In Ecuador, there are two programs with reimbursable cooperation:

- Credit operation for the Autonomous Decentralized Municipal Government of the Canton Portoviejo (GADMCP) to co-finance the *Drinking Water and Sewerage Program of Canton Portoviejo*. In this operation, FONPRODE contributes 15.45 million euro of credit to the joint program. section)
- *Drinking Water and Sewerage Program in Quito*. This initiative aims to improve and expand the drinking water and sewerage systems in the country's capital

and comprises a joint loan operation with Metropolitan Public Company of Drinking Water and Sanitation of Quito. It makes up a total of 217.1 million euro, of which FONPRODE will contribute 36 million euro in the form of a loan, the Inter-American Development Bank 70.6 million euro, and the executing entity, which is the Metropolitan Public Company of Drinking Water and Sanitation of Quito, another 85.8 million euro.

PANAMA

◆ *Sanitation Program for the districts of Arraiján and La Chorrera.*

Arraiján and La Chorrera (DACH) districts, located about 35 km from Panama City, have experienced extraordinary population growth in recent years, reaching almost half a million people. Various interventions have been carried out in the area, but sanitation has historically been neglected, resulting in less than 40% of the population having sanitary sewerage. This is why a decision was made to launch this program, a broad initiative with loans from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, the Central American Integration Bank (CABEI), and the European Investment Bank (EIB). FONPRODE, for its part, is providing a loan of up to US\$50 million, which would exclusively finance the wastewater treatment plant

planned under the project. The IADB is providing US\$25 million, and the other entities are contributing US\$200 million. In this operation, the Water Fund does not offer financing. Still, the Spanish Technical Cooperation Office in Panama and the Water Fund itself are conducting important technical cooperation work to support and promote the project, thanks to their experience in water and sanitation in the region.

PARAGUAY

- ◆ Since 2020, a reimbursable cooperation is underway to co-finance, together with the IADB, the *Drinking Water and Sanitation Project for Small Cities and Rural and Indigenous Communities*. The program has a budget of US\$60 million, of which US\$20 million is provided by FONPRODE through a loan. This operation does not have associated funding from the Water Fund. Still, it is closely related to it as it is proposed as a continuation of the *PRY-011-M program (Drinking Water and Sanitation Program for Rural and Indigenous Communities (PAYSRI))*, which ended in 2018, and the funding orientation is focused on the rural area. It is estimated that the program will benefit a total of 131,500 people in eight small towns (53,000 inhabitants), 85 rural communities (75,000 inhabitants), and 30 indigenous communities (3,500 inhabitants).

- ◆ **Drinking Water and Sanitation Project for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción, Lambaré Basin.** This program combines reimbursable cooperation (FONPRODE, which provides a credit of US\$60 million, and the IADB another US\$105 million), Delegated Cooperation (10 million euro from the EU), and donations from the FCAS -through Technical Cooperation carried out by FECASALC-. In June 2022, Spain and Paraguay signed a credit agreement to implement the project's financing.

4.3 Bilateral Cooperation from AECID:

Bilateral Cooperation is developed directly between States, in this case, through direct donations from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation to partner countries. Of all the programs of this type carried out by AECID, some are closely related to the Fund's initiatives:

- ◆ In **Cuba**, two bilateral programs are being developed to complement and expand the Fund's impact. One is carried out with the National Institute of Water Resources (INRH) and seeks to strengthen management capacities through technical cooperation activities aimed at the sector's leading institutions and operators. In coordination with the Havana Bay Working Group, the other focuses on treating industrial discharges. These programs open up new areas of collaboration aimed at improving the technical and managerial capabilities of the State institutions responsible for the water sector. They will remain active until 2023 and 2024, respectively.
- ◆ In November 2022, a bilateral action was approved in **Peru** for 125,000 euro for the Ministry of Housing, Construction, and Sanitation to prepare the technical, economic, social, institutional, and environmental pre-investment study for **Phase II of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Program for the Rural Amazon**, which has already been approved for at least 50 projects and will benefit some 20,000 people. This makes it possible for the global configuration of this intervention, which will be financed with credit contributions from other sources, to focus globally on the cross-cutting axes considered key by the Spanish Cooperation
- ◆ In **Colombia**, in December 2022, a new project was approved to develop **a New tariff framework for residential public utilities of water and sewage services for small providers (COL-038-ALC)**. The objective is to create a new tariff framework that considers local specificities, looks towards sustainability, and aligns with national plans. The action has a budget of 160,000 euro and will be led by the Regulatory Commission for Drinking Water and Basic (CRA).
- ◆ In **Honduras and Ecuador**, two operator strengthening projects are underway,

with Aguas de la Sierra de Montecillos and Portoaguas, respectively, financed by AECID through agreements with EMASESA, the Municipal Water Company of Seville.

- ◆ In **Honduras**, a program is underway to improve water and sanitation services in urban, rural, and peri-urban areas of La Esperanza and Intibucá to improve water resource management. This initiative is supported by a 3 million euro donation from AECID.
- ◆ In the Department of Petén, **Guatemala**, a project is being executed for 150,000 euro, which will be responsible for the study and complete formulation of another Program with European funding through delegated cooperation that is expected to be signed between AECID and the EU at the end of 2023. This project aims to improve the planning, coordination, and management of public water and essential sanitation services to contribute to the socioeconomic development of the municipalities of the Lake Petén Itzá basin. In addition, it generates conditions that allow and improve inter-institutional coordination and participatory planning for more efficient management of public services and territorial development of the Lake Petén Itzá basin.

4.4. Technical cooperation:

Technical cooperation (TC) is a type of collaboration focused on exchanging technical and management knowledge to strengthen the capacities of water institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The objectives of these TCs are usually: a) to carry out a situation diagnosis that will allow countries to work on their national plans or sectoral policies; b) to reinforce the results of actions already carried out; or c) to create or systematize knowledge products. The results and products are socialized and made available to countries or regions to maximize their impact.

4.4.1. - Carried out by the IADB with FCAS funds

Part of the FCAS Funds managed by the IADB are used for technical cooperation aimed at conducting preliminary studies, supporting the sustainability of ongoing actions, or taking advantage of the knowledge generated for the development of future projects in the areas of Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, Gender, IWRM and governance of the sector.

In 2022, the three technical cooperation projects approved the previous year began to be executed, making a total of 11 operations, all of which are currently underway. They are as follows:



1.- Desalination as a water resource alternative in the LAC Region

The objective is to identify opportunities and keys for developing desalination alternatives in the context of water stress and climate change. The intervention reinforces the IWRM theme and focuses on a line of excellent development potential where Spain can have a significant added value. In 2022, a diagnosis has been contracted to analyze desalination in the region, study existing experiences, study in depth the keys that require implementing this type of solution, and identify opportunities for its development. The analyses are being carried out based on interviews and working sessions with plant managers, project implementers, design consultants, government officials, and specialists in the field in institutions (development banks, United Nations, and cooperation agencies).

2. Support for preparing national drinking water and storm drainage plans in Uruguay.

It consists of conducting sectorial studies that contribute to improving and universalizing drinking water, storm drainage, and sanitation services. In 2022, work has begun to support the development of the Strategic Plan for Uruguay's Stormwater Drainage Subsector (PEDP) under the technical supervision of the National Water Directorate (DINAGUA), part of Uruguay's Ministry of

the Environment, which has a working group on Floods and Urban Drainage (IDU). The PEDP seeks to lay the foundations for future urban stormwater management throughout the country, addressing both flood risk mitigation aspects and the opportunities that the presence of water provides regarding territorial development and socio-urban integration. Specific work has been done in a pilot coastal town, Punta Diablo, where this locality's diagnosis and sanitation strategy has been developed.

3. Promotion of policies and mechanisms to foster innovation in the water, sanitation, and solid waste sector in LAC.

The purpose is to foster sectoral innovation by identifying possible improvements in policy and governance mechanisms and developing tools to facilitate the strategic management of innovation. This TC goes beyond the purely technological aspect, focusing on identifying strategic management and social innovation issues. This intervention will promote the area of institutional strengthening. It will focus on a key aspect of the sector's development -innovation- from a perspective of great interest to Spanish Cooperation: public policy.

Work has been carried out on developing and validating a tool for rapid assessment of the maturity of innovative ecosystems in water and sanitation.

4. Support for implementing reforms and institutional strengthening of the water and sanitation sector in Paraguay.

This Technical Cooperation began to be implemented in October 2019 to support the design of the necessary actions to carry out the reforms and strengthen the sector's governing authority. During 2022, progress was made on the project management instruments for the Drinking Water and Sanitation Program for the Metropolitan Area of Ciudad del Este and the Metropolitan Area of Asunción-Cuenca Lambaré, the design of the sewerage connectivity strategy for Fernando de la Mora has begun; The technical guidelines for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the systems have been developed and socialized, the communication strategy is being developed and the development of the Service Development Plan (PDS) for the drinking water and sanitation sector, the methodological guidelines, the application guide for the determination of costs and tariffs, the formulation of three-year development plans and the determination of the value of the infrastructure for drinking water and sanitation service permit holders are in the final stage.

5. Local strengthening for the use of dry ecological toilets - Bolivia.

The objective is to promote the use of ecological toilets in Bolivia's rural areas by developing a social strategy. It is also

intended to consolidate a line of work that will serve as a model for the new rural operations being developed in Bolivia. In 2022, a community diagnosis (298 surveys in 24 communities) and an anthropological study were carried out, which served to define the Strategy for Support and Reinforcement of the use and maintenance of the Dry Ecological Baths in Bolivia. Six pilot communities have been selected to implement the new strategy, after which the pertinent adjustments will be made. It is expected to be completed in 2023.

6. Systematization of experiences and support for developing regional strategies in the rural water and sanitation sector.

The objective is to promote access to safe water and sanitation services in the rural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean through the development of strategies based on the analysis of experiences and within the framework of the SDGs and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWSS), with a particular emphasis on service sustainability schemes. These resources supplement \$300,000 from the Regional LAIF. In 2021, support for the operation of the Honduran Drinking Water and Rural Sanitation Program concluded through the definition of a sustainability strategy. The regional cost analysis of rural projects and support to SENASA in Paraguay for developing a project supervision tool are being finalized.



7. Strengthening the capacity of small water and sanitation service operators in the region.

This regional cooperation seeks to promote the sustainability of water and sanitation services by supporting small operators through the development of tools and assistance for specific stakeholders.

To date, work has been done on a diagnosis of the training offer for operators to identify opportunities and aspects to be strengthened, with training workshops having been held in Honduras and Argentina. A tool is being developed to register land and link it to hydraulic modeling, and diagnoses and improvement plans are being carried out for operators in Honduras, Peru, Ecuador, and Chile.

8. Transboundary water resources: a water security framework for Latin America and the Caribbean transboundary basins.

This regional initiative supports the development of transboundary water manage-

ment models using tools that make it possible to carry out diagnoses and shared management and hydrological planning scenarios that minimize conflicts over resource use and make it possible to plan its management in a resilient and sustainable manner. The transboundary issue is fundamental for implementing integrated water resources management in the region. It is an aspect that the Fund wishes to focus on specifically. These resources supplement an additional US\$800,000 from the Regional LAIF. To date, work has been done to prepare the analyses to be carried out in the Pantanal, the Amazon, and the Trifinio. Progress has been made in developing the scenario model of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus in the Amazon Basin.

