



Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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1 INTRODUCTION

2020 will be remembered for many years to come as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The whole world was hit hard by the virus and it posed a global challenge in the face of which cooperation has been a fundamental pillar, after it was demonstrated that the coronavirus knows no borders. The health, social and economic impact was greater in countries with fewer resources and in those with weaker health systems. Social distancing, along with water and soap, became one of the main ways of protecting against the disease, in a world where one in six hospitals still has no hand-washing facilities.

In these extraordinary circumstances, Spanish Cooperation strengthened the humanitarian response and the Water Fund programmes were adapted to the circumstances by redirecting funds and strengthening mainly the following lines of work:

- ◆ Support was strengthened to ensure that the water and sanitation services put in place continue to function, thus guaranteeing supply as much as possible, especially in vulnerable and rural areas.
- ◆ Water and sanitation utilities were strengthened in case of potential revenue shortfalls if institutions lacked virtual payment collection systems or could not handle late payments, by developing electronic or telephone payments.
- ◆ A good number of emergency water points and drinking water tanker trucks of adequate quality were installed in neighbourhoods or communities

without access to drinking water. Efforts were made to guarantee the availability of this resource in strategic areas such as health centres and schools.

- ◆ Campaigns on hygiene and hand washing, responsible consumption and the importance of paying for services or being connected to the sewerage network were launched.
- ◆ Basic protection materials against the virus, such as bleach and soap, were delivered to the most vulnerable areas.

In addition to this reorientation, five new water and sanitation programmes were approved during 2020 for almost €6 million in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominican Republic and Ecuador, to improve water and sanitation services to provide a barrier against the pandemic and improve rural communities' resilience in the face of new emergencies.



In addition, within the framework of the LAIF Regional programme of delegated cooperation, three new grants were approved for a total amount of around 500,000 euros in El Salvador and Ecuador, aimed at alleviating the effects of the health and economic crisis in vulnerable rural communities.

In addition, the European Union's confidence in Spanish Cooperation was reinforced, particularly in the area of water and sanitation, with the signing of two new contribution agreements in Portoviejo and Bolivia, for a total amount of €25 million, bringing the total amount of delegated funds managed by the FCAS to almost €130 million.

Partnerships continue to be one of the strengths of the Water Fund, strengthened by the internationally respected Spanish organisations and companies in the sector.

In 2020, Spain joined the Water and Sanitation for All (SWA) initiative, which aims to prioritise the

water policy agenda. In addition, collaboration agreements were signed with the public water company of Seville, EMASESA, which will work with water operators on some programmes, as well as with the University of A Coruña, to provide support in Bolivia. During the year, the Spanish Agency for Cooperation joined the Latin American and Caribbean Water and Sanitation Observatory (OLAS). The Observatory was created in response to the need for a tool to monitor Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2021, a year in which, unfortunately, the pandemic will continue to affect partner countries, it is hoped to be able to continue the commitment to water governance and develop new multi-donor operations, strengthening and promoting new partnerships, as set out in [development goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda](#).

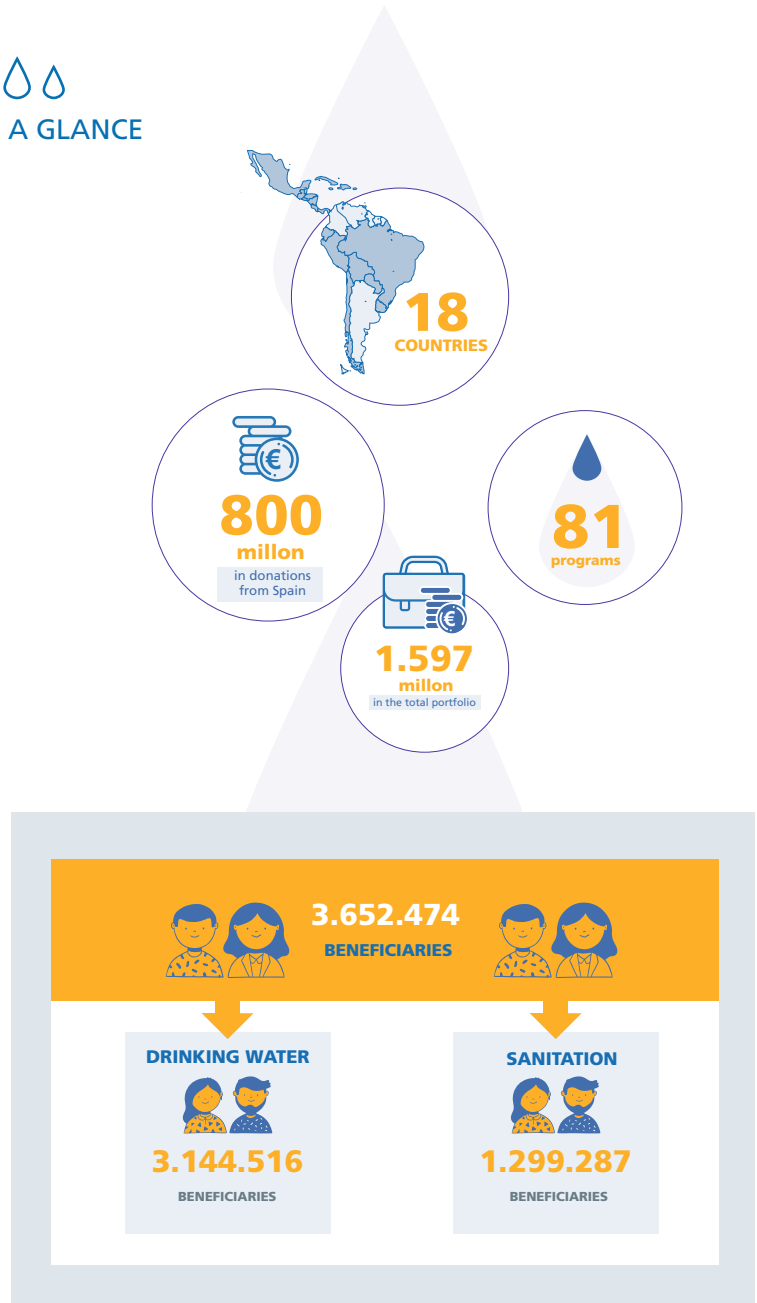


2

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation at a glance

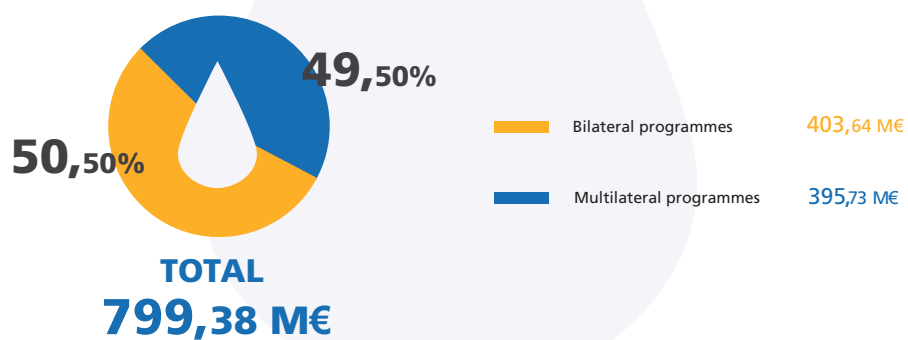


AT A GLANCE



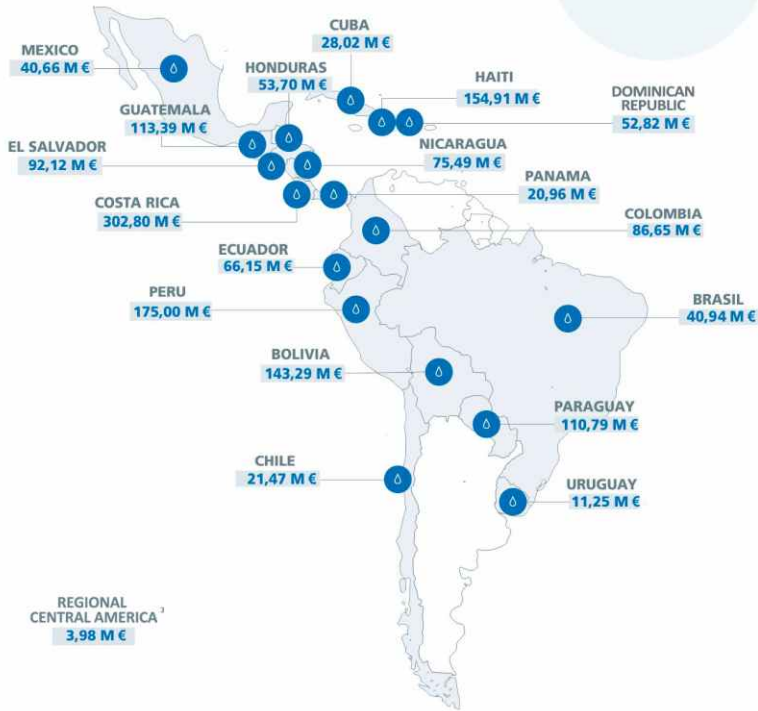
FCAS BUDGET, DECEMBER 2020

COOPERATION FUND FOR WATER AND SANITATION BUDGET, DECEMBER 2020





FCAS BUDGET

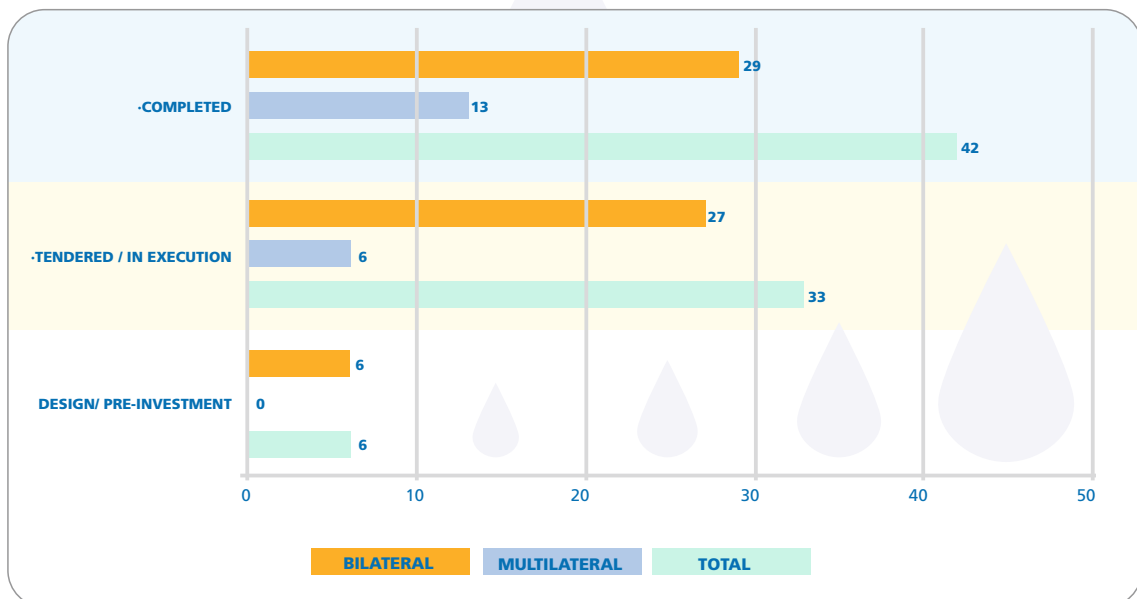


COUNTRY	FCAS CONTRIBUTION	LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL
ARGENTINA	1,62 M €	1,62 M €	3,24 M €
BOLIVIA	95,72 M €	47,57 M €	143,29 M €
BRASIL	20,47 M €	20,47 M €	40,94 M €
CHILE	6,77 M €	14,70 M €	21,47 M €
COLOMBIA	58,96 M €	27,69 M €	86,65 M €
COSTA RICA	13,91 M €	288,89 M €	302,80 M €
REGIONAL ³ CENTRAL AMERICA	3,31 M €	0,67 M €	3,98 M €
CUBA	11,74 M €	16,28 M €	28,02 M €
ECUADOR	28,57 M €	37,58 M €	66,15 M €
EL SALVADOR	66,22 M €	25,90 M €	92,12 M €
GUATEMALA	67,89 M €	45,50 M €	113,39 M €
HAITI ¹	119,65 M €	35,26 M €	154,91 M €
HONDURAS	49,03 M €	4,67 M €	53,70 M €
MEXICO	20,33 M €	20,33 M €	40,66 M €
NICARAGUA	62,68 M €	12,81 M €	75,49 M €
PANAMA	10,48 M €	10,48 M €	20,96 M €
PARAGUAY	71,33 M €	39,46 M €	110,79 M €
PERU ²	58,82 M €	116,18 M €	175,00 M €
DOMINICAN REP.	26,36 M €	26,46 M €	52,82 M €
URUGUAY	5,52 M €	5,73 M €	11,25 M €
TOTAL	799,38 M €	798,25 M €	1.597,63 M €

¹ HAITI: minor differences after completion and liquidation of multilateral programs.
² PERU: Budget reduction due to the reimbursement of the programme PERU-30-B and the completion and liquidation of the multilateral program, in which the counterpart has been reduced due to the performance of some projects through other national instruments.
³ REGIONAL CENTRAL AMERICA: Regional programmes implemented in different countries in Central America



STATUS OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMES. December 2020





DEVELOPMENT OF THE FCAS BUDGET, FUNDS COMMITTED BY YEAR (MILLION EUROS)

AWARD	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%

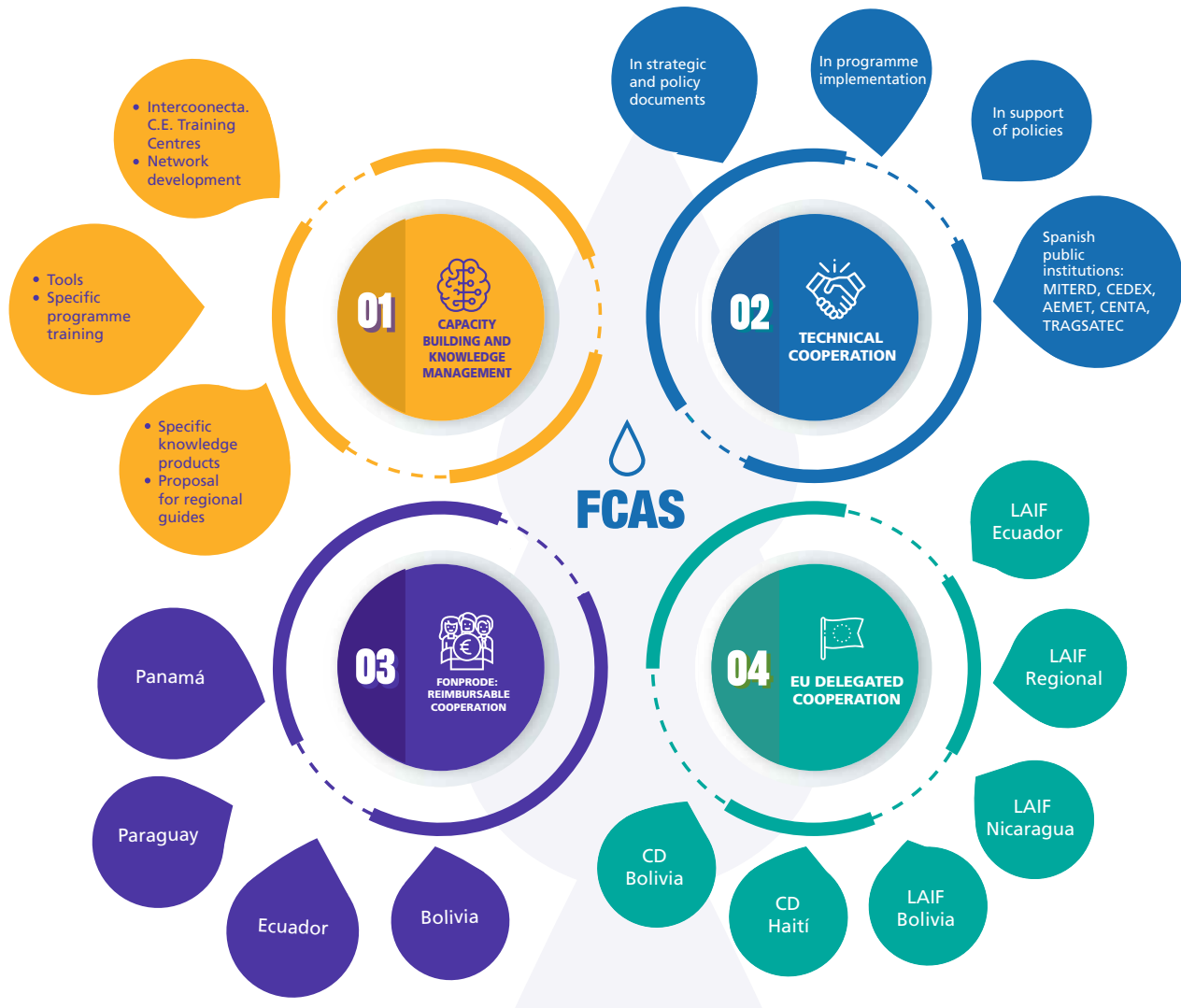


DEVELOPMENT OF THE FCAS BUDGET, FUNDS PAID BY YEAR (MILLION EUROS)

PAYMENTS	BILATERAL million euros	MULTILATERAL million euros	TOTAL FCAS million euros
Budget 2017	382,85	396,97	779,82
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Budget 2020	403,65	395,73	799,38
December 2020	298,71	356,06	654,76
%	74,00%	89,97%	81,91%



THE GREAT FUND



PARTNERSHIPS

SUPPORT IN PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT

3

Current status of the Water Fund



3. Current status of the Water Fund

Context

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (Water Fund) has been awarded **800 million euros in funding from Spain** up until 2020. The portfolio has been directed preferentially to rural or peri-urban areas in the most fragile countries and highly vulnerable regions. Haiti receives the most donations (119 million euros), followed by Bolivia (95 million), Paraguay (71 million) and Guatemala (67 million).

Its contributions are focused on the **provision of services to guarantee access to water and sanitation** for populations that lack them; assistance for the **establishment of efficient, transparent and participatory management systems; and the strengthening of public institutions and bodies in recipient countries**, with the aim of promoting the design and implementation of public policies that ensure the sustainability of water resources. In addition, within the framework of the Fund, Spanish Cooperation has established, a **permanent dialogue with its partner countries**, in coordination with the Country Partnership Frameworks, through which the strengthening of the sector is promoted.

All of the above fosters a high-level institutional dialogue aimed at ensuring that sectoral policies and strategies address the basic human right to water and sanitation.

After 10 years of work, the Fund has undergone a twofold evolution. On the one hand, from interventions focused on access to water to operations with a greater component of **support for the development of public policies** and regulatory frameworks to develop strategic actions in the framework of **water planning** or in the operating model. On the other hand, from individual actions such as the seed fund to promote cooperation between participants using different instruments, also incorporating the technical cooperation of Spanish public institutions, promoting the use of funds for the water agenda and maximising its impact. Among the new priorities approved by the Executive Committee of the Water Fund is the development of **strategic actions within** the framework of water planning, integrated water resource management and the model of basin organisations.

The Great Fund also aims to enhance **governance** through technical cooperation and support for service delivery.

In addition to these programmes, various technical partnerships have been set up with the aim of promoting the sustainability of the actions carried out and systematising the knowledge learned.

COOPERATION FCAS BY COUNTRY

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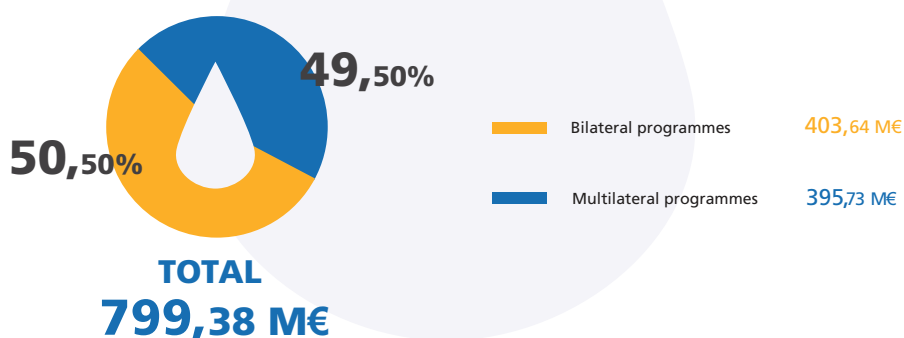
³ REGIONAL CENTRAL AMÉRICA: Regional programmes implemented in different countries in Central America

The breakdown of the amounts donated by the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation and approved by portfolio is as follows

FCAS BUDGET, DECEMBER 2020



COOPERATION FUND FOR WATER AND SANITATION BUDGET, DECEMBER 2020





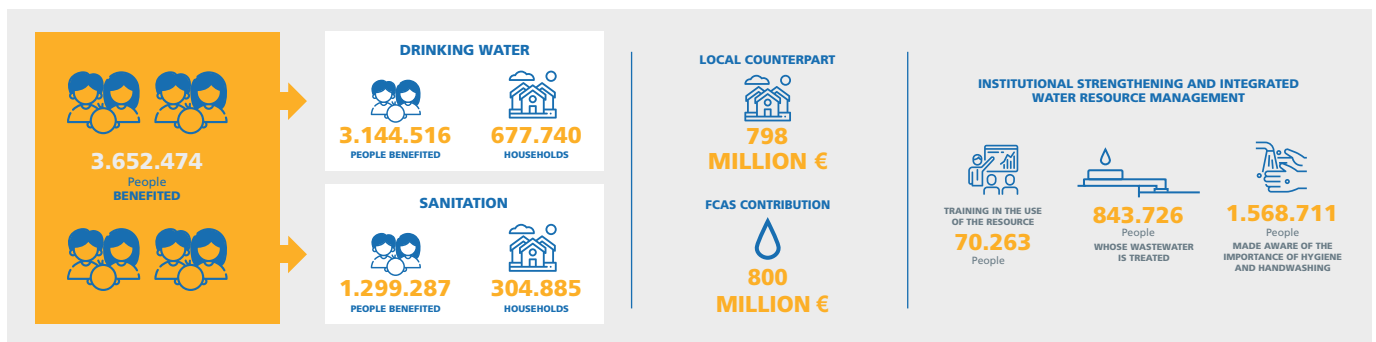
3.1 Results of the FCAS

Final reports and evaluations of completed and ongoing programmes up to December 2020 estimate that more than **3.6 million people have benefited** directly from the Water Fund (**677,000 households**). A total of 3.1 million people have gained access to new or renovated drinking water services and 1.2 million to sanitation services. The wastewater of more than 843,000 people is now adequately treated.

The Water Fund has made an effort in 2020 to foster community development and a social fabric that strengthens the sustainability of interventions. So far, more than **1.5 million people have been educated on the importance of hygiene and the rational use of water resources**. In addition, up until 2020, more than 70,000 institutional experts from the different territorial levels have been trained within the framework of the programmes in order to promote the strengthening of the sector.



IMPACT OF THE COOPERATION FUND FOR WATER AND SANITATION UNTIL 2020



Results of bilateral programmes

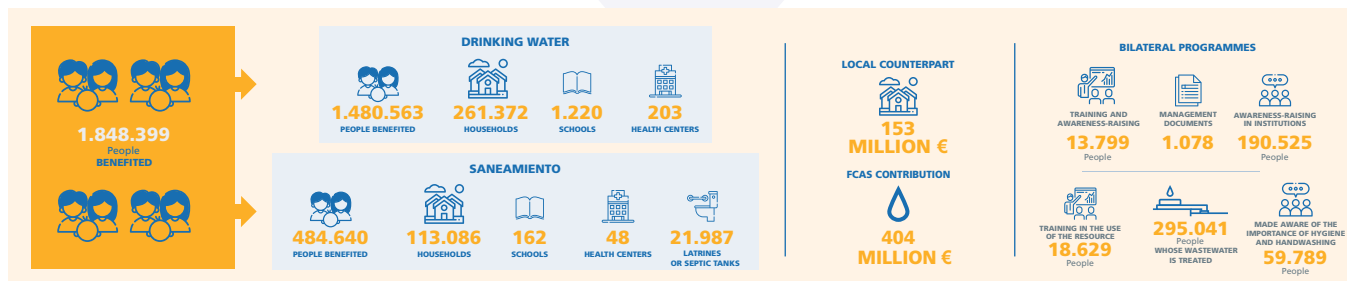
With regard to the bilateral programmes managed directly by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), (which account for slightly more than 50% of the total), it has also been possible to analyse some complementary indicators that reveal the extent of the impact. The bilateral portfolio promoted by AECID has provided drinking water to more than 1.4 million people and sanitation to almost half a million. In addition, it has developed more than 13,700 technical trainings in institutions and **190,000 awareness-raising sessions on hygiene and water resources management**.



In addition, almost 300,000 people benefit from wastewater treatment systems, both in rural and peri-urban areas. By 2020, almost 22,000 latrines have been built.



IMPACT OF BILATERAL PROGRAMMES



3.2 Progress in financial performance

In terms of committed funds, implementation figures in 2020 reached over 90.5%; they reached 82% in the bilateral portfolio, and 98% in the multilateral portfolio. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the development of the programmes during the year and both the funds awarded and funds paid have decreased.



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%	82,47%	98,80%	90,55%



Funds paid

In terms of the evolution of what has been paid, there has also been considerable progress, with an increase of almost 14 percentage points compared to 2017. The difference between funds awarded and funds paid is due to the life cycle of the programmes, where first tenders and contracts are tendered and awarded to various companies (committed funds) and months later, when the contracts are executed and concluded, payments are made.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE FCAS BUDGET, FUNDS PAID BY YEAR (MILLION EUROS)

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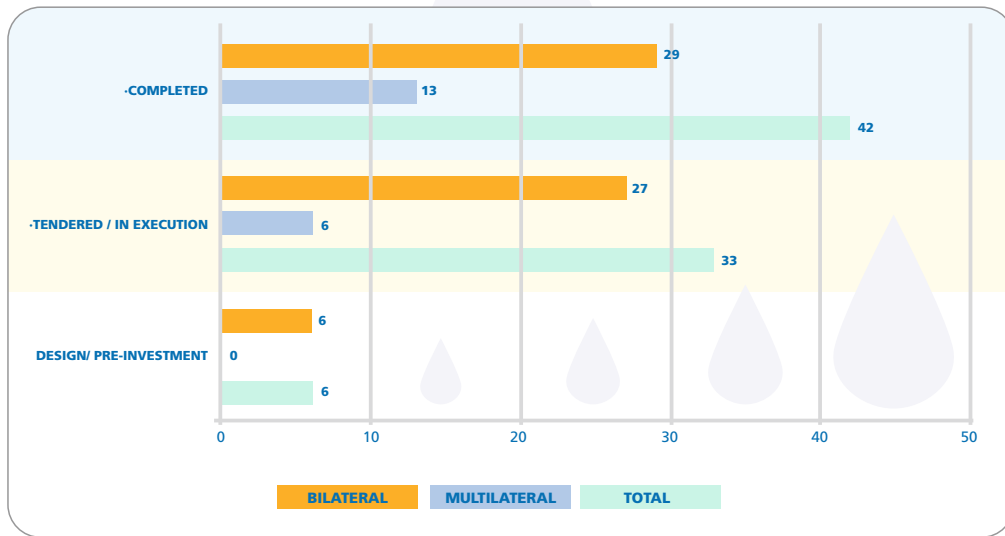
3.3 Status of programmes

Currently, 42 programmes have been completed and 39 more are in the live portfolio. Six of these programmes are in the design phase and will begin to be implemented in the coming months. In 2020, a programme in Peru was reimbursed with a value of 5.6 million. These funds have been reinvested in five new programmes in 2020, in accordance with the rules governing the operation of the Fund.

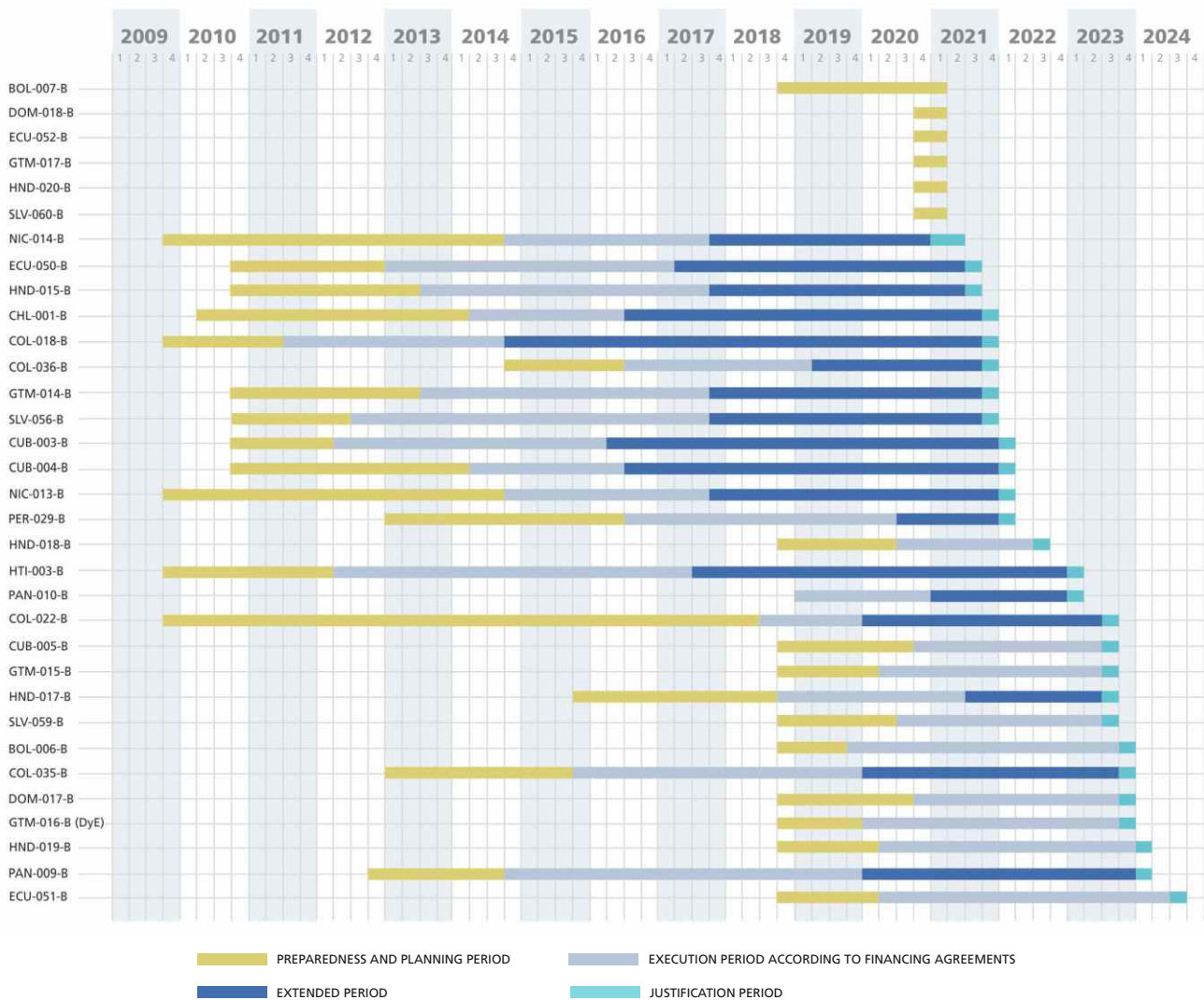




STATUS OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMES. December 2020

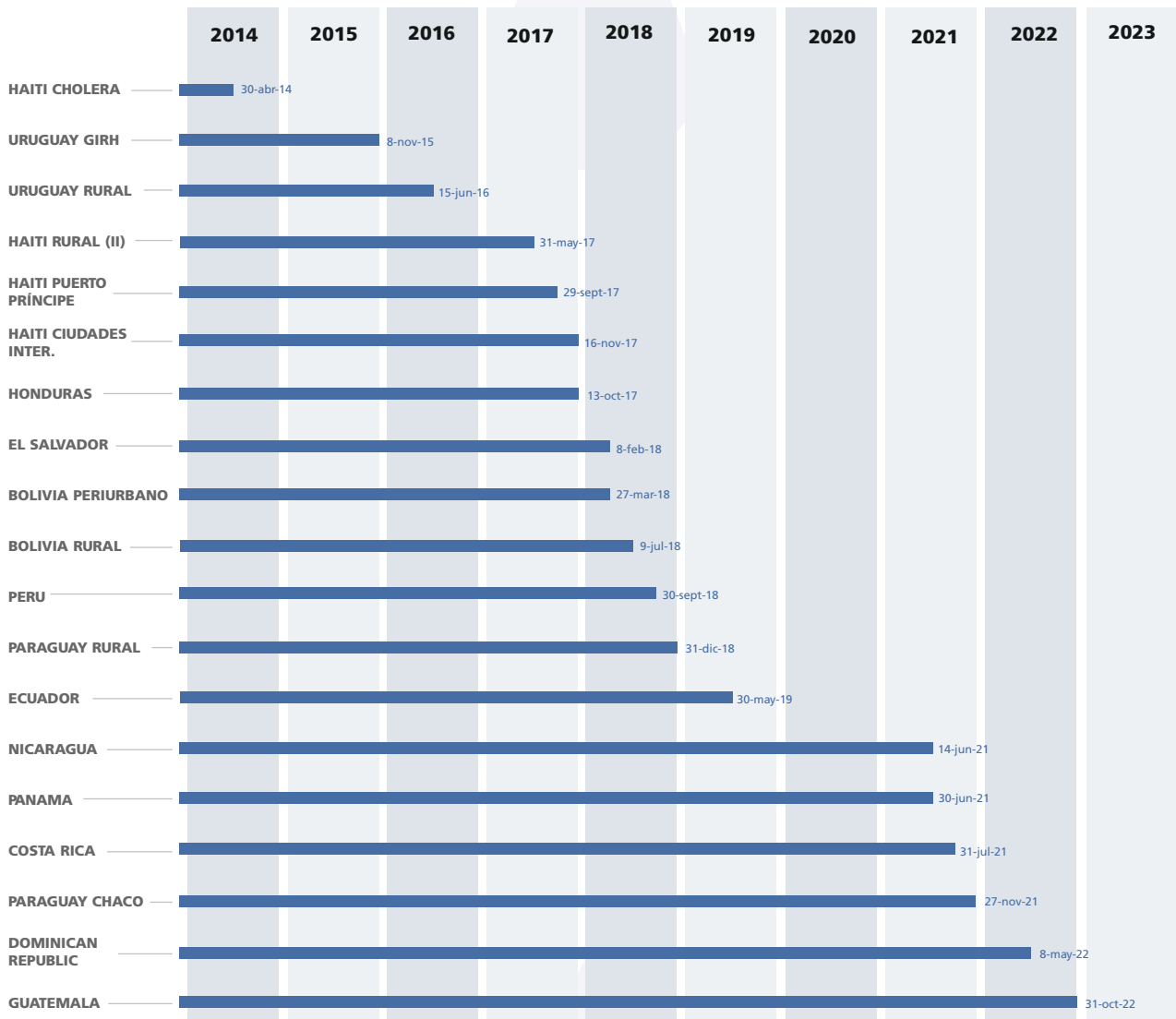


Temporary forecast of bilateral programmes





MULTILATERAL FORECAST. December 2020



Measures against COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe in 2020 and profoundly affected the operations of the Water Fund. COVID-19 highlighted the difficulty that millions of people have in accessing something so basic as being able to wash their hands with soap and water, and hindered the management capacity and sustainability of services, due to the economic impact on families and water workers, especially the most vulnerable operators in remote and resource-poor areas.

Short- and medium-term measures were implemented by the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, without losing the **development perspective** and always from a human rights approach.

In the first months, and always within the framework of the objectives set for the programmes and to the extent that they were available, various measures were used to support the **continued operation of water and sanitation services**.



- ◆ **Support for drinking water supply and sanitation:** in particular to ensure supply in vulnerable neighbourhoods or rural areas. If necessary, quick impact projects such as repairs, leak detection, provision of drinking water reagents, etc.
- ◆ **Localised emergency responses,** for example, in neighbourhoods or communities without access to drinking water, where emergency points and a good number of drinking water tankers were installed that were of the appropriate quality. In addition, effort was made to guarantee this resource in **strategic areas such as health centres, schools, markets, public squares or homes for the elderly,** providing them with hand-washing points and, where possible, sanitation solutions.
- ◆ **Reinforcement for operators:** measures to strengthen water and sanitation operators for the implementation of **contingency plans** that contribute to providing the service to the entire population. Stocking of supplies and materials for future breakdowns. Campaigns to promote payment of services by telephone or electronic means.
- ◆ **Hygiene promotion:** hygiene measures and handwashing were reinforced by promoting the creation of handwashing **and disinfection stations** and adapting pre-existing **hygiene and handwashing campaigns** to curb the impact of the coronavirus, in the form of leaflets, posters, radio spots, social media campaigns, videos, etc.
- ◆ **Communication campaigns:** for responsible consumption and the **importance of connecting to the sewerage network for safe water management.**



Beyond the **redirection of funds from existing programmes,** in terms of new programmes, **five new grants** totalling €5.6 million were authorised at the end of 2020 in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominican Republic and Ecuador, to improve water and sanitation services to provide a barrier against the pandemic and to improve rural communities' resilience. Likewise, within the framework of the LAIF Regional Delegated Cooperation programme, **three new grants** were approved for a total amount of approximately 500,000 euros in El Salvador and Ecuador, aimed at alleviating the effects of the health and economic crisis in vulnerable rural communities.



Some of the actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis in the countries are:

Haiti. In the Haiti programme, **500,000 US dollars** of the budget has been allocated to providing a first response to the pandemic, with the objective of minimising the number of cases in both urban and rural areas, in institutions and in the community, benefiting **517,054 people**. Activities have been carried out in each of the four regions of the country: North, South, Central and West, including the following actions:

- ◆ **Rehabilitation** or repair of water networks.
- ◆ **Water supply** (distribution of water by tankers, creation of hand-washing stations, minor repairs to water and sanitation systems, procurement of chlorinators and installation in rural areas, etc.).
- ◆ **Provision of drinking water reagents.**
- ◆ **Communication/awareness-raising** on hygiene and handwashing (dissemination activities with State coordination and key industry partners - Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, National Federation of Municipalities, etc.).

**MEN KÈK KONSÈY POU W KA PWOTEJE TÈT OU,
FANMI W AK ZANMI KONT KOWONA VIRIS**

✓ **TOUSE, ESTÈNEN NAN KOUD BRA
W OUBYEN NAN YON SÈVYÈT AN
PAPYE APRESA JETE L.**

✓ **SI W MALAD RETE LAKAY OU EPI
RELE NAN NIMEWO SA A : 2020.**

✗ **PA KOLE SOU GRANMA AK
GRANPA EPI PA BO MOUN!**

✓ **SA KI PI BON SE RESPEKTE
DISTANS SOSYAL.**

**ANSANM NAP
KWAPE
KOWONA VIRIS**

REPUBLIC D'HAÏTI
DINEPA
Direction Nationale
de l'Eau Potable
et de l'Assainissement

Coronavirus awareness campaign launched in Haiti by the Water Cooperation Fund and DINEPA (Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et du Sanitation), in Creole.

Guatemala. In Guatemala, where the Fund currently runs four programmes and five more have been developed in recent years, a total of **215,000 US dollars** have been invested. Actions have benefited more than **25,000 people** and have focused on:

- Adequate functioning of drinking water and sanitation systems: mainly addressing the continuity of service (measures in operation) and the quality (chlorination) of supply.
- Promotion of hygiene habits (handwashing) through the media (social networks, radio and television).

Honduras. **52,627 US dollars** have been **invested**, benefiting a total of **122,377 people** in the areas of Choluteca and Comayagua and in the community of MASURPAZ in La Paz, including measures such as:

- Water supply by tanker trucks due to the drought coinciding with the confinement in Choluteca.
- Financial support to the management team of the Sierra de Montecillos operator.
- Purchase of supplies for the three months of confinement for the drinking water treatment plants of the operators Aguas de Choluteca and Aguas de Sierra de Montecillos and MANSURPAZ.
- Purchase of stock of supplies and materials to anticipate breakdowns at times when there are supply difficulties.
- Purchase of chlorine kits and chlorinators.





El Salvador. Work has been carried to chlorinate and disinfect drinking water and ensure the supply of drinking water to rural areas most in need. An **investment of 358,000 US dollars** has been made, **benefiting 134,000 people.**

The following actions have been carried out:

- ◆ Support provided to 50 rural systems/operators experiencing drinking water production and distribution failures (faulty electromechanical equipment, faulty phase 2 construction works (enclosing walls, internal plumbing, connection to public utility services), decrease in source production, etc.).
- ◆ Support provided to 226 rural water boards supported with the provision of water purification kits, personal protection kits, and small works and repairs.
- ◆ Installation of chlorinators and residual chlorine meters in 30 rural systems.
- ◆ Provision of water purification kits to 222 rural systems.
- ◆ Purchase and distribution of 204 personal protection kits for operating personnel (boots, masks, goggles, hand sanitiser gel, etc.).