9. Promotion of gender equality in the water and sanitation sector. Regional

This initiative aims to define and develop lines of action to promote gender equity in the water and sanitation sector through specific approaches and tools. In 2022, support for CONAGUA in Mexico stands out. In addition, we had previously supported the development of a Gender and Diversity Module for the Aquarating tool (the rating agency for the evaluation of water and sanitation service providers), which is being tested in two operators, EPMAPS (Quito) and AySA (Buenos Aires). On that basis, the tool will be scaled up with at least five other operators.



10. Support for actions developed within the scope of the CODIA. Regional.

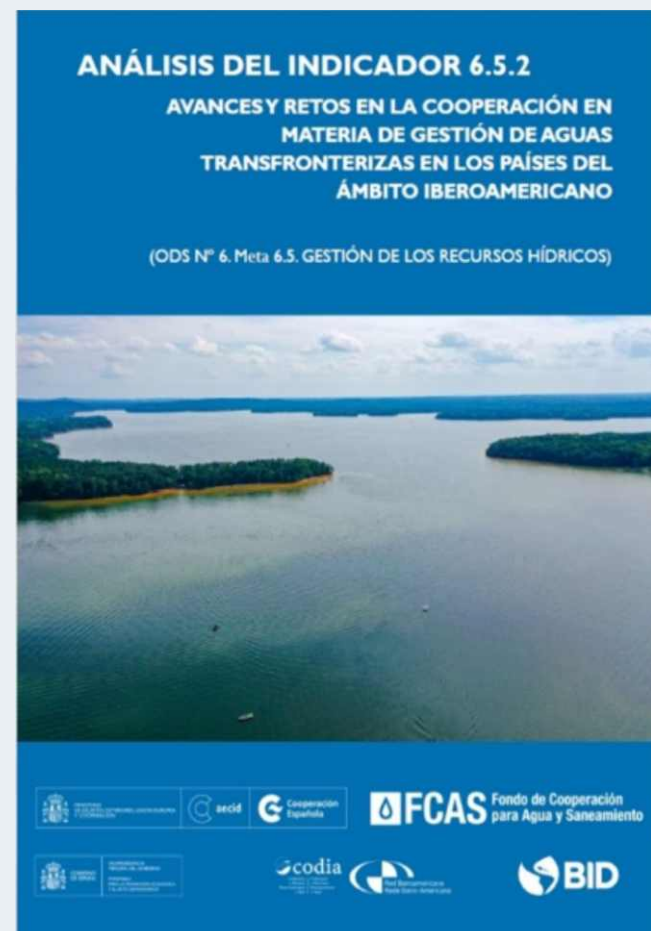
This cooperation was launched to support the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA) in developing strategic actions for the sector in water planning, integrated water resources management, and training. In the training field, the activities are part of the Ibero-American Training Plan (PFI), which is also being carried out with UNESCO in collaboration with AECID's Interconecta and RALCEA. In the analysis area, support is given to analyzing how countries report on the different targets linked to SDG-6.

11. Development of strategies to ensure water, sanitation, and hygiene services in informal settlements. Regional.

This intervention aims to support partner countries in defining strategies to guarantee

essential services in informal urban areas with high health vulnerability. To this end, diagnoses, action plans, and pilot projects will be prepared, considering urban conditions, alternatives for providing water and sanitation services, the legal and regulatory framework, and successful experiences. These guidelines will help define policies and programs aimed at guaranteeing services in these areas and closing gaps in coverage. A regional diagnosis is being carried out on the provision of.

The report also includes a diagnosis of the situation of water, sanitation, and hygiene services in informal settlements in the Metropolitan Area of Asunción and Colombia.



In addition, by 2023, we are preparing other Technical Cooperations related to Occupational Safety, support for the sustainability of services, and the development of joint collaboration schemes in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, among others.

4.4.2. Technical cooperation under the Regional LAIF Framework

The Delegated Cooperation program called ***Promoting Climate Change Adaptation and Integrated Water Resources Management Investment for the water and sanitation sector in Latin America, in the framework of the Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS)*** has been articulated through Technical Cooperations, some of which have been

- Analysis and Consolidation of Hydro-Climatic Information Management Systems in LAC to support IWRM.
- Groundwater Monitoring Platform for Latin America
- Urban water management and sustainable urban drainage systems
- Water Security, Circular Economy, and Wastewater Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean: analytical research and implementation case studies.
- Integrated Management of Transboundary Water Resources in Latin America
- Development of Water Security and Drought Plans in LAC Countries
- Development of training and knowledge exchange in water and sanitation through the RALCEA network.
- Systematization of experiences and support for developing rural water and sanitation strategies.
- Strengthening of the optimal sanitation initiative: to continue in 2023
- Capacity building of the operators as a critical aspect of the sustainability of water and sanitation services in the region.
- Integrated water resources management in the Upper Paraguay River Basin (Pantanal) and the Lempa River Basin
- Capacity building for small water and sanitation service operators in the region



4.4.3. Technical cooperation under the Aquafund Frame

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation is part of AquaFund, a multi-donor fund promoted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) to launch pilot projects that can be replicated on a larger scale; develop products and create knowledge platforms that improve the capacities of water-related institutions and provide support for various technical studies.

In 2022, FCAS has contributed a total of €500,000 to AquaFund, bringing the total

contribution to €8,954,000 since its origins. This, together with contributions from other donors, has enabled the implementation of 260 projects for a total of 118 million dollars, of which 73 are still underway.

Most of the technical cooperation promoted by AquaFund promotes studies and reports that can develop future water programs associated with the needs of each of the countries, with the aim of contributing to their development and effectiveness.



5 Alliances

5. Alliances

Achieving SDG 6, "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all," will not be possible without the participation of the diversity of actors involved in the sector. Public and private actors, local, national, and international, whose collaboration is necessary to shape long-term sustainable water and sanitation services, achieve adequate management of

water resources, and improve water governance.

The FCAS has worked to create strategic alliances with key actors and networks within the sector, whether national, regional, or international, and has made special use of the experience and expertise of leading Spanish institutions in the water sector.

FCAS: WORKING ON A NETWORK



5.1. Inter-American Development Bank

The alliance with the IADB is strategic and has meant a high added value thanks to the integration between the vision of the development agency that AECID brings (the defense of water as a human right, the importance of citizen participation, and gender equality) and the experience and technical qualification of the IADB in the management of large projects. Due to its extensive expertise, the IADB is in charge of promoting, in coordination with AECID, the multilateral portfolio of the Water Fund. Contributions are channeled through the Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean (FECASALC), a trust fund established between the Government of Spain and the IADB. The multilateral portfolio is endowed with 397 million euro in donations from Spain, which, together with the IADB's activity, broadens and multiplies the impact. Multilateral programs are implemented through an operational regulation and a coordination guide, following the criteria for action of the Spanish Cooperation.

5.2 CEDEX

Throughout 2022, the Center for Hydrographic Studies has continued collaborating with the Water Fund to provide technical assistance through various actions. On the one hand, it has carried out transversal or regional efforts, aiming to systematize the knowledge generated and bring together regional experiences in the specific context of the area. Specifically, as part of this col-

laboration, the Treatment Technology Selection Guide was published in 2022 as part of the Recommendations for sanitation and wastewater treatment projects.

In addition, work has continued on the development of other products and on providing support to the FCAS regional strategy on sectoral regulations. On the other hand, CEDEX carries out specific actions related to wastewater treatment systems and sector regulations in Bolivia, Cuba, and Panama; it has participated in the development of a training program in Paraguay and has provided support for the review of sector regulations in El Salvador, among other actions.

5.3 TRAGSATEC

Tragsatec is a public engineering company that, since 2014, has been responsible for program management, monitoring, and coordination support. This collaboration, on-site and the field, is key for the Water Fund, as it is necessary to count on the technical and specific qualifications offered by Tragsatec. The assignment also includes work on developing and monitoring indicators and the essential communication support for effective accountability. Tragsatec provides expertise in planning, monitoring, and technical advice for infrastructure projects, as well as technical assistance for implementing policies and regulatory frameworks for the sector, in addition to contributing to the knowledge management and communication work of the Water Fund as a whole.

5.4 Geological and Mining Institute of Spain

In 2022, the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME) has continued to collaborate with FCAS in one of the programs in Guatemala. This initiative, in which the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Spanish public company TRAGSA also participate, aims to provide a water security strategy for the Guatemala City valley. The specific work of the IGME consists of conducting studies and technical services to generate quality information that will serve as a basis for the integrated management of water resources.

5.5 EMASESA

Empresa Municipal de Abastecimiento y Saneamiento de Aguas de Sevilla, S.A. (EMASESA) maintains, as a result of a collaboration agreement signed with AECID, joint contracts in the field of supply and sanitation with an operator in Honduras (Aguas de la Sierra de Montecillos), and another in Ecuador (Portoaguas), through which several visits, exchange of experiences and technical meetings have been carried out throughout 2022. Likewise, EMASESA actively collaborated in the formulation and development of the course on Sectoral planning and water and sanitation policy held in March 2022 in virtual format for Paraguay.

5.6 University of A Coruña

Since 2021, the Agreement between AECID and the Universidade da Coruña for the "Management, technical support and training in

the field of sanitation and sustainable drainage planning in the plurinational state of Bolivia", financed with European funds from the LAIF program *Support to the urban and peri-urban water and sewerage program* has been under execution in Bolivia. Through this agreement, the University is contributing to the development of drainage master plans, has carried out various training activities in Bolivia, and has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Water in the development of public policies related to water and primarily associated with the construction of sustainable drainage techniques in the cities of Sucre, Oruro, and Trinidad.




5.7 Ibero-American Water Institutions

Interaction with Ibero-American water institutions is crucial, especially with the three main networks with regional impact: the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA), the Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC) and the Conference of Directors of Ibero-American Meteorological and Hydrological Services (CIMHET), with which the Central American Lightning Detection Network operates, with the advice of the State Meteorological Agency (AEMET).

5.8 Civil Society

The Water Fund works with civil society through Non-Governmental Organizations such as ONGAWA or Action Hunger. In 2022, the Fund presented, together with ONGAWA, the **Tool for incorporating human rights to water and sanitation in municipal management** after a first working session with the municipality of San Pedro, in Bolivia, to test its operation. This tool allows small cities to review their compliance with the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and establish a roadmap to achieve them progressively.

5.9 Official Credit Institute

The ICO is responsible for formalizing, in the name and on behalf of the Government of Spain, the financing agreements that the FCAS establishes with the Fund's beneficiary entities. It also provides financial services related to the operations authorized under the Fund, being compensated by the FCAS for the expenses incurred in performing these functions. The Fund's Activity Report prepared by ICO can be found here. 



6 Countries



6.1- BOLIVIA

Active programs:

- 💧 **BOL-006-B:** Support for the Urban Water and Sewage Program (APAAP)
- 💧 **BOL-007-B:** Integrated Water Management in Urban Areas Program (GIAAU)



The two programs currently underway in Bolivia are part of more significant initiatives involving the European Union and other funders. This allows for the implementation of comprehensive plans with greater impact that promote leveraging funds. It has also marked a new step in the Fund's bilateral programs in Bolivia, which have gone from focusing on rural communities to also working in peri-urban areas and the most disadvantaged regions of urban areas, where there is an increasing concentration of population.

The ***Support for the Urban Water and Sewage Program (APAAP)*** is a continuation of the decade-long alliance between the Government of Bolivia, AECID, and the IADB, based on the work of the Cooperation Fund for

Water and Sanitation (FCAS), to which on this occasion a new partner has been added: the European Union.

Through strategic investments in infrastructure, together with improved service delivery and management of water resources, resilience to droughts and floods in urban populations is strengthened in a program led and implemented by the Bolivian Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA).