Ecuador. An investment of **130,481.29 US dollars** was made, benefiting the population of the Portoviejo Canton, which amounts to **280,029 inhabitants.**

The following actions have been carried out:

- ◆ Hiring of tankers for the delivery of drinking water with a capacity of more than 8m³.
- ◆ Procurement of chlorine comparators to check residual chlorine in drinking water systems.
- ◆ Support to water operators in the Portoviejo Canton with the purchase of reagents for drinking water treatment and purification and COVID-19 protection equipment.
- ◆ Awareness-raising and dissemination of the hygiene and handwashing campaign: preparation of leaflets, brochures, flyers, advertising spots in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Water for dissemination in the media (TV, radio) and digital media via social networks.

Paraguay. To expand the scope of the Small Town Water and Sanitation Systems Construction Project, it was decided to make improvements and repairs to optimise the existing systems in 69 rural communities, rather than to build new infrastructure.

In addition, chlorination booths were installed in another 500 communities and basic water and sanitation systems were improved in 45 hospitals and family health units.

República Dominicana. The implementation of the emergency plan in the province of San Cristóbal has enabled a security protocol to be implemented and guaranteed the supply of water during the pandemic. This plan integrates the essential work and organisation of staff from the **National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewerage (INAPA).**

In order to ensure continuity of service, health protocols for employees were defined and implemented, with biosecurity measures and equipment for the repair of breakdowns, customer service by telephone, dissemination of information bulletins for staff, use of remote communication channels with users and the development of technological methods to allow online payment for the service.

Costa Rica. Since March 2020 contractors carrying out water and sanitation works have had protocols in place to prevent contagion including staff training, creating and monitoring of bubbles (small work groups), the setting up of sanitary cabins and hand-washing areas. Most of the staff hired are members for the community, which has made it possible to support the local economy.

On the other hand, a communication campaign was developed to promote timely payment of the water service, the efficient use of this resource and the implementation of hygiene measures to prevent diseases, which is currently being carried out by the community boards that administer the service.

3.4 The Great Fund

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation is no longer just the legal instrument that was created in 2008. Over time, the Fund has had a multiplier effect meaning that managing the funds now involves much more than the initial 800 million given in donations. Programmes have been set up for more than 1.6 billion which, added to the delegated cooperation funds entrusted to Spain by the European Union and the interventions leveraged by these, including FONPRODE's reimbursable cooperation operations associated with these large combined interventions, constitute a portfolio of more than €2 billion.

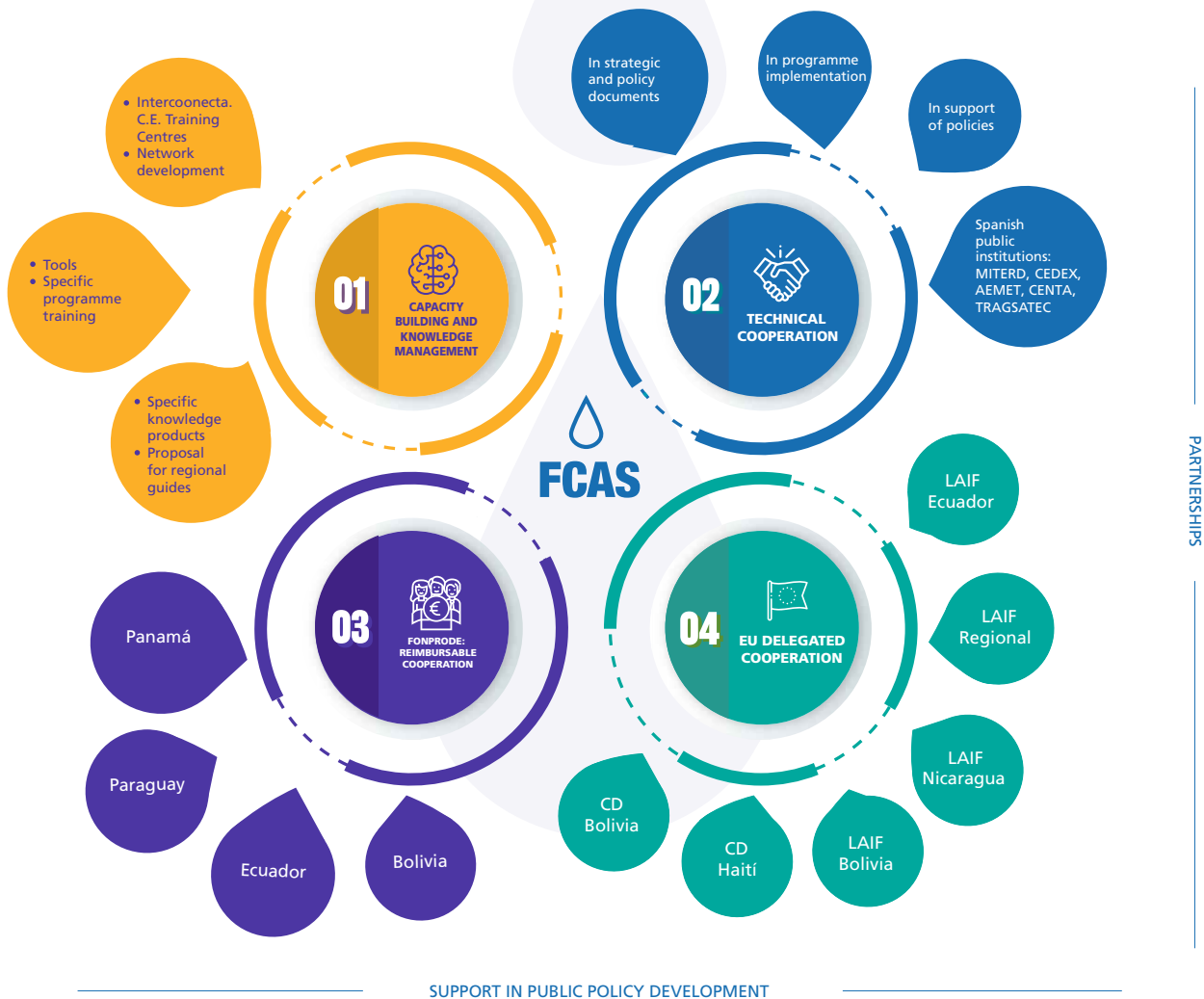
The Great Fund is the sum of all water and sanitation initiatives in which AECID participates, multiplying the impact of the original Water Fund through associated instruments such as **technical cooperation, the delegation of EU funds or the coordination of other AECID instruments such as reimbursable cooperation, bilateral grants or triangular cooperation.**

It involves an evolution and expansion of the portfolio by virtue of larger support operations, focused on the transition from individual actions to the formation of large operations run by various national and international actors, including contributions from local, regional and national governments, financial bodies and cooperation agencies. This allows them to maximise their impact while simplifying management for the countries involved.

It has two main axes that serve as a backbone for all actions: the cooperation of actors through partnerships and support in the development of public policies aimed at upholding the human right to water and sanitation and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). In the spirit of SDG 17, which promotes the creation of a Global Partnership for Development, the Fund has also served as a bridge and catalyst for joint initiatives in the sector. They also have an impact on knowledge management and capacity development with AECID's own tools, such as the Intercoonecta capacity development programme.



THE GREAT FUND



3.4.1. Delegated cooperation

Delegated cooperation is the modality of cooperation in which one or more people entrust another to act on their behalf. The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS) coordinates a number of water programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, thanks to the trust shown by the EU, some of them through blending instruments channelled through LAIF (Latin America Investment Facility) funds, and others through the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). In these blended operations, the FCAS often acts as a seed for programme initiation, with the aim of including the most remote and vulnerable populations in rural and peri-urban areas in the interventions. Currently, the Joint Programmes represent a programme portfolio of over €800 million, €120 million of which are grant funds delegated by the EU to be administered by the Spanish Cooperation Agency.



 DELEGATED COOPERATION (M€)

Source of FUNDS	Name of the Program	Total Funding (*)	EU Funding	FCAS Contribution
LAIF	Bolivia. LA/2017/390/223 Supporting the Water and Sewerage Programme in Urban and Peri-urban Areas	126.05 M€	15.5 M€	5 M€
LAIF	Ecuador. LA/2020/417-023 Water and Sanitation Programme in dispersed rural communities in Portoviejo Canton, Manabí Province.	113.9 M€	10.4 M€	2.3 M€
LAIF	Nicaragua. DCI-ALA/2012/308-960 Integrated Sectoral Programme for Water and Human Sanitation (PISASH)	309 M€	50.5 M€	65.1 M€
LAIF	Regional. DCI-ALA/2013/319-515 Promoting adaptation to climate change and integrated water resources management in the water and sanitation sector in Latin America within the framework of the Water and Sanitation Cooperation Fund (FCAS)	615 M€	15.3 M€	–
DCI	Bolivia. DCI/LA/2019/410-047 Programme for Integral Water Management in Urban Areas	129.1 M€	15 M€	3 M€
DCI	Haití. FED/2018/398-762 URBAYITI Acces to Water and Sanitation basic services.	3,5 M€	3 M€	0,5 M€
DCI	Nicaragua. LA/2019/411-582 Improvement of the drinking water service in the Altamira - Managua sector with a focus on sustainability and equity	18.9 M€	10 M€	–

* The global ammount includes donations from Spanish Cooperation and European Union, as well as partners's contributions, either directly or through credits with international financial institutions.

In 2020, delegated cooperation agreements were signed in Ecuador and Bolivia, and preparations continued for the new programme in Paraguay, for which the EU has already approved a €10 million grant for the Drinking Water and Sanitation Project for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción, Lambaré basin, combining an IDB loan, a loan from the Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE) and funding from the multilateral portfolio of the Water Fund. The contribution agreement in the latter case is to be signed in 2021.



a) Regional LAIF "Promoting adaptation to climate change and integrated water resources management in the water and sanitation sector in Latin America within the framework of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS) "

The Regional LAIF Programme plays a key role in addressing the challenges of the sector in the region, not only as a mechanism to specifically support pre-investment and post-investment processes, but also by developing innovative knowledge products and platforms and increasing institutional capacity to respond to emerging needs. In turn, these activities provide support for institutional modernisation and strengthening, as well as for strategic planning processes.

The programme is conceived as complementary funds to the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation aimed at achieving greater impact in the sector.

The programme has two components:

- ◆ **Component I: Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).** The objective of this component is to support the inclusion of CCA measures (particularly in relation to water security and extreme events such as droughts and floods) in policies and investments in the water and sanitation sector.
- ◆ **Component II: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).** The objective is to influence the development of policies and investments in the sector through the promotion of solutions adapted to the needs and capacities of the different populations.

One of the aims of the programme is to link technical cooperation to investments in the region under one of these schemes:

- ◆ **Advocacy in the FCAS PORTFOLIO,** to support both the pre-investment phase (through studies and designs) and the post-investment phase (strengthening the management of services) in the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation programmes.
- ◆ **Advocacy for NEW INVESTMENTS,** mostly associated with IDB loans, mainly supporting pre-investment in important water and sanitation programmes in the region.
- ◆ **The development of KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS,** such as the review of regulations, capacity building and the development of methodologies, tools and manuals that will have a clear impact on future investments in a more strategic way. These products are intended to be taken into account in investment plans, strategies and policies and, ultimately, in the frameworks in which investments are made.

As examples of investment-focused projects, one of the technical cooperations within the Regional LAIF supports the leverage of funds for the water agenda by preparing pre-investment for the development of a future programme in the Pilcomayo basin (between Bolivia, Argentina and Paraguay), in addition to the reinforcement of key elements to advance the transboundary water resource management.

Other types of funded activities focus on research and dissemination in the fields of CC and IWRM in the region. In technical cooperations such as:

- ◆ Groundwater Monitoring Platform for Latin America, which aims to share information on the current situation of the main aquifers in Latin America based on satellite information and field analysis that countries wish to share.
- ◆ MOOC on Urban Water Management, where linking storm drainage with drinking water supply services and with sanitation and wastewater treatment is important.

The Regional Lightning Detection Network for Central America, which will form part of the Virtual Regional Centre for Forecasting and Monitoring of Severe Hydrometeorological Phenomena for Central America, in coordination with the Ibero-American Meteorological Cooperation Programme of the Conference of Directors of Ibero-American Meteorological and Hydrological Services (CIMHET), has also been put into operation. This implementation has involved the sharing of information between countries and defining complementary actions to improve the analyses that will enable the implementation of early warning mechanisms for extreme phenomena.

During 2020, there was a significant slowdown in implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From March onwards, all face-to-face activities had to be cancelled and only virtual activities have been carried out. This has required re-planning and reorienting activities, modifying existing contracts and adjusting terms of reference for new contracting.

Overall, the allocation of 95.60% of the programme's resources is already planned and 33 operations have already been approved. Until 31 December 2020, €9.9 million have been implemented, representing 66% of the direct costs of the programme.





Projects against COVID-19

Within the framework of the so-called Regional LAIF programme, three new grants were awarded in 2020 to facilitate the COVID-19 emergency response by lending support to drinking water and sanitation services in rural communities to ensure the human rights to water and sanitation. Two of the grants are destined to the Salvadoran NGOs PROVIDA and Asociación de Desarrollo Económico Social - ADES Santa Marta, for 119,472 and 93,148 euros, respectively, and the third to the Ecuadorian NGO Centro de Apoyo al Desarrollo PROTOS EC, for 212,617 euros.

The programmes aim to strengthen prevention measures against the coronavirus in the most vulnerable rural communities. In El Salvador, for example, they include the purchase and distribution of water purification kits, the purchase and installation of chlorinators, as well as training in the correct operation of the services and technical inspection of the systems. The donation granted in Ecuador will support public drinking water and sanitation services in the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas, promoting the rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems that are operating irregularly or are of poor quality. It also includes products for water disinfection at the household and community level, as well as actions to strengthen the capacity of communities and municipal services.



b) NICARAGUA - Integrated Sectoral Programme for Water and Human Sanitation (PISASH)

Nicaragua's Integrated Sectoral Programme for Water and Human Sanitation (PISASH) aims **to improve and expand drinking water, sewerage and wastewater treatment services in urban and rural areas**, as well as to improve capacities for the operation, maintenance and integrated management of water resources with a view to improving the sustainability of these basic social services for the population.

50.5 million euros in EU LAIF funds which, together with the 65.1 million contributed by Spain and the almost 200 million contributed by the country through other actors such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) and the Nicaraguan government's own funds, amount to more than 300 million euros of investment that will improve access to water and sanitation in 19 Nicaraguan cities. At the end of the intervention, more than half a million people will benefit.

	Spain	EU	EIB	BCIE Central American Bank for Economic Integration	Government	Other funding	TOTAL
Million euros	65,1	50,5	72	106,8	106,8	1,2	309,4
% euros	21%	16,3%	23,3%	34,5%	4,5%	0,4%	100%
Million USD	87,5	58,9	97,5	138,9	18	1,5	402,3%
% USD	21,7%	14,6%	24,2%	34,5%	4,5%	0,4%	100%

During 2020, the implementation period of the bilateral Water Fund programme NIC-014-B came to an end. This grant served to improve access to drinking water in the cities of Acoyapa, Santo Tomás and Bluefields, and sanitation in the first two, installing a **total of 9,350 new drinking water connections and 4,600 sanitation connections**. In addition, the grant financed an important component of **technical assistance to support the public water company ENACAL**, both in water management aspects and in improving the operation and maintenance of the new systems installed with the priority aim of improving the living conditions of the population. The operation has also improved the sanitation systems of nine public schools in Acoyapa and Santo Tomás and financed a plan to provide a connection to the sewerage system for 1,100 vulnerable families in both towns.

Meanwhile, through the other bilateral grant NIC-013-B, work continued on the construction and commissioning of the Masaya Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which should be completed in 2021 for the entry into operation of the entire new sanitary sewerage and sanitation system of this city.



Through the multilateral programme NIC-056-M, led together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), 60,000 people in the city of Bilwi will have access to safe water, with 13,600 household connections installed. This system should complete its start-up phase during the first months of 2021, so that it will be commissioned before the middle of the year.

c) BOLIVIA

LAIF Programme: Supporting the Water and Sewerage Programme in Urban and Peri-urban Areas

Funds committed (in euros)	
Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation	5.000.000
Delegated Cooperation (LAIF Funding)	15.000.000
Total Programme "Supporting the Water and Sewerage Programme in Urban and Periurban" Areas	20.000.000
OTHER FUNDERS OF THE GLOBAL OPERATION	
National counterpart	22.222.222
IDB Credit (Blending)	55.555.556
Spain-Bolivia Debt Conversion Programme	27.777.778
TOTAL Funding	127.564.581

Through strategic investments in infrastructure, together with support for improved service delivery and water resources management, resilience to droughts and floods in urban populations will be strengthened. EU funds will cover essential aspects such as planning (water, sanitation and sustainable urban drainage plans), design of appropriate infrastructure, water resources management and water and sanitation service management. This programme will also include strategic investments aimed at introducing innovative solutions in the sector such as a wastewater treatment research centre which can provide appropriate solutions, adapted to the specific Bolivian context.

The remaining funds are mainly directed towards investments in services with more traditional drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, with a part also being reserved for pre-investment studies and master plans.

In 2020, due to the impact on the political, social and health situation in the country, progress was very limited, but it is expected to be able to resume momentum in 2021.



d) HAITI - URBAYITI

In 2018, in Port-au-Prince, the agreement between the EU and AECID was signed for the implementation of the URBAYITI: Water and Sanitation action, amounting to a total of 3.5 million euros, 500,000 euros of which being donated by Spain under the Water Fund Programme and the other three million coming from delegated funds from the EU.

The objective of this action is to improve access to basic services for the most vulnerable populations in the target area, the Martissant neighbourhood, one of the most vulnerable in Port-au-Prince. **It is expected that initially 6,000 people will benefit from new access to drinking water and approximately 2,000 from new access to sanitation.** It includes planning and rehabilitation works and construction of sanitary blocks in collective facilities in public spaces (schools, markets, health centres, etc.). A project for the rehabilitation of the Titanyen excreta plant is also expected.

In 2020, progress was made in **Urbayiti**, with the definition of the **social engineering strategy to be implemented** by the Directorate for Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods (DQD) of the National Directorate for Drinking Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) in the Martissant neighbourhood, where the intervention is taking place. In addition, during the last quarter of the year, the first visit was made to define the **10 public sites** where the **sanitary blocks** planned in the programme will be built.

e) NICARAGUA – Altamira

In December 2019, AECID and the European Union (EU) signed a new Contribution Agreement LA/2019/411-582 to finance the project "Improvement of the drinking water service in the Altamira - Managua sector with a focus on sustainability and equity", for an amount of 10 million, to be implemented by the Nicaraguan public water and sewerage company, ENACAL, over a period of 42 months. This project will help 43,224 homes to have access to drinking water 24 hours a day, with a 15.15% reduction in the amount of water not billed, increasing collection to 90% by 2023, which will **enable the service to be sustainable.**

By the end of the project, it is expected that 30,257 families will have made changes in hygiene and health behaviour and in the rational use of water.

During 2020, the policy and operational instruments of the programme were defined and approved, and implementation will start in 2021.



f) ECUADOR - Water and Sanitation Programme in Dispersed Rural Communities in the Municipality of Portoviejo

In 2020, the EU Delegation Agreement was approved for the Water and Sanitation Programme in Dispersed Rural Communities in the Municipality of Portoviejo, complementary to a bilateral FCAS programme, another Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE) operation in the pipeline and an EU cooperation project. The EU Delegation Agreement was signed on 15 December 2020.

The project has significant positive impacts, both social and environmental, and aims to ensure the participation of the beneficiary population through the socialisation of the programme in all its phases, in order to achieve the sustainability of the systems.

The blending operation in which this action is included is financed through various contributions from the EIB, FONPRODE and IDB as a loan, AECID-FCAS and the EU as a donation, and the Decentralised Autonomous Government of Portoviejo in its capacity as a national partner.

The direct beneficiaries of the funded intervention will be approximately 79,000 people.

Ecuador Water and Sanitation Programme in Dispersed Rural Communities in the Municipality of Portoviejo	
European Investment Bank (EIB):	€54.44 million.
AECID-FONPRODE reimbursable cooperation:	€15.45 million.
Inter-American Development Bank IDB:	€25.0 million.
European Union:	€10.4 million.
Water Fund:	€2.31 million.
Government of Portoviejo:	€6.39 million. (This amount does not include the VAT contributed by GADM Portoviejo which, being recoverable, is not counted as a contribution).

g) BOLIVIA - Programme for Integral Water Management in Urban Areas

In this operation, EU grant resources (15 million euros) will once again be combined with funds from the Water Fund (three million euros) to encourage the proper management of water resources in urban environments. On this occasion, the forecast is that, with additional credit resources from the financing instrument of the AECID, FONPRODE and the IDB, a global operation of approximately \$129 million can be set up. In 2020, procedures have continued to begin implementation of a new operation in Bolivia. The delegation agreement for this operation between AECID and the EU was signed in 2020.