The distribution of the Funds is as follows: 15 million euro donated by the European Union through the LAIF program to be managed by Spain, in addition to 5 million euro donated by the Water Fund, making up the APAAP. Fifty-five million loan from the IADB;

the Contravalor program for canceling foreign debt of 22 million euro. 125 million program.

Among the cross-cutting aspects of this program is the emphasis on promoting good governance, gender mainstreaming, health, and the fight against climate change. Among the activities worked on in 2022, it is worth mentioning the progress made in the completion of the Storm Drainage Master Plans for the cities of Sucre, La Paz, El Alto, Oruro, Cobija, and Trinidad, as well as the works for the tender of Drought Management Plans (with four zones and 12 agreements signed in June 2022). In addition, a project to extend and improve the drinking water and sewerage network in Cobija and Chicani-Chincaya has been initiated. In addition, intensive work is being done on community development plans

and the implementation of connectivity incentives (working with the population to generate demand for the sewage service and promote connection to the network by potential users) and on the institutional strengthening of the EPSAS (Empresa Pública Social de Aguay Saneamiento).

As for the part corresponding to the European Union's contribution (LAIF financing), in 2022, work continued on the review of the final design of the future International Center for Research and Development in Wastewater Treatment (CIIDAR).

In addition, during 2022, progress was made in the pre-investment studies for several works (Cobija, Khaluyo-Achachicala, Tumpeka, Cobija sanitary sewerage), and the participatory diagnosis of the integral urban water cycle, tasks that will be carried

Connectivity incentives

Connecting to sanitation services involves an economic cost for the population, which can sometimes lead to certain reluctance. Therefore, it is key to promote the connection.

This incentive process is carried out in coordination with the operators of sanitary sewerage services, the Autonomous Municipal Governments and the users of the services, for the achievement of social management after the post-investment phase, regarding the expansion of intradomiciliary connectivity.

out in the coming years. Projects will also be implemented to search for experimental and demonstrative solutions associated with water, sanitation, and sustainable drainage; community development activities will be implemented, and support will be given to the institutional development of the water and sanitation service providers (EPSAS).

On the other hand, the *Integrated Water Management in Urban Areas program (BOL-007-B)*, which finances interventions for the expansion and improvement of drinking water and sanitation services, focusing on those that mitigate water supply crises caused by drought as part of a long-term adaptive process. 18 million (15 million from the European Union's dele-

gated cooperation program and 3 million from the Water and Sanitation Cooperation Fund). 85.5 million (US\$100 million) and another loan from FONPRODE for 25.6 million. Together, they make up an initiative worth more than 129.1 million euro to focus on peri-urban areas.

The EU co-finances the construction, rehabilitation, and expansion of sanitation systems that allow for the integrated management of water resources, including household connections, supervision, community development actions, and quick impact and connectivity actions to improve the efficiency of existing systems, considering potential new drought events. It also includes investments to support the integrated management of services, such as, among others, the development of micro and macro measurement plans and management training. It also includes preparing or updating master plans and pre-investment studies to construct or expand drinking water and sanitation systems.

This program will allow, among other things, the construction, improvement, and/or rehabilitation of the sewerage systems of the old town of Oruro, Tucusupaya, and D6-Viacha and the start-up of the sanitary sewerage network and the San Pedro Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The European Union's action, through cooperation delegated to AECID, is part of components I and II, related to investments in infrastructure and pre-investment studies.

AECID and IADB co-financing adds a component focused on water security, including the review and updating of water balances (drought management and control plans), as well as the improvement of hydro-climatic information monitoring systems and networks and training in the development and use of the necessary technical tools (e.g., hydrological modeling, monitoring and control systems, early warning mechanisms, etc.).

To improve Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), support will be provided to strengthen water information systems, acting specifically on:

- ▀ Hydrometeorological monitoring systems for reservoirs (Misicuni and Kari-Kari).
- ▀ Support the National Drought Strategy by generating and systematizing water supply and demand balance information.
- ▀ Incorporation of data in risk assessment processes in vulnerable areas in the context of the National Drought Monitor - Tarija, Sucre, and Chiquitania.
- ▀ Strengthening of the Bolivian Groundwater Information System (SIASBO).

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Like other neighboring countries, Bolivia is undergoing an accelerated urbanization process, with migratory flows that have significantly modified population distribution, causing urban areas to grow three times faster than the rural population. As a result of this demographic dynamic, the country has 35 cities with a population of over 20,000 inhabitants, in which 88% of urban dwellers reside. Therefore, although there is still a significant access gap in rural areas, increasing access to water and sanitation in these urban areas is also crucial.

With this goal, the two programs launched in recent years work to increase access to water and sanitation in urban and peri-urban

areas. Ninety-five million to the country since its inception and has directly improved the lives of more than 5% of the population.

The country still has difficulty accessing water and sanitation for part of the population. It is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, which causes cyclical water crises with recurrent droughts and floods. In response to this, national strategies and plans are being put in place involving most of the institutions and actors in the sector. In addition, much work has been done to improve wastewater treatment, as it is estimated that 73% of wastewater is discharged without treatment, which poses a health risk to the population and is a significant source of watercourses, soils, and aquifers contamination.



6.2- COLOMBIA

Active programs:

- ▶ **COL-018-B:** Investment Plan "Todos por el Pacífico" - Chocó, Antioquia, Cauca, Nariño. (Completed in September 2022).
- ▶ **COL-022-B:** Integral Pacific multi-water system project in the towns of La Guayacana, Llorente, Espriella, and Tangareal in the Municipality of Tumaco, Department of Nariño.
- ▶ **COL-035-B:** Water and sanitation program for the rural sector.

Related programs

- ▶ **COL-038-ALC:** Preparation of a new water and sewage tariff framework applicable to all small water and sewage service providers in Colombia, both rural and urban.



The programs in Colombia have experienced a complex situation in recent years. In 2022, three programs remained in execution, one ending in September. This is the program called **All for the Pacific**, which has encountered difficulties of various kinds, with the result that some projects have yet to be completed. This made it impossible to achieve all the expected objectives. Still, the planned aqueduct systems in Nuquí and BahíaSolano have been put into operation, and the works in the municipalities of Atrato, Tadó, Capurganá, and Acandí have been completed.

On the other hand, the **COL-022-B Multivere-
dal Integral Pacific** Program, which is being carried out in the municipality of Tumaco (Nariño), a priority area for Spanish Cooperation in Colombia, is still underway.

This initiative foresees the design and feasibility of the Multivere-
dal Aqueduct, which will provide service to several municipalities, and the construction of a water and sanitation system in one of them, Espriella, which will directly benefit 2,300 people.

Finally, the **Water Supply and Wastewater Management in Rural Areas program (COL-035-B)**, which has a Water Fund grant of almost 14 million euro, aims to contribute to increasing the coverage of efficient and sustainable drinking water and sanitation services in the rural communities of Fonseca (La Guajira) and San Onofre (Sucre). The estimated beneficiary population of this project amounts to more than 7,000 people, and during the year 2022, work has been carried out to fine-tune the designs. An additional two-year extension is currently being considered, and it has been decided to suspend one of the planned actions, the one to be carried out in Totoró (Cauca), due to insufficient time to complete its execution.

OTHER PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FUND

COL-038-SECT: In December 2022, the program for the **Development of a new aqueduct and sewerage tariff framework applicable to all small providers in the Colombian territory, both rural and urban**, was approved, always with particular emphasis on the criteria of simplicity, differentiation, flexibility, and progressiveness. This initiative is financed with 160,000 euro from AECID. Still, it will be implemented through the Water Fund. It will be led by the Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation Regulatory Commission (CRA) - Special Administrative Unit (UAE), attached to the Ministry of Housing, City and Territory.



COUNTRY CONTEXT

Colombia is one of the countries where the most significant number of FCAS programs have been carried out. There have been eight, of which two are still under implementation, plus one associated project. The actions implemented so far have already improved living conditions for more than 115,000 people.

The Fund's work in the country has focused on areas of displacement due to the conflict that the country has experienced, such as Chocó and Nariño, areas of settlement of displaced populations (mainly on the outskirts of Cartagena de Indias), and rural areas and indigenous communities in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Guajira, Sucre, and Cauca.





6.3 COSTA RICA

Active programs:

💧 **CRI-001-M:** Drinking water and sanitation program



The Fund currently has an active program in Costa Rica managed through the IADB. The ***Drinking Water and Sanitation Program (CRI-001-M)*** focuses on rural and indigenous areas. It has a contribution of 13 million euro from the Water Fund and a local contribution of almost 50 million euro, in addition to contributions from other financiers.

With the Fund's contribution, the program has supported construction of three rural systems, ensuring that more than 26,500 people have access to water 24 hours a day without making the long journeys they were previously forced to make. In addition, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, a campaign was carried out to promote the hygiene measures stipulated by the Ministry of Health, with animated videos, radio messages, and pieces

for social networks. The campaign was widely publicized because it was carried out by the Water Supply and Sewerage System Administration Associations (ASADAS).

In 2022, the program has obtained an extension to complete its execution and it is expected to end in July 2024.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Costa Rica has a high percentage of the population with access to safe and properly managed water (80%). However, there is still 20% of the population that only has access to "basic" water (that which comes from an improved water source but is far from the home). Regarding sanitation, the figures are not as positive: only 30% of the population has properly managed facilities (not shared

with other households and in which excreta are disposed of safely), and, in addition,

there is a significant gap in this area in some rural areas.





6.4 CUBA

Active programs:

- ◆ **CUB-003-B:** Program to improve integrated water management in the tributary basins of Havana and Santiago de Cuba Bays.
- ◆ **CUB-004-B:** Improvement and expansion of drinking water and sanitation services in small Cuban cities (second stage).
- CUB-005-B:** Improvement and sustainable water service management in Cueto and La Palma



The country's lack of material resources has worsened in Cuba since 2021, due to the effects of the pandemic, fuel shortages and changes in the economy following the process of eliminating the dual currency. All this has caused the programs to register some delays in 2022.

The program for the ***Improvement and expansion of drinking water and sanitation services in small Cuban cities (CUB-004-B)*** has four main objectives:

- ◆ Rehabilitation, expansion, and improvement of four drinking water systems affected by the hurricanes, located in La Palma, Jatibonico, Cueto, and Guisa.

- ◆ Rehabilitation, expansion, and improvement of the water supply to the municipal capital of Báguanos.
- ◆ Expansion and improvement of Circuit 3 in the southern area of Guantánamo.
- ◆ Rehabilitation of a training center for INRH technicians.

At present, the program is nearing completion. The Guisa and Cueto plants show considerable progress and have significantly improved water service to the municipalities of La Palma, Cueto, Báguanos, and the southern area of Guantánamo. The Jatibonico aqueduct is 98% complete, and the water treatment plant is 97% complete.

As for the Cueto aqueduct, the earthworks where the pumping station will be built have been completed, and civil construction will begin in 2023. The water treatment plant is 60% complete. The Guisa aqueduct is 99% complete regarding networks and pipelines, and the water treatment plant is 95% complete.

The ***Program for the improvement and sustainable management of the water service in the municipalities of Cueto and La Palma (CUB-005-B)***, municipalities in which the Water Fund has been working since 2010 through two previous programs: CUB-001, already completed, and CUB-004, currently being finalized, is also underway. This new intervention, endowed with 650,000 euro from the Water Fund, proposes actions to improve the two municipalities' water infrastructure and strengthen the services' management. To this end, we will work on the following aspects:

- ◆ Infrastructure improvements: rehabilitation of the La Palma and Marcané DWTPs.
- ◆ Strengthening the management of water operators in the two municipalities.
- ◆ Sensitization of the population.

For now, the rehabilitation of PTAT Ramón 2 (part of the Cueto Project) has begun. It should also be noted that the works have been included in the local economy plan by INRH, and the agency's contribution has been increased.

Finally, the ***Program to Improve Integrated Water Management in the Tributary Basins of the Bays of Havana and Santiago de Cuba (CUB-003-B)*** is the intervention currently facing the most significant difficulties and may require a new extension to complete its execution. 8.6 million (2.8 million from the Fund's grants). This program aims to intervene in three communities in the Havana Bay tributary basin (Matilla, San Matías, and La Prosperidad). Following the change in the program's portfolio in 2021, due to difficulties in the execution of a fourth project in the Monterrey community, it was decided to replace it with actions for renovating and improving the central sewerage system in Havana. The plan has also initiated institutional strengthening and training activities in the Havana and Santiago de Cuba bays.

Other programs:

In addition to the FCAS programs, there are currently two other initiatives in Cuba related to Water and Sanitation, financed with AECID funds:

- ◆ Technical solutions for treating industrial wastewater in the Bay of Havana, with a grant of 250,000 euro distributed in a cash grant and in-kind assistance (CUB-SECT-101 and CUB-SECT-257).
- ◆ Support for the sustainable management of water resources in Cuba: 750,000 divided into two grants, one in cash and one in kind, CUB-SECT-102 and CUB-SECT-237.



These programs provide technical and specialized support to promote wastewater treatment, institutional strengthening, and aspects related to water governance and sustainable water resources management.

In July, a group of technicians from the National Institute of Water Resources of Cuba (INRH) visited Spain to learn about and share experiences with various organizations involved in water management in our country.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

The presence of the Water Fund has been constant in Cuba since its origins, with a total

of four major programs and a donation of 11.7 million euro, in addition to other interventions implemented directly by AECID but related to water and sanitation to promote the sustainability of the actions carried out. Significant work has been carried out with this country to strengthen the sector's institutions and support the construction or rehabilitation of basic infrastructures. Despite this, only essential water services are available to most of the Cuban population, around 97%, according to the JMP 2020.







6.5 ECUADOR

Active programs:

- ▶ **ECU-051-B:** Drinking water and sanitation program in dispersed rural communities in Canton Portoviejo, province of Manabí
- ▶ **ECU-052-B:** Drinking water and sanitation in rural communities of Canton San Lorenzo in the face of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis.
- ▶ **ECU-053-B:** Cooperation Program for the Promotion of Human Rights to Water and Sanitation in Rural Communities. Approved in October 2022, still in the design phase.



The Fund's most extensive program currently being implemented in Ecuador is the ***Drinking Water and Sanitation program in dispersed rural communities in Canton Portoviejo (ECU-051-B)***, which operates in the parishes of Pueblo Nuevo, Alhajuela, Calderón, Chirijo, and San Plácido, and will benefit a total of some 3,000 people. The objective is to improve general sanitation conditions and support the effective fulfillment of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation through the construction of drinking water networks and sanitation solutions, the support of integrated water resource management and institutional strengthening,

and social and environmental management of the project, with particular attention to the gender approach.

This intervention is part of a more extensive program, the ***Water and Sewerage Program for Portoviejo***, driven by EU LAIF funds (€10 million grant) that complement and exert a multiplier effect of leveraging funds, incorporating the combined operation loans from IADB (€25 million) and EIB (€54,44 million) and the loan granted by FONPRODE (€15.45 million), which will support the creation of a sizeable 47-kilometer drinking water system along the Chico River that will

guarantee the availability of water in sufficient quantity and quality throughout the year, and the construction of 6 sanitation systems and five wastewater treatment plants; as well as small rainwater collection and evacuation systems.

LAIF funds, managed by AECID, will strengthen actions through technical assistance for housing improvement and institutional strengthening, working with Portoaguas. As part of this work, a twinning agreement has been established with EMASESA, the Metropolitan Public Water Supply and Sanitation Company of Seville, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and learning between the two companies. Among other activities, in 2022, training was provided in the use of technologies for detecting water leaks, in addition to various meetings in which Portoviejo managers traveled to Seville to learn about EMASESA's way of working and, subsequently, EMASESA technicians traveled to Portoviejo.

In February 2022, it began the implementation of the ***Drinking water and sanitation program in rural communities of the Canton San Lorenzo response to the COVID-19 sanitation crisis (ECU-052-B)***. During these first months, work has already started on the planning and preparation of management documents.

Finally, in October 2022, the Council of Ministers authorized a new cooperation program in Ecuador for the ***Promotion of human rights to water and sanitation in rural communities (ECU-053-B)***, with a grant amount of 10.2 million euro (from the reimbursement of funds following the cancellation of a previous program), plus a 2.5 million euro counterpart. The objective is to guarantee the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, focusing on a just ecological transition, to promote sustainable use and water exploitation models in Esmeraldas and Manabi's rural areas.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Ecuador ranks among the middle-income economies of Latin America; however, there is a significant gap in access to water and sanitation among the population, especially in rural areas.

The Ecuador-Spain Country Partnership Framework establishes four specific areas of work: sustainable economic development, innovation and research, gender and social inclusion, and habitat. The latter includes improving access to water and sanitation services since only 70% of the population has an improved water source in or near their homes, which drops to 51% in rural areas alone.



6.6. EL SALVADOR

Active programs:

- ◆ **SVL-059-B:** Construction of a public policy that guarantees the sustainability of the drinking water and sanitation sub-sector in rural areas. Phase 1.
- ◆ **SLV-060-B:** Construction of a public policy that guarantees the sustainability of the drinking water and sanitation sub-sector in rural areas. Phase 2.
- ◆ **SLV-061-B:** Strengthening of municipal and community water management with sustainable policies and operators with a gender focus that guarantees the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and a healthy environment. (Approved in December 2022, the program is still in the design phase).



There are currently three programs in El Salvador: two are under implementation, and the third, approved at the end of 2022, is in the design phase.

The two ongoing programs impact public policy to extend access to sustainable drinking water and sanitation services for El Salvador's most vulnerable population. The first (**SLV-059-B**) focuses on creating and implementing El Salvador's institutional system, analyzing the preconditions for strengthening governance. In contrast, the second (**SLV-060-B**) focuses on supporting rural systems not administered by ANDA

(Administración Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados) and improving the management and administration capacities of the executing institutions. After a detailed design and planning stage, the latter began operations in the latter part of 2022, so it has not yet made considerable progress.

In **SLV-059-B**, aimed at supporting the sustainability of the drinking water and sanitation subsector in rural areas, the operational and management guidelines are already in place, and the implementation of eight projects for rehabilitating and improving water systems in rural communities in the

Central region has begun. Regarding the governance component, changes in internal administration -such as the creation, in July 2022, of the Salvadoran Water Authority (ASA), the governing body for water in the country have led to some modifications in the structure and conception of the Program, while maintaining the same objectives

En junio de 2022 tuvo lugar una reunión entre representantes de El Salvador y de España para dar seguimiento a los proyectos de cooperación en materia de agua y saneamiento, en el que se destacó la importancia de la colaboración y se reiteró la disposición de seguir impulsando los programas.

In June 2022, a meeting was held between representatives of El Salvador and Spain to follow up on cooperation projects in water and sanitation, at which the importance of collaboration was highlighted, and the willingness to continue promoting the programs was reiterated.

Also, in July 2022, the Madresal Island desalination plant was inaugurated, a project corresponding to a program that had been completed the previous year (*SLV-056-B*) but had not yet been officially inaugurated due to the

socio-health context. This project expanded drinking water coverage and improved the quality of life of more than 150 families, with more than 600 people residing on Madresal Island in the Usuluán apartment.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Despite being considered a middle-income country, El Salvador still faces significant challenges. Thus, according to data from the Joint Monitoring Program of UNICEF and WHO, only 70% of the rural population has access to basic sanitation systems, and 1.12% still practice open defecation.

The Fund's activities in El Salvador focus on two lines of work: 1) increasing water and sanitation coverage in rural or precarious peri-urban areas and 2) accompanying the process of strengthening public policy for managing rural systems. Seventy million to various programs in El Salvador, which, in addition to improving access to water and sanitation services for rural populations, have contributed to the development of the National Integrated Water Resources Management Plan and the National Drinking Water and Sanitation Plan.





6.7 GUATEMALA

Active programs:

- ▶ **GTM-015-B:** RU K'UX YA' Contribute to the health and the reduction of the incidence of acute diarrheal diseases of families in 12 municipalities of the department of Sololá by improving the management and sustainable access to water and sanitation.
- ▶ **GTM-016-B:** Technical basis for establishing a water security strategy for the Metropolitan Area of Guatemala City and Municipalities of the Greater South City Commonwealth, compatible with sustainable aquifer exploitation.
- ▶ **GTM-017-B:** Institutional and technical strengthening in the provision of water and sanitation services to improve resilience in communities in the municipality of Sololá, Department of Sololá, Guatemala.
- ▶ **GTM-001-M:** Drinking Water and Sanitation Program for Human Development. Phase I



Significant progress has been made in all programs under implementation throughout 2022. In the Sololá area, the **RUK'UX YA' Program (GTM-015-B), focused on improving health and reducing the incidence of acute diarrheal diseases**, is achieving very positive results: 61 water and sanitation systems have been implemented in health centers and posts and primary schools; the financial management of the systems has been influenced through the development of Municipal Revenue Collection Plans

(PMRI's), water and sanitation regulations and awareness campaigns; and micro-meters have been installed to improve revenue control of the water systems. In addition, work has been done to train different actors related to water and sanitation, and the Santa Lucía Uatlán Water Laboratory has been created.

Closely related to this program, in March 2022, the **Institutional and Technical Strengthening Program for the provision of**

drinking water and sanitation services to improve resilience in communities of Sololá (GTM-017-B)

was launched in the presence of the director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Antón Leis, and other personalities. This initiative seeks to strengthen the municipality's prevention and response capacities for water and sanitation systems in the face of emergencies, fostering community resilience. The program, which Action Against Hunger is implementing, has funding of €700,000 and works along three lines:

- Support operators in diagnosing gaps and needs for sustaining and continuing services.
- Implementation of an institutional strengthening plan for managing water and sanitation services, emphasizing partnerships and intersectoral coordination. Throughout 2022, work has been done on the creation of a Municipal Agreement for the approval of the strengthening plan, and a communication campaign with a gender and cultural relevance approach has been launched.
- Conducting small emergency or quick-impact works to increase the resilience of the systems. In this regard, in June 2022, the improvement works for the provision of drinking water and sanitation in the urban area of Sololá began.

This program is aligned with the RU K'UX YA's strategy and the commitment to make sustainability and gender mainstreaming

with cultural relevance viable to strengthen all its actions.

On the other hand, the program for the ***Establishment of a Water Security Strategy for Guatemala City and the municipalities of the Greater South City Commonwealth (GTM-016-B)*** is underway, with a grant of 656,000 euro executed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and a contribution in kind - valued at 2.2 million euro - from the Municipality of Guatemala City. The objective is to promote a water security strategy for a reliable water supply to the populations of the valley of Guatemala City. To this end, the program is studying the state and degree of exploitation of the aquifer and other sources of resources that supply the populations of the Guatemala City valley and analyzing alternatives. In 2022, Tragsatec technicians who are conducting the study of the aquifer participated in the meeting organized by EMPAGUA, the public water company, with the title 50 years together reaching our greatest flow, in which some of the conclusions of the study conducted, which will be officially presented in 2023, were shared.