This initiative will help the population in peri-urban areas to have new or improved access to basic sanitation services and promote integrated water resources management (IWRM) in urban areas. It is hoped that approval of the rest of the various financing packages that make up the multi-stakeholder operation can be finalised in the coming year and that, once implementation begins, synergies can be generated and the other programmes being promoted in the country can be complemented.

h) PARAGUAY - Water and Sanitation Project for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción (AMA) - Lambaré Watershed

The programme, run by the Ministry of Public Works and Communications through the Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DAPSAN), is still in the formalisation phase. It has been set up in line with a perspective of combined blending operations. This involves different actors forming large operations, including technical cooperation of \$1m from the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation with the collaboration of the IDB and \$0.25m from the Aquafund multi-donor fund, in addition to 10m of funds delegated by the European Union to Spain, as well as reimbursable cooperation from FONPRODE (\$60m) and the IDB (\$105m). It is worth highlighting the multiplier effect produced through the Fund which is key to generating trust and alliances between the different institutions participating in this programme.

The project focuses on improving sanitation conditions in the Metropolitan Area of Asunción, specifically in the south-western area (Lambaré river basin), and will benefit almost half a million people. The project will involve a first phase that includes the extension of sewerage networks, the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and activities aimed at reducing water unaccounted for and improving the quality of services.



3.4.2 Reimbursable cooperation

The Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE) is the Spanish Cooperation instrument through which financial cooperation is channelled to partner countries. Among other modalities, it provides sovereign-guaranteed loans to States with concessional financial conditions to finance projects aimed at promoting the countries' development in accordance with the principles, values and guidelines of the Spanish Cooperation.

In the water and sanitation sector, FONPRODE complements the FCAS portfolio by financing new projects or second phases of Water Fund programmes.

Currently, the Water Fund and FONPRODE have been making progress working together to identify reimbursable cooperation programmes in the water and sanitation sector that could be jointly financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and FONPRODE, following the same guidelines set by the Spanish Cooperation. In this context, the following operations should be highlighted as a result of the new collaboration framework:



Paraguay

- ◆ The reimbursable cooperation operation in the Republic of Paraguay to co-finance, together with the IDB, the Drinking **Water and Sanitation Project for Small Cities and Rural and Indigenous Communities**, where FONPRODE provides a credit of up to \$20 million out of a total of \$60 million. The operation is planned as a continuation of the FCAS programme PRY-011-M, and the focus of funds is on rural areas. In 2020, it is under implementation.
- ◆ **Drinking Water and Sanitation Project for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción, Lambaré Basin**, combining funding from the FCAS, other international donors and an EU grant under the blending modality. FONPRODE is providing a loan of up to \$60m, the IDB \$105m and the EU, a grant of €10m. The Paraguayan Congress is expected to approve the FONPRODE credit and the IDB loan in the second half of 2021. The programme is in the design phase and will be developed in the coming years.

Panama

- ◆ The operation to provide credit to the Republic of Panama to co-finance the **Sanitation Programme for the districts of Arraiján and La Chorrera**, together with a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the CAF, the CABEL and the EIB. In principle, FONPRODE is providing a loan of up to \$50m, which would exclusively finance the wastewater treatment plant foreseen under the project, the IDB \$25m (a loan of \$150m was initially foreseen, but the scope of the project has been reduced), and the other entities are contributing \$200m. Although the FONPRODE Credit Agreement was signed in 2018, no disbursements have yet been made because the Panamanian government has opted to reformulate the project, postponing the implementation of the works.

Ecuador

- ◆ The operation to provide credit to the Metropolitan Public Company of Drinking Water and Sanitation of Quito to co-finance the Drinking Water and Sewerage Project in Quito (Ecuador), together with a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). FONPRODE is providing up to \$40m through a \$217.1m programme loan, with the IDB contributing \$87m and the local contribution \$90.1m.
- ◆ The operation to provide credit to the Decentralised Autonomous Municipal Government of the Canton Portoviejo (GADMCP) to co-finance the **Drinking Water and Sewerage Programme of the Portoviejo Canton**, together with a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the local contribution of the Decentralised Autonomous Government of the Canton Portoviejo. FONPRODE is providing up to \$17 million through a \$122 million programme loan, with the IDB contributing \$27.5 million, the European Investment Bank \$59.8 million and the local contribution of \$17.6 million. To ensure coverage in rural areas, the programme will be complemented by a contribution of €10m from the European Commission's Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF) and a grant of €2.3m from the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation.



Bolivia

- Finally, the operation to provide credit to Bolivia for the co-financing of the **Integrated Water Management Programme in Urban Areas**, together with the IDB loan. Following the approval of a €3m Water Fund intervention and an EU grant of 14.5m, a combined operation is being prepared in which FONPRODE would provide \$30m and the IDB would contribute \$100m in credit. The project is awaiting the results of the October 2020 elections which will determine the new leaders. It is hoped that the elected mayors will provide momentum and prioritise the project in order to move forward in the negotiation of the credit agreement, which was paralysed by the political crisis that the country has suffered in recent years.

3.4.3 Bilateral cooperation

In addition to the programmes that arise within the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, with a budget from the State Secretariat for International Cooperation, the AECID carries out bilateral programmes with its own funds aimed at strengthening the water and sanitation sector in the various partner countries. Many of these programmes are, of course, carried out in coordination with the Water Fund and follow the same guidelines and approaches.

In **Cuba**, two bilateral programmes are being developed to complement and expand the Fund's impact. One of them, developed with the National Institute of Water Resources, seeks to strengthen water management capacities through **technical cooperation activities aimed at the sector's main institutions and operators**. The other programme, carried out in coordination with the Havana Bay Working Group, focuses on the treatment of industrial discharges in Havana Bay. These programmes open up new areas of collaboration aimed at improving the technical and management capacities of government institutions with competencies in the water sector.





Colombia hosts a bilateral programme called **Methodological Proposal to Identify the Population in a Situation of Social Vulnerability**, to make them beneficiaries of the minimum subsistence water subsidy, in Bogotá D.C. It consists of a bilateral AECID grant of 96,000 euros awarded to the District Habitat Secretariat of the Mayor's Office of Bogotá, which provides 24,000 euros as a counterpart. The objective is to establish a roadmap for the implementation of the minimum subsistence water subsidy for the city of Bogotá. This is a project that, despite its small budget, is highly strategic as the potential impact of its results will help to guarantee the human rights to water for the most vulnerable population groups in the city of Bogotá, paving the way for its replicability in other municipalities in Colombia.

3.4.4. Technical cooperation

Technical cooperation is a type of collaboration focused on the exchange of technical and management knowledge with the aim of increasing the capacities of water institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Spain gives special priority to **technical cooperation in the field of water, sanitation and purification, and shares its experience, knowledge and innovations in the sector**, given our hydrological and climate situation. Within the framework of the Fund, emphasis has been placed on the technical cooperation of public institutions in the sector, with international recognition and whose added value is widely acknowledged by our partners.

There are some programmes within the framework of the Great Fund that focus on technical cooperation, such as the **Regional LAIF programme or the products of the multi-donor AquaFund**, in which the Water Fund participates. Within the framework of the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA), the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation collaborates with the Directorate General for Water, which holds the Permanent Technical Secretariat of the network.

During 2020, **work continued together with Tragsatec** giving technical support to AECID's Technical Cooperation Offices, and within the framework of the Fund's programmes, in more than 10 Latin American countries. Collaboration in the area of knowledge management, institutional strengthening, water planning and accountability also continued.

In the field of **sanitation and wastewater treatment, in collaboration with CEDEX, support has been provided for the** revision of regulations in El Salvador and Guatemala, and technical advice has been provided for specific actions in programmes in Paraguay, Bolivia and Cuba.



In 2020, collaboration also continued with the **Spanish Geographic Mining Institute (IGME)** in the framework of the Water Fund's support for the search for workable solutions for water supply in Guatemala City, as part of one of the Fund's programmes.

With regard to work with water and sanitation service operators, progress has been made with the signing of a collaboration agreement between AECID and the public company **EMASESA**, which will boost activities to **support and strengthen the operators we work within the framework of the programmes**. Precisely with the support of EMASESA, a new twinning arrangement with an operator in Honduras was initiated in 2020, with the first contacts being made virtually due to the health situation.

Finally, in 2020, support was given to the Bolivian Ministry of Environment and Water, providing technical advice for the development of **drought management plans** in several urban centres in the country with the support of the **Directorate General for Water of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Tragsatec**.

Technical cooperation in support of programmes

During 2020, six additional technical cooperation (TC) projects were approved with FCAS funds at the IDB, bringing the total number of projects under implementation to eight. COVID-19 has also entailed significant delays in implementation, requiring the re-planning of actions, the modification of contracts and a switch to virtual activities (desk work, virtual workshops, etc.). The main purpose of these collaborations is twofold: on the one hand, to support the sustainability of the actions carried out and, on the other, to take advantage of the knowledge generated during these 10 years and fill in any gaps, so that the lessons learned in different areas can be put to use in future projects.

PR-T1268 - Support to the implementation of reforms and institutional strengthening of the water and sanitation sector in Paraguay - PARAGUAY (\$1M).

Objective: support the design of necessary actions to carry out the reforms and strengthening of the sector-specific governing authority, including the implementation of short- and medium-term measures (2019-2023), established in the National Water and Sanitation Plan for the fulfilment of Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cooperation will also support the strengthening of long-term investment planning and the development of efficient projects for the metropolitan areas of Asunción and Ciudad del Este.

The support provided through technical cooperation was mainly focused on the preparation of preliminary engineering projects and support consultancies for the Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción - Lambaré Basin (PR-L1172 joint operation with FONPRODE and the EU), given the priority of having them in the short term to ensure the quality of the

combined operation. A study was also carried out to review and propose regulatory adjustments to the regulatory framework for the sector.

BO-T1353 - Local Strengthening for the use of dry ecological toilets - BOLIVIA (\$1M).

Objective: to promote the use of eco-toilets in rural areas of Bolivia through the development of a social strategy. The technical cooperation document was approved by AECID in December 2019. The programme will consolidate a line of work initiated by the IDB with Spanish Cooperation funds, which will also serve for new rural operations being developed in the country.

Work has focused on the review of the planning and terms of reference. Implementation has not yet begun as it requires access to the field.

RG-T3422 - Systematisation of experiences and support for the development of strategies in the rural water and sanitation sector - REGIONAL (\$200,000).

Objective: to contribute to promoting access to safe Water and Sanitation (W&S) services in the rural sector in LAC through the development of strategies based on the analysis of experiences and in the framework of the SDGs and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWS), with a special emphasis on service sustainability schemes.

Improving services in rural areas is one of the Fund's priorities. These resources complement \$300,000 from the Regional LAIF.

Work has started on a cost analysis of rural projects, on the development and monitoring tools for rural projects and on the design of a sustainability strategy in Honduras.

RG-T3507 - Capacity building of operators as a key aspect for the sustainability of water and sanitation services in the region - REGIONAL (\$500,000).

Objective: to promote the sustainability of water and sanitation services through support to operators. This support will be carried out through the development of tools and assistance to specific operators.

The role of operators is essential for the sustainability of services, an aspect that the Fund aims to strengthen in the region. These resources complement \$350,000 from the LAIF Regional programme.

Support has been given to the preparation of the MOOC "Water 2.0: efficient companies for the 21st century", which aims to





strengthen knowledge and capacities for the management of water companies, and diagnoses of some small operators have been carried out in order to prepare their improvement plan.

RG-T3489 - Transboundary Water Resources: a water security framework for transboundary basins in LAC - REGIONAL (\$500,000).

Objective: support for the development of transboundary water management models in the region through analytical tools that enable diagnoses and scenarios for shared water resource management and water planning that minimise conflicts over the use of the resource and enable resilient and sustainable resource management planning, given the climatic and socio-economic uncertainties. **In approach, it has a direct impact on peace building in the region and water security.**

Transboundary issues are a key aspect of implementing integrated water resources management (IWRM) in the region, an aspect the Fund aims to particularly focus on. These resources complement \$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 between Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

RG-T3596 - Promoting Gender Equality in the Water and Sanitation Sector - REGIONAL (\$500,000).

Objective: to define and develop lines of action that promote gender equity in the water and sanitation sector through specific approaches and tools.

In 2020, the focus has been on planning activities. It is also worth highlighting the support given to CONAGUA in Mexico to achieve its certification in labour equality and non-discrimination, which involves a diagnosis of how this institution addresses gender issues. This process was accompanied by a training workshop for operators.

RG-T3711 - Support to actions developed in the field of CODIA - REGIONAL (\$100.000).

Objective: to support the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA) in the development of strategic actions for the sector in the field of water planning, integrated water resources management and training.

During 2020, work was done to plan analyses and training workshops, but none could be carried out due to the pandemic. For 2021, a work plan with virtual activities will be initiated.

**RG-T3668 - Development of strategies to ensure water, sanitation and hygiene services in informal settlements (\$1 M FECASALC and \$250,000 Aquafund).**

Objective: the proposal integrates the COVID-19 perspective and represents an important area of work for this context. This cooperation will strengthen the Human Right to Water and Sanitation.

The objective of this technical cooperation is to support countries in defining strategies at national, regional and local levels to guarantee essential services in informal urban areas of high vulnerability in terms of health. To this end, diagnoses will be prepared that will take into account urban conditions, alternatives for providing drinking water and sanitation services, the legal and regulatory framework and successful experiences that have been carried out. These guidelines will be used to define policies and programmes that will serve to guarantee water and sanitation services in these areas in the short and long term, and thus close the gaps in coverage.

In addition, it has been agreed to include the following technical cooperations within the FECASALC Action Plan:

Ongoing approvals**Regional programme to support the development of joint collaboration schemes for the water and sanitation sector on the Island of Hispaniola. Regional (Haiti and Dominican Republic - \$150,000).**

Objective: The operation aims to strengthen the two countries' cooperation for the development of IWRM and the provision of water and sanitation services.

Desalination as a water resource alternative in the LAC region (\$300,000).

Objective: this cooperation will strengthen the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) theme and will have an impact on an area of great development potential where Spain can have an important added value.

Support to the elaboration of the National Drinking Water and Rainwater Drainage Plans in Uruguay (\$200,000).

Objective: to reinforce the integrated water resources management plan. The IWRM theme will be reinforced. The TC arises from the need to bring continuity to the programme "PLAN FOR ADAPTATION OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM)" implemented by the Fund together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).



Promotion of policies and mechanisms for the promotion of innovation in the water, sanitation and solid waste sector in LAC (\$125,000).

Objective: this initiative will reinforce the theme of institutional strengthening and focus on a key aspect for the development of the sector - innovation - from a public policy perspective, an area of great interest to the Spanish Cooperation.

Workplace Safety (\$150,000)

Objective: to systematise and reinforce practices in order to have an impact on occupational safety in future work, also taking into consideration the measures that have been carried out during COVID-19.

AQUAFUND

The AquaFund is a multi-donor fund led by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which develops knowledge products and platforms and replicable pilot projects, building the capacity of water institutions and providing support for various technical studies. In 2020, it had available credits of \$13.7 million. Since 2008, the AquaFund's capital amounts to \$125 million, \$41 million of which comes from the Multidonor AquaFund (MAF), in which Spain participates, and \$84 million from the IDB's contribution to its Strategic Development Programme for Ordinary Capital for Infrastructure (INF). Up until 2020, the AquaFund has financed 241 projects in total.

In 2020, Spain contributed €500,000 to the AquaFund, which this year approved 20 new technical cooperation projects worth almost 10m. During the year, projects continued to be implemented and 12 operations were closed. Most of the technical cooperations promote studies and reports that can develop future water programmes associated with each countries' needs, which will improve their development and effectiveness.

The 2020 portfolio has performed satisfactorily, with completed projects achieving most of the anticipated outcomes and outputs. The Fund continues to support investments in water and sanitation services, climate change adaptation, water security measures and gender mainstreaming.

In 2020, the AquaFund provided support to address the water challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it further developed the implementation of the action plan agreed with donors following the AquaFund's external evaluation in 2017. The Fund's progress was guided by the updated Results Framework for 2018-2021, together with the prioritisation of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, resulting in a large and rapid increase in climate finance. The strengthened communication and visibility protocol developed in 2019 complemented this work.



3.4.5 Partnerships

In terms of the working scheme, the FCAS seeks to create strategic alliances with key national and international actors and networks within the sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. Among these institutions, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) deserves special mention. Efforts are being made with this institution to achieve a greater impact, given its long experience in the sector.

Future cooperation needs to integrate a plurality of public and private actors, mobilising both financial resources and technical experience and capacities, using diverse means and instruments, such as technical cooperation. One of the strengths of Spanish Cooperation and the FCAS programmes is that they take advantage of the experience and excellence of leading Spanish institutions in the water sector to cooperate through studies, field visits, technical reports and training in Latin America, within the framework of SDG 17 to promote a global partnership for development.

The alliance with the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** is strategic, combining the development agency approach provided by AECID with the technical and management experience of large infrastructure programmes and the IDB's significant presence and dialogue in the region's development and water agenda. On the other hand, in the framework of various assignments, the Fund relies on Spanish companies and public institutions to improve its impact, as is the case of the assignments to Tragsatec, CEDEX or IGME.

The Fund collaborates with Ibero-American water institutions, and especially with the three main networks with regional impact: the **Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA)**, **RIOCC (Network of Climate Change Offices)** and **CIMHET (Conference of Directors of Ibero-American Meteorological and Hydrological Services)**, with whom the **Central American Lightning Detection Network** has continued to operate with the advice of the **State Meteorological Agency (AEMET)**.

In 2019, collaboration continued with the **NGO ONGAWA** on the diagnosis of the human rights approach to water and sanitation, and with public companies, such as **Tragsatec**, the public water company **EMASESA** (Seville), and the company responsible for water treatment in Navarra, **NILSA**. Finally, it is worth mentioning the collaboration with research organisations such as the Centre for Hydrographic Studies (**CEDEX**), the Spanish Geological and Mining Institute (**IGME**) and the Centre for New Water Technologies (**CENTA**), as well as with universities and study centres such as the **universities of Alcalá, A Coruña and Alicante**, among others.

During 2020, Spain joined the **Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)** initiative, led by former water rapporteur Catarina de Albuquerque, which drives forward the policy agenda in the region.

This year, Spain also joined in the work to set up the **Latin American Water Observatory (OLAS)**, which will provide a tool for monitoring Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in



collaboration with the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, **Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)**, the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**.

PARTNERS

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The IDB is a Washington-based financial institution created to finance viable development projects and reduce poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. In coordination with the AECID, the IDB is in charge of promoting the multilateral portfolio of the Water Fund. Contributions are channelled 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 IDB. The multilateral portfolio is endowed with €397 million in donations from Spain which, together with the IDB credits, expand and multiply the impact.

Multilateral programmes are implemented following an operational regulation and a coordination guide that establishes the joint management mechanisms for FECASALC operations. This has made it possible in countries where joint actions are carried out to establish specific coordination spaces and processes between AECID's technical cooperation offices (TCOs), IDB representations and national authorities, seeking synergies and multiplying development impacts

The alliance with the IDB has meant a high added value thanks to the development agency vision that the AECID brings (upholding water as a human right or the emphasis on the importance of citizen participation and gender relations) and the IDB's extensive experience and technical qualification in project management.

More information about the joint work of both institutions, here

<https://www.iadb.org/en/sector/water-and-sanitation/fecasalc/home>

CEDEX

The Center for Studies and Experimentation of Public Works (CEDEX) is an autonomous body that depends organically on the Ministry of Public Works, and functionally on this ministry and on the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO). Its purpose is to provide highly specialised technical assistance in the field of civil engineering and the environment.

Among the centres that make up the CEDEX is the Centre for Hydrographic Studies, a benchmark institution for studies on water planning, water treatment technologies and hydraulic works, with a long tradition of work in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Since 2012, CEDEX has been collaborating with the Water Fund through different collaboration instruments. In 2020, it has been working within the framework of a commission from the Secretary of State for Cooperation signed in January of this year.



As a continuation of the activities supported in previous years, in 2020, CEDEX has provided technical assistance in a series of projects and actions, among which the following can be highlighted:

BOLIVIA

- ◆ Support to the revision of the latest versions of the National Wastewater Treatment Strategy.
- ◆ Collaboration in the preparation of a guide on the implementation of wastewater treatment systems in Bolivia, work on which was completed at the beginning of the year.
- ◆ Monitoring and diagnosis of the operation of the programme's wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in small communities. The preparation of the diagnostic reports of the San Carlos, Santa Fe and Los Negros WWTPs has been completed.

CUBA

- ◆ Support for the drafting of the Havana Sanitation Plan. At the beginning of the year, the outline of the basic content document for the drafting of the Havana Master Plan was drawn up.
- ◆ Analysis of the hydrodynamic operation of the rehabilitation design of the Casablanca Pumping Station, located in Havana. The technicians of the Hydraulics Laboratory of CEDEX have carried out the hydraulic analysis of the installation (caballerias, siphon and Casablanca water pumping station), studying the hydraulic problems of the pumping station, after the 2007 refurbishment, and possible solutions. To this end, a numerical modelling and hydrodynamic simulation of the current configuration of the Casablanca station has been carried out, in the different operating scenarios considered. Based on these results, work has been carried out on the design of a baffle screen to make the flow more uniform and avoid the cavitation problems that currently exist.