Finally, a significant program is underway to ***Improve drinking water and sanitation services in rural and urban areas and support institutional development in the sector (GTM-001-M)***. This program, executed by the IADB, completed in 2022 the actions to be carried out in the Chixoy area and made considerable progress in the works planned in the municipal capitals of San Marcos. How-



ever, there are still pending challenges related to the construction of some supply projects and continuing with the institutional development component of the sector. Completion is expected in October 2023.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

In Guatemala, there are still significant gaps in coverage, especially in rural areas, and only 56% of the total supply meets the necessary drinking water treatment requirements to be considered fit for human consumption. In addition, the incidence of diseases related to lack of safe water in childhood reaches 48.3% (SIGSA 2018), and there are some deficiencies in the governance of the water and sanitation sector, derived from not having a specific law regulating water uses and a weak institutional framework.

The Fund's objectives in Guatemala are to advance the practical realization of the

Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, reduce poverty, and increase the quality of life of its population by improving and expanding access to public drinking water and sanitation services in the country's neediest areas. The Fund's actions also aim to reaffirm and strengthen the institutions responsible for water management. The interventions are carried out with an integrated approach to river basins and with a vision of impacts on the health of populations, especially children. Therefore, they include environmental protection, environmental education, sustainability, risk management, health and hygiene training, and a multi-sectoral vision focused on social inclusion, gender equality, and education.

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation portfolio in Guatemala is one of the most important, both in number and in the Fund's overall budget, representing a clear commitment of the Spanish Cooperation to the country.





6.8- HAITI

Active programs:

💧 **HTI-003-B:** Drinking water and sanitation sector reform and investment program



Currently, there is only one program in operation in Haiti out of the five that have been implemented in the country by the Spanish Cooperation, which has made it one of the main donors in the Water and Sanitation sector in the country. Called the ***Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector Reform and Investment Program***, this initiative has 70 million euro donated by the FCAS. It aims to contribute sustainably to increasing access to appropriate, equitable, and socially accessible drinking water and sanitation services.

The program has a national scope and is being implemented in the country's ten departments. By December 2022, it has benefited more than 650,000 people. However, its reach is much greater indirectly, as it has contributed to the institutional strengthening of the National Directorate of Drinking

Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) and has promoted the decentralization of the water and sanitation sector to improve management. The objective is that once the program is completed, the Haitian institutions themselves will be personally responsible for the maintenance of the installed systems.

It is also associated with an ambitious infrastructure improvement project in cities such as Hinche, Arcahaie, Cabaret, Cap-Haïtien, and Jérémie, among others. In the second half of 2022, the country experienced a complicated fuel shortage situation, which affected the planning of most of the works. However, work has started on Fort Liberté and resumed on Lot 2 in Cap-Haïtien. Work has also begun at Miragoane, and several companies have signed contracts to begin work at Petit Goave, Saint Louis du Nord, and Limonade. The pro-

gram will continue to be executed over the next few years and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

OTHER PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FUND

Currently, there is a European Union Delegated Cooperation program underway called **URBAYITI: Access to essential water and sanitation services**, which has a total financing of 4 million euro, of which 1 million corresponds to a donation from Spain, through the Water Fund and 3 million from funds delegated by the EU.

URBAYITI is based on the principle of coordination between donors -AECID and the European Union- and Spain was chosen to manage the project because it has been one of the main donors to the water and sanitation sector in the country in recent years, generating a close relationship with the country's National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DINEPA).

The objective is to strengthen the resilience of cities and urban populations by improving access to essential services and creating the conditions for water supply and sanitation compatible with the integrated development approach in the area. Specifically, work is being done to improve access to essential services in Port-au-Prince, Jérémie, and Les Cayes. It is expected that 7,350 people will

benefit from new access to drinking water and approximately 2,000 from sanitation services. The intervention also includes rehabilitating and constructing sanitary blocks in schools, markets, health centers, and other community facilities.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Haiti is the country that has received the most funds from the FCAS: in total, almost 120 million euro in donations since it is one of the countries with the greatest difficulties in the world in terms of development and economic conditions. Added to this is the political instability experienced since 2019 and the impact of various natural events, such as the 2021 earthquake. In this situation, access to piped water and sanitation is inferior, and only 66.7% of the country's population has improved water systems.

All the actions carried out by the Water Fund in the country have had a national dimension. The programs have been implemented with the National Water and Sanitation Directorate (DINEPA) participation. The general lines of action of its interventions are as follows: (1) promoting access to drinking water by improving infrastructure and service conditions, (2) promoting sanitation, and (3) strengthening the institutions responsible for managing the resource, with emphasis on decentralization, providing technical training and monitoring and control instruments.



6.9 HONDURAS

Active programs:

- ◆ **HND-017-B:** Improved access to drinking water and water resource management in Santa Rosa de Copán, Phase II.
- ◆ **HND-018-B:** Water and Sanitation Project in the Comayagua Valley, Complementary phase.
- ◆ **HND-019-B:** Optimization of drinking water and sanitation systems in Choluteca.
- ◆ **HND-020-B:** Improvement of water resource management in water-producing micro-watersheds and improvement of drinking water and sanitation services in peri-urban and rural areas of Siguatepeque, Comayagua.



There are four active programs of the Fund in Honduras, which continue to deepen the aspects on which work has already been done in the past.

On the one hand, we have renewed our commitment to the city of Santa Rosa de Copán, where we are developing the *Program to Improve Access to Drinking Water and Water Resource Management (HND-017-B)*, Phase II of a previous program, whose main objective is to improve drinking water collection in the area through the construction of a dam. To

this end, work has been done on the design of the La Hondura dam, and several meetings have been held to form the Microbasin Council with a gender perspective. The program has also strengthened the institutional system for adequately managing the water sector. It also includes an essential component of Integrated Water Resource Management, promoting actions to foster sustainable management of natural resources. To this end, parallel activities such as reforestation actions, seed distribution, illegal logging prevention campaigns, and others have been

carried out through the Municipal Environmental Unit.

The program has received a total contribution of 770,000 euro from the Water Fund. It is estimated to directly benefit some 37,000 inhabitants of the urban area of Santa Rosa de Copán, specifically affecting some 7,000 homes, six health centers, and 20 schools.

The work in the Comayagua Valley is another example of the Fund's continued commitment to this area: for more than a decade, the municipalities of Comayagua, Ajuterique, and Lejamaní have been beneficiaries of a Fund intervention, which is now complemented by a new **Water and sanitation program in the Comayagua Valley (HND-018-B)**. This complementary phase involves creating a macro water system that will benefit the entire popu-

lation of the northwestern Comayagua Valley. In addition, the program provides sanitation solutions (120 water-closing latrines have already been built) to several rural communities in Lejamaní, Ajuterique, Isla del Triunfo, Ojo de Agua, El Porvenir, Casabeles and Carlos Miranda. Among other activities, this program has worked on designing improvements for five educational centers and has developed an Environmental Education Plan, from which some twenty workshops have already been set. It also has a robust institutional strengthening component for the Aguas de la Sierra de Montecillos provider, created in the previous phase of the program. For this reason, throughout 2022, several exchanges have occurred with personnel from the Municipal Water Company of Seville (EMASESA) to share experiences and advice.



The program places great emphasis on sustainable development: a person has been hired to support the training of the population in environmental issues and water use, in addition, to support in obtaining information in the communities to measure progress in learning knowledge and other activities assigned for the integrated management of water resources.

In the city of Choluteca, the program for the ***Optimization of Drinking Water and Sanitation Systems (HND-019-B)***, which began to be implemented in June 2020, is underway. This program is working on designing the city's sanitation works, which will rehabilitate the sewage system for 28,000 people and improve the sanitation conditions of three health centers. In addition, work is being carried out to improve service by implementing a plan to reduce unaccounted-for water. A training process has also been carried out for the technical personnel in charge of the operation and maintenance of the treatment plants. In addition, work is being done to increase the degree of economic sustainability of the company Aguas de Choluteca, the digitalization of the drinking water network, and the future digitalization of the GIS user registry.

Finally, the program to ***Improve water resource management in peri-urban and rural areas of the municipality of Siguatepeque (HND-020-B)*** is being implemented. This initiative began in mid-2022 and has been preparing the first management and administration documents. In addition, the first workshops have already been held, specifically aimed at raising community awareness of Integrated Water Resource Management.

OTHER PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FUND

There are currently three AECID bilateral funding programs related to water and sanitation in Honduras. They are as follows:

◆ **SECT 051 Siguatepeque Workshop School for Water and Basic Sanitation Management.**

This initiative led to the inauguration, in June 2022, of the first Water and Sanitation Workshop School in Honduras, in the municipality of Siguatepeque. The center has been set up in the facilities of the National Autonomous Service of Aqueducts and Sewerage (SANAA) under the operational and methodological processes directed by the National Commission for the Development of Alternative Non-Formal Education (CONEANFO) and, in its first phase, will directly benefit 80 young people of both sexes. FCAS Director Carmen Jover inaugurated the School during her visit to the country on June 15.

◆ **SECT 158: Program to improve water resource management in Aguas de Sierra de Montecillos and environmental awareness and education for citizens in Comayagua, Lejamani, and Ajuterique municipalities.**

This technical cooperation will promote institutional strengthening and joint water management. Among other activities, it encourages capacity building and the exchange of experiences between the local provider, Aguas de la Sierra de Montecillos (ASM), and Empresa Metropolitana de Abastecimiento

y Saneamiento de Aguas de Sevilla S.A (EMASESA).

♦ **SECT 194: Improvement in the provision of water and sanitation services in urban, rural, and peri-urban areas of the municipalities of La Esperanza and Intibucá and improvement in water resource management.**

This intervention, with a 3 million euro donation from AECID, aims to increase the quantity and quality of drinking water services in the rural areas of these two cities, improve sanitation services, strengthen the Deconcentrated Joint Unit of Aguas La Esperanza and Intibucá, and contribute to IWRM by promoting good practices in the protection and management of water-producing micro-watersheds.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Honduras is in a context of extreme fragility, especially conditioned by the effects of climate change and the situation of violence. In recent years, the country has witnessed an exponential increase in forced displacement and irregular migratory flows, including internal movements.

Most of the population (95%) has only basic access to water, and only 50% has safely managed sanitation. The Water Fund has done significant work with Honduras in recent years, allocating 49 million euro in donations to the country for implementing nine programs since 2009.



6.10 NICARAGUA

Active programs:

💧 **NIC-013-B:** Improvement and Expansion of the Sanitary Sewer System of the City of Masaya.



The program for the ***Improvement and Expansion of the Sanitary Sewage System of the City of Masaya*** has advanced throughout 2022. The execution is practically completed (although planned for the beginning of 2023). In April, the treatment plant in the city of Masaya came into operation, marking the final stage of the project for the general improvement of the city's system. This plant considerably improves the quality of wastewater and avoids discharges into the Masaya Volcano National Park's lagoon, as has been the case up to now.

13.2 million provided by the FCAS (to which 5.5 million euro were added from CABEL) has also enabled the installation of 6,550 new sewerage connections, improving urban,

environmental, and sanitary conditions in the city of Masaya.

This initiative is part of a more extensive overall program called the ***Integral Sectoral Program for Water and Human Sanitation (PISASH)***, which has directly benefited more than half a million people with water and sanitation services and has also involved funds from other FCAS programs (***NIC-014-B*** and ***NIC-056-B***, both now completed), as well as LAIF resources from the European Union ('50 million grant), 3.79 million), the Nicaraguan government ('7.44 million) and other smaller financiers ('1.17 million), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEL), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Nicaraguan government



itself and German Cooperation (GIZ), for a final total budget of euro 320.9 million.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Difficulties in terms of access to water and sanitation services are still significant in Nicaragua, where only 55% of the population has access to safely managed drinking water (a figure that drops to 38% if only rural areas are

taken into account). Similarly, there is a major problem of access to sanitation.

For this reason, Spain has made a significant effort to promote essential services in the water and sanitation sector, aiming to improve citizens' lives. Overall, the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation has provided 62 million euro through five programs, of which only one is currently being implemented.



6.11 PANAMÁ

Active programs:

- ◆ **PAN-009-B:** Drinking water and sanitation program in rural and indigenous areas of Panama with emphasis on local management.
- ◆ **PAN-010-B:** Participatory preparation and dissemination of the National Guide for the selection of wastewater treatment technologies.



The *Drinking water and sanitation program in rural and indigenous areas of Panama, with emphasis on local management*, is currently being extended and is expected to be completed by December 2023. Throughout 2022, progress has been made in the Maraca works, including constructing an aqueduct, 400 individual sanitation units, and four school sanitation modules in the Ngäbe-Buglé region. In addition, work is underway at Kankintu, and the Chichica-Las Lajitas project has been completed.

On the other hand, there is an institutional strengthening component through which work has been done to support the JAARS (Rural Water Management Boards), and the reactivation of the program's gender plan is also planned.

It also promotes integrated water resource management and encourages the protection of the watersheds that supply the water systems to be built in the program. However, difficulties have been identified in waste management, so it is necessary to reinforce compliance with this approach.

Finally, the program has a high component of integrating cultural diversity since it involves the indigenous peoples of the Ngäbe-Buglé region and relies on the long experience of DISAPAS, which applies a working methodology adapted and sensitive to these communities.

A small support program is also underway for developing the *National Guide for Selec-*

ting Wastewater Treatment Technologies, with an in-kind donation of 125,000 euro from the Fund. In 2022, work has continued with the Interinstitutional Committee for Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewerage (CIAPAS), through which the participatory preparation of the Guide is being articulated under the direction of the Ministry of Health (MINSA). After several meetings, it has been established that the Guide will have the rank of Technical Guide, according to national parameters, and work has continued on the planning and preparation of operational documents, with the technical assistance of CEDEX and Tragsatec, for submission to AECID and subsequent approval process. In addition, work has been done on the preparation of the terms of reference of two important tenders within the framework of the Program: those corresponding to the consultancy for the preparation of the Guide, tendered by AECID, and the one related to the execution of a wastewater characterization campaign, tendered by MINSA, which will contribute to the basic information available to begin the process of preparing the Guide.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Panama has a high percentage of the population with access to improved water (94%);

however, there are specific areas where there is a significant gap, especially in some indigenous communities. For this reason, two of the Water Fund's interventions in the country focus on indigenous and rural areas. The objective is to improve access to water and sanitation through the construction of systems, community management of these systems, and promoting of local development plans by strengthening sector institutions.

These programs have strategic components for the sustainability of the services implemented and pay special attention to the gender component, incorporating strategies for improving and empowering women at the community level. An example of the work carried out is the creation of the School for Women Leaders, focused on the training and empowerment of indigenous women in the Ngäbe-Buglé region, to promote women's participation in the Water and Sanitation Boards, as well as in other community decision-making spaces.





6.12 PARAGUAY

Active programs:

- ◆ **PRY-014-M:** Solutions for drinking water supply and sanitation in the Western Region or Chaco and Intermediate Cities of the Eastern Region of Paraguay.



The only program that is still active in Paraguay is very close to completion. This is an initiative carried out in various areas of the country (western and eastern regions), and one of the projects is the construction of the aqueduct from the Central Chaco to Mariscal Estigarribia, which the country's president inaugurated in June 2022. It is a system with 82 kilometers of adductor pipes, drinking water impulsion systems, and 1,000 cubic meter reservoirs.

The program, with forty-four million donated by the FCAS and a total budget of almost 58 million, has had a strong indigenous focus, working on the consultation process to establish the free, prior, and informed consent of the populations, allowing for greater ownership and acceptance of

the proposed interventions. In addition, within the intervention framework, mechanisms have been developed to prevent issues such as violence against women, and the participation of indigenous women has been promoted.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Paraguay is one of the countries that has received the most support from the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, with a contribution of 71.3 million euro in donations, which have been managed since 2011 through two programs with the IADB.

The first program, focused on rural areas, had the National Environmental Sanitation Service of Paraguay (SENASA) of the Minis-

try of Health and Social Welfare as a partner and sought to promote access to water and sanitation in small towns and rural and indigenous communities (PAYSRI) ('27.3 million). Under the Paraguayan Ministry of Public

Works and Communications, the second targeted the northwestern region of the Chaco and intermediate cities in the eastern part ('43.9 million).





6.13 PERU

Active programs:

- ◆ **PER-029-B:** Project to expand and improve water, sanitation, and solid waste management services and strengthen water supply basins in rural communities and AMSAT-CUSCO-APURIMAC-Peru districts (completed in September 2022).



In September 2022, the ***Program for expanding and improving water, sanitation, solid waste management, and water supply basins in the districts of AMSAT, Cusco, and Apurimac in Peru*** was completed.

With a total budget of 10 million euro, of which 8 million were FCAS donations, the program has enabled more than 5,200 people in scattered localities located in areas that are difficult to access -at an altitude of more than 3,500 meters- to have access to quality water and sanitation services. These are 13 localities and rural population centers located in the regions of Cusco and Apurímac and are part of the Santo Tomás river sub-basin, situated on the border of the

provinces of Cotabambas (Apurimac) and Chumbivilcas (Cusco).

The program has enabled the installation of 1,450 basic sanitation units (BSSU) equipped with toilets, showers, and sinks, construction or remodeling of 70 tanks, and the building of new water networks and catchments.

In addition, various training activities were carried out for rural families, including training in health education and the maintenance and operation of the systems, to ensure the long-term sustainability of service provision.

OTHER PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FUND

In addition to the Water Fund programs in Peru, the sectoral cooperation project *Articulation and Design of Phase II of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Program for the Rural Amazon* is currently underway, the agreement for which was signed in November 2022 and will begin to be implemented in February 2023. The objective of this intervention is to prepare pre-investment studies for more than 50 rural water and sanitation projects in five regions of the Department of Amazonas.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Peru has an important reserve of water resources. Still, the distribution is very unequal, as more than half of the population is located in the coastal zone, which is generally drier and more desert-like. In addition,

there is a significant inequality between rural and urban areas regarding access to water and sanitation services. Thus, according to data from the JMP, a joint report by UNICEF and WHO, access to adequately treated water is 59% in urban areas but only 22% in rural areas. The same is true for sanitation, where the differences are even more significant.

The Fund has maintained an extensive presence in Peru since its inception, with four programs and a donation of almost 59 million euro, benefiting more than 95,000 people with access to drinking water and sanitation and close to 85,000 with treated wastewater. The interventions have had a strong rural character, promoting water and sanitation services to these areas, enabling the creation and strengthening of the Water Boards, and the introduction of basic sanitation units following national regulations, replacing latrines.





6.14. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Active programs:

- ▶ **DOM-017-B:** Support for preparing the National Plan for the Sustainable Use of Water Resources in the Dominican Republic. Phase 1
- ▶ **DOM-018-B:** To ensure the human right to water by reducing vulnerability in the Municipal District of Pedro García, province of Santiago.
- ▶ **DOM-001-M:** Drinking Water and Sanitation Investment Program



2022 marked the end of the Fund's most extensive program in the Dominican Republic, called *Investments in drinking water and sanitation (DOM-001-M)*. This initiative made it possible to increase the coverage of drinking water and sanitation services, strengthen the commercial, technical, and operational management of the National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewerage (INAPA) and the provinces involved, and decentralize services to rural communities. In addition, the integrated approach to water management was promoted, including aspects such as health and environmental education and management training. The commercial and technological improvements in the provinces made it possible to make a significant leap towards the

modernization of services, achieving goals such as the increase and improvement of the land registration databases (cadastre), invoicing, and the increase in collection revenues, thus favoring the sustainability of the system. In addition, it has been possible to involve women in the management of the service, reduce open defecation, and improve water quality by reducing contamination, eliminating discharges, and reducing the percentage of untreated wastewater.

However, there are still pending aspects, such as the metering of users' consumption, to provide transparency to the values billed and promote reasonable water use. It is also necessary to take actions to reduce consumption,

which is still extremely high; to know the importance of unaccounted water; to promote micro-metering; and to establish sustainable tariffs with efficient subsidy systems for the different socioeconomic levels of the population.

Another key aspect was formalizing an outsourcing plan for the technical and commercial management of services. To this end, a Technical Assistance by Results (ATPR) contract was applied in the Province of San Cristóbal to repeat the experience in other provinces.

Another ongoing program is to support the **National Plan for the Sustainable Use of**

Water Resources in the Dominican Republic (DOM-017-B). This initiative has a bearing on institutional strengthening, and during its implementation (which continues until October 2023), multiple meetings, seminars, training, and visits have been held. Throughout 2022, work has been carried out on various aspects of Integrated Water Resource Management, institutional strengthening, and legislation to prepare for the future development of the Plan.

In 2022, representatives of the country's National Water Resources Institute participated in the annual meeting of CODIA (Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors) to share their progress and status.



INDRHI has created a specific web page to share the program progress:

In 2022, the program to **Ensure the human right to water by reducing vulnerability in the District of Pedro García, Province of San-**

tiago, with a total budget of 730,000 euro (of which 582,000 are donations from the FCAS), began to be implemented.



Presentation of the program by AECID to representatives of the Pedro García community.

As Santiago is the second most affected province in the country due to the incidence of COVID-19, it was decided to establish an emergency plan to ensure access to drinking water for rural populations at all times in the event of a contingency, establishing a pilot program in Pedro García that could be replicated in other rural areas of Santiago and the country. A presentation of the program was held in March 2022 to the entire CORAASAN team and representatives of the beneficiaries (city council, associations, private companies, etc.).

The activity allowed for discussion and the exchange of expectations among the participants, helping to generate a good atmosphere and motivating participation to achieve the expected results and products. In addition, the bidding documents and terms of reference have been prepared to begin contracting, but the international inflation increase has complicated the process.

The objectives of the program are to establish a diagnosis of the water and sanitation sector in the rural area of the district; to compile the threats, challenges, and lessons learned regarding the problems that hinder the ade-

quate provision of the service; to promote the participatory preparation of a General Rural Emergency Plan for water and sanitation in the province; to carry out the main mitigation works required and identify the infrastructure with the most significant deficiencies in the face of possible emergencies; and to prepare the bidding processes for the works.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

The drinking water and sanitation situation still faces many challenges in the Dominican Republic, especially regarding continued access to quality water and adequate sanitation.

Since 2009, the FCAS has allocated 26 million euro in grants for the different programs implemented in the country. The lines of action have been related to governance, the implementation of Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, and rural and peri-urban development, as well as the strengthening of the sustainability of the systems.



7

How we work

7.1. Human Rights Approach to Water and Sanitation

Advancing the progressive realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation is one of the guiding principles of the Fund's interventions. This implies that populations have sufficient, healthy, and acceptable water that is physically accessible, economically affordable, and sanitation services. The Fund's actions also promote sustainable, participatory, and transparent water management, focusing on universal access and paying particular attention to the most vulnerable and fragile areas and countries

In 2022, it is worth mentioning the presentation of the **Self-diagnosis Tool for the Incorporation of the perspective of the human rights to water and sanitation (HRWSS) in the municipal management of water and sanitation services in Latin America**. An initiative aimed at supporting local governments to advance in the progressive incorporation of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation. The objective is to strengthen their capacity to plan, regulate, and provide such services, favoring participation and social auditing by the beneficiary population.