GUATEMALA

- ◆ Within the framework of the regional strategy being promoted by the Water Fund, support has been provided in the revision of Guatemala's discharge regulations. The review was particularly complicated, both due to the complexity of the Guatemalan regulation and the large number of modifications it had undergone over the years. After it was analysed, a series of recommendations were made for its possible improvement.

PARAGUAY

- ◆ Support for sanitation activities in Asunción. As a continuation of the programmes in the country, we have collaborated in the technical review of treatment plant projects in Asunción. In particular, there has been collaboration on the review of the Lambaré WWTP project.



- ◆ On the other hand, there has also been collaboration on the creation of a training itinerary in Paraguay. Together with the Water Fund and the public water company of Seville, EMASESA, a training programme in water and sanitation has been designed. The itinerary is divided into three modules: sectoral policy and planning; supply; and sanitation. The latter two include both the design and the operation and maintenance of networks and treatment plants.

EL SALVADOR

- ◆ CEDEX has collaborated in technical cooperation with El Salvador to support the development of sectoral regulations. The Salvadorian institutions have prepared draft guidelines on wastewater reuse and on the disposal of sludge from treatment plants, which have been reviewed and a series of observations and suggestions for improvements in various aspects have been submitted. In addition, a review of the discharge regulations was requested, which began to be revised at the end of the year.

DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ In addition to these specific works in different countries, CEDEX supports different regional works with the aim of systematising the knowledge generated with the monitoring of different projects during the last decade. This makes it possible to bring together regional experiences in the specific context and its experience in the field of sanitation and wastewater treatment in particular.
- ◆ CEDEX has also collaborated in the work being carried out for the preparation of a series of guides and recommendations, including the "Guide for the planning of sanitation and wastewater treatment projects", adapted to the Latin American context, and the recommendations for sectoral planning in wastewater treatment.

REGIONAL STRATEGY ON SECTORAL REGULATIONS

- ◆ CEDEX has continued to collaborate with the Water Fund in promoting the regional strategy of supporting countries in the review and drafting of sectoral regulations, so that they are adapted to national contexts and to the technologies available to the countries and are not merely a transfer of other international regulations that are difficult to comply with. During this year, as mentioned above, it has collaborated with the institutions of Guatemala in the review of its dumping regulations and with those of El Salvador in the review of its proposed regulations on reuse and sludge. In addition, it has collaborated with the Fund in the organisation of a workshop, which is expected to be held in 2021, and has continued with the preparation of the document for the review of regulations, which is also expected to be published in 2021.



DATABASE OF WATER FUND FACILITIES

- CEDEX has provided support in defining the contents of the database of treatment plants built under the Fund's programmes, which is being prepared with the basic support of Tragsatec. A general review has been carried out, but in particular, collaboration has been provided on aspects related to the implementation and maintenance costs and the monitoring of the operation of the facilities in order to be able to monitor the sustainability of the technology and to be able to draw conclusions for the future.

TRAGSATEC

Tragsatec is a public engineering company that is part of the TRAGSA group, included in the corporations of the Sociedad Estatal de Participaciones Industriales (SEPI).

Tragsatec's support to the Water Fund at headquarters and in the field is key, given that the size of the portfolio and its degree of specialisation requires a specific technical qualification and workload that AECID teams alone cannot assume.

Since 2014, an order has been placed with Tragsatec for programme management, monitoring and coordination support activities. The assignment aims to support the improvement of processes, procedures and harmonisation of content between programmes, support in programme management, as well as the maintenance of monitoring tools. It also includes support for the measurement of indicators, as well as communication support for the Fund's accountability.

The support service offered by Tragsatec has a high level of technical specialisation which, added to the institutional work of the AECID, significantly increases the quality of the implementation and monitoring of FCAS and FCAS-EU interventions, which results in the sustainability of the systems.

Spanish Geological Mining Institute (IGME)

On 17 September 2019, a Management Delegation Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain for the diagnosis and creation of an action plan for the sustainable exploitation of the Guatemala City Valley Aquifer, within the framework of one of the FCAS programmes in the country.

The IGME is the leading body in Spain for information, technical-scientific assistance and advice to public administrations in geology and hydrogeology. In this context, the purpose of the delegation is to entrust IGME with the management and coordination of studies and technical services in relation to the Guatemala programme. These studies and technical services are part of an overall programme whose general objective is to promote a water security strategy for the reliable supply of quantitatively and qualitatively acceptable water for the populations of the Guatemala City valley, with the collaboration of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Spanish public company TRAGSA.



The programme is articulated around three components. On the one hand, to generate quality technical information that serves as a basis for the integrated management of water resources. On the other hand, to strengthen the technical capacities of the institutions for an integrated management of sustainable water resources. And finally, to strengthen the municipal policy framework for sustainable water resource management. The studies and technical services detailed in this agreement fall under the first component.

In 2020, the collaboration with the Geographic Mining Institute of Spain (IGME) continues in the framework of the Water Fund's support in the search for feasible solutions for the water supply of Guatemala City.

Official Credit Institute - ICO

The regulatory framework determines that the financial agent of the FCAS is the Official Credit Institute (ICO, by its Spanish acronym).

In its capacity as financial agent of the FCAS, the ICO signs, in the name and on behalf of the Spanish Government and on behalf of the State, the corresponding financing agreements with the beneficiary entities of the Fund. It also provides technical instrumentation, accounting, cash, control, collection and recovery services and, in general, all other financial services relating to the operations authorised under the Fund.

In accordance with the Royal Decree on the organisation and operation of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, the ICO is entitled to be compensated from the FCAS for the expenses it incurs in the development and execution of the functions entrusted to it. This compensation is proposed each year by the Executive Committee of the FCAS for approval by the Council of Ministers.

[The Annual Activity Report produced by the Official Credit Institute can be found here.](#)

4 Countries





4.- COUNTRIES

4.1. Bolivia

Bolivia is one of the countries in the region with the greatest need in terms of water and sanitation and one of the most vulnerable to climate change, which causes cyclical water crises with **recurrent droughts and floods**. In recent years, water and sanitation have been prioritised in the national political agenda, which is why relevant actions are being developed in this sector. As a result, initiatives for the **elaboration of national strategies and plans** in which most of the institutions and actors in the sector are participating are the result of this.

Bolivia represents well the evolution of the Water Fund and its reach. The first stage, between 2010 and 2018, focused on actions to expand coverage in rural areas and small or medium-sized cities, always with a focus on integrated water resources management and with an important component of promoting capacity building of public actors.

Currently, the institutional dialogue and the trust generated have made it possible to open additional lines of action to strengthen the sector as a whole and to support the development of public policies. The new programmes are more focused on governance and on guaranteeing the sustainability and quality of services in peri-urban areas. In each line of work, an integrated water resources

management approach is provided through the integration of the environmental component, drought management and urban drainage in the planning of the country's main operators. Consistent with the gap in terms of sanitation needs, improving wastewater treatment is another priority, with support for the implementation of a centre for experimental treatment solutions, the International Centre for Research and Development of Wastewater in the Altiplano - CIIDAR.

Furthermore, it is a good example of how the Fund is committed to promoting the coordination of actors and coordinating large combined operations between different instruments from an initial FCAS grant in order to maximise impact for the benefit of the Bolivian population.

The current portfolio in the country consists of two programmes that combine bilateral donations from Spanish Cooperation and funding from various actors. In both, in addition to the FCAS, the European Union also participates through delegated cooperation programmes administered by Spain.

In the first of the programmes under implementation, the FCAS is providing 5 million euros and the EU, through its LAIF funds, 15 million euros to finance the programme **Support to the Water and Sewerage Programme in Urban and Peri-urban Areas**, through a blending operation in which the IDB also participates with a credit of 55.5 million euros, and the country itself, with municipal contributions (22.2 million euros) and national contributions (27.7 million euros from the debt swap programme with Spain). This brings the overall operation to 125 million euros.

The overall objective of the operation is to extend and improve access to water and sanitation services to a target population of more than 200,000 women and men in peri-urban and urban areas of Bolivia, ensuring sustainability in terms of operation, quality and continuity of the water and sanitation service. Specific activities covered by EU and FCAS funds focus on the improvement of drinking water supply and sanitation services in selected populations (Cobija city and Chicani-Chinchaya communities), the elaboration of city master plans and pre-investment studies, the implementation of an International Centre for Research and Development in Wastewater Treatment (CIIDAR), the promotion of appropriate stormwater management, creating stronger institutions (training and technical assistance to sector institutions and service operators), the development of tools for the improvement of urban water cycle management and drought management plans in selected cities.

The year 2020 has been marked by the health emergency and by the political context, with the repetition of national elections in October after a year of transitional government. This has resulted in little progress being made in the implementation of actions.

Despite the difficulties, in 2020 progress was made in the preparation of the actions and the contribution agreement was signed with the European Union, which forms part of the second operation, integrated water management in urban areas. In this operation, three million euros from



the FCAS together with 15 million euros of EU funds delegated to Spain, form a larger programme that aims to reach 129 million euros, with the participation of the IDB and FONPRODE.

The overall programme aims to achieve the objective of supporting interventions for the extension and improvement of water and sanitation services in urban areas with more than 2,000 inhabitants, with a focus on interventions to mitigate potential water supply crises caused by droughts. The specific objective of the EU-funded action is to improve water resources management in urban areas by increasing and improving access to sanitation services. The objective of the FCAS contribution is the development of tools and instruments to ensure water security and the supply of drinking water to populations.

4.2 Chile



Chile's population already enjoys high levels of drinking water and sewerage services. However, a large part of the population in semi-concentrated and dispersed rural areas is still not adequately served.

In terms of contextual data, **98.8% of the urban population and only 52.8% of the rural population have access to a public drinking water network**, and of the latter, access to public services exists in concentrated rural areas where rural drinking water programmes were initiated several decades ago and are practically fully covered².

² Datos Censo 2017. Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas. Chile.

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS) has a programme in Chile called "Support for the reduction of the deficit in drinking water and sanitation coverage in the framework of the Millennium Development Goal targets for Chile", with a grant of €6.8 million, initiated in 2014 with the Undersecretariat for Regional and Administrative Development (SUBDERE) of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security.

The aim of the programme is to reduce inequalities and **improve the quality of life of the population in dispersed rural areas of Araucanía**, where a large part of the country's most vulnerable population group of Mapuche ethnicity is concentrated. To this end, the project has supported the construction of drinking water, sewerage and sanitary cabins (rooms with bathrooms and kitchens) in a number of rural communities (in total, 14 communities in 11 communes), which will enable the environmental clean-up of bodies of water and soils, and the comprehensive strengthening of community organisations, technical teams in the region and the beneficiary communes. The intervention includes a **support and training programme for communities, schools and water committee operators** for the sustainable use of infrastructures.

As of December 2020, all the sewerage and sanitation projects had been completed, in the absence of some pending sanitary resolutions (an administrative procedure granted by the Regional Ministerial Secretariat of Health). The programme's drinking water projects were also all completed or were nearing completion, with the exception of the works corresponding to the community of El Escorial (commune of Melipeuco) due to the administrative procedures associated with the rights to use the water catchment point. Subsequently, at the time of resuming the works, the COVID-19 pandemic began, which has forced the programme's execution period to be extended to 2021.

4.3 Colombia



Municipality of Rio Quito.



Colombia is considered a "partnership country", and the presence of Spanish Cooperation is justified by the conflict situation that the country has experienced and to which it is committed to overcoming.

The majority of Spanish Cooperation actions that provide access to water and sanitation services focus on **areas of displacement due to the conflict**, such as Chocó and Nariño, **settlement areas 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.

Of the eight FCAS-funded programmes in Colombia, four are in the implementation phase and four have already been completed.

COL-018-B: All for the Pacific. The aim of the programme is to improve water and sanitation services in **10 municipalities and one population centre in Chocó, including Istmina**, the department's second city in terms of population and importance. In 2016, the first water supply systems in operation and functioning were delivered in two of these municipalities (Nuquí and Bahía Solano). During 2019, works were completed in four of the municipalities (Atrato, Tadó, Capurganá and Acandí), which were subsequently handed over and accepted by their respective mayors. The **remaining municipalities (Río Quito, Novita, Novita, Medio Baudó and Istmina) are expected to complete the works in 2021**. Once implementation is complete, the programme will have reached almost 100,000 people, whose human rights to water and sanitation will be guaranteed.

COL-022-B: Integral Multiveredal of the Pacific. The objective of the programme is the construction of a water and sanitation system in the town of Espriella, which will benefit 2,300 people, as well as adjustments to the design and viability of the so-called Multiveredal Aqueduct, which would serve other towns in the area (Guayacona, Caunapí, Llorente and Espriella). This programme is being implemented in the municipality of Tumaco (Nariño), a priority area for Spanish Cooperation in Colombia, and the beneficiary of the grant is the Government of Nariño. The complex social context and the programme's own weaknesses have caused implementation to be delayed. In 2020, COVID's impact has not allowed for significant progress.

COL-035-B: Water Supply and Wastewater Management Programme in Rural Areas. The programme aims to contribute to increasing the coverage of efficient and sustainable drinking water and sanitation services in the rural communities of Fonseca (La Guajira), San Onofre (Sucre) and Totoró (Cauca). This programme is experiencing major delays related to the approval of the technical designs of the works to be carried out, as well as economic, administrative and organisational problems of the executing entity.

COL-036-B: Expansion of the El Bosque Drinking Water Treatment Plant and supply to the neighbourhoods in the south-western area of Cartagena. The objective of the intervention is the construction and commissioning of a unit in the El Bosque drinking water treatment plant, its

connection to the general supply network and the aqueduct and sewerage system of the Villahermosa neighbourhood (peri-urban area of Cartagena de Indias home to a vulnerable population group) to improve the living conditions of the population. The construction of the treatment unit has been completed and the plant is now operational. The programme is currently focused on the construction of 1,100 intra-domiciliary connections in the most vulnerable houses in the Villahermosa neighbourhood, as well as actions to improve sanitation systems in two schools in the south-western sector of the city. The beneficiary of this grant is the Mayor's Office of Cartagena.

As a complement to the Fund's interventions, the COL37-B Programme: Methodological proposal to identify the population in a state of social vulnerability, in order to make them beneficiaries of the minimum subsistence water subsidy, in Bogotá D.C., was launched bilaterally in Colombia, with an AECID budget. With a total budget of €120,000 (AECID grant of €96,000), it aims to establish a roadmap for the improvement of the application of the minimum subsistence water subsidy for the city of Bogotá. The beneficiary of this grant is the District Habitat Secretariat of the Mayor's Office of Bogotá. This is a project that, despite its small budget, is highly strategic, as the potential impact of its results will help to guarantee the human right to water of the most vulnerable population of the city of Bogotá (approximately 800,000 beneficiaries).

4.4. Costa Rica

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation's portfolio in Costa Rica has been very small, as it is a type 3 country (50% concessionality). However, through its multilateral portfolio it participates in one of the Fund's largest programmes.

Despite Costa Rica's high standards of access to water and sanitation, with almost 100% coverage, **wastewater treatment coverage is among the lowest in the region (15%)**, due to the widespread use of septic tanks (70%).

In addition to an already completed intervention, "Programme for access to drinking water in rural settlements", Spain is collaborating in an action of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme (PAPS) of more than 300 million dollars, 20 million of which are donations from the Water Fund.

The programme, which is currently underway, will benefit approximately one million inhabitants in the San José Metropolitan Area (SJMA), 134,329 in the peri-urban area and 57,646 in the rural area. Spain's resources are focused on drinking water and sanitation projects in rural areas, 94% of which have already been committed by the end of 2020.

The grant finances drinking water and sanitation systems in the Asociaciones Administradoras de los Sistemas de Acueductos y Alcantarillados (ASADAS) of the Northern Area of: La Virgen and Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Maleku, Santa Fe de los Chiles, Santa Rosa de Pocosol, San José de Upala and Santa



Fe de Guatuso, as it was agreed to focus on rural areas and especially in the northern area. To date, all of them are at a very advanced stage of execution or have been completed, with the exception of San José de Upala, whose bidding and awarding was seriously affected by COVID. The possibility of extending the programme for a few months to allow for the completion of the work is being considered.

The COVID-19 crisis in 2020 has meant:

- ◆ The redirection of funds to carry out rehabilitation of water systems to ensure service in communities in need.
- ◆ The assurance of safe working conditions during this period of crisis when works are still in progress.
- ◆ Support to the Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewerage (AyA) for the production of awareness-raising materials to promote hygiene measures and the need to continue paying for services.

The Maleku Indigenous Community drinking water system was completed in 2019. In addition, community training in hygiene and rational use of water resources and equipment in the Associations administering the communal aqueduct and sewage systems (ASADAS) in each locality are underway.



4.5 Cuba



Although data shows that access to water and sanitation in the country exceeds 90%, there are still some significant challenges in terms of service quality and infrastructure renewal.

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation has two lines of action: on the one hand, to promote **drinking water services in intermediate cities in various provinces of the country and, on the other, to improve water quality in the Bay of Havana through the** construction of wastewater treatment plants in several areas around the city. To this end, work is being carried out with the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH), the governing body for water and sanitation in Cuba, and with the Havana Bay State Working Group (GTE-BH), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment in Cuba.

The FCAS is currently running **three programmes in the country**, two of which are currently scheduled to end in December 2021.

The CUB-004-B programme, worth 15.5 million euros, 4.5 million euros of which are donations from Spain, aims to expand and improve drinking water supply systems in six cities throughout the country. Specifically, this programme will bring three new water treatment plants into operation and



rehabilitate two others that were in very poor structural condition. In addition, main and secondary networks and household connections will be installed, enabling 87,000 people to have access to safe drinking water.

As for the CUB-003-B programme, worth 2.8 million euros, its main objective is the construction and commissioning of three new urban waste water treatment plants in the country's capital. Due to the difficulties in creating the Monterrey plant project, it was decided to replace it with a series of actions aimed at optimising Havana's central sanitation system. Among the new actions are the rehabilitation of the city's main wastewater pumping station (Casablanca), as well as other secondary pumping stations and improvements to the sewerage system's collectors, which serves a daily population of more than 860,000 people.

In November 2020, and once all the regulatory and operational documents required to start the programme had been finalised, implementation of the CUB-005-B programme (0.65 million euros) began. This programme, which complements CUB-004-B, aims to rehabilitate and build new water supply infrastructure (drinking water treatment plants, pumping stations and networks) to supply quality water to the villages of Marcané and Alto Cedro, both in the municipality of Cueto. The programme also includes the rehabilitation of the headwater tank in the town of La Palma, a key element in the supply system of this town, which will allow the system to be managed more efficiently and ensure a more stable service to the population.

Both the CUB-004-B and CUB-003-B programmes, which were already progressing very slowly due to the fuel shortage suffered during 2019, were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In both programmes there are critical pathways: with regards to the first programme, the completion of the civil works and commissioning of the Cueto water treatment plant and, the second, the acquisition, installation and commissioning of all the technological equipment aimed at improving the central sanitation system in Havana. Apart from these actions, the rest of the works and infrastructures are expected to be completed and put into operation throughout 2021.

In addition to the aforementioned programmes, the FCAS also supports the development of **two other bilateral** technical cooperation **programmes** that AECID **has been** implementing in Cuba **since the end of 2019** with the same local partners. There is a combined budget of approximately one million euros for these programmes which, although not directly financed by the FCAS, have an impact on the water and sanitation sector and are complementary to the operations of the Water Fund and promote its sustainability.

The programme implemented with INRH is aimed at **strengthening the water management capacities of Cuban institutions through** training and technical and knowledge exchange between professionals linked to the sector. Work is being carried out in several areas such as the review

and updating of the sector's regulatory framework, the development of the sanitation master plan for the province of Havana, and the training of various water and sanitation service operators at the municipal level with the aim of optimising the services they provide to their local communities. Finally, the programme implemented with the GTE-BH involves the training and technical exchange of professionals working in the industrial sector with the aim of obtaining viable projects for wastewater treatment plants for some of the industries that operate in the Havana Bay basin and discharge their wastewater into the basin.

These bilateral programmes have opened up new areas of collaboration to improve and strengthen the technical and management capacities of Cuban government institutions with competencies in the national water sector. However, little progress has been made in 2020 with these two initiatives as it has not been possible to implement the planned face-to-face visits to develop these knowledge exchanges, although digital channels have been used as much as possible.

4.6. Ecuador



According to the latest available statistics (JMP 2017), **25% of the country does not have access to an improved water source and more than 50% does not have safely managed sanitation services**, mainly in rural areas. Hence, the Water Fund portfolio is focused primarily in these areas.



The action guidelines of the **four programmes developed in Ecuador** focus on the provision of sustainable drinking water and sanitation services with a participatory approach, mainly in rural communities and small municipalities, and on strengthening the capacities of water administrators, both public and community operators.