This is an anonymous access tool that allows users to self-evaluate themselves and establish lines of work in those aspects where they discover the most significant shortcomings.

The tool was presented for the first time at the LATINOSAN Sanitation Conference after a first "Validation" workshop in Bolivia.



Video presentation of the tool:

In 2022, the Water Fund participated in the World Water Forum held in Dakar in March. There, the FCAS led a session on the Realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, with the participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on this issue, Pedro Arrojo, the Secretary of State, Pilar Cancela, and representatives of partner countries and civil society.

In addition, as in previous years, work continued to implement the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation in all the Fund's live portfolio programs through workshops and specific training and awareness-raising activities.

Related News:



World Water Forum
in Senegal



Water and Sanitation, a matter of
rights:

AGENDA 2030

All of the Water Fund's work is conducted within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially around SDG 6: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation conditions for all people." In addition, SDG 6 is positioned as one of the leverage goals to make progress on others, such as Ending poverty (SDG 1), Ensuring healthy lives (SDG 3), Ensuring education (SDG 4), Promoting gender equality (SDG 5); Reducing inequalities (SDG 10) and Achieving sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), among others, thus playing a clear role as a driver of development.

7.2 Gender focus

Women's participation is essential to realize the human rights to water and sanitation and ensure that services are sustainable over time. Therefore, the gender approach is present in all Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation programs from their conception and execution. This means the programs have indicators of women's participation and involvement, gender diagnostics are carried out, and specific empowerment and capacity-building activities are established.

Highlights of activities in 2022:

Ecuador

Through the [Water and Sanitation Program in dispersed rural communities in Canton](#)

[Portoviejo](#), which is carried out with the support of the European Union, meaningful community development work has been carried out with women, who in 2021 formed the Agrupación Hermanas de la Tierra (Sisters of the Earth Association). One of the group's representatives, Yoli García Vera, participated, invited by the Spanish Cooperation, in the LATINOSAN Congress, held in October 2022 in Bolivia. There, she was able to share the arrival of water in the rural area from which she comes and the process of social change that the program has brought about, especially since the formation of the Association.



Related news: Innovation and gender focus: two of the cross-cutting areas of the VI Edition of Latinosan



**Haiti:**

In Haiti, as in other countries where the Fund works, the link between women and water is indisputable and dominant, as they provide practically all the water used in households. They know where the water sources are and the service hours of the public kiosks, and they are in charge of collecting, storing, and managing the water. In addition, they recycle it in order to use it efficiently and know its quality: they use less clean water for washing and irrigation and try to preserve it from contamination. They also impact its conservation

and are almost entirely responsible for agricultural production for self-consumption, which is fundamental for the country's food sovereignty.

So far, thanks to the program implemented in Haiti, the water distribution networks of 12 cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants will be rehabilitated and extended, as well as a large number of systems in rural areas, and access to water has so far been improved for nearly half a million people throughout the country.

**Related news:**

FCAS interventions contribute to achieving equal opportunities between genders

7.3 Cultural diversity

The overall objective of the Spanish Strategy for Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples (ECEPI) is to contribute to the recognition and effective exercise of the right of indigenous peoples to articulate their own social, economic, political, and cultural development processes. It is an approach that benefits communities and society as a whole, as they are key players in conserving the planet's cultural and biological diversity. Their way of life and relationship with nature make them guardians of the environment.

From the Human Rights approach to Water and Sanitation for all people, the Water Fund advocates the incorporation of the values and knowledge of indigenous peoples in its actions, working through the articulation with local governments and strengthening institutions, interdisciplinary work, and social and territorial management.

The Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation has promoted the implementation of drinking water and sanitation systems in several indigenous communities of Chaco in Paraguay, with dialogue mechanisms allowing greater ownership and acceptance of the solutions implemented. Through consultation and free, prior, and informed consent, it has been possible to create an optimal environment for dialogue conducive to understanding local needs and including community ideas. The outcome of the consultation has been fundamental to the success of the Sanitation and Drinking Water Program for the Chaco and Intermediate Cities of the Eastern Region of Paraguay.



Related video:

Dialogue of knowledge and cultural diversity for development in Paraguay

7.4 Governance and institutional strengthening

To support the improvement of global water governance in partner countries, the Water Fund is committed to institutional strengthening and community development.

This has been done in several ways, for example:

a) Promotion of water governance, integrated water resources management, and water security

a 1.- Actions to accompany partner countries

In 2022, support to partner countries to improve water governance has been maintained. Among other actions, this year, the Fund has continued working with the INRH of the Dominican Republic to implement the National Plan for Sustainable Use of Water Resources; drought management plans have been promoted with the Ministry of Environment and Water of Bolivia; support has been offered to the National Institute of Water Resources of Cuba through technical exchange and training, and the development of the Technical Guide for hydrological planning at the regional level with a vision of Integrated Water Resource Management has continued.



a 2.- Support for hydrological planning within the framework of IWRM

In this area, the Fund is preparing a Technical Guide for Hydrological Planning within the framework of IWRM. This publication, aimed at the Latin American field, is part of a commitment agreed upon during the XIX CODIA meeting held in 2018. It established the need for a reference document that would provide criteria and recommendations regarding the objectives and results of water planning. A guide that would include the region's countries and institutions and offer practical and technical content, taking advantage of the experience acquired and responding to the difficulties encountered in preparing IWRM plans.

In the year 2022, work has been carried out on the preparation of the first section of this

Guide, the Report on the Legal and Institutional Framework of Ibero-America on water issues with an emphasis on IWRM and hydrological planning, which was presented at the CODIA meeting in November. In addition, work has begun on the preparation of the Conceptual Framework, the purpose of which is to establish objectives, instruments, and essential criteria that will serve as the basis for developing the Guide. In addition, a bidding process has been launched to contract a supplier to undertake the final drafting of the document.

a 3.- Support for developing the sanitation and wastewater treatment sector.

An adequate regulatory framework and sectoral planning are fundamental in the sanitation sector. They should contemplate essential aspects beyond infrastructure,

incorporating elements such as the organization of the service, the development of the regulatory framework, training, and public awareness

Wastewater management must be carried out from an integral perspective in a planned and coordinated manner among the various entities involved in the process, and this requires adequate economic and human resources. Aware of these needs, the Water Fund has worked specifically on multiple aspects to promote sanitation and wastewater treatment in the region.

Regional strategy on sectoral regulations

With the support of CEDEX, as technical assistance to the FCAS, a **regional strategy** has been developed **to support countries in revising their sectoral regulations** so that the legislation and the technologies used are adapted to their needs. For example, we have collaborated with Guatemala on changing its discharge regulations and with El Salvador regarding reuse and sludge regulations.

Platform Sector regulations

In addition, in 2022, the development of the **Platform on sectoral regulations** has been promoted, a tool conceived as a permanent working space aimed at a network of experts in the water sector from countries in the region to hold discussions and exchange experiences on the topics

included in the CODIA Work Program. Two working groups are currently active, one on discharge regulations and the other on wastewater reuse, although new groups are expected to be formed soon.

Sanitation sector planning

In collaboration with CODIA, we have promoted the drafting of recommendations for sanitation sector planning at the regional level, which will include a series of methodological guides for carrying out fundamental studies, work led by the Center for Public Works Studies and Experimentation (CEDEX).

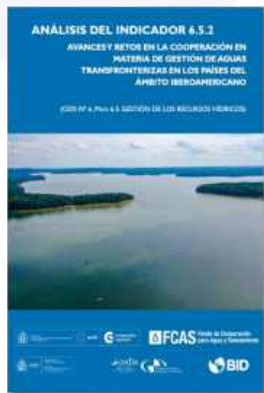
Also, in collaboration with CEDEX, work is being done on a series of knowledge products to support the implementation of sanitation and wastewater treatment projects. Specifically, in 2022, the guide entitled Selection of Treatment Technologies has been published to provide basic knowledge to both planners and technicians of the administrations to support them in making an adequate selection of treatment technologies.





A.4.- Analysis of indicators:

During 2022, the Fund continued to support studies on the degree of compliance with the SDG6 indicators in Ibero-American countries. In December, the Analysis of Indicator 6.5.2 was published jointly with CODIA. Progress and challenges in transboundary water cooperation in Ibero-American countries. A publication that follows the line of work begun the previous year with the analysis of indicator 6.5.1.



b) Operator strengthening:

Much more than just having the necessary infrastructure, the key to the service is to manage it safely and efficiently, both from an organizational point of view and from the perspective of making the best use of the resource. To promote the sustainability of water and sanitation services, it is essential to work together with service operators. In this sense, throughout 2022, several activities have been carried out, among which the following are worth mentioning:

Training and education

Technical assistance and twinning

One of the ways in which the Water Fund supports capacity building in partner countries is through Water Operator Partnerships (WOPS). So far, this type of twinning has been implemented in Bolivia, Honduras, and Ecuador and has proved to be a highly useful tool for promoting exchanges and knowledge.

In 2022, twinning arrangements continued between EMASESA (Empresa Metropolitana de Abastecimiento y Saneamiento de Agua de Sevilla) and various operators, such as Aguas de la Sierra de Montecillos (ASM), created under a Fund program in Honduras and Portoaguas (in Ecuador).

As part of the first initiative, ASM's technical team traveled to Seville to learn about and identify tools and processes to strengthen the management of the Honduran water utility. The Spanish company also visited Honduras to support the progress of the ongoing action plan.

In the case of Portoaguas (Ecuador), two missions have been carried out. A visit of technicians from the Ecuadorian company to Seville to learn about the operation of EMASESA, and a second meeting, this time in Ecuador, to work on the pilot plans for non-revenue water and management of water leak detection equipment; automation and implementation of Aquarating.



Related news:



ASM strengthens its management thanks to exchange with EMASESA



Portoaguas officials visit EMASESA



EMASESA continues its cooperation work with Portoaguas



Video: twitter Portoaguas



Development of tools adapted to small operators to provide a quality service

In 2022, the FCAS has worked on implementing a specific tool to improve the sustainability of supply, sanitation, wastewater treatment, and, optionally, waste management operators, mainly in rural and peri-urban areas. This tool, called **Integral System of Sustainability and Institutional Strengthening (SISRI)**, focused on small operators in the Latin American and Caribbean region, has a comprehensive approach and makes it possible to understand, analyze, and evaluate the operator to provide modernization measures in the economic, technical, social and environmental spheres. To this end, a set of questionnaires, analysis and evaluation models, methodological guides, asset management systems, and other support products have been designed to define from the outset the guidelines for the Operator Improvement Plans that should be implemented based on the assessment of the different factors analyzed, as well as the launching of new investment programs. It is being consolidated after successfully completing tests in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

The objective is that this tool can be used both in Institutional Strengthening initiatives for existing operators and in the identification phase of new projects, and can be applied in FCAS programs and countries of action, but also in other areas or by other agents, such as municipalities, national

administration, other cooperation agencies, NGOs, etc

SISRI is intended to complement the work done through AquaRating, a system for larger operators in which FCAS has also participated, along with other donors with the European Union, through the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF) and the AquaFund Multi-Donor Fund.

c) Capacity building

The Water Fund conceives capacity building in an integrated manner to accompany all sector stakeholders. Therefore, it works through multiple processes and tools:

C1) Training activities within the programs

Most FCAS programs incorporate training on technical issues (maintenance of water systems, regulation of the sector, human rights, etc.) at both community and institutional levels and awareness-raising activities on the use of the resources, the importance of hygiene, etc

C2) Water Grants:

In 2022, AECID's Water Scholarships enabled 21 students from Latin America and the Caribbean to receive specialized training in the water and sanitation sector at Spanish universities and research centers. The scholarships aimed to train young professionals from Latin America with at least two

years of experience in urban water supply and sanitation systems through specific master's degrees so that they could return to their countries of origin and put what they had learned into practice. Some of them

also came from entities that have worked as partners in the Water Fund programs, thus contributing to strengthening the public institutions with which we work.