Ecuador's multilateral programme PIRSA/ECU-001-M was closed in 2019, but the Project Completion Report and the systematisation of results were completed in 2020. The programme focused on rural areas, which are the most deprived in the country. In addition, it strengthened community institutions and structures in a replicable scheme for the implementation of rural projects, with a special focus on community development. The final evaluation of the programme has been positive. Twenty-six water systems, 42 sewerage systems and 5,712 basic sanitation units have been built, benefiting more than 175,000 people. Of particular interest is the production of a Manual of Guidelines for Social Management in Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects in Rural Communities, which will be useful for other interventions.

Programme management in 2020 was hampered by the impact of the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic along with **institutional changes that took place** hampered programme management notably the merger process between the Water Secretariat (SENAGUA) and the Ministry of Environment to create the new Ministry of Environment and Water (MAAE), as well as several changes in the leadership of both institutions.

The main bilateral programme is the so-called PASEE "**Drinking water and sanitation in rural communities and small municipalities**", ECU-050-B, with a 16 million euro contribution from the FCAS and the Ministry of Environment and Water (MAAE) as a counterpart. The programme has accumulated delays and the programme documents are currently being modified as a result of a new approved management model, which led to a deadline extension being granted in December 2019. The new model is proving difficult to implement.

The second bilateral programme is the drinking water and sanitation programme in **dispersed rural communities in the Portoviejo Canton** (ECU-051-B), which receives a grant of 2.3 million euros from the Water Fund. This programme complements a large credit operation involving the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in addition to AECID's instrument for reimbursable cooperation (FONPRODE). The programme also includes 10 million euros of funds from the EU's LAIF initiative, managed by the AECID as delegated cooperation, with a view to strengthening previous actions with technical assistance and housing improvements, as well as completing access to water and sanitation for the dispersed rural population. The contribution agreement between the European Commission and AECID was signed in December 2020.

The Portoviejo programme, which is in full implementation, has adapted to the health situation caused by COVID-19, redirecting funds for the delivery of water by tankers in communities that still do not have drinking water services, the purchase of chlorine comparators to check residual chlorine in drinking water systems, and awareness-raising and communication actions in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Water to promote hygiene measures and the need to continue paying for services.

In December 2020, the Financing Agreement was signed for the third bilateral **drinking water and sanitation** programme **in rural communities in the San Lorenzo Canton** in response to the COVID-19 health crisis, ECU-052-B, complementary to the delegated cooperation programme Frontera Norte: Territorio de Desarrollo y Paz, intervening in the border area with Colombia in the province of Esmeraldas. This region has the highest poverty rates in Ecuador and was one of the worst affected by the 2016 earthquake. The programme will finance the improvement of rural water and sanitation services, the urban network of the city and strengthen municipal water management and the capacity to respond to health emergencies such as COVID-19, benefiting around 3,400 people, mostly Afro-descendants and indigenous people.

As a complement to the FCAS programmes, a programme was launched in 2020 to **support public drinking water and sanitation services in Montubio, indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian populations in the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas in the context of the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic**, for an amount of 212,617.44 euros, financed by the LAIF Regional Delegated Cooperation Programme and implemented by the specialised NGO PROTOS. It aims to benefit 2,000 families living in dispersed rural areas in conditions of extreme poverty.

4.7. El Salvador





With regards to drinking water and basic sanitation in the country, there is a significant deficit in coverage, quality, continuity, legal security and poor regulation. There is a real need for improved technical assistance. On the other hand, the **strong impact of climate change** on water resources is notable, especially in the dry corridor that extends to other countries in the area, the most critical situation being in rural areas of the country, with a significant gap in relation to urban areas.

The Water Fund has carried out a total of **nine interventions** in El Salvador for a total of 100 million euros, 74 million euros of which are donations from Spain.

By **2020, six programmes have been completed**, two are under implementation and the financing agreement was recently signed for a new intervention, which is expected to start being implemented in the last quarter of 2021 after the programme documents have been drawn up. All programmes are aimed at improving governance and expanding water and sanitation service coverage in the country.

Currently, the **Integrated Water, Sanitation and Environment Project** (SLV-056-B) is underway and has been implemented almost in its entirety. Its activities focus both on improving the service and establishing drinking water and sanitation infrastructure and on institutional strengthening and governance of water resources.

Likewise, the programme **Construction of Public Policy that Guarantees the Sustainability of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Subsector in the Rural Area of El Salvador, Phase I** (SLV-059-B) is being implemented, the purpose of which is to contribute to the creation of the institutional framework for the rural drinking water and sanitation subsector, considering institutional collaboration, the regulatory framework and rules to strengthen the sustainability of water and sanitation services in these areas. It began to be implemented in June 2019 and interventions are being carried out in rural systems not managed by the National Administration of Aqueducts and Sewers (ANDA), both in infrastructure and environment for the protection and control of water resources and the strengthening of rural boards. It is estimated that it will improve access to drinking water for 60,000 people.

Finally, in December 2020, a new programme was approved for an amount of 600,000 euros, **Construction of Public Policy to Ensure the Sustainability of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Subsector in the Rural Area of El Salvador, Phase II** (SLV-060-B). It is expected to last three years and aims to extend the sustainable management of water and sanitation services with special emphasis on rural areas by strengthening both the rural systems not administered by ANDA, for the quality, sustainability, protection/conservation of water systems and sources, and the management and administration capacities of the executing institutions.

Up until 2020, more than 200,000 people have benefited from the Water Fund's programmes in El Salvador: **135,000 have gained access to safe drinking water and 125,000 have access to sanitation.** More than 15,000 people have received training on hygiene or use of the resource. More than 60% of the beneficiaries of the bilateral programmes correspond to the SLV-001-B Programme, whose main objective was to improve drinking water and basic sanitation services in rural and peri-urban areas of the country.

We must highlight the **good practices regarding gender mainstreaming** in the water programmes being implemented, as the gender indicators developed for the impact analysis are relevant in terms of increasing women's participation in decision-making spaces from a qualitative point of view.

It is also worth mentioning the success of the **condominial sanitation** project in El Salvador, which has been carried out thanks to the LAIF Regional programme funds delegated by the EU, and is currently being replicated in other countries. This is a form of intervention that reduces the costs of sanitary sewerage projects and encourages community participation. The cost of installing sewer pipes is reduced by 30% by passing through pavements and, only if necessary, through private property.

Complementary to the Fund's interventions, also under the Regional LAIF, due to the COVID pandemic situation, in 2020 two grants were awarded in the country to address the crisis:

- COVID-19 emergency response supporting drinking water systems in rural communities - ADES - El Salvador - 93,148€.
- COVID-19 emergency response supporting drinking water systems in rural communities - PROVIDA - El Salvador - 119,773€.

4.8 Guatemala





The Water Fund supports development processes in Guatemala through 10 programmes (nine bilateral and one multilateral), promoting a portfolio of 155 million euros, 82.3 million euros of which are donations from Spain. At present, four bilateral programmes (GTM-014-B, GTM-015-B, GTM-016-B, GTM-017-B) and one multilateral programme (GTM-001-M) are underway.

By the end of 2020, **180 drinking water supply and sanitation projects** had been implemented, **reaching 186,183 beneficiaries of regular operations** and 38,466 beneficiaries of the 2017 emergency operation, which consisted of the rehabilitation of 30 water supply systems affected by the San Marcos earthquake.

Among the actions carried out in 2020 under the **Association of Municipalities of the Altiplano Marquense, ADIMAM, programme** (GTM-014-B), it is worth highlighting the completion and implementation of three community water supply and sanitation systems, which have benefited 3,153 people; the development of forest protection and recovery actions in 4.5 hectares of forest associated with the water recharge areas of these systems; the training of community environmental trainers for the monitoring of environmental actions, risk management and water and sanitation practices, and the monitoring of the training programme for the administration and operation of water supply and sanitation systems with 36 community organisations.

Regarding the programme implemented by **Action Against Hunger International, ACF (GTM 015-B) RUK'U'X YA'**, which aims to "contribute to health and the reduced incidence of acute diarrhoeal diseases in 12 municipalities in the department of Sololá, through improvements in management and sustainable access to water and sanitation at the community and local level, and in basic public health services and primary schools", the general launch of the programme was particularly relevant. It was carried out with the aim of seeking recognition and positioning of the programme among the different agents and collaborating entities in the country and of the beneficiary population. The inauguration of the Training Centre took place and began its operations. The centre specialises in masonry and plumbing trades in water and sanitation, aimed at vocational training and development of young men and women, marginalised in the public education system and unemployed, residing in the municipalities of the department of Sololá, and particularly in rural areas. Also noteworthy is the start of the construction of 12 sanitary units in health centres and schools.

Programme GTM-016-B is working with the **Municipality of Guatemala** to establish a water security strategy for the metropolitan area of Guatemala City and the municipalities of the Greater South City Commonwealth. The start of activities included the collection of baseline information and the beginning of the diagnosis of the aquifer in the Guatemala Valley through an inventory of water supply points. In parallel and in a coordinated manner, through a monetary grant executed by the **Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN**, an eco-systemic analysis of the Xayá and Pixcayá basins of interest, which are fundamental in the current supply of surface water to the Metropolitan Region of Guatemala City, has been carried out.



Ongoing programmes were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency response measures had to be put in place to build prevention capacities in communities and municipalities. Among the actions, it is worth mentioning the implementation of awareness campaigns associated with the development of hygienic practices, the rehabilitation of community disinfection systems, the supply of sodium hypochlorite stocks to communities and municipalities, equipping health units to monitor water quality, the installation of hand-washing units in public spaces and the supply of water in vulnerable areas through water tankers.

In 2020, a new programme of the Fund was approved, "Institutional and technical strengthening in the provision of drinking water and sanitation services to improve resilience in communities in the municipality of Sololá, Department of Sololá" (GTM-017-B). The programme aims to strengthen the prevention, preparedness and response capacities of the municipality of Sololá, contributing to the continuation of water and sanitation system services in the face of emergencies, sudden events or incidents and fostering community resilience.

The multilateral portfolio continues to be implemented through the water and sanitation programme executed jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which currently has six contracts underway for the **improvement of urban water and sanitation systems in the municipalities of the department of San Marcos**. Three are underway with significant progress (between 50 and 90%), and completion is scheduled for 2022: one, with very slow progress due to problems with the land, and two have suffered delays in the start-up stage due to the programme's administrative procedures. To unblock the operations that are experiencing problems and delays in their execution, the institutional dialogue between the Government, the IDB and the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID) has been intensified.

4.9 Haiti

Haiti is one of the most disadvantaged countries in the world: in 2020, it ranked 170th out of 189 countries with comparable human development index data. In addition to the conditions of poverty and extreme poverty of a large part of the population, there is a great lack of access to water and sanitation. Only 62% of Haiti's population has access to improved water sources, far less than the 94% in Latin America and the Caribbean. The rural population's access to clean water (47%) is much lower than in urban areas, where access reaches 75%.

The FCAS in Haiti has a national dimension. All the programmes have as their partner the National Directorate of Water and





Sanitation (DINEPA), an institution attached to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications. Some action guidelines for the interventions are: (1) the promotion of access to drinking water through the improvement of infrastructure and service conditions, (2) the promotion of sanitation and (3) support for the creation and strengthening of the institutions that must manage the resource, with emphasis on decentralisation, providing technical training and monitoring and control instruments.



In 2020, both the **bilateral programme** (HTI-003-B), belonging to the bilateral portfolio, and a delegated cooperation programme, **Urbayiti**, are active following the satisfactory conclusion of the four interventions implemented in the multilateral framework together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Haiti. The FCAS actions represent the largest investment of the Spanish Cooperation in Haiti, and the largest FCAS donation in the entire region, with a budget that exceeds 119 million euros in total donations. The FCAS in Haiti has promoted the coordination of actors and the search for synergies with the IDB, another of the main actors in the sector, forging a powerful alliance.

The FCAS has 3.4 million potential beneficiaries in 32 locations across the country, including many of the country's major cities. Emergency interventions activated after the 2010 earthquake also benefited around six million people.

Programmes in Haiti have supported sector reform and the creation of DINEPA and decentralised structures. In the early years, programmes responded to the earthquake emergency and funds were directed to respond to the 2011 cholera epidemic. In Port-au-Prince, the availability of the water resource for the city was improved and support was given to the new operator involved in the provision of services.

The intermediate cities programme, in addition to increasing water coverage, has defined a successful model of service provision where operators for the first time are able to cover operation and maintenance costs via tariffs. The rural programme involved, in addition to essential infrastructure, the strengthening of rural units and water committees. An important aspect to highlight for the portfolio as a whole is that it was fully implemented despite the difficulties of the context and the amount of funds, and that these interventions have been followed by other donations from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for new operations (two more phases in Port-au-Prince and an operation in Cap-Haïtien), which, although they are not Spanish funds, complement both actions carried out by the Fund.

The activities of this active bilateral programme during 2020 have been affected by the **pandemic caused by COVID-19** which, together with the situation of social and political instability in the country, has further emphasised the challenge involved in continuing with the normal development of the programme's activities. However, despite the adverse circumstances experienced during the past year, progress has been made in several cities where work is being carried out, namely Mire baláis, Aquino, Júreme, Cabaret, Archie, Hinche, Cabo Haitiano, Petit Goave, Limonada and Ti tañen.

With regard to the **water collection, storage and distribution works**, the commissioning of a water tank at Archie has been completed, and at Hinche the materials have been received and work and exploratory boreholes will begin shortly. In Cap-Haïtien, work on the first batch will be completed in the first quarter of 2021, and the second batch will begin around the same time. In Aquino, more than 50% of the works have already been completed, and in Mire baláis the improvement of the adduction and extension of the distribution network has already been completed.

In terms of excreta treatment, the programme focuses on the **development of the country's sanitation and hygiene strategy**. Activities are focused on the construction of two excreta treatment plants for sludge management in two locations: Ti Tañen, for the Port-au-Prince metropolitan region, and Limonada, in Cap-Haïtien. Progress is currently being made on both works: in Ti Tañen, the contract has already been awarded, and in Limonada, the bids received are being evaluated. In addition, during 2020, the process of defining the **strategy for the promotion of good hygiene and sanitation practices** was carried out, which will begin in 2021 and will focus on putting an **end to open defecation** in rural environments. Furthermore, the national strategy for raising public awareness of good practices for the prevention of COVID-19 was reinforced.

In terms of **cross-cutting activities**, on the one hand, work is being carried out to **support the commercial strategy** of water operators with the aim of improving their performance and thus guaranteeing the extension of the service in a sustainable manner. On the other hand, an assessment of access to water and sanitation services from a gender perspective will be carried out to identify possible inequalities and define a **strategy for gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation programmes in Haiti**.



Despite the impact of the pandemic, 2020 also saw progress in the EU's **Urbanita** delegated cooperation programme, with the definition of the **social engineering strategy to be carried out** by the Haitian Directorate for Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods in Martissant, one of the most troubled neighbourhoods. In addition, during the last quarter of the year, the first visit was made to determine the schools in which public toilets will be built.

4.10 Honduras



Given its conditions of poverty and high debt, Honduras is one of the priority countries in the region for Spanish Cooperation. **Only 18% of the rural population has access to safe water services, and 20% of the total population lacks basic sanitation** (JMP 2017). Diarrhoeal diseases continue to kill many children.

The FCAS has worked in Honduras through nine programmes in which it has invested 45.7 million euros: in Comayagua, Choluteca, Santa Rosa Copán, Gracias Lempira, Siguatepeque and the departments of Valle and La Paz. The direct beneficiaries of these programmes are an estimated **300,000 people**, added to which should be the indirect beneficiaries of improved water and sanitation services and infrastructure.

All programmes focus on three components: infrastructure, integrated water resources management and a strong institutional strengthening component.

Works under the Santa Rosa Copán HND-001-B Programme, focused on the adequate management and final disposal of the wastewater generated, were completed. During 2020, an agreement was signed with the NGO HELVETAS Honduras for the **institutional strengthening of EMASAR, the service provider**. It also includes a sanitation emergency plan to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the rehabilitation of basic water and sanitation infrastructure in prioritised centres.

In this same municipality, Programme HND-017 is being developed, the main objective of which is to improve the collection of drinking water through the construction of a dam. At the end of 2020, after many setbacks, the legalisation of the land by the landowners was about to be finalised.

In rural areas of the departments of Valle and La Paz, the FCAS is developing a **programme to increase water and sanitation coverage and integrated management of the lower and middle basin of the Goascorán river**, the implementation of which has also been affected by the impact of COVID. In the framework of this rural programme, which affects 11 municipalities, many works had started in 2020 but had to be suspended due to the Honduran government's mobility restriction measures when the pandemic struck. An extension was therefore necessary to complete them and to complete the social and environmental components.

In Programme HND-016-B, during the first months of 2020, the construction of complementary works was completed, consisting of improvements to the intake works, construction of new tanks, renovation of existing tanks and installation of macro-meters. In the second half of the year, work centred around the process of closing the programme, including the drafting of the final report and the preparation of the supporting account. During the last months of the year, the final evaluation and sustainability plans were socialised, the latter being a tool of great interest for the provider UMASG (Unidad Municipal Agua y Saneamiento de Gracias) in order to achieve technical, administrative and financial sustainability as a service provider.

In 2020, another programme was completed in the Department of Lempira, which is in the process of justification, and which consists of **improving public management and access to drinking water and sanitation in the city of Gracias**. With the grant from the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, important infrastructure works have been carried out (construction of a drinking water treatment plant, construction of a wastewater plant), as well as the institutional strengthening of the Municipal Water Unit of Gracias with the aim of providing sustainable drinking water and sanitation coverage to a population of more than 27,000 beneficiaries.

The second phase of the **Comayagua Valley Water and Sanitation Project** (HND-018-B), which will build the drinking water distribution networks for the municipalities of Ajuterique and Lejamaní, began in 2020. The programme has a strong institutional strengthening component for the provider Aguas de la Sierra de Montecillos, created in the previous phase of the programme.

At the beginning of 2020, the implementation of Programme HND-019 - Optimisation **of the Water and Sanitation Systems of the City of Choluteca** - began, which aims to improve the living conditions of the population of the city of Choluteca through the promotion of inclusive and sustainable coverage provided by the comprehensive drinking water and sanitation system.



One of the most important aspects of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS) during the year 2020 was the approval of a new programme in Siguatepeque, the 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 the municipality of Siguatepeque, Comayagua**", for an amount of 3.26 million euros. The programme aims to improve conditions in the peri-urban and rural areas of the municipality of Siguatepeque through the implementation of a comprehensive project to ensure a quality drinking water and sanitation service, environmental protection of micro-watersheds, aquifers and watercourses where wastewater is discharged.

4.11 Nicaragua



Nicaragua is making a major commitment to the development of the water and sanitation sector. Since 2013, the public institutions responsible have been implementing the Comprehensive Sectoral Programme for Water and Human Sanitation (PISASH). This effort is expected to provide drinking water services to 95% of the population in urban and peri-urban areas and 56.5% of the population in rural areas by 2023. Likewise, sanitation coverage is expected to rise to 80% in urban areas and 52% in rural areas.

Spanish Cooperation, and in particular AECID, through the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, has made a special contribution to this task. Spain is one of the main donors helping to promote basic services in the water and sanitation sector for the benefit of the Nicaraguan population. It currently has a portfolio of three programmes in the country, two bilateral and one implemented jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Overall, the FCAS contribution to PISASH totals 60.2 million euros, plus a further 3.2 million euros from the Spain-Nicaragua Debt Conversion Programme.



In addition, the programmes financed by Spain have made it possible to leverage more funds for the promotion of the first phase of PISASH. **The EU has provided another €50 million donation through the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF), which is managed by the AECID in the form of delegated cooperation.** This is in addition to the Nicaraguan government's own resources and those resulting from a loan from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and another from the European Investment Bank (EIB). All this adds up to a total of 314 million euros to implement Phase I of PISASH in urban areas under the leadership of the Nicaraguan Water and Sewerage Company (ENACAL).

This intervention has a direct impact on 19 cities. It also finances the implementation of pre-investment projects in 17 additional cities. In fact, Phase II of PISASH is already a reality, with a budget of an additional 578 million dollars provided by the IDB, CABEI, the State Development Bank of the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW) and South Korea.

This year, in 2020, the implementation period of the bilateral grant in Chontales came to an end, with all the resources disbursed and the objectives achieved. This grant served to improve access to drinking water in the cities of Acoyapa, Santo Tomás and Bluefields, and sanitation in the first two, installing a total of 9,350 new drinking water connections and 4,600 sanitation connections. In addition, the grant enabled capacity building for the operation and maintenance of the newly installed systems. The sanitation systems of nine public schools in Acoyapa and Santo Tomás have also been improved, and a plan to connect 1,100 vulnerable families in both cities to the sanitary sewerage system has been financed.