"Meeting with the beneficiaries of the Water Scholarships at the AECID headquarters".



Related news:

Meeting with Water Scholarship recipients: learning and experiences to contribute to the progress of their countries

C3) Networking

The training work is carried out at various levels so that the knowledge acquired permeates all stakeholders, ensuring the sustainability of the programs:

• **At the local level:** Through actions aimed at raising public awareness and educating the population of the communities. Thus, initiatives and workshops on plumbing and awareness-raising in using the resource or literacy for adult women have been launched.

• **At the national level,** work is conducted with national ministries and agencies, for example, to update regulatory standards on water quality, management, and handling, and various organizational areas related to water management. A practical case was the course on sectoral planning and policy in water and sanitation for Paraguayan officials, held jointly with the Directorate of Public Water and Sanitation (DAPASAN) and the country's Ministry of Public Works.



Related news:

Paraguayan officials are trained in water and sanitation sector planning and policy:



At the regional level:

- The Spanish Cooperation has a Knowledge Transfer, Exchange, and Management Plan for the Development of Spanish Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean -INTERCOONECTA-, which has physical training centers and an online platform. Through Intercoonecta, thematic knowledge and training communities are established and developed through different activities: classroom and online courses, workshops, development of knowledge products, webinars, etc.

- Among other activities, in 2022, several workshops were held in coordination with Intercoonecta:

Human right to water and sanitation: Advances and Challenges, (July 2022) to promote the exchange of experiences in implementing the human right to water. This meeting was held in person at the Training Center in Santa Cruz de la Sierra before the VI Latinosan Conference.



[Link to the course](#)

Ancestral hydro technologies as a response to the climate, health, and food emergency (March 2022) to enhance the value of this knowledge as intangible cultural heritage linked to water management

and its adaptation to the current climate and health emergency context



[Link to the course](#)

In addition, workshops for exchanging experiences between countries are facilitated and financed, and common recommendations are developed. The Fund maintains a close relationship with CODIA and supports the work of regional networks such as RIOCC (Ibero-American Network of Offices against Climate Change) or CIMHET (Conference of Directors of Ibero-American Meteorological and Hydrological Services).

7.5 Environment and climate change

Most of the Water Fund programs incorporate the Integrated Water Resources Management approach as one of the keys to efficient and sustainable water management. This means taking into account their interaction with the territory and, especially, with the environment. For this reason, the Fund works on creating sustainable infrastructure and environmental measures to protect sources and ecosystems associated with water resources. On the other hand, developing sanitation and wastewater treatment systems has an immediate impact on protecting the water environment and preserving water bodies and aquatic ecosystems.



The Fund also impacts institutional strengthening programs and activities to improve the sector's governance, essential to achieve adequate water resource management that integrates and mainstreams environmental protection.

All of the Fund's initiatives work to improve adaptation to climate change, incorporating measures to increase the resilience of communities to extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods. Thus, some programs are mainly focused on creating warning systems and response plans for exceptional situations, allowing for the anticipa-

tion of these events and favoring the adaptation of communities to climate change. Other programs have adopted measures to recover flood plains, minimizing the risk of affecting populations and the environment while maintaining the natural dynamics of river courses. In addition, many forestry management and reforestation actions have been carried out, which allows us to maintain proper forest and wetland management and helps to increase the groundwater recharge rate. This type of intervention, developed mainly in the most vulnerable areas of rural areas, also favors the fixation of the population to the territory.

Some examples:

In the ***Integrated Water, Sanitation and Environment Project*** in El Salvador, in addition to increasing drinking water and sanitation services, specific actions have been carried out for the study of environmental flows, the analysis of Lake Coatepeque has been carried out and the project "Improvement of water resources management in the rural drinking water system of AJARES" was executed, through which agro-ecological practices were implemented for the protection of recharge areas (installation of nurseries and nurseries). Improvement of water resource management in the rural drinking water system of AJARES", through which agro-ecological practices were implemented to protect recharge areas (installation of nurseries), and training on preservation and conservation of the resource was carried out.

In Honduras, the program to ***Increase water and sanitation coverage and integrated management of the lower and middle basin of the Goascorán River*** has included a specific component dedicated to the environment and integrated management of the river for adaptation to climate change. Actions were mainly aimed at the sustain-

able management of water sources for human consumption and their recharge areas. To this end, seven micro-watershed management plans were prepared, one micro-watershed was declared a protected forest vocation zone, strategies for payments for environmental services were established, and two joint nurseries were set up for the restoration of 12 hectares of forest.

Since 2013, one of the flagship programs of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation has been underway. The initiative aims to ***Promote adaptation to climate change and integrated management of water resources in the water and sanitation sector in Latin America*** financed with resources from the European Union and a regional project. Among other activities, projects have been carried out to strengthen hydro-climatic services in various countries, analyze the heat wave in Central America, create the Regional Lightning Detection Network for Central America, analyze climate scenarios, manage extreme events, develop water security plans and create a Groundwater Monitoring Platform for Latin America. A multidimensional effort to support the possibilities of adaptation to climate change of the most vulnerable populations.



Related news:

Integrated Water Resources Management: a priority for the Water Fund and a crucial element for environmental protection



Related news:

ECAM, a tool to contribute to "decarbonization" from the water and sanitation sector



Nature-based solutions:

The Spanish Cooperation indicates Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) as one of the priorities to fight climate change and support biodiversity. The European Union also emphasizes this approach, which defines them as solutions "inspired and supported by nature, that are cost-effective, provide environmental, social and economic benefits, and help increase resilience." In the case of water and sanitation, we are talking about solutions that use or mimic natural processes to contribute to the more efficient management of water resources, whether in rainwater harvesting, drinking water treatment, or purification processes.

Therefore, based on the Fund's Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach, the programs have incorporated

this type of solution in their proposals to promote sustainable infrastructures and support the protection of water sources and ecosystems associated with water resources.

7.6 Knowledge management and communication

Communicating the work carried out by the Fund is essential for two groups: on the one hand, to the beneficiary population of the programs, and on the other, to the Spanish public as a means of accountability.

The objective is to make visible and document the fundamental changes brought about by the initiatives implemented. To this end, the communication is based on two fundamental pillars: the extensive work of collecting indicators conducted by the Fund, which provides objective and quanti-

tative data on the progress of the programs, and the concrete experiences of the communities that have benefited from these initiatives.

To publicize these two aspects, the Fund has its own web page within the general domain of AECID, where news on the progress of projects, meetings, and activities organized by the Fund, etc., is published. Throughout 2022, more than 50 news items related to the Fund's work have been prepared and published on the FCAS website, which can be found **here**



In addition, the Fund's newsletter is sent periodically to the more than one thousand people registered in the database, a service to which any interested person can subscribe:



Subscribe to the newsletter here

Throughout the year, various reports have also been published to bring the reality of water and sanitation closer to other population sectors. Thus, iAgua published an extended unique feature entitled [Water and sanitation, a question of rights](#).

CONTENIDO PREMIUM

Agua y saneamiento, una cuestión de derechos



Mujeres y niñas son las principales beneficiadas cuando se garantizan los derechos humanos al agua y al saneamiento en sus comunidades. Foto: FCAS ADIMAN.

Un contenido de:

Aurora
Moreno
Alcojor



17/11/2022

“Por fin podré cantar en la ducha”. Esta fue la frase, inesperada, sorprendente, con la que concluyó su discurso una de las líderes comunales de las parroquias rurales de Portoviejo, en Ecuador, ante una importante delegación de entidades financiadoras que se encontraban visitando el proyecto que llevará agua potable a las comunidades. Una frase, reflejo de la alegría de las pequeñas cosas, que nos recuerda que algo tan cotidiano y aparentemente sencillo como pasar unos minutos bajo la ducha se torna en una realidad imposible para millones de personas en el mundo.



As part of this objective to publicize the work of the FCAS, the head of the Department, Carmen Jover, participated in March 2022 in the Forum organized by Infolibre on Development Cooperation: water and sanitation as keys to achieving the SDGs. The meeting was also attended by the Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Pilar Cancela;

the director of the Acciona.org Foundation, José Gabriel Martín; Mar Rivera, from ONGAWA; and Albert Puig, Professor of Economics and Business Studies at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and director of the Master's Degree in Corporate Social Responsibility



Also, in March, the Fund participated in Somos Cooperación radio program to talk about water as a lever for development and explain the critical aspects of the 2022 World Water Forum.

Links to radio programs:



Water: access and management as a lever for development



World Forum to ensure the basic right to water

Publications:

There is also a series of publications that allow us to bring together and show, more concisely and visually, the work carried out in each country. These are the "Country Cards 2022", which provide at-a-glance information on the interventions carried out in each country, the beneficiaries, the entities with which we have worked, and the main lines of action in each of them.



Video playlist

The audiovisual material enables the public to familiarize themselves, with the work carried out by the Water Fund in the various countries in which it collaborates. In this sense, significant work has been carried out to collect the beneficiaries' testimonies and show what has been achieved in the programs. Today, more than a hundred videos are available to the public, covering practically all the countries in which the Fund has worked.

See **playlist here**



Microsite in iAgua:

As part of the dissemination work of the Water Fund and also intending to make visible the work carried out by other entities that contribute to making Spanish cooperation in the water and sanitation sector a reality, since 2020, the Spanish Cooperation Microsite has been up and running in the iAgua media, where content is published weekly.

The space **can be visited here:**



7.7. Governing bodies

The organization and operation of the Water Fund are detailed in Royal Decree 1460/2009 on the organization and function of the Water and Sanitation Cooperation Fund, approved on September 29, 2009. According to it, the Fund has two bodies: the Executive Committee and the Advisory Council. Royal Decree 1424/2012 modified certain aspects relating to the Advisory Council, establishing that its chairmanship would be assumed by the person holding the position of Secretary of State for International Cooperation.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Council comprises experts from various fields of the water and sanitation sector: Non-governmental organizations and foundations; operators and managers of water and sanitation services; busi-



ness organizations and specialized companies; universities and experts from various fields.

In the year 2022, the working group of the Advisory Council met in June to review the progress of the programs and study the proposals presented by the Directorate for Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean. The two new programs were presented at the meeting, positively evaluated by the Board, and passed on to the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the decision-making body of the Water Fund, responsible for approving the Fund's annual accounts and deciding on new programs. This Com-

mittee met three times during the year 2022. During these meetings, information was provided on the reimbursement of funds received between 2021 and 2022, and proposals for two new programs to reuse these funds were shared. The Committee evaluated these two initiatives and decided to approve them. These two interventions were the "Cooperation Program for the Promotion of Human Rights to Water and Sanitation in Rural Communities" in Ecuador, for an amount of 10,171,444.92 euro, and the "Program to Strengthen Municipal and Community Water Management, with sustainable policies and operators with a gender focus that guarantee the human rights to water and sanitation, and a healthy environment" in the municipality of Suchitoto, in El Salvador, for an amount of 3,000,000 euro.