Meanwhile, through the other FCAS bilateral grant NIC-013-B, work continued on the construction of the Masaya Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which should be completed in 2021 for entry into operation of the entire new sanitary sewerage and sanitation system of this city.

Under the multilateral programme NIC-056-M, promoted together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), work has been completed on the new drinking water system in the city of Bilwi, which will improve the living conditions of around 60,000 people. As of 31 December, the collection, the drinking water treatment plant, the household connections and the Regional Care Centre (CRAI) were in the final stages of implementation and will be completed during the first half of 2021.

Through the Delegated Cooperation Agreement with the EU, the LAIF grant is also progressing towards completion of all its components. In the course of 2021, only the project for the extension of sewerage networks in the city of Bilwi, which is the result of the savings produced through managing the grant and which allows for the installation of 2,892 new connections in addition to those installed in the original project already completed, amounting to a total of 6,451 connections, remains to be completed.

At the end of 2019, the AECID and the EU signed a new Contribution Agreement to finance the project "Improvement of the drinking water service in the sector of Altamira - Managua with a focus on



sustainability and equity", for an amount of 10 million euros, to be implemented by ENACAL. In 2020, work was carried out on the structure and planning of the programme, which will be developed over the next 42 months. This project will help 43,224 homes have access to a 24-hour drinking water service, with a 15.15% reduction in unbilled water, increasing collection to 90% by 2023. Likewise, at the end of the project, 30,257 families are expected to have adopted hygiene and sanitary behaviour changes related to the rational use of water.

4.12. Panama

Although Panama presents itself as a country with a high human development index, it still has very significant gaps in the coverage of water and sanitation services, especially in the indigenous comarcas, where there is great regional inequality. **Ninety-one per cent of the indigenous population of the Ngäbe-Buglé Comarca suffers from extreme poverty.** The gap is particularly relevant in the provision of sanitation services in rural areas, where the coverage of basic services reaches only 64% of the population. Due to this deficiency, diarrhoeal diseases are the third leading cause of **mortality among children under five years of age.**

With regard to Spanish Cooperation's water interventions, two programmes are being implemented to **improve access to water and sanitation in indigenous and rural areas in the east (multilateral portfolio) and west of the country** (bilateral portfolio). The main objective of both programmes is to improve access to water and sanitation in indigenous and rural areas through the construction of water and sanitation systems, their community management and the promotion of local development plans with the strengthening of the sector's institutions. They have a combined budget of more than 20 million euros, just over 10 million of which are donations from Spain, and include strategic components for the sustainability of the services implemented.

These programmes also pay special attention to the **gender component**, incorporating strategies to improve and strengthen the role of women in the community. 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 leaders** in intervention areas in the Ngäbe-Buglé region, with the aim of strengthening women's participation in the Water and Sanitation Boards, as well as in other community decision-making spaces.

At the end of 2020, the bilateral programme's projects are currently in a vulnerable situation, given that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Panama and the restrictions adopted as a health measure to combat it have made it impossible to make the expected progress in the implementation of the projects' water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as in the rest of the programme components (institutional, community) and in activities concerning cross-cutting issues (health, gender, climate change, multiculturalism).

³ https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/jmp-2019-full-report.pdf

In this bilateral programme, only one of the four batches of tendered projects has been completed. This is the Chichica-Las Lajitas project, where a gravity-fed drinking water system has been built that has improved supply to the beneficiary rural communities in terms of supply, service time (24h), quality and storage. The operator has also been strengthened in the operation and maintenance of the systems. The project also built 325 individual sanitation units and two school units. With regard to the multilateral portfolio together with the Inter-American Development Bank, progress of the works has been irregular, due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, as access has been made difficult by the sanitary confinements. Due to the stalled implementation, the programme has been granted an extension until 30 June 2021.

The institutional strengthening activities of the Rural Water Management Boards (Juntas Administradoras de Agua Rural - JAAR) are being implemented and, although with a longer timeframe, the gender plan continues to be implemented with the desired development of schools for women water leaders.

Likewise, and as part of the strategic support and technical assistance for the development of the water and sanitation sector in Panama, in 2018 the **new Programme for the Participatory Preparation and Dissemination of the "National Guide for the Selection of Wastewater Treatment Technologies"** was also approved, the general objective of which is to support the implementation of the National Drinking Water and Sanitation Policy for the Republic of Panama 2019-2030. However, this project has also been delayed due to the pandemic.





4.13 Paraguay



The global health emergency situation has revealed the urgent need to guarantee the human rights to water and sanitation in order to ensure the fight against COVID-19. The Spanish Cooperation has made its resources available to Paraguay, within the framework of its programmes, to ensure the continuity and proper functioning of water and sanitation services.

Despite sustained growth in recent years, there are still significant gaps in Paraguay in **terms of achieving total coverage of drinking water and decent sanitation, especially in rural areas**, where Spanish Cooperation has focused its efforts.

Paraguay is one of the countries that have received the most support from the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS), with a grant of \$100m (€76.2m), which has been managed through two programmes with the IDB as a strategic partner:

- The first programme, within the scope of the Paraguayan Ministry of Public Works and Communications, has targeted the Northwestern Region of the Chaco and Intermediate Cities of the Eastern Region (\$60m).
- The second programme has as its partner the National Environmental Sanitation Service of Paraguay (SENASA), which is part of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and is aimed at promoting access to water and sanitation in Small Towns and Rural and Indigenous Communities (PAYSRI) (\$40 million).

Through both programmes, to date, more than 227 water and sanitation systems have been built in rural communities and 39 systems in indigenous communities, reaching 132,000 people. In addition, drinking water and sanitation is being supplied to small towns, serving more than 132,000 people who have a right to water. It is also worth highlighting the effort made in the country through these programmes to mainstream the gender approach, with the aim of making women's participation effective within the Community Sanitation Boards in rural communities.

The first operation underway is the **Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Solutions Programme in the Western Region or Chaco and Intermediate Cities of the Eastern Region of Paraguay** (PRY-014-M). Once the works corresponding to the adductor pipes, distribution centres and pumping stations have been completed, the construction of drinking water supply networks will be underway in 87 indigenous communities in Chaco Central, with 70% progress by the end of 2020. The programme includes social work with the indigenous communities involved to enable prior consultation and the development of agreements for interventions in their territories.

In relation to the intermediate cities, in the city of San Juan Bautista the works on the basic network, the pumping stations and the treatment plant have been completed. The treatment plant is in a position to receive the effluent from the direct connections to be made to this basic network for



processing. The San Juan condominial sewerage system and the sanitary sewerage works in the cities of Caacupé and Tobatí and their wastewater treatment plants have suffered delays in their execution, but it is expected that they will be able to regain the pace in January 2021. For the city of Horqueta, construction work on the sewerage system is underway, with manholes and condominial pipes having been installed in nine blocks, and work on its wastewater treatment plant is also underway.

Complementing the sewerage systems, the construction of basic family sanitation units for the Chaco in indigenous communities and in the Eastern Region is underway. Of the 1,215 planned, 1,026 have already been installed.

In terms of the sector's institutional strengthening and training component, a contract has been signed **with the Getulio Vargas Foundation** and **training in water and sanitation** has begun to be **provided to the sector's main institutions**. In the same way, the following initiatives are being promoted: planning studies, strategies to promote the training of specialised human resources, plans to strengthen the capacities of the government's technical water departments and other institutions in the sector and technical assistance to providers, as well as the implementation of a computerised management system and the updating and standardisation of technical standards for the design of drinking water, sewerage and wastewater treatment systems and levels of requirements for wastewater discharges.

In 2020, work has been done on the design of the "Water and Sanitation Project for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción (AMA) - Lambaré Basin", under the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works and Communications, through the Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DAPSAN), which is still in the formalisation phase. It has been set up with a view to creating combined operations, involving different actors and forming large operations that include technical cooperation from FECASALC for \$1m ("Support for the implementation of reforms, institutional strengthening and the formulation of long-term investment plans for the water and sanitation sector in Paraguay") and \$0.25m from Aquafund, a \$10m EU donation entrusted to Spain for administration, as well as reimbursable cooperation from FONPRODE (\$60m) and the IDB (\$105m). It is worth highlighting the multiplier effect produced through FECASALC as an axis that generates trust and alliances between the different institutions participating in this programme. The project is focused on improving sanitation conditions in the Metropolitan Area of Asunción, specifically in the south-western area (Lambaré river basin) and will benefit 480,000 people.

The Lambaré programme is an emblematic element of the Spanish Cooperation's commitment in Paraguay to achieve SDG 6, given the partnerships that have been generated and that have maximised the impact in order to advance towards achieving the goals set out in the 2030 agenda.

The **Project for the construction of drinking water and sanitation systems in small towns and rural and indigenous communities in Paraguay**, a continuation and expansion of the completed

programme PRY-011-M with the same SENASA implementation team, is still underway and will benefit a total of 133 communities: **85 rural communities, 10 peri-urban areas, 30 indigenous communities and eight small towns**. There will be around 132,000 beneficiaries, with the support of credits from AECID's Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE). Practically all of the bidding processes for works, supervision and community support services have been published and are in the process of being awarded and/or contracts signed. Of the 85 rural communities, the first package of 33 rural communities is under construction (nine systems completed); the second package of 31 is in the process of being awarded. Of the eight small towns, the contract for the first package of construction of sewerage systems in three small towns (Farm, Capitán Miranda and Yhú) has been signed; the tender for the second package of sewerage works in four towns (Choré, Yby Yau, Yaguarón and Pirayú), and the respective audit consultancies have been published.

The year 2020 has been significantly marked by the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, causing innumerable delays in the works and in all processes in general. As a result of the declaration of a health emergency by the government due to COVID-19, and to mitigate its effects, it has been decided to intervene from the two programmes in execution. Under the Programme for solutions for the supply of drinking water and sanitation in the Western Region or Chaco and intermediate cities in the Eastern Region of Paraguay, wells are being drilled and elevated tanks are being installed in San Juan Bautista, Tobatí, Caacupé and Horqueta, and in the Chaco, the aqueduct will be extended to the town of Mariscal Estigarribia.

Within the Project for the construction of drinking water and sanitation systems in small towns and rural and indigenous communities in Paraguay, more than \$3m of FONRPODE has been redirected to the Emergency Plan to support hospitals and health facilities with water and sanitation and hand washing stations, the purchase of water trucks and storage tanks and the construction of systems in 31 rural communities and the repair of another 69 systems.

In this context of "water and sanitation support to hospitals and health centres", the system for the Hospital de Clínicas in Asunción was inaugurated on 10 July.

4.14 Peru

Peru is one of the richest countries in terms of water resources, but its distribution across the country is uneven, with the majority of the population (62.5%) living in the dry coastal desert area of the Pacific basin with only 2.5% of the country's available water.

The gaps in access to water and sanitation services also reflect the **inequality between urban and rural areas**. Despite the efforts made by the country in recent years, it is estimated that in rural areas 25.3% of the population does not have access to public water networks and 76.3% to public sewage



networks. This urban-rural inequality also extends to water quality, with **only 2.2% of the population in rural areas having access to chlorinated water.**

The programmes of the **Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS)** (three bilateral programmes and one multilateral programme managed by the IDB) amount to €65 million in Spanish donations and €195 million in local contributions. This portfolio aims to meet the needs of more than 145,000 inhabitants of the most disadvantaged rural areas. The programme with the largest volume of funding, implemented by the National Rural Sanitation Programme (PNSR), completed its implementation in December 2018 very satisfactorily. Another programme, with the Mancomunidad Municipal de la Subcuenca del Río Chipillico (MANCHI), had very significant difficulties and ended without completing its implementation, returning €5.6 million in 2020.

The Spanish Cooperation's water operations in Peru in 2020 are mainly focused on **remote and dispersed mountain populations.** In many cases, these are rural communities who have specific needs and their own worldview.

There is currently only one project under implementation, the PER-029-B bilateral programme in the Association of Municipalities of the Santo Tomas river (AMSAT), which aims to provide water and sanitation services to rural communities in five districts in the regions of Cusco and Apurímac, bringing the service to more than 5,300 people.

The programme is being implemented by the National Rural Sanitation Programme (PNSR) of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation (MVCS), thanks to a collaboration agreement signed between the association of municipalities and the ministry. During 2020, progress was hampered by the quarantines and restrictions on mobility caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in Peru, for which reason an extension of the execution period until December 2021 was applied for.

Nevertheless, and even in this difficult context, it was possible to make progress in finalising and approving all the designs, in organising the execution centres in the communities where the intervention is to be carried out - the planned execution method - and in transferring the resources to them before the end of the year in compliance with the regulations. In addition, it has been possible to make progress on the only work that had begun before the start of the pandemic and to start two new works, out of the total of 13 planned, before the end of the year.

During 2020, two professionals from the local partner (PNSR) were also involved in training on the human rights to water and sanitation.

4.15 Dominican Republic

The drinking water and sanitation situation still faces many challenges in the Dominican Republic, where there is still no legal or regulatory framework. The institutional framework needs to be strengthened and the level of compliance with the human rights to drinking water and sanitation is deficient and leaves large gaps between the urban, peripheral urban and rural population. **Continuous access to quality water and effective sanitation in the country remains an unresolved issue.**

On the other hand, the country does not have complete, updated and ordered information on its water resources, making it very difficult to achieve an **orchestrated planning of all water uses** or to guarantee the viability of the proposed actions.

The Fund's action guidelines in the Dominican Republic are related to governance, the implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation and rural and peri-urban development, as well as strengthening the sustainability of the systems. The FCAS portfolio in the Dominican Republic is made up of six interventions, five bilateral (three of them already completed) and one managed through the IDB, all of them for a total amount of almost 37 million euros. The programmes of the live portfolio are the following:

1.- Support for the preparation of the National Plan for the Sustainable Use of Water Resources in the Dominican Republic, Phase I (DOM-017-B), first phase with a donation of €893,700. Its implementation began in October 2020 with the official presentation of the programme at an event in which the main authorities of the sector and the Spanish embassy participated. The objective of the programme is to



support the development of the National Hydrological Plan of the Dominican Republic, oriented under the IWRM approach, and to generate the necessary technological tools for its management, as well as to build capacities and provide training for its use.

2.- Ensure the human right to water by reducing the vulnerability of the Municipal District of Pedro García, Province of Santiago (DOM-018-B), a project approved at the end of 2020 that proposes to reduce the vulnerability of rural populations through the implementation of mitigation measures and the strengthening of the capacities of the Santiago Aqueduct and Sewerage Corporation (CORASAN) in rural areas, to ensure the human rights to water and sanitation in the face of incidents such as the one currently arising in the face of COVID-19.

3.- The multilateral investment programme for drinking water and sanitation in seven provinces of the Dominican Republic, with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewerage (INAPA), has slowed down due to COVID-19 and the change of the country's government. The execution rate of grant funds has reached 82%. Despite this, it is worth highlighting the implementation of an emergency plan in San Cristóbal, which has enabled the implementation of a security protocol and ensured water supply during the pandemic. This plan has integrated the planning of work and organisation of personnel to guarantee the service, that health protocols for employees are defined and implemented, including the repair of breakdowns and customer service, the dissemination of information bulletins and communication with users, and the development of tools for online payment of the service.

The beneficiary population so far is 500,000 people, and in the current phase an impact on 80,000 new families in San Cristóbal (400,000 people) is expected.



5

How We Work





5.- HOW WE WORK

5.1 The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and the 2030 Agenda

The promotion of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation is one of the priorities of Spanish cooperation policy.

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean (FCAS) is one of **Spain's most ambitious instruments in this field**, as it was established with the aim of making the human right to water and sanitation (HRWS) effective, **prioritising the most fragile countries and the most vulnerable populations**. Among its inspiring principles, human rights are recognised as elements that should guide its interventions, promoting sustainable, participatory and transparent water management, facilitating the guarantee of universal access and avoiding any type of exclusion.

Agenda 2030

The 2030 Agenda is the strategic framework and benchmark for the Water and Sanitation Partnership Fund to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In relation to SDG 6, "Ensure access to water and sanitation for all", the Spanish Cooperation is working on most of the goal's targets, such as improving safe access to water and sanitation, capacity building, fostering the participation of local communities, promoting research, protecting ecosystems and integrated water resource management. SDG 6 is configured as a **lever goal, because it facilitates the achievement of other goals** related to health, education, the reduction of inequality, the sustainability of cities, gender equity and climate emergency, among others.

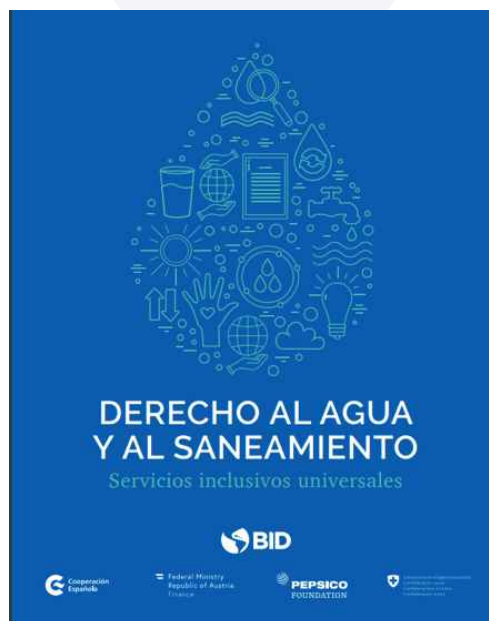


Work in 2020

The Fund has specific tools to analyse and advance its rights-based approach, such as the [Human Rights Compliance Checklist for Water and Sanitation Programmes](#).

This list allows Fund managers and programme implementers to analyse in detail the content of the human rights to water and sanitation in cooperation projects, in order to facilitate their incorporation in each of the phases and to be able to assess whether all the criteria that make up these human rights have been considered in the projects developed.

During 2020, these fact sheets were used to define the actions of the new programmes. In addition, work was initiated to define a tool to analyse the content of the human rights approach **in the municipalities responsible for water and sanitation services**. In addition, work was carried out with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on the publication of a report on the subject. [The manual](#), entitled "**The Right to Water and Sanitation: Universal Basic Services**", financed by the multi-donor AquaFund, gathers 48 experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean that can serve as a guide for governments and entities in the sector when implementing the human right to water and sanitation (HRWS).



Cover of the publication "The Right to Water and Sanitation: Universal Basic Services".

2020 was a year of transition in which the new United Nations Special Rapporteur for Water and Sanitation, Pedro Arrojo, took up office. Spanish Cooperation has been one of the main promoters of this position and in 2020 **it collaborated with the former rapporteur, Léo Heller**, in the analysis of good practices related to human rights. During the year, a meeting was held with Pedro Arrojo to raise awareness of the impacts of the Fund and **its human rights approach**, and to help define the priorities of his new mandate.



5.2 Governance and Institutional Strengthening

Along with access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, the Water Fund is committed to better water governance: on the one hand, through **the promotion of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)**, recognising the need to promote the joint use of the various sources of water resources and adopt basins and aquifers as the planning and management units; on the other hand, through the strengthening of communities, institutions and public bodies in recipient countries to promote the design and implementation of comprehensive policies that ensure the sustainability of the resource.



During 2020, governance support was given especially in the following countries:

- ◆ **Dominican Republic.** The existing water management tools of the Dominican Institute of Water Resources (INDRHI) were analysed. In addition, a report was made on the hydrological modelling and information system for water planning in the Yaque del Sur river basin. Finally, technical support was given to the new programme "Support for the development of the National Water Resources Development Plan of the Dominican Republic", which will begin in 2021.
- ◆ **Honduras.** During the year, support was provided to the Directorate of Water Resources of Honduras in the public information phase of the Regulations of the General Water Law, in the drafting of which the Fund also collaborated. A review report was also produced on the



Regulation for the regulation of groundwater extraction in the municipality of Santa Rosa de Copán, developed by a local consulting firm for the municipality.

- ◆ **Panama.** Preliminary work was done with the Panamanian teams on the Groundwater Cooperation Strategy.
- ◆ **Bolivia.** The Water Fund has been working with the Bolivian Ministry of Environment and Water for several years on a number of policy developments. During 2020, work was carried out on the terms of reference for the development of Drought Management Plans (DMPs) for the areas of Tarija, Cochabamba, Sucre and Yacuiba.
- ◆ **Cuba.** There was collaboration in the preparation of the training programme for the hydrology and hydrogeology courses run by the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources with the collaboration of CEDEX.
- ◆ **Ecuador.** Emphasis was placed on support for the work of including the Integrated Water Resource Management approach in the formulation of the water and sanitation operation in Portoviejo, which is being carried out with the Portoviejo mayor's office.

Likewise, during the year, progress was made in analysing the contribution of the Water Fund to Integrated Water Resources Management in Latin America and intensive work was done on the preparation of the **Technical Guide for Water Planning from the point of view of integrated water resources management** within the framework of the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA).

In 2020, Spain joined the [Sanitation and Water for All \(SWA\)](#), initiative, led by former UN water rapporteur Catarina de Albuquerque and closely related to water governance. It is a global alliance of governments, donors, civil society organisations and other development partners working together to coordinate high-level actions to influence the water and sanitation policy agenda and improve accountability in the water governance sector.

5.3 Gender Equity

The participation of half of the population in water management and the promotion of a gender approach in programmes is one of Spanish Cooperation's priority objectives. In practice, this translates to the **inclusion of specific indicators, the implementation of training activities for women through schools for women leaders or technical training, or the measurement of women's participation** in community water boards.

In addition to the day-to-day and cross-cutting work to promote gender equality in the FCAS, certain actions in 2020 need to be highlighted:

Ecuador

Within the framework of the "Water and Sanitation Programme in dispersed rural communities in Portoviejo Canton, Manabí Province", gender equity is a priority. Although the programme is still in its



early stages and the pace of implementation has been affected by the pandemic, in 2020 **several days** were held to **commemorate Rural Women's Day and the day for the elimination of violence against women**, reinforcing the role of women in water management.

Due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the start of the **Women's Community Training School** that was planned for November and December 2020 was postponed until 2021.

Haiti

In 2020, a consultancy was initiated to **analyse the role of women in the field of water**, hygiene and sanitation in two intervention areas (one urban -Aquin- and one rural -Pilate-) which will serve as the basis for a future gender action plan.

Honduras

Within the last programmes initiated in the country (HND-018-B and HND-019-B), during the year 2020 operational plans were approved and **a gender action plan** began to be designed in which the results and activities, indicators, budget and alliances for including the gender approach in the programmes could be established in greater detail.

These plans are based on the strategic guidelines that are followed and developed in the Water Fund for the inclusion of gender in water and sanitation programmes, and are implemented by management teams, with the support of the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID).

Guatemala

In the water and sanitation programme with a focus on the basin in the upper part of the Cuilco river sub-basin, GTM-014-B, implemented by the Association for the Integral Development of Municipalities of the Altiplano Marquense (ADIMAM), several relevant activities were carried out.

On the one hand, in several villages in the municipality of San Marcos, the knowledge of women leaders in these communities was strengthened through **workshops on leadership, women's empowerment focused on water and sanitation**, gender equity and active participation in the Water and Sanitation Commissions (CAS), integrated water management, sustainability of the service, human right to water, among others, with the aim that women participate, influence and conduct the management and care of water and the environment.

The campaign has succeeded in getting women involved in water committees, and participating in the creation of regulations for the management of water systems, and management, operation and maintenance manuals and sustainability plans for drinking water systems.

The programme also included a TV spot with the slogan "Why do women also have the right to water and sanitation?".



Peru

Following a request from the Evaluation Division of the Peruvian Ministry of Housing, a **fruitful exchange of experiences** on gender mainstreaming in the framework of the FCAS programmes in Bolivia, Panama and Paraguay took place during 2020.

The main experiences shared among the participants were **the creation of the Schools for Women Leaders, the promotion of women's participation and empowerment in the Water Boards, as well as the training of women in non-traditional trades**, especially plumbing, and the establishment of safeguards and coexistence regulations between companies and community leaders. All these actions focused on promoting the exercise of women's rights, both in terms of participation in decision-making spaces and in system operation and maintenance activities.

In addition, experiences were shared on how women's participation can have an impact on the sustainability of the systems.

5.4 Cultural diversity

Spanish Cooperation has been a pioneer in considering culture as an essential element of its sustainable development policies. Successive master plans and the Culture and Development Strategy highlight cultural diversity as one of the cross-cutting priorities in all areas of action. This commitment leads us to seek formulas to gather knowledge from the different groups and enhance their participation for the benefit of global development, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Indigenous peoples are among the **most vulnerable population groups, a situation** that is **exacerbated** by the pressure placed on natural resources from the current unsustainable and non-inclusive development paradigm.

So far, Guatemala and Honduras are the countries with the largest number of Water Fund programmes with indigenous or Afro-descendant populations, eight in each country. Bolivia also has an important portfolio of six actions. In Colombia, Panama and Peru, there are three programmes each, and in Paraguay and Ecuador, two.

Paraguay

In **Paraguay**, where the indigenous population, which represents 1.7%, is the most deprived segment of the country's population, the Fund's programmes in recent years have promoted a process of prior consultation in accordance with International Labour Organization (ILO Convention 169) which has benefited almost 30,000 people, and in another of the programmes financed, special attention has been paid to **adapting management tools** to the reality of the indigenous community.



The consultation process is not only an obligatory procedure to be complied with in the international framework, but also constitutes an excellent tool for participation in and ownership of the interventions, favouring their sustainability, as long as the process includes the characteristics of promoting prior, free, informed, accessible and flexible consultation in good faith.

PRY-014-M.- Sanitation and Drinking Water Programme for the Chaco and Intermediate Cities of the Eastern Region of Paraguay, implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and Communication.

The beneficiaries of the programme are indigenous communities belonging to seven ethnic groups, settled in 87 villages with a total of 25,952 inhabitants in the Central Chaco, who live under a chronic water deficit. The intervention was managed, as part of the multilateral portfolio, through the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and includes a process of free, prior and informed consultation and participation, in accordance with ILO Convention 169.

According to the MPWC's "Consolidated report on the process of free, prior and informed consultation carried out in the indigenous communities, Aqueduct Project" of February 2020, the main agreements obtained were:

- ◆ Consent to initiate the process of free, prior and informed consultation.
- ◆ Consent to participate in the project.
- ◆ Scope of service provision (tariffs and performance).
- ◆ Consent to the project's network design.
- ◆ Consent to start works and community commitments.
- ◆ Subcontracts for the operation and management of the service.
- ◆ Social and Environmental Protocol.

PRY-011-M.- Drinking water and sanitation programme for rural and indigenous communities - PAYSRI, implemented by the National Environmental Sanitation Service (SENASA) of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.

Within the framework of the programme, investments have been made in infrastructure for access to drinking water and sanitation services for the 40 indigenous communities (around 3,200 people), with their legally constituted Sanitation Commissions and with final engineering designs for technically, environmentally, socio-economically and financially viable supply systems in 40 indigenous communities, and the implementation of the pilot programme for solid waste management.

For its development, one of the key management instruments of the programme, which contains the administrative provisions governing its implementation, was expressly adapted, giving rise to an Indigenous Operational Regulation (2010), which highlights the establishment of procedures for community development:



*"The contracted consulting firm will be in charge of **promoting the programme**, in coordination with SENASA. It corresponds to the Socio-Cultural Component, and involves activities that contribute to establishing **prior and informed consultation with the indigenous communities** on each of the planned and viable solutions, as well as the processes that allow for **organisational empowerment** for the **socio-cultural sustainability** of the planned solutions.*

Guatemala

Guatemala is the country in the region with the highest percentage of indigenous population, over 43%. The Water Fund has developed a number of interventions there that have been enriched by working together with indigenous communities.

The work of the several Water Fund programmes in the country has followed the basic premises of **dialogue, respect for their culture and the promotion of their active participation**.

From the time of planning activities, the implementation of water and sanitation systems has been accompanied by the **symbolism and rituals** of the host communities, in accordance with their knowledge and value systems.

In the tasks related to water collection, sanitation and hygiene practices, **women** are mainly responsible, so their active participation and particular knowledge has also been taken into account. Essential to the success of the actions has been the **intercultural approach**, avoiding cultural exclusion or assimilation, developing bilingual or graphic materials and working with facilitators who know their languages. Time, objectives and means have been respected, which has led to greater participation.

While the work focuses on communities, it also focuses on the **context of working with communities at the municipal level** which, despite some economic and technical limitations on their part, allows for better development and results in the component of **integrated water resources management and environmental protection**, promoting significant achievements for water and sanitation services.

In terms of **2020 actions**, the San Marcos programme carried out an awareness-raising campaign including several spots in indigenous languages to promote handwashing and to **fight against COVID-19**. In addition, collection points were set up and water and sanitation services were reinforced in various localities, strengthening community water boards.

Panama

Following FCAS experiences in this area, the Fund's portfolio in **Panama** has been especially oriented towards rural and indigenous areas of the country, which has **an indigenous population of 12.4%**

of its national population. Although Panama has not ratified Convention 169, it has regulations for collective rights over indigenous lands and territories with high levels of autonomy and has generated valuable specific documents for intervention in supply and sanitation with indigenous peoples, communities that have been the focus of the portfolio being implemented in the country.

It has been very fruitful to complement the approach already developed by the FCAS partner, the Ministry of Health, through the Directorate of the Subsector for Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewerage (DISAPAS), in terms of working with indigenous communities, with the systematic incorporation of the **gender perspective**, a hallmark of Spanish Cooperation, both in the programmes it is developing and within the institution itself.

The need for gender mainstreaming in DISAPAS and its work guidelines to guarantee the sustainability of the results of its interventions in the communities responds to the results of the "Diagnosis of gender relations in the communities and regions benefiting from the Water and Sanitation Programme in rural and indigenous areas with emphasis on local bilateral management "1 . This document provides the basis for the gender plan, elaborated as a form of action for the bilateral programme implemented in the Ngäbe-Büglé comarca, and the hiring of a gender specialist for the incorporation of a gender perspective and gender equity.

From the work experience in Panama, it can be concluded, once again, that when efforts and **resources** are devoted **to understanding the needs of communities according** to the confluence of the distinctive traits of the people who make them up, good results are obtained.

The processes developed in the Panama programme have also made it possible to corroborate how crucial it is for the better management of actions and their subsequent sustainability that the communities' population **identifies with the solutions adopted, in a process that is participatory and involves collective construction in line with their indigenous worldview.**

From the work performed with community organisations, it is confirmed that the **generation and strengthening of capacities** and local associative mechanisms and organisational and institutional collaboration not only result in the appropriation of results and their sustainability, but are also catalysts for the demand **for the protection and guarantee of other rights** before the corresponding duty bearers.

Bolivia

To increase access to drinking water and sanitation in rural populations with high levels of vulnerability, **the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), through the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS), with the collaboration of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB),** financed the [Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme for Small Localities and Rural Communities in Bolivia](#) (2012-2018). One part of the programme,



targeting dispersed rural communities of less than 500 inhabitants, was implemented in four departments of the country: Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, La Paz and Potosí.

One of the programme's actions was the implementation of individual sanitation solutions (composting toilets) **in dispersed rural communities** far from urban centres, with high levels of poverty and inequality in terms of access to and use of basic services. This technological option was undertaken considering the environmental conditions and the extensive history of BES implementation in rural areas of Bolivia over 30 years.

In total, 5,315 toilets were built in homes in 186 communities. After the construction of the first toilets, the **need was identified to improve their adaptability to the cultural reality** of families living in rural communities, mainly Aymara and Quechua, in order to promote cultural acceptance and use of the toilets. Thus, adjustments were made to the way the programme was implemented, combining socio-cultural analysis and an analysis of people's feelings, fears and rejection of the use of the toilets with a view to encouraging communities to adopt the practice.

In 2020, Bolivia is hosting a technical cooperation run together with the IDB to foster the sustainability of composting toilet sanitation solutions implemented under the Fund's programmes.

5.5 Bodies of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation

The organisation and operation of the Water Fund are detailed in [Royal Decree 1460/2009, on the organisation and operation of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation](#), approved on 29 September 2009. According to this Royal Decree, the Fund has two bodies of its own: 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 Secretary of State for International Cooperation.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council working group **met twice during 2020**. At the first meeting, held on 1 June, it assessed the approval of new programmes in Honduras, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Guatemala with funds from reimbursements and the expansion of the Operational Plan of the multilateral portfolio managed together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) with a regional Technical Cooperation: development of strategies to ensure water, sanitation and hygiene services in informal settlements.

The **programmes of the Dominican Republic, Peru, Ecuador and Guatemala were pending approval pending** modifications and further information requested by the working group and the completion of some proposed adjustments.

The second meeting of the Advisory Council's working group was held on 12 June, at which the **pending projects of the Dominican Republic, Peru, Ecuador and Guatemala were analysed**.

All the programmes were approved except for Peru's proposal, which did not receive a favourable report, given the limited time available to work on it properly. In the case of Ecuador, the programme was approved, but the need to ensure the verification of the local counterpart was pointed out.

Following the positive report of the working group, five programmes in Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador, Dominican Republic and El Salvador, for a total amount of €5,658,032, were submitted for consideration by the Executive Committee prior to authorisation by the Council of Ministers:

- ◆ Honduras programme: improvement of water resource management in water-producing micro-watersheds and improvement of drinking water and sanitation services in peri-urban and rural areas in the municipality of Siguatepeque. FCAS contribution: 3,276,032.62 euros.
- ◆ Dominican Republic programme: ensuring the human right to water by reducing vulnerability in the Municipal District of Pedro García, province of Santiago. FCAS contribution: 582,000 euros.
- ◆ Guatemala programme: institutional and technical strengthening in the provision of water and sanitation services in preparation for emergencies in the municipality of Sololá, Department of Sololá. FCAS contribution: 700,000 euros.
- ◆ Ecuador Programme: "Drinking water and sanitation in rural communities in the San Lorenzo canton in the face of the COVID-19 health crisis". FCAS contribution: 500,000 euros (pending the viability of the local partner's counterpart contribution).
- ◆ El Salvador programme: construction of a public policy that guarantees the sustainability of the drinking water and sanitation sub-sector in rural areas - PHASE II. FCAS contribution: 600,000 euros.

Executive Committee

According to Royal Decree 1460/2009, "the Executive Committee of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation will study and evaluate all proposals for financing from the Fund that are submitted to it by the Office of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, and will decide on their submission for authorisation by the Council of Ministers, through the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in accordance with the procedures established in Article 15 of this Royal Decree".

In 2020, Royal Decree 1460/2009 of 28 September 2009 on the organisation and operation of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation was amended, and the current composition is as follows:

The Executive Committee of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation through the State Secretariat for International Cooperation, will be composed of the following members:



PRESIDENCY	a) Presidency: the head of the State Secretariat for International Cooperation.
VICEPRESIDENCIES	b) First Vice -Presidency: the person in charge of the Directorate of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), who shall substitute the person in charge of the Presidency in cases of absence, vacancy or illness, as well as in cases in which his/her abstention or disqualification has been declared.
	c) Second Vice -Presidency: the head of the General Secretariat of the Treasury and International Finance of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation.
MEMBERS	Member 1: the head of the AECID's Directorate of Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean.
	Member 2: the head of the Directorate - General for Sustainable Development Policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.
	Member 3: the head of the Directorate - General for International Trade and Investment of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.
	Member 4: the head of the Directorate -General for Water of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge.
	Member 5: a person of at least the rank of Deputy Director-General, representing the Official Credit Institute (ICO, by its Spanish acronym) , appointed by the President of the Official Credit Institute.
	Member 6: the head of the AECID's Water and Sanitation Cooperation Fund Department, who shall also act as secretary of the body.
	Member 7: the head of the Ibero - American General Secretariat, who shall attend the meetings of the Executive Committee in an advisory capacity.

Three Executive Committees were held in 2020. The first, held on 6 May, approved the expenses derived from the management of the Fund, i.e. the costs of evaluation, monitoring, inspection and technical assistance or other expenses associated with the operations formalised, up to a maximum of €5 million. In addition, the expenses proposed to the ICO for its management and administration of the FCAS for 2018 and 2019 were authorised, amounting to €85,147.11 and €87,338.23 respectively.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation (MINECO) requested the replacement of the Director-General of Macroeconomic Analysis as second vice-president of the FCAS Executive Committee by the Secretary General of the Treasury and International Finance, in accordance with the internal restructuring of the Ministry itself, a matter that was addressed with the aforementioned regulatory modification. In addition, at the request of the Directorate-General for Water, a coordination mechanism was established through the forwarding of the FCAS-CEDEX follow-up minutes to the Directorate General for Water.

The second meeting of the Committee was held on 6 July and was aimed at **assessing new programmes financed with amounts from refunds to be submitted to the Council of Ministers**. In addition, the measures taken in the context of the pandemic were presented.

The Executive Committee agreed to approve the following programmes:

💧 **Honduras:**

Programme for the improvement of drinking water and sanitation services in peri-urban and rural areas of the municipality of Siguatepeque and improvement of water resource management in water-producing micro-watersheds". FCAS contribution: €3,276,032.62 .

💧 **El Salvador:**

Construction of public policy to guarantee the sustainability of the drinking water and sanitation sub-sector in rural areas - Phase II". FCAS contribution: €600,000

💧 **Ecuador:**

"Drinking water and sanitation in rural communities in the San Lorenzo canton in the face of the COVID-19 health crisis" in Ecuador, provided that the beneficiary's commitment to provide the 20% counterpart is received, in accordance with the regulatory provisions of the FCAS. FCAS contribution: €500,000.

💧 **Guatemala:**

Institutional and technical strengthening in the provision of drinking water and sanitation services to improve resilience in communities in the municipality of Sololá, department of Sololá". FCAS contribution: €700,000.



◆ **Dominican Republic:**

"Strengthening of the Santiago Aqueduct and Sewerage Corporation (CORASAAN), in preparation for emergencies in the Municipal District of Pedro García, Santiago". FCAS contribution: €582,000.

- ◆ In addition, a new reimbursable cooperation operation was agreed in Paraguay, together with Fonprode.

"Water and Sanitation Project for the Metropolitan Area of Asunción (AMA) - Lambaré Basin. Project carried out together with the Fund for the Promotion of Development. 60 million US dollars.

At the third meeting of the Executive Committee, held on 21 July, the annual accounts of the FCAS presented by the Official Credit Institute (ICO) for 2019 and audited by the General Comptroller of the State Administration (IGAE) were approved. It also authorised a new technical cooperation project entitled "Development of strategies to ensure water, sanitation and hygiene services in informal settlements", which falls within the framework of the current planning of the Fund's multilateral portfolio.

Following the formalisation of the counterpart commitment in Ecuador, the programme "Drinking water and sanitation in rural communities in the San Lorenzo canton in the face of the COVID-19 health crisis" was also definitively approved, with donations from Spain amounting to 500,000 euros.

5.6 Knowledge management

Knowledge management is a **priority for the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation**. During 2020, several actions have been carried out to strengthen the management and dissemination of knowledge generated within the programmes.

Progress has been made in the drafting of compendiums on governance, human rights to water and sanitation, cultural diversity and interventions with indigenous peoples, innovation and sustainable cities. These reports analyse both the experiences accumulated by the Fund in these areas and the positioning and the direction work will take in the coming years.

In 2020, the Water Fund's Knowledge Network was relaunched. It is an internal digital space for the dissemination of various materials, news, reports, courses or activities of value to the team. Among some of the courses, the one on "Water governance and institutional strengthening" is worth noting, in which programme managers from the Technical Cooperation Offices in various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean participated.

The COVID-19 pandemic cut across the teams' daily activities. During 2020, an analysis of resources and intervention spaces was carried out to improve the Water Fund's response and the reorientation of programmes.



With regard to the **knowledge and communication strategy in partner countries**, progress was made together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in systematising the products generated in the multilateral portfolio and in the knowledge strategy in Bolivia. Equal progress was made in systematising the products of the bilateral portfolio.

In addition, the systematisation of the Water Fund's practices and procedures and knowledge assets, which are used throughout the life cycle of the programmes, were improved.

Communication

Communication and accountability is a priority for the Water Fund and has been strengthened in recent years, following the indications of the Mid-Term Evaluation.

During 2020, progress was made in improving the Fund's institutional materials, updating the website and the institutional video, as well as **improving AECID's photographic archive (MOSAICO)**.

The results of the Water Fund website remain stable, reaching **10,883 unique users in 2020**. The origin **of the users is 36% from Spain and the rest from Latin America** (Ecuador, Colombia and Guatemala are the main users) and the USA. The cities with the highest number of unique users in 2020 were Madrid, Guatemala City and San Salvador.

In terms of **dissemination** and accountability, **53 news items were published on the Fund's website**, the most relevant of which were republished on the AECID website.

In 2020, the Spanish Cooperation Microsite was launched on iAgua, the sector's main communication medium in Spanish, where more than fifty news items were published weekly. This had the effect of increasing the Fund's dissemination and accountability as iAgua has eight million unique users per year.

Four extensive reports were also published in iAgua's paper magazine related to the **Cuba and Guatemala** programmes, **as well as a special feature on 10 years of human rights to water**. In addition, the same website dedicated a long interview to the Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ángeles Moreno Bau, which was published in the digital and print versions.

It can be seen here: <https://www.iagua.es/aecid/cooperacion-espanola>

Throughout the year, progress was also made in the production of the programmes' own materials with the launch of **videos in Honduras, Chile, Paraguay, Cuba and Costa Rica**.

Joint work has also been initiated with the digital media AguasResiduales for World Toilet Day, with a special programme that includes an interview with the FCAS on its impacts on sanitation with a live chat with a specialist from the Fund.

In 2020, more than 50 infographics analysing the Fund's programmes have been posted on the website and are available online.







Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation