Manabí

LOCAL VOLUNTARY REVIEW 2025



PREFECTURA DE
MANABÍ
Desarrollo y Equidad



2026 is the International Year of the Woman Farmer, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. For this reason, we have chosen to present the cover of our **2025 Voluntary Local Review as a tribute to the women farmers of Manabí**, who sow life, safeguard the land, and embody the heart of our people's traditions through symbols representing abundance, identity, and hope.

The toquilla straw hat reflects our **Cholo-Montuvio heritage and our deep connection with the noble work of the countryside**. Surrounding her are corn, cacao, coconut, coffee, plantain, and dragon fruit, which represent our fertile land—one that prospers thanks to the hardworking hands of thousands of women from Manabí and their families.

The flowers and fruits form a crown of life, reflecting respect for nature and women's ability to transform effort into food, culture, and a better future. The sun above represents the light of each new dawn that accompanies long working days, reminding us that women farmers never stop sowing hope, even in difficult times.

Our Cholo-Montuvio identity represents the wisdom inherited from our ancestors and the pride of keeping Manabí's cultural identity alive through memory, history, and tradition. **Every harvest sustains households, strengthens communities, and supports the rural economy.**

Behind every harvested fruit lies a story of sacrifice, courage, and perseverance.

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A.1 STRATEGIC AND CROSS-CUTTING MESSAGES

My beloved province of Manabí (Ecuador) represents a deep sense of passion for who we are and what we stand for: a magical and diverse land of cholos and montuvios, of joyful, hardworking, and honest men and women. Recognized as the World Region of Gastronomy 2026 by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT), our gastronomic heritage has become a driver of employment, responsible tourism, the strengthening of value chains, and the dignification of those who produce the food that defines our identity. This is especially meaningful within the framework of the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, as it is women who produce, transform, and preserve the culinary knowledge that today positions us before the world.

With profound pride and joy, and on behalf of the resilient people of Manabí, I am pleased to present the 2025 Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of the province of Manabí. This document reflects our firm convictions and principles, and above all, our commitment to collective causes that guide our institutional strategic planning in a sustainable and inclusive manner for all.

This is our fourth consecutive report. Since 2022, we have firmly embraced the task of measuring, reporting, and improving our contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the United Nations. Each edition has represented another step toward evolving and consolidating ourselves as the first subnational government in Ecuador to produce a Voluntary Local Review. This achievement has been made possible thanks to the support of institutions such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the National Planning Secretariat, the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), the Consortium of Provincial Governments of Ecuador (CONGOPE), GIZ through the EbA LAC Program, CAF, IGCAT, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Regions4, and our universities in Manabí — UTM, ULEAM, UNESUM, USGP, and ESPAMMFL — whose expertise has provided our methodology with technical rigor, reliability, and replicability.

The results presented in this report are encouraging. The overall contribution of the Provincial Government to the 2030 Agenda reached 80.78% in 2025, the highest level in our four-year series, with a positive variation of +5.21% compared to the previous period. Our economy is recovering; provincial GVA grew to USD 6.377 billion, remittances are energizing the territory, and cumulative investment between 2019 and 2025 exceeded USD 574 million, concentrated in infrastructure that connects and transforms our territory. The Bicentennial Roads of Manabí, totaling 118.8 kilometers of new roads financed by CAF with more than USD 53 million, represent the largest road transformation in the history of Manabí and are complemented by a Territorial Agenda that articulates productive, tourism, social, and environmental projects.

The current challenge for subnational governments is to build development through the integration of all its elements: the countryside, the sea, and the city. Above all, this must be grounded in principles and values, which are the strongest foundation upon which we build development: inclusion, territorial equity, social justice, human rights, human dignity, peace, and love and respect for our natural resources, our land and sea, and for the work of our farmers and fishers, whose hands sustain the livelihood of us all, every day.

With love,

Leonardo Orlando Arteaga

A.2 SECTORAL PARTNER ENDORSEMENT



Elkin Velásquez
Regional Director for UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat has supported more than 250 local governments across 57 countries in the task of measuring, reflecting upon, and communicating their progress, challenges, and territorial priorities through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). This collective effort has consolidated VLRs as a key tool for strengthening strategic planning, mobilizing resources, and catalyzing transformative action from the local level.

In this context, the preparation of the 2025 Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of the Province of Manabí, Ecuador, represents a significant step toward highlighting achievements and strategically guiding provincial public policy under the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are honored to continue supporting this SDG localization process, which began jointly in 2019.

In this new edition, we would like to emphasize the continuity and coherence of a public policy committed to sustainable development, positioning Manabí as a regional benchmark in the territorialization of global agendas.

At UN-Habitat, we recognize and celebrate this valuable effort. We renew our commitment to continue providing technical assistance to the Prefecture of Manabí in the generation of data and indicators, institutional strengthening, and the consolidation of strategic partnerships that translate the principles of the 2030 Agenda into tangible results for the people of Manabí.

ONU HABITAT



Inka Mattila
Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Ecuador

On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), I congratulate the Prefecture of Manabí on the 2025 edition of its Voluntary Local Review (VLR) on the implementation of the SDGs. This fourth report demonstrates the willingness of the Provincial Government to promote provincial development aligned with global challenges, open to learning from and sharing experiences, and well positioned to take advantage of growth and cooperation opportunities for the benefit of its population.

For UNDP, it has been a great pleasure to support the preparation of Manabí's VLR. The methodological contributions we have shared are part of an exchange of experiences and institutional development process aimed at strengthening the important technical capacities of the Prefecture. We particularly value the effort undertaken by the Prefecture to self-assess its management, measure its results, and analyze local challenges through the lens of the SDGs, using a collaborative and ongoing process in which key issues are discussed and agreements are built to better address the province's challenges.

The experience of the Prefecture of Manabí has been shared with other local governments to enrich the preparation of their own voluntary reviews and deepen the understanding that global problems require local responses tailored to territorial realities and collaboratively built among all stakeholders. Initiatives such as this contribute to integrating the sustainable development approach into local agendas and projecting it toward a more equitable, resilient, and inclusive planet.

PNUD



Mateo Perrone
Representative of the World Food Programme in Ecuador

At the World Food Programme (WFP), we are convinced that coordinated work with local authorities enables us to design and implement projects tailored to the current needs of the population, while keeping in mind the challenges posed by the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Together with the Prefecture of Manabí, we are implementing an initiative aimed at strengthening the productive and commercial capacities of small-scale women and men farmers through the SHEP methodology, as well as generating climate forecast bulletins by leveraging technology and installed infrastructure. Through these efforts, we promote sustainability, a market-oriented approach, and public-private coordination.

Cooperation between WFP and the Prefecture of Manabí has also enabled progress in strengthening the productive and organizational capacities of rural women, particularly those dedicated to agriculture, by promoting their economic autonomy, expanding their access to value chains and local markets, and preserving the ancestral knowledge unique to each territory.
We applaud the initiative of the Prefecture of Manabí to disseminate the progress made in implementing public policies aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



Natalia Uribe
Secretary General Regions 4

From Regions4, we congratulate the Prefecture of Manabí on the presentation of its Voluntary Local Review 2025, a reflection of a firm and sustained commitment to the 2030 Agenda as a genuine pact with its territory and its people.

Manabí has demonstrated strong leadership in the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals through an integrated approach that aligns planning, budgets, and territorial data. Through its Voluntary Local Reviews and the integration of climate action into public management, it has strengthened transparency and evidence-based decision-making. Innovative tools such as the Territorial Prosperity Index make it possible to identify which Goals concentrate the highest levels of public investment and to prioritize those where the greatest territorial gaps persist, thereby guiding resources in a more strategic and equitable manner.

Initiatives such as forest restoration, watershed recovery, the strengthening of native species nurseries, and the training of producers in agroecological practices reflect a commitment to investing in people and nature, protecting biodiversity and building resilience in a fair and inclusive way. Efforts to promote the bioeconomy, ecotourism, the empowerment of rural women, and the promotion of “100% made in Manabí” products—in a territory recognized as a World Gastronomy Region 2026—demonstrate a clear commitment to transforming lives with dignity, connecting environmental sustainability with identity, culture, economic development, and social inclusion.

At Regions4, we are proud to support the path of exemplary regions such as Manabí, convinced that sustainable development is built from the territories and through a forward-looking vision that ensures inclusion, equity, and sustainability, leaving no one behind.



Emilia Saiz
Secretary General United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

It is a pleasure, once again, to support Manabí's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its Voluntary Local Review led by the Prefecture, which reflects a strong commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the territorial level. The collaboration between the Prefecture of Manabí and UCLG is a valuable example of how subnational governments can advance the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals through inclusive policies and governance that is close to citizens.

This report takes on particular relevance in the current international context. This year's High-Level Political Forum will focus on SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, at a key moment that also marks the 10th anniversary of the New Urban Agenda. These discussions will also be reinforced by milestones such as the UCLG World Congress in Tangier and the 100 Days of Multilateralism initiative, which will culminate at the High-Level Political Forum in New York.

Manabí's experience contributes concretely to this global debate, demonstrating the key role of territories in building more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies. From UCLG, we reaffirm our commitment to continue supporting our members and to showcasing their progress in international spaces.



Carles Llorens
Secretary General of ORU Fogar

At ORU Fogar, we have long defended the importance of our members undertaking the exercise of transparency and evaluation represented by SDG monitoring reports. We prefer to speak of Voluntary Regional Reviews, reaffirming the strategic role of regions. In this context, Manabí has established itself as a leading example in Latin America. By maintaining this reporting exercise consistently since 2022, the province not only demonstrates transparency, but also positions itself strongly on the international stage as a benchmark for sustainable development.

This year, 2025, has been especially significant for the province. We must highlight the exceptional work of the Prefecture of Manabí in preparing for its designation as World Gastronomy Region 2026. Far from being an isolated milestone, this achievement is fully aligned with its political vision: at our December Assembly, Manabí coherently assumed the presidency and coordination of the ORU Fogar Food Sovereignty Working Group, linking culinary identity with food security and productive development.

Manabí's success reflects the political leadership of Leonardo Orlando Arteaga, but above all, a strategy of "open doors" to the world. The province has successfully participated in every possible international forum, engaging actively, incorporating best practices, and making intelligent use of all available technical cooperation resources. This report is evidence of coordinated work grounded in rigorous planning, a clear mission, and a long-term vision. Manabí is not only moving toward the future; it is showing the way forward for regionalism.



Eva María Mera

Executive Director National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC)

The National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) recognizes the sustained commitment of the Prefecture of Manabí to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is particularly noteworthy that it continues to dedicate efforts to the preparation and submission of Voluntary Local Reviews, while also providing support to other institutions in this methodological and statistical process, generating a multiplier effect across the territory.

The integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into local planning is essential to promote balanced, inclusive, and sustainable development. Autonomous decentralized governments play a fundamental role in identifying gaps, implementing territorial policies, and promoting an approach that ensures "leaving no one behind," a central principle of the global plan to guarantee a dignified life for all.

The Voluntary Local Review 2025 reflects the efforts made by the Prefecture of Manabí to highlight both the challenges and achievements in advancing the ownership of the 2030 Agenda. From INEC, we have collaborated in the methodological review of this document and in strengthening statistical capacities within the province.

The Institute reaffirms its strong commitment to contributing to the measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals, coordinating efforts with autonomous decentralized governments and promoting the generation of relevant, timely, and high-quality statistics.



Raúl Jaramillo V.

Director INIAP

El Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (INIAP) en conjunto con el Gobierno Provincial de Manabí (GPM) han colaborado en acciones orientadas a la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). A través de nuestra alianza institucional, se han fortalecido las capacidades y conocimientos técnicos de los profesionales que forman parte de las ESCUELAS DE CAMPO del GPM, quienes actúan como promotores multiplicadores del conocimiento en los 22 cantones de la provincia. Este esfuerzo facilita que las tecnologías generadas por INIAP tengan un mayor alcance entre los agricultores en territorio.

En este proceso, se han abordado diversas temáticas tales como el manejo técnico del cultivo de cacao nacional, específicamente de los clones INIAP 800 e INIAP 801; la conservación de la biodiversidad de insectos y artrópodos polinizadores; y la formulación de insumos a base de materia orgánica, entre otros.

Asimismo, en el marco del convenio específico "Generación de Tecnología Sostenible para la Producción de Vainilla en la Provincia de Manabí", el Instituto —apoyado por el GPM— se encuentra en la fase de investigación para generar recomendaciones técnicas para el cultivo de vainilla, explorando metodologías como la implementación de cultivo en condiciones controladas en invernadero y el manejo bajo sistemas agroforestales con cacao, mango, coco y cítricos, evaluando distancias de siembra, fertilización, floración y cosecha.

En este contexto la cooperación existente entre INIAP y el GPM ha permitido dinamizar y explorar alternativas que den respuesta a las necesidades del sector agroproductivo provincial y nacional.



María Fernanda Durán
Consortium of Provincial Autonomous Governments of Ecuador (CONGOPE)

From the Consortium of Provincial Autonomous Governments of Ecuador (CONGOPE), we extend our cordial greetings to the Prefecture of Manabí and express our recognition for the presentation of its Voluntary Local Review 2025, an instrument that reaffirms its commitment to transparency, evidence-based planning, and sustainable development.

The Prefecture of Manabí has established itself as a national benchmark in the territorialization of the Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating coordinated management that integrates the 2030 Agenda with territorial planning instruments. This positioning reflects a sustained process of joint work, in which the technical team of the Provincial Government has progressively strengthened its capacities, consolidating a strategic vision oriented toward results and the generation of public value within the territory.

In this context, cooperation between CONGOPE and the Provincial Government has made it possible not only to support, but also to co-create and refine the methodology for the preparation of the Voluntary Local Review over recent years. This process has led to more robust methodological tools, standardized technical criteria, and greater institutional capacity for the analysis, monitoring, and reporting of progress on the SDGs.

We congratulate this important achievement, which reflects the technical maturity reached by the provincial team. Its experience strengthens territorial governance and contributes significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Ecuador.

CONGOPE Consorcio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales del Ecuador

When we published the first Voluntary Local Review in 2022, Leonardo Orlando took on a commitment unprecedented among Ecuador's subnational governments: to measure ourselves, report on our progress and improve steadily against the 2030 Agenda. This fourth consecutive edition proves that the hardest achievement has already been reached: continuity.

The real challenge is not to produce a report, but to sustain it with the same rigor. The series -80.56% in 2022, 67.46% in 2023, 76.78% in 2024 and 80.78% in 2025- does not describe a straight line, but a real process, with one year of methodological correction and its subsequent recovery. We document both progress and pending challenges, because that candor is the condition of our technical credibility.

The maturity of the process rests on three assets: the Methodology for Contribution to the 2030 Agenda, validated together with UNDP, SNP, INEC, CONGOPE and Manabí universities; the Territorial Prosperity Index, developed with UN-Habitat; and the Observatory for Sustainable Development and Human Security, which turned the monitoring of the Goals into a permanent exercise open to public scrutiny.

That this methodology is replicable is no coin-cidence: in 2025 we trained the Prefectures of Pichincha and Imbabura, and in 2026 we are guiding the Municipality of Manta toward its first Voluntary Local Review, thereby forming the first comparable network of reports on the 2030 Agenda ahead of the High-Level Politi-cal Forum in New York.

In the following pages, the reader will find the details of this work, which we present in the conviction that evidence-based planning is the fairest tool for a territory as diverse as ours.como el nuestro.

PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ Desarrollo y Equidad

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT 2025–2026

1.1 PROVINCIAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXT 2025

The Prefecture of Manabí manages the comprehensive development of its territory with a strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The year 2025 was characterized by a combination of persistent challenges and positive signals that shaped a dynamic outlook for the province.

ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Manabí recorded a significant recovery in its Gross Value Added (GVA), reaching USD 6.377 billion (approximately USD 6.38 billion) in December 2024 (provisional data from the Central Bank of Ecuador), representing 5.15% of the national GVA—an increase from 4.06% in 2022. GVA per capita rose to USD 3,752.58 (2024, based on a population of 1,699,434), reflecting a sustained growth trajectory.

Remittances consolidated their role as a driver of the local economy: in the third quarter of 2025, Manabí received USD 62 million, equivalent to 3.08% of the national total (USD 2.012 billion).

LABOUR AND SOCIAL DIMENSION

The labour market showed mixed indicators: the unemployment rate stood at 2.4%, with an employment rate of 97.5%, although adequate employment reached only 29.3%. This apparent paradox—low unemployment combined with low adequate employment—is explained by the provincial labour structure, where self-employment, own-account work, seasonal agricultural day labour, and underemployment in the informal urban trade sector predominate. More than one in four people in Manabí is underemployed (27.3% according to the National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment ENEMDU Annual 2024, the second highest rate in the country), which explains why formal adequate employment is limited to a relatively small share of the employed population. The average wage increased to USD 792.82, with a gender gap favourable to women (USD 808.43 compared to USD 780.19 for men). As of December 2025, 159,469 people were affiliated with the social security system, equivalent to 12 out of every 100 inhabitants.

Multidimensional poverty affected 51% of the provincial population, highlighting the need to deepen targeted interventions, particularly in rural areas where 717,549 people reside (41.84% of the total population).

SECURITY DIMENSION

The situation remained complex: the rate of intentional homicides increased to 71.10 per 100,000 inhabitants in Manabí in 2025, compared to 51.08 in 2024. This rise is linked to the escalation of conflict between organized criminal groups—primarily Los Choneros and Los Lobos—competing for control of illicit trafficking routes along Ecuador's coast (Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Guayas, El Oro). This dynamic has made Manta one of the most violent cities in the country (119 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants) and positioned Ecuador's coastal region as the epicentre of the national security crisis, in line with broader regional trends. This reality requires a multi-level approach that goes beyond provincial competencies, but which the Prefecture supports through its human security and peaceful coexistence policies.

STRATEGIC MILESTONES 2025-2026

In this context, the Prefecture of Manabí reaffirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda by preparing its Voluntary Local Review for the fourth consecutive year (VLR 2022, 2023, 2024, and now 2025). This sustained accountability exercise, unprecedented among subnational governments in Ecuador, is further strengthened in this edition by three international milestones that position the province on the global stage:

1. **World Region of Gastronomy 2026** — First in America, awarded by IGCAT.

2. **International Year of Women Farmers 2026 (IYWF)** — Declared by the United Nations General Assembly

3. **HLPF 2026** — Review of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17 in New York (July 2026).

1.2 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF WOMEN FARMERS (IYWF 2026)

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2026 as the International Year of Women Farmers (IYWF 2026), recognizing the fundamental role of rural women in food security, nutrition, natural resource management, and sustainable development.

For Manabí, this declaration has direct territorial relevance. According to INEC projections for 2025, the province has 351,591 women living in rural areas, representing 40.52% of the total female population. These women are key actors in agricultural value chains, the preservation of food heritage, and the transmission of ancestral culinary knowledge that underpins the province's gastronomic identity.

PROFILE OF WOMEN PRODUCERS IN MANABÍ (ESPAC–INEC 2024)

The Continuous Agricultural Surface and Production Survey (ESPAC) conducted by INEC, with 2024 data filtered for the province of Manabí, shows that women represent 18% of registered agricultural producers in the province. While this figure highlights a gender gap in the formal ownership of productive units, the actual contribution of women is substantially higher when considering family labour, where their participation is decisive.

Characteristic	Women Producers – Manabí 2024
Ethnic self-identification	Mestiza (majority), Montubia (37%)
Education level	Primary 52%, Secondary 25%, Higher 13%, None 10%
Predominant age group	25–34 years (32,8%) y 35–44 years (25,0%)
Type of producer	Crop farming 45,1%, Mixed farming 19,1%, Livestock 35,8%
Rural social security coverage	Yes: 30,31% / No: 69,69%
Land Tenure	Owner 83,2%, Tenant 14,8%
Predominant plot size	< 1 ha (30,31%), 1–2 ha (14,31%)
Financing	Own resources 99,33%, Public Banking 0,53%

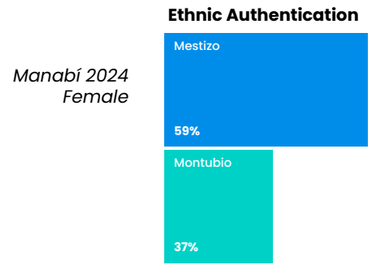
Source: INEC — ESPAC 2024, filters: Year=2024, Province=Manabí, Sex=Female.

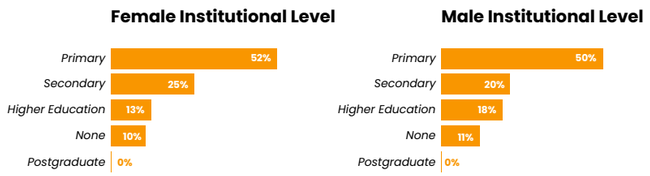
The profile of women producers in Manabí reflects a reality of small-scale family farming: plots predominantly smaller than 2 hectares, financing almost exclusively from own resources (99.33%), and rural social security coverage reaching only 30.31%. Additionally, 52% have primary education, underscoring the importance of technical training programmes promoted by the Prefecture.

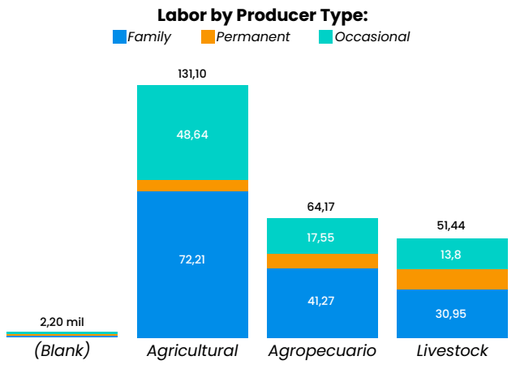
PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE

According to ESPAC 2024, the total agricultural labour force in Manabí amounts to 248,909 people, distributed as follows: 150,545 correspond to family labour (60%), 17,454 to permanent labour (7%), and 80,910 to occasional labour (33%). The high proportion of family labour confirms that agriculture in Manabí is essentially family-based, where women perform unpaid roles that are often invisible in formal statistics.

The VLR 2025 incorporates the IYWF 2026 perspective as a cross-cutting lens, particularly in good practices linked to SDGs 1, 2, 5, and 8, where rural women are direct beneficiaries of Prefecture programmes such as livestock field schools, community irrigation systems, and local production fairs. The convergence between the World Region of Gastronomy 2026 and the IYWF 2026 positions women farmers in Manabí as central actors in public policy: those who produce, transform, and preserve.











Fish in peanut sauce, taken from the book Manabí Gastronomía Milenaria (Manabí, Millenary Gastronomy).

1.3 MANABÍ, WORLD REGION OF GASTRONOMY 2026

Before serving as a tourism driver or a branding narrative, the recognition as World Region of Gastronomy 2026 is, above all, a recognition of the work of rural women in Manabí: they cultivate, raise, process, and preserve the ingredients and knowledge that form the material and cultural foundation of the province's cuisine. The 351,591 women living in rural areas of Manabí (40.52% of the female population) represent the first link in the gastronomic chain: without their agricultural and livestock work, the raw materials that make the Manabí Diet possible would not exist, nor the dishes that fill festivals, restaurants, and tourism routes. For this reason, at the international level, the International Year of Women Farmers 2026 and the IGCAT designation are understood jointly, and this VLR adopts that perspective: rural women as producers agricultural inputs gastronomy tourism, in that order.

On December 10, 2024, the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT) officially designated Manabí as World Region of Gastronomy 2026, making the province the first to receive this recognition in Latin America. The decision was unanimously approved during the 35th Meeting of the IGCAT Advisory Forum, following an evaluation process that included a visit by an international jury of experts to 10 of the province's 22 cantons, between October 20 and 26, 2024.
The candidacy was promoted by a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the Prefecture of Manabí, the Chamber of Industry and Production of Manabí, the FUEGOS Foundation, and the Eloy Alfaro University of Manabí (ULEAM). The jury highlighted the commitment to sustainability, excellence in local food, the collaborative approach among stakeholders, and the richness of the province's culinary heritage.

The official award ceremony took place on June 27, 2025, as part of the commemoration of the 201st anniversary of the provincialization of Manabí, at the Iche School–Restaurant–Laboratory in San Vicente. The President of IGCAT, Dr. Diane Dodd, personally presented the title to Prefect Leonardo Orlando Arteaga. The event was attended by the Minister of Tourism, Mateo Estrella, who formally witnessed the signing of the cooperation agreement between the leading institutions and IGCAT.

GASTRONOMY AS A DRIVER OF ECONOMIC LINKAGES

In the context of the VLR 2025, the designation as World Region of Gastronomy is not an isolated good practice, but rather the central narrative axis of the report. Manabí's gastronomy operates as a catalyst for backward linkages, connecting rural producers, women farmers, artisanal fishers, and supporting infrastructure within a value chain that spans multiple SDGs:

- **SDGS 1 AND 2:** Small-scale producers supplying the gastronomic chain, generating income and food security.
- **SDG 4:** Training of young chefs through 7 universities and 25 provincial culinary schools.
- **SDG 5:** Empowerment of rural women as producers, processors, and custodians of ancestral knowledge.
- **SDG 8 AND 12:** Responsible gastronomic tourism, the "100% Made in Manabí" label, and the orange economy. The gastronomic chain also generates forward linkages that connect transport operators, workers in the hospitality sector, restaurant owners and staff, tour guides, artisans, and e-commerce platforms, multiplying the economic impact of primary agricultural and fisheries activities.
- **SDG 9:** Infrastructure such as the Iche School–Restaurant–Laboratory and the Pacific Convention Center (ULEAM). The programme for 2026 includes cultural festivals, academic research, food innovation, support for small-scale producers, and the organization of the 2nd World Gastronomy Summit at ULEAM facilities.

1.4 HLPF 2026: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will take place from 7 to 15 July 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The ministerial segment will be held from 13 to 15 July.

The theme of HLPF 2026 is: "Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all." The Forum will conduct in-depth reviews of the following SDGs:

SDGs	Description
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals

The review of SDG 11 is particularly significant for Manabí: it coincides with the 10th anniversary of the New Urban Agenda and with the UCLG World Congress in Tangier (June 2026), where the province's experience in community risk management, territorial planning, and climate resilience can contribute to the global debate. The VLR 2025 aims to serve as a technical input to showcase Manabí's progress in these international spaces, in line with the explicit request made to UCLG and Regions4.



1.5 MANABÍ 5I: VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE TERRITORY

The management of the Prefecture of Manabí is guided by the vision of building a smart territory. This core concept places people at the centre of public policy, guiding territorial actions towards a desired development model that integrates innovation and technology to operate efficiently and sustainably.

This vision is formalized and constitutes the central pillar of the Territorial Development and Land Use Plan (PDOT), updated and in force for the 2023–2027 period. This planning instrument reinforces a forward-looking perspective towards 2030 based on five strategic pillars that define Manabí 5i: Smart, Inclusive, Innovative, Integrated, and Identity-driven. These five components serve as the compass guiding all actions toward achieving comprehensive, equitable, and sustainable development in the province.

INNOVATIVE

The Manabí we envision for 2030 is firmly committed to diversifying its economy by integrating and strengthening key productive value chains that generate territorial value. Innovation is the engine of this diversification, driving new sectors while revitalizing traditional ones.

In 2025, this commitment is reflected in the V.2025 Methodology for contribution to the 2030 Agenda—replicable at the national level—the creation of the Sustainable Development and Human Security Observatory in Power BI, and the incorporation, for the first time, of territorial maps by good practice in the VLR. The ISO certifications obtained by the institution further reinforce a culture of continuous improvement.

INDENTITY-DRIVEN

A prominent example of the link between innovation and identity is the designation of Manabí as World Region of Gastronomy 2026 by IGCAT. This global recognition not only celebrates the richness of Manabí's culinary culture but also positions it as a key strategic asset to drive tourism, agro-industrial production with denomination of origin, and activities related to the orange economy, generating employment and prosperity rooted in territorial identity.

The "100% Made in Manabí" label, the Manabí Diet, the Young Chefs Competition 2025, and the Five-Year Plan Manabí Millenary Gastronomy 2022–2026 are concrete expressions of how identity becomes an innovative driver for Smart, Inclusive, and Integrated development.

INCLUSIVE

The forward-looking vision toward 2030 envisions a Manabí that is inclusive across its territorial, economic, and social dimensions. Active efforts are being made to reduce the urban–rural gap and strengthen rural–urban linkages, ensuring that development opportunities reach all areas and all people, leaving no one behind.

In 2025, the convergence with the International Year of Women Farmers 2026 further strengthens this dimension: rural women in Manabí—351,591 women in rural areas—are producers, processors, and custodians of the culinary knowledge that sustains the province's gastronomic identity. Public policies for LGBTIQ+ populations and for adolescents and youth, developed through participatory processes, complement this inclusive approach.

INTEGRATED

The province is envisioned as both globally connected and internally cohesive, strategically leveraging its central and coastal location to strengthen trade and connectivity. This implies continuous investment in infrastructure, with projects such as the Bicentennial Roads, with an investment of USD 54 million and more than 118 km of primary road infrastructure, alongside improvements in internal cohesion through transversal integration corridors that enhance accessibility across the province.

Cumulative investment in road and water infrastructure, the designation of five Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (ACUS), and the establishment of Community Risk Management Committees are concrete manifestations of this pillar in the territory.

SMART

The smart dimension implies management based on data, evidence, and interinstitutional coordination. In 2025, the Sustainable Development and Human Security Observatory embodies this aspiration, providing public access to territorial indicators, SDG-aligned investment data, and methodological progress. The partnership with five universities in Manabí (UTM, ULEAM, UNESUM, ESPAMMFL, USGP) for the validation of the V.2025 Methodology reflects a model of knowledge-based governance.

In essence, Manabí 5i is not merely a theoretical concept, but a concrete roadmap embedded in the updated PDOT: a vision that guides actions and fosters collaborative work to build a future of development and equity for all people in Manabí.

The designation as World Region of Gastronomy 2026 acts as a catalyst for this vision, demonstrating how identity becomes an innovative driver for Smart, Inclusive, and Integrated development, building a sustainable and resilient Manabí.



Thinking about values



Built from a vision



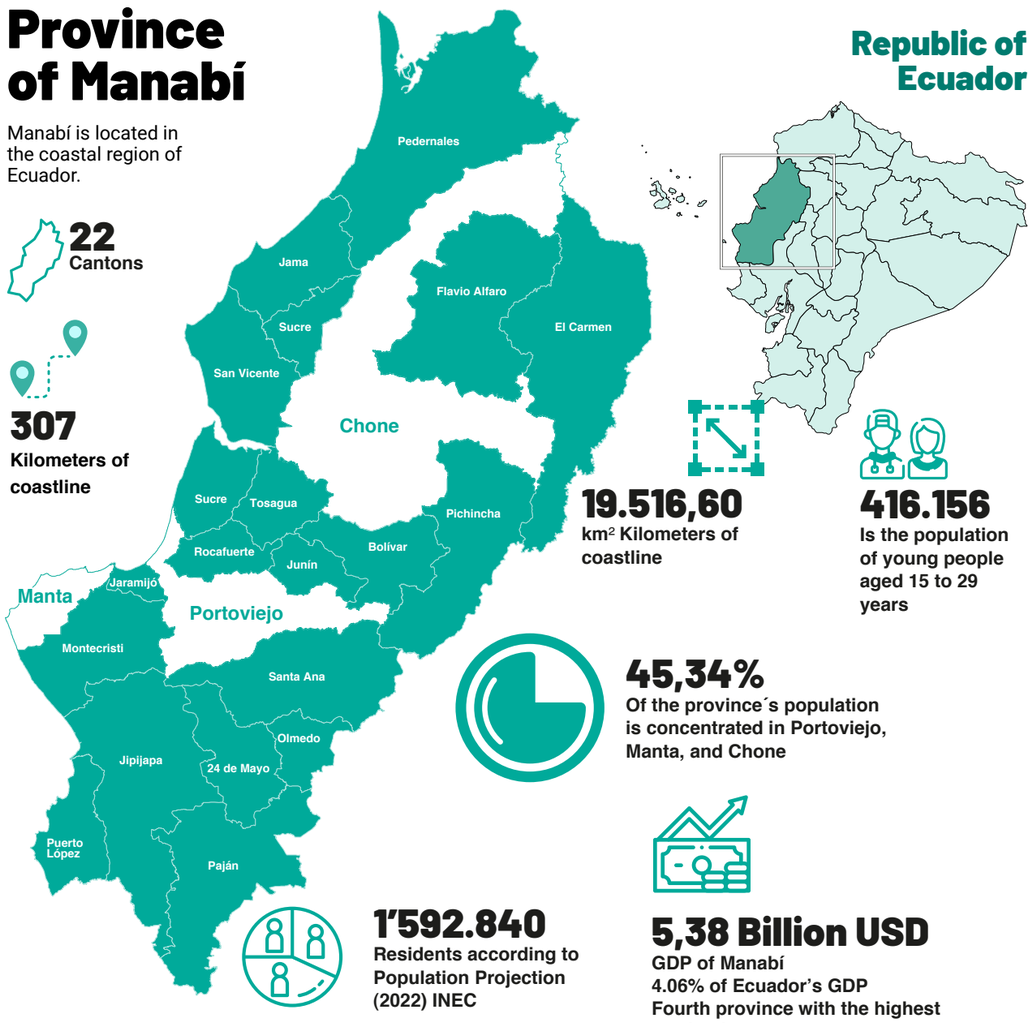
Incorporating technologies

2. MANABÍ IN FIGURES 2025

2.1 POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Manabí is one of Ecuador's 24 provinces, located in the coastal region of the country. Its political-administrative structure is organized into 22 cantons, 56 rural parishes, and multiple urban parishes. Each level has its respective autonomous decentralized government, within the framework of the Organic Code of Territorial Organization, Autonomy and Decentralization (COOTAD).

The province has a total area of 19,516.60 km² and a coastline of 307 kilometers, connecting it to the Pacific Ocean and providing a geostrategic advantage for trade, tourism, and fisheries.



2.2 GEOGRAPHY

Manabí is located in the coastal region of Ecuador, and the Equator crosses its territory through the canton of Pedernales. This location provides a strategic position both for coastal dynamics and for connectivity with the Andean region. It borders Esmeraldas and Santo Domingo to the north, Santa Elena to the south, Guayas and Los Ríos to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Its total area is 19,516.60 km², according to the National Commission on Internal Boundaries.

2.3 DEMOGRAPHY

According to INEC population projections for 2025, Manabí has 1,715,057 inhabitants, of whom 50.59% are women (867,684), reflecting a slight female majority. The province has a population density of 87.88 inhabitants per km².

An estimated 458,580 people are between 15 and 29 years old, representing 26.74% of the total population. This means that approximately one in four people in Manabí is young and in a key stage of productivity and education, constituting a strategic segment for the territory's economic and social development.

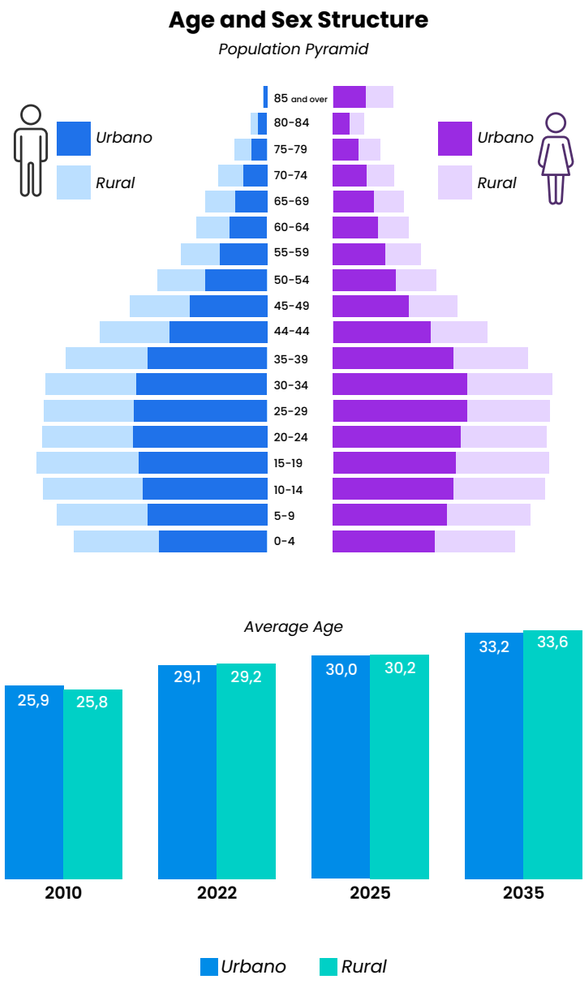
The three cantons with the highest population concentration are Portoviejo, Manta, and Chone, which together account for 45.10% of the population of Manabí.

Urban–Rural Distribution by Sex (INEC projection 2025)

	Urban	Rural	Total
Men	481.415	365.958	**847.373**
Women	516.093	351.591	**867.684**
Total	997.508	717.549	**1'715.057**
% Rural		**41,84%**	

Source: INEC — Population Projections 2025.

41.84% of the provincial population lives in rural areas (717,549 people), making Manabí one of the provinces with the highest rural share on Ecuador's coast. Among women, 40.52% live in rural areas (351,591), a figure of particular relevance in the context of the International Year of Women Farmers 2026.




Establishment of nurseries through the Producer Schools "Nacional" cacao variety.

2.4 RURAL WOMEN IN MANABÍ

NEW 2025 — Section introduced in the context of the International Year of Women Farmers (IYWF 2026)

Manabí is a province with a strong agricultural and rural vocation. Of the 867,684 women living in the province (INEC projection 2025), 351,591 reside in rural areas, representing 40.52% of the total female population. This figure positions Manabí as one of the coastal provinces of Ecuador with the highest proportion of rural women.

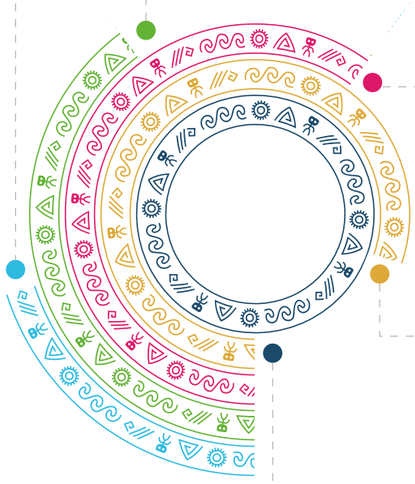
Rural women in Manabí play a central role in the provincial agri-food chain: they are direct producers of the crops that sustain local food security (cocoa, coffee, maize, plantain, seafood), processors of foods that shape ancestral gastronomy, and transmitters of intergenerational culinary knowledge that today positions Manabí as World Region of Gastronomy 2026.

Demographic Profile of Rural Women in Manabí

Indicador	Valor	Fuente
Población femenina total	867.684	INEC 2025
Mujeres en área urbana	516.093 (59,48%)	INEC 2025
Mujeres en área rural	351.591 (40,52%)	INEC 2025
Mujeres rurales 15–64 años (edad productiva)	~230.000 (estimado)	INEC 2025
Pobreza multidimensional provincial	51,0%	ENEMDU 2025

The convergence between the World Region of Gastronomy 2026 designation and the IYWF 2026 creates an unprecedented window of opportunity to highlight and strengthen the role of women farmers in Manabí. Prefecture programmes that directly benefit this group include livestock field schools, community irrigation systems, "100% Made in Manabí" local production fairs, and training in agroecological practices, all documented as good practices in the corresponding SDG fiches of this report.

2.5 INVESTMENT 2019-2025



Sustainable Living Manabí
-Physical-Environmental.
-Environment.
-Risks.
-Climate Change.

Integrated Manabí
-Settlements.
-Mobility, Connectivity.
-Road and Water Infrastructure.

Human-Centered Manabí
-Social Justice and Territorial Equity.
-Prevention of Violence and Priority Care.
-Ancestral Heritage and Cultural Diversity.
-Human Security and Peaceful Coexistence.

Prosperous Manabí
-Productive Economy.
-Tourism.
-Agricultural Sector.

Strategic Manabí
-Institutional Strengthening.
-International Cooperation.
-Coordination with Territorial Stakeholders.
-Citizen Participation.

This investment has been strategically distributed among the five structural axes defined by the Manabí territorial model "Manabí5i" which articulates institutional actions with the vision of the territory as a living and sustainable, integrated, human, productive, and strategic space:

LIVING AND SUSTAINABLE MANABÍ:

Environment and Water (AII)
Investments in Environment and water infrastructure, prioritizing the management of basins, micro-basis, and resilient ecological system.

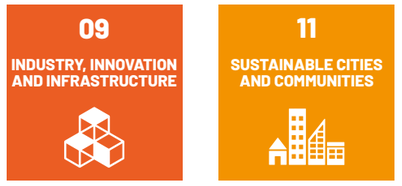
$ 11'399.151,74
This is the total investment from 2019 to 2025.



INTEGRATED MANABÍ:

Infrastructure (IF)
Works in roads, transportation systems, irrigation, and drainage, which strengthen territorial integration and productive connectivity.

$490'890.964,40
This is the total investment from 2019 to 2025.



HUMAN MANABÍ:

Socioeconomic (SE)
Projects focused on socioeconomic development, social rights, tourism promotion, and local productive dynamics.

$50'799.416,02
This is the total investment from 2019 to 2022.



PROSPEROUS MANABÍ:

Territorial Planning (TP)
Projects that promote sustainable productivity, encouraging inclusion with equity, innovation, and preservation of Manabí culture.

$17'844.298,64
This is the total investment from 2019 to 2022.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

08 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

STRATEGIC MANABÍ:

Institutional (I)
Initiatives for industrial strengthening, national and international technical cooperation, and the promotion of citizen participation.

$3'278.773,78
This is the total investment from 2019 to 2022.

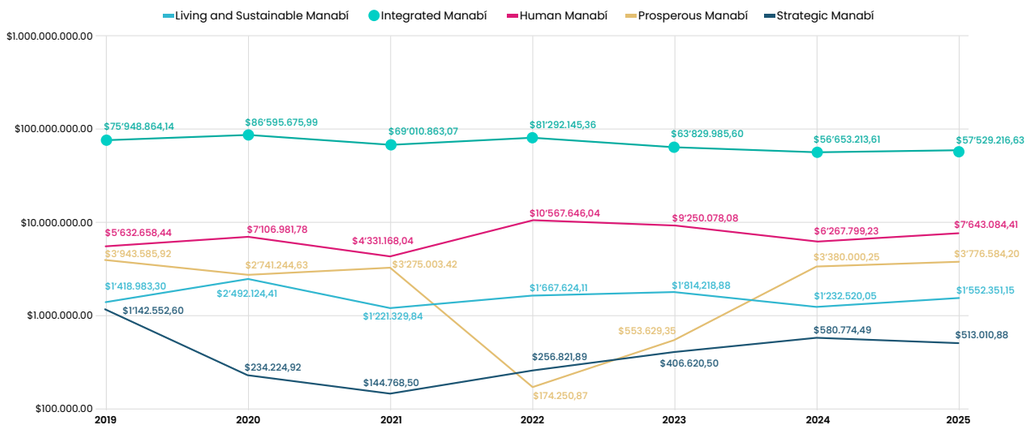
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Accumulated Investment by Axis of the Manabí PDOT							
Axis	**2019**	**2019-2020**	**2019-2021**	**2019-2022**	**2019-2023**	**2019-2024**	**2019-2025**
Living and Sustainable Manabí	$1,418,983.30	$3,911,107.71	$5,132,437.55	$6,800,061.66	$8,614,280.54	$9,846,800.59	$11,399,151.74
Integrated Manabí	$75,948,864.14	$162,544,540.13	$231,555,403.20	$312,847,548.56	$376,677,534.16	$433,330,747.77	$490,859,964.40
Human Manabí	$5,632,658.44	$12,739,640.22	$17,070,808.26	$27,638,454.30	$36,888,532.38	$43,156,331.61	$50,799,416.02
Prosperous Manabí	$3,943,585.92	$6,684,830.55	$9,959,833.97	$10,134,084.84	$10,687,714.19	$14,067,714.44	$17,844,298.64
Strategic Manabí	$1,142,552.60	$1,376,777.52	$1,521,546.02	$1,778,367.91	$2,184,988.41	$2,765,762.90	$3,278,773.78

Annual Investment by Axis of the Manabí PDOT

Logarithmic scale in US dollars



The cumulative investment by the Prefecture of Manabí over the period 2019–2025 amounts to USD 574,181,604.58, strategically distributed across the five PDOT Strategic Pillars. The Integrated Manabí pillar accounts for 85.5% of total investment (USD 490,859,964.40), reflecting the institutional priority placed on road and water infrastructure as a driver of territorial cohesion.

This is followed by the Human-Centred Manabí pillar with 8.8% (USD 50,799,416.02), focused on socioeconomic development and support for priority groups.

In 2025, total annual investment reached USD 71,014,247.27, with the following distribution across the SDGs:

SDG	Living and Sustainable Manabí	Integrated Manabí	Human Manabí	Prosperous Manabí	Strategic Manabí	Total SDG
01 NO POVERTY	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 283.512,79	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 283.512,79**
02 ZERO HUNGER	$ 0,00	$ 5'992.334,06	$ 0,00	$ 1'309.063,03	$ 0,00	**$ 7'301.397,09**
03 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 3'814.727,69	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 3'814.727,69**
04 QUALITY EDUCATION	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 697.908,66	$ 290.576,07	$ 0,00	**$ 988.484,73**
05 GENDER EQUALITY	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 2'846.935,27	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 2'846.935,27**
06 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	$ 0,00	$ 3'017.573,64	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 3'017.573,64**
07 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 0,00**
08 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 2'004.413,93	$ 0,00	**$ 2'004.413,93**
09 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	$ 0,00	$ 48,519,308.93	$ 0,00	$ 31.394,48	$ 0,00	**$ 48'585.581,41**
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 34.878,00	**$ 0,00**
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 141.136,69	$ 0,00	**$ 141,136.69**
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 0,00**
13 CLIMATE ACTION	$ 273.621,14	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 273.621,14**
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 0,00**
15 LIFE ON LAND	$ 1'278.730,01	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 1'278.730,01**
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 478.132,8	**$ 478.132,8**
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	$ 0,00	**$ 0,00**
Total of the PDOT Axis	**$ 1'552.351,15**	**$ 57'529.216,63**	**$ 7'643.084,41**	**$ 3'776.584,20**	**$ 513.010,88**	**$ 71'014.247,27**

The concentration of 2025 investment in SDG 9 (68.4%) is consistent with the largest gap identified by the TPI in the Infrastructure Development dimension (weight: 26.77%). SDGs 2, 3, 6, and 5 together receive the remaining 23.9%, aligned with the Human-Centred Manabí and Living and Sustainable Manabí PDOT pillars.

The 2025 SDG investment table shows zero coded allocation for Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), despite the "Manabí SDG Territory" conceptual framework presented in Section 3.1, which links the five PDOT pillars with the 17 SDGs. This apparent paradox is explained by the logic of the Contribution to the 2030 Agenda Methodology V.2025 and by the distribution of responsibilities among the different levels of government in Ecuador.

ONE-TO-ONE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN PDOT TARGETS AND SDG TARGETS

The quantitative methodology requires each target of the 2023–2027 Territorial Development and Land Use Plan (PDOT) to be linked to a specific Sustainable Development Goal target and to a unique budget code (for example, FM_PDOT_MI_15 for the length of roads constructed, aligned with SDG 9.1). The system does not allow the same investment to be counted simultaneously under two SDGs, even when a project conceptually contributes to several of them. The methodology prioritizes allocation to the SDG most directly related to the corresponding legal competence under COOTAD and PDOT guidelines, thereby avoiding double counting that would distort the calculation of the overall contribution.

SDG 7 - AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY The provision of electricity is an exclusive responsibility of the Central Government (through the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the National Electricity Corporation, CNEL EP). The Prefecture of Manabí does not build power generation plants or electricity distribution networks; therefore, there are no PDOT targets with their own budget code directly aligned with SDG 7. However, the institution contributes indirectly to this Goal: the good practice "Solar Lighting Systems on Bridges" — the installation of autonomous photovoltaic lighting systems on twelve bridges within the provincial road network, with an investment of USD 7,763,115.82 financed by the Development Bank of Ecuador — contributes transversally to SDG 7, but its budget code is aligned with SDG 9 (Infrastructure) because its primary PDOT target concerns bridge construction and improvement. This logic explains why the investment appears under SDG 9 in the quantitative table, even though the SDG 7 section reports the initiative as a representative good practice.

SDG 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES The PDOT indicator originally associated with this SDG (FM_PDOT_AH36 — management of rural land legalization processes) was implemented during the 2021–2023 PDOT with budgets of USD 57,938 in 2022 and USD 115,760 in 2023, benefiting 159 and 300 families respectively. This indicator was not replicated in the current 2023–2027 PDOT and therefore does not appear with a dedicated budget allocation in 2024 and 2025. Prefecture action aimed at reducing inequalities nevertheless continues through investments in: (i) support for victims of gender-based violence and LGBTIQ+ public policies, accounted for under SDG 5; (ii) Child Development Centers and the "Breaking Barriers" physical rehabilitation program, accounted for under SDG 3; and (iii) comprehensive humanitarian assistance, accounted for under SDG 1. The SDG 10 section documents these actions as transversal contributions without double counting.

SDG 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER Fisheries management, regulation of aquaculture activities, and administration of marine protected areas are responsibilities of the Central Government through the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition. Under COOTAD, the Prefecture does not hold exclusive competence over marine resources. Nevertheless, the Prefecture of Manabí implements the Artisanal Fishing School (USD 301,782.63; 821 fishers strengthened in 2025), whose budget code is aligned with SDG 8 (Decent Work) because its primary PDOT target focuses on strengthening the productive capacities of fishers. The SDG 14 section documents this initiative as a transversal contribution.

SDG 17 - PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS Strategic partnerships constitute a transversal dimension of all institutional management. Every agreement with UNDP, INEC, CONGOPE, GIZ, CAF, IGCAT, UCLG, Regions4, the five universities in Manabí, and the other partners documented in this VLR is implemented through projects whose investments are accounted for under the corresponding sectoral SDG (roads under SDG 9, conservation under SDGs 13 and 15, gastronomy under SDG 8, etc.). The methodology does not separately account for an "interinstitutional coordination" budget line because doing so would duplicate sectoral investment. The SDG 17 section reports the coded institutional indicators — strengthening of the Local Information System (SIL), planning compliance, transparency, and publication of data — as well as the territorial indicators on international cooperation and own-source revenue collection that measure the diversification of funding sources.

READING IMPLICATION
The absence of investment with a dedicated budget code in these four SDGs does not imply the absence of action by the Prefecture of Manabí related to them. It simply means that the quantitative contribution methodology, for reasons of anti-duplication rigor and respect for the competences established under COOTAD, allocates investments to the SDG most directly linked to the target, while the descriptive section of each SDG documents transversal practices that activate additional goals. This is the same logic applied by other international frameworks for measuring subnational contributions to the 2030 Agenda and validated by the technical partners of the Prefecture.

2.6 SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS HARMONIZED WITH THE 2024 VLR
The 2024 Voluntary Local Review (VLR) reported six headline socioeconomic indicators with provincial-level disaggregation. To ensure year-to-year comparability, the 2025 VLR updates these same six indicators and presents them in the following table, where the "2024 VLR" column reproduces the values published in the previous report (mostly referring to statistical year 2022 or to the May 2024 cutoff date), while the "2025 VLR" column reports the most recent value available as of the end of 2025.

Indicator (standardized with ILV 2024)	Value reported in ILV 2024	Value reported in ILV 2025	Variation	Source and cutoff year 2025
GVA per capita in Manabí	$3.379,85 (Manabí 2022)	**$3.752,58 (Manabí 2024)**	+11,02 %	BCE Provincial National Accounts (2024 prov.)
Total GVA of Manabí (USD)	$5.380 billion (4.06% of Ecuador's GVA, year 2022)	**$6.377 billion (5.15% of Ecuador's GVA, year 2024)**	+18,53 %	BCE, National Accounts (provisional data)
Average salary in formal employment – Total	$770,38	**$792,82**	+2,91 %	IESS administrative records, ENEMDU 2025
Average salary – Women (formal employment)	$786,77	**$808,43**	+2,76 %	IESS / INEC ENEMDU 2025
Average salary – Men (formal employment)	$756,94	**$780,19**	+3,07 %	IESS / INEC ENEMDU 2025
IESS affiliates in Manabí	159,281 (13 out of every 100 inhabitants, cutoff May 2024)	**59,469 (12 out of every 100 inhabitants, cutoff December 2025)**	+0.12% (coverage decreases due to population growth)	IESS, Monthly Affiliate Bulletin
Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000 inhabitants)	51,08	**74,11**	+45,09 %	National Police, Homicide Statistics 2025
% of the country's university professionals residing in Manabí	4,17%	**8.22% (10,147 Manabí graduates out of 123,378 national graduates in 2024)**	+97,1 %	SENESCYT, Degree Registry 2024

Consolidated sources: BCE — Provincial National Accounts (2024 provisional); INEC — ENEMDU 2025 and demographic projections; IESS — Monthly Affiliates Bulletin; National Police of Ecuador; SENESCYT — National Academic Degree Registry. The note "formal employment" in the average salary indicator reflects the fact that the IESS-ENEMDU source only records individuals affiliated with the social security system; therefore, the indicator does not capture income from self-employment, seasonal agricultural day labor, or underemployment in the urban informal trade sector, which are predominant forms of employment within Manabí's occupational structure and where the gender gap operates in the opposite direction.

NEW INDICATORS INCORPORATED IN THE 2025 VLR

In addition to the six harmonized indicators, the 2025 VLR incorporates for the first time four metrics that were not reported in the headline table of the 2024 VLR or were only mentioned qualitatively. These indicators enrich the provincial diagnosis and provide a more comprehensive baseline for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, and 10.

New indicator in VLR 2025	2025 Value	Status in VLR 2024 and source
Quarterly remittances received in Manabí	**$62 million (3rd quarter 2025)**	VLR 2024: mentioned qualitatively, without figure. Source: BCE – quarterly remittance statistics by province.
Unemployment rate	**2,4 %**	VLR 2024: not reported on the cover page. Source: INEC – ENEMDU Annual 2025.
Adequate employment rate	**29,3 %**	VLR 2024: not reported on the cover page. Source: INEC – ENEMDU Annual 2025.
Pobreza multidimensional provincial	**51,0 %**	VLR 2024: not reported on the cover page. Source: INEC – ENEMDU 2025; data consistent with SDG 1 fact sheet (indicator 1.2.2 = 51.01%).

INTERPRETATIVE READING OF THE 2024–2025 EVOLUTION

The year-to-year comparison should be interpreted with caution. The headline indicators presented in the VLR reflect economic, social, and demographic processes shaped by multiple converging factors — including national Executive policies, international cocoa and banana price cycles, migration and remittance dynamics, national labor market conditions, the evolution of organized crime along Ecuador's coast, and lingering post-pandemic effects, among others. The management of the Prefecture of Manabí constitutes a contribution within this broader framework, rather than the sole explanatory factor. The following section provides an interpretation by thematic block.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY The 18.53% growth in total GVA and the 11.02% increase in GVA per capita represent the most significant change of the biennium. This can be explained by at least four converging factors: (i) the recovery of international cocoa prices — the province's main agro-export product — whose market value doubled between 2023 and 2024; (ii) the maturation of provincial road infrastructure investments implemented during the 2019–2024 period, which reduced logistics costs and opened new markets for rural producers; (iii) the dynamization of domestic consumption through remittances; and (iv) national macroeconomic stabilization following the 2023–2024 energy crisis. Provincial economic growth outpaced population growth, resulting in a real improvement in GVA per capita.

INCOME BY SEX AND THE PARTICULAR CASE OF MANABÍ COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE Two statistical sources confirm a sustained provincial characteristic in recent years: employed women in Manabí earn, on average, higher incomes than men. In formal employment (IESS average monthly salary), women recorded USD 808.43 compared to USD 780.19 for men in 2025, equivalent to a gender gap of –3.49%. In INEC indicator 8.5.1 (average hourly income measured through the Annual Cumulative ENEMDU, which covers the entire employed population and not only IESS affiliates), the provincial gap was 2.84% in 2025 and 6.64% in 2024, confirming that the pattern is not restricted to the formal segment.

This characteristic is atypical within the Ecuadorian context: the 2025 national average shows a +5.94% gap in favor of men, rising to +14.96% in rural areas nationwide. Alongside Manabí, only Bolívar, Galápagos, and Santa Elena recorded negative gender gaps in 2025.

The most plausible explanation lies in occupational composition. Male labor in Manabí is concentrated in the informal primary sector — agricultural day labor, artisanal fishing, small-scale livestock farming, and informal urban trade — activities characterized by volatile and seasonal incomes that lower the male average. Employed women, by contrast, have a relatively higher participation in qualified service sectors (education, health, public administration, and formal commerce), where institutionalized incomes are more stable. Higher levels of female tertiary education, documented elsewhere in this VLR, reinforce this compositional effect.

This interpretation should not be understood as evidence that gender gaps have been closed in the province. Structural inequality persists in dimensions not captured by the hourly income indicator: lower female labor force participation, a greater burden of unpaid care work, lower ownership of rural land, gaps in access to productive credit, and the persistence of gender-based violence. Provincial multidimensional poverty in 2025 (51.01%) affects rural women more severely, which justifies the priority given in this report to productive empowerment programs for women farmers, in line with the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026. A comprehensive analysis of the gender situation is presented in Section 2.5 and in the SDG 5 profile.

IESS AFFILIATION AND EFFECTIVE COVERAGE The absolute number of IESS affiliates increased by only 188 individuals during the period, while the coverage rate declined from 13 to 12 affiliates per 100 inhabitants. This trend reflects that formal employment growth failed to keep pace with population growth, representing a structural warning sign for SDG 8 and should be interpreted alongside the provincial underemployment rate of 27.3% reported by the annual ENEMDU survey.

DETERIORATION OF CITIZEN SECURITY The intentional homicide rate increased from 51.08 to 74.11 per 100,000 inhabitants (+45.09%), making it the indicator with the greatest deterioration during the period. Available evidence points to an escalation of conflict among organized criminal groups disputing control over illicit trafficking routes along Ecuador's coast (Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Guayas, and El Oro), a phenomenon whose management exceeds the competences of the Prefecture and requires a multilevel response from the Ecuadorian State.
The Prefecture of Manabí contributes within its own competences through the Peaceful Coexistence and Violence Prevention Plan (presented at the OAS Convention in Washington in 2025), and through the Observatory for Sustainable Development and Human Security, which provides evidence for territorial decision-making.

HUMAN CAPITAL Manabí's share of the country's university graduates nearly doubled (from 4.17% to 8.22%). This increase reflects two combined effects: on the one hand, a genuine improvement in the provincial higher education system (seven universities and seven technological institutes, several of which were created or strengthened during the last five years); and on the other, improved statistical capture within SENESCYT records, which in previous years tended to underreport graduates from coastal provinces.

ADEQUATE EMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY The three new indicators confirm the structural nature of Manabí's economy: low levels of full formal employment (29.3%), high underemployment (27.3% according to the Annual ENEMDU 2024, the second-highest rate in the country), and multidimensional poverty affecting 51% of the population. These figures frame the challenges of the 2030 Agenda within the province and guide the prioritization of public investment toward productive infrastructure, strengthening agro-food value chains, and the economic empowerment of rural women — pillars that structure the SDG profiles included in this report.

METHODOLOGICAL REITERATION The variations presented in this table result from the convergence of policies and dynamics that exceed the scope of the Prefecture of Manabí. The VLR documents the specific contribution of the Prefecture within this concurrent and complementary framework, but does not attribute territorial progress or setbacks exclusively to the institution. A comprehensive interpretation of the institutional contribution is developed in Section 4 of the report.

3. THE PREFECTURE OF MANABÍ AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3.1 ALIGNMENT OF THE PDOT 2023-2027 WITH THE 2030 AGENDA

The Prefecture of Manabí, through its various planning instruments, sets out a comprehensive vision for development focused on territorial equity. The Territorial Development and Land Use Plan (PDOT) of the Prefecture of Manabí has been designed in accordance with the guidelines required for its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

Through joint work with a technical team from UN-Habitat, the first step toward aligning the PDOT with the SDGs was the definition of the provincial territory based on a forward-looking analysis of territorial development, with a time horizon to 2030, in order to align with the timeframe of the Agenda.

The Territorial Development and Land Use Plan for the 2023–2027 period maintains this forward-looking vision and is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the National Development Plan. Its planning structure is based on dividing territorial development into five Strategic Pillars, each containing strategic objectives with their respective targets, as well as programmes with their own targets.



MANABÍ TERRITORY SDGs

PDOT AXES

- Strategic Manabí
- Human Manabí
- Living and Sustainable Manabí
- Integrated Manabí
- Prosperous Manabí

SDGs

- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 03 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 04 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 05 GENDER EQUALITY
- 10 REDUCCIÓN DE LAS DESIGUALDADES
- 06 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15 LIFE ON LAND
- 09 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 01 NO POVERTY
- 02 ZERO HUNGER
- 08 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

5P

- PEOPLE
- PEACE
- PARTNERSHIPS / ALLIANCE
- PLANET
- PROSPERITY

3.2 METHODOLOGY V.2025 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the VLR 2025, **the Methodology for Contribution to the 2030 Agenda remains unchanged from the version applied in the VLR 2024.** This confirms the robustness and replicability of the instrument, which was developed collaboratively by the Prefecture of Manabí, UNDP, the National Planning Secretariat (SNP), INEC, CONGOPE, and five universities from Manabí (UTM, ULEAM, UNESUM, ESPAMMFL, USGP).

The methodological framework is structured in three sequential stages:

- **STAGE 1 — STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:** Connects global frameworks (SDGs) and national frameworks (National Development Plan) with the provincial context. These are linked to the Territorial Prosperity Index (TPI), developed with UN-Habitat, which identifies the territory's priority needs. This is then translated into the PDOT 2023–2027 (Territorial Development and Land Use Plan) and operationalized through the Annual Operational Plan (AOP).

- **STAGE 2 - CALCULATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PREFECTURE OF MANABÍ:** Addresses key questions: How much does the Prefecture financially contribute to the 2030 Agenda? How much of the budget is allocated to its implementation? Which SDGs receive the highest investment? The calculation incorporates the investment budget allocated to each PDOT target, weighted by the TPI to reflect territorial priorities.

- **STAGE 3 - CALCULATION OF PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL PROGRESS:** Calculation of Provincial Territorial Progress: Measures how Manabí improves as a whole over time. It uses 36 territorial impact indicators selected with INEC and the SNP, with annual frequency and provincial-level disaggregation. Annual variation is calculated by SDG and weighted by the TPI to provide a consolidated view.

To access the full Methodology V.2025 document, scan the QR code below or visit: shorturl.ly/jM6S2



Field day at the agricultural Producer Schools in the Bolívar canton.



Producer Schools in the Bolívar canton, jointly with the communities of Casa Vieja, Venturita and Mamey Colorado.

3.3 LOCAL4ACTION MANABÍ 2030

Local4Action is a platform promoted by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to recognize initiatives for the localization of the 2030 Agenda that are replicable and scalable across different levels of government.

Until 2022, the Local4Action HUB recognition had only been granted to local governments. The Prefecture of Manabí, together with the Government of Córdoba (Argentina) and Nouakchott (Mauritania), were the first regional governments to be accepted and recognized for their initiatives on the platform.

To strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Provincial Government submitted and approved, in plenary session of the Provincial Council, the Declaration of Manabí as an SDG Territory on October 30, 2023. Subsequently, in January 2024, the Provincial Council issued the ordinance establishing the pillars of Manabí SDG Territory:

1. **ALIGNMENT WITH THE 2030 AGENDA:** Promote the achievement of the SDGs in the province.
2. **FOSTERING INNOVATION:** Productive innovation programmes, support for entrepreneurship, and technology transfer.
3. **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**: E-government, connectivity, and the use of ICTs in education and health
4. **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Citizen participation, transparency, and anti-corruption efforts.

2025 UPDATE

In 2025, the Local4Action Manabí 2030 platform shows significant progress. The Municipality of Manta joined as the first cantonal government to begin preparing its own Voluntary Local Review, replicating the provincial methodology with technical assistance from the Prefecture of Manabí.

Looking ahead to 2026, Manabí's participation in the UCLG World Congress in Tangier (June 2026) represents an opportunity to showcase the platform's progress to the global community of local and regional governments. The "100 Days of Multilateralism" initiative, led by UCLG, will culminate at the High-Level Political Forum in New York (July 2026), where Manabí aims to present its experience.

3.4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY OBSERVATORY

NUEVO 2025 — Sección incorporada por primera vez en el ILV

The Sustainable Development and Human Security Observatory (ODSSH) is the institutional research and knowledge-generation platform of the Prefecture of Manabí, attached to the Directorate of Planning for Development. Its strategic objective is to provide rigorous, timely, and disaggregated evidence to support the formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of provincial public policy across three complementary domains: sustainable development aligned with the 2030 Agenda, human security in its dimensions of peaceful coexistence and risk management, and climate action articulated with the territory's international commitments. The Observatory thus constitutes the territorial intelligence infrastructure that makes it possible to go beyond the annual VLR and transform the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals into a permanent, data-driven exercise open to public scrutiny.

THEMATIC AXES

The Observatory organizes its work around three axes corresponding to the major dimensions of provincial policy:

1. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** Encompasses the measurement and monitoring of the province's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, the elaboration of the annual Voluntary Local Reviews—this document being its main output—the periodic update of the Territorial Prosperity Index together with UN-Habitat, and the generation of territorial progress indicators by Goal. This axis operates under the V.2025 Methodology developed jointly with UNDP, INEC, CONGOPE, and five universities in Manabí
2. **HUMAN SECURITY:** Investigates the territorial dimensions of human security, with an emphasis on peaceful coexistence, risk management, and the protection of rights. Its outputs support the updating of the Peaceful Coexistence and Violence Prevention Plan presented at the OAS Convention in Washington in 2025, as well as provincial public policies for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Promotion of the Rights of Adolescents and Young People, and the Promotion and Defence of the Rights of LGBTIQ+ Persons.
3. **CLIMATE CHANGE:** Monitors climate indicators, analyses the territorial vulnerability of the coastal and inland areas of the province, and tracks the adaptation and mitigation actions promoted by the Prefecture. This axis is directly articulated with the Scaling Up Ecosystem-based Adaptation Measures Programme (EbA LAC) implemented by GIZ, with the Provincial System of Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (SPACUSM, 241,431.39 hectares across five declared ACUS), and with the Provincial Observatory Network.

INTERINSTITUTIONAL NETWORK

The Observatory's analytical strength rests on a network of scientific and technical cooperation that combines the provincial academic sector, national statistical system bodies, and peer observatories from other jurisdictions. This network operates through formal agreements and permanent technical working groups.

UNIVERSITIES OF MANABÍ

The Observatory maintains permanent academic ties with six universities in the province: the Technical University of Manabí (UTM), the Laica Eloy Alfaro University of Manabí (ULEAM)—headquartered in Manta and offering a specialised programme in Nautical Mechanical Engineering—, the State University of Southern Manabí (UNESUM), the Agro-industrial Higher Polytechnic School of Manabí Manuel Félix López (ESPAM MFL), the San Gregorio University of Portoviejo (USGP), and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Manabí campus (PUCE-Manabí). These alliances underpin the methodological rigour of the Research System, assign researchers and thesis students to the

Observatory's priority lines, and provide academic endorsement for the analytical outputs produced.

QUITO METROPOLITAN DISTRICT — METROPOLITAN OBSERVATORY FOR CITIZEN SECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

An interinstitutional cooperation agreement for the exchange of citizen security measurement methodologies, the transfer of best practices in urban risk management, and mutual learning between two leading subnational observatories in Ecuador. This agreement strengthens the analytical capacity of the human security axis and enables Manabí to incorporate instruments tested in metropolitan contexts..

INTEGRATED SECURITY SERVICE ECU 911

An agreement for access to, processing of, and aggregated publication of operational data on emergencies attended across the provincial territory. The integration of ECU 911 records with INEC vital statistics and National Police data makes it possible to build a panel of human security indicators with cantonal and parish-level disaggregation.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND CENSUS (INEC)

An agreement for the exchange of calculation methodologies, the validation of the territorial indicator batteries associated with the V.2025 Methodology, and access to disaggregated microdata for specialised analyses (ENEMDU, ESPAC, Vital Statistics, 2022 Census). This agreement guarantees the statistical traceability and replicability of the VLR.

The network is complemented by coordination with peer observatories within the framework of Manabí's Provincial Observatory Network, as well as operational links with CONGOPE, UNDP Ecuador, GIZ, Regions4, and UCLGU.

PRODUCTS AND DISSEMINATION TOOLS

Since its consolidation, the Observatory has delivered concrete analytical products that have informed provincial policy decisions. Among the most significant:

(i) The four consecutive Voluntary Local Reviews of the province (VLR 2022, 2023, 2024, and the present VLR 2025), which have positioned Manabí as the first subnational government in Ecuador and one of the few in Latin America to sustain this accountability exercise without interruption.

(ii) The 2025 update of the Peaceful Coexistence and Violence Prevention Plan, grounded in original research on the dynamics of intentional homicide in the province and presented at the Organization of American States Convention in Washington in 2025.

(iii) The V.2025 Methodology for the Contribution of the Provincial GAD to the 2030 Agenda, validated by UNDP, the National Planning Secretariat, INEC, CONGOPE, and the five universities in the academic network, and published as an autonomous methodological document replicable at the national level.

(iv) Interactive dashboards in Power BI, publicly available at observatorio.manabi.gob.ec, enabling consultation of territorial indicators by SDG, public investment aligned to each Goal, and institutional contribution results. These dashboards are open to citizens, academics, cooperation partners, and decision-makers, giving concrete expression to the open government principle that guides Manabí 5i.

The Observatory's sustainability is projected as a medium-term institutional infrastructure: beyond the annual VLR, the goal is to consolidate the permanent monitoring system that will enable Manabí to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 with evidence, transparency, and participation.

ODSSH website:
observatorio.manabi.gob.ec



Margarita García, a Manabí weaver from the Picoazá parish, weaving a toquilla straw hat.

4. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PROVINCE TO THE 2030 AGENDA

4.1 TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES – TERRITORIAL PROSPERITY INDEX

In 2021, the UN-Habitat team collaborated with the Prefecture of Manabí to establish the Territorial Prosperity Index (TPI), an adaptation of the City Prosperity Index (CPI) for the regional level. The TPI identifies five development dimensions, for each of which both the level of progress and the remaining gap are calculated:

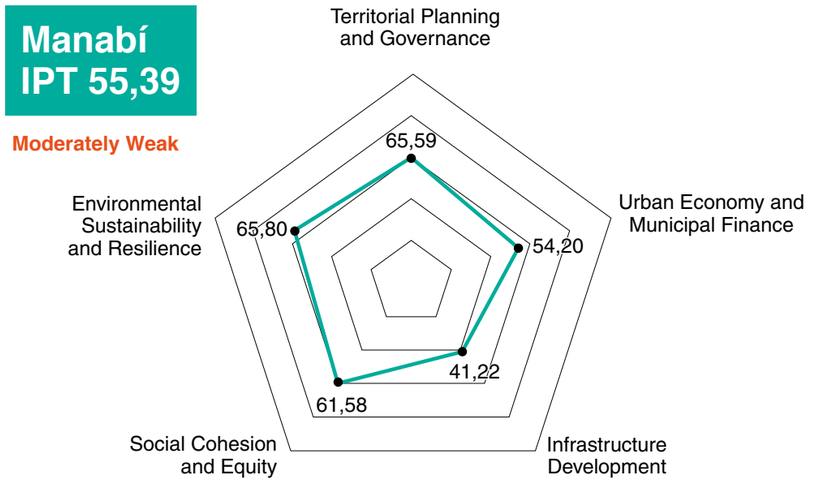
IPT Dimension	Value	Weight (W)	Linked SDGs
Social Cohesion and Equity	61,58	17,49%	SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10
Urban Economy and Finance	54,20	20,86%	SDG 8
Infrastructure Development	41,22	26,77%	SDGs 9, 11
Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	57,80	19,22%	SDGs 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15
Territorial Planning and Governance	65,59	15,67%	SDGs 16, 17
Global IPT Manabí	**55,39**	**100%**	**17 SDGs**

Source: ON-Habitat / Prefecture of Manabí, 2021. Overall Classification: Weak to Moderate.

The dimension with the largest gap is Infrastructure Development (weight: 26.77%), which explains why SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) receive the highest weighting in the calculation of both contribution and territorial progress. This result is consistent with the PDOT priority of concentrating public investment in road infrastructure, water systems, and productive connectivity.



Creation of the Network of Subnational Govern-ments for Productive Development together with ECLAC. Quito, Ecuador, June 2025.





4.2 TERRITORIAL PROGRESS OF THE PROVINCE OF MANABÍ

The calculation of Territorial Progress constitutes Stage 3 of Methodology V.2025. Through 36 territorial impact indicators jointly selected with INEC and the National Planning Secretariat (SNP), the annual variation of each indicator is measured, grouped by SDG using a simple average, and weighted by the TPI to obtain the Global Territorial Progress.

In other words, this measures how the province of Manabí progresses year by year toward achieving the SDG targets, incorporating the prioritization of territorial needs as defined by the Territorial Prosperity Index (TPI).

2025 Territorial Progress Results.

The consolidated calculation of Territorial Progress for 2025 in the province of Manabí shows a preliminary overall result of +0.17%, moderated by the weight of indicators still pending official release by INEC for 2025. Behind this aggregate figure lie highly uneven trajectories across dimensions: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience leads progress, driven by a 30.09% increase in forested and reforested area (SDG 15), while Territorial Planning and Governance declines due to the deterioration of indicator 16.1.1 (intentional homicides), which rose from 51.08 to 74.11 per 100,000 inhabitants in Manabí.

Among the positive results, Manabí shows a sustained reduction in extreme poverty (1.1.1), from 4.57% in 2021 to 2.40% in 2024, with a provisional estimate of 2.08% for 2025; a 26.92% increase in real provincial GDP per capita between 2021 and 2024 (from USD 2,956.72 to USD 3,752.58); near-universal access to electricity (7.1.1 = 99.82%); and a growing trend in electric and hybrid vehicles (from 0.45% in 2021 to 2.52% in 2025). Manufacturing employment (9.2.2) recovered from 10.12% to 11.80%, consolidating the role of the manufacturing sector in the provincial economy.

Among the negative or stagnant results are the worsening of indicator 16.1.1 —linked to territorial disputes among organized criminal groups for control of trafficking routes along the Ecuadorian coast—, stagnation in inequality (10.2.1 remained at approximately 20.72%), a slight deterioration in the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) (8.6.1 increased from 22.54% to 22.65%), and a persistent gap in public health, where most 2025 indicators still depend on official INEC data for updating. The Global Territorial Progress 2025 is therefore provisional and will be recalculated in the VLR 2026 once INEC publishes the final figures.

It is important to note that Territorial Progress measures the performance of the province as a whole and is not attributable exclusively to the Prefecture of Manabí. Governance within the province also involves the competencies of the 22 cantonal GADs and the 56 rural parish councils, as well as national government ministries. The Prefecture contributes within the scope of its exclusive and shared competencies; therefore, progress or setbacks in territorial indicators reflect the combined outcome of all levels of government and the national and international economic context.

SDGs	IPT Dimension	W	Var. 2022	Var. 2023	Var. 2024	Var. 2025	AT 2022	AT 2023	AT 2024	AT 2025	Mini-chart
01 NO POVERTY	Social Cohesion and Equity	2.92%	32.01%	-4.60%	-33.99%	7.57%	0.93%	-0.13%	-0.99%	0.22%	
02 ZERO HUNGER	Social Cohesion and Equity	2.92%	7.80%	-8.53%	8.47%	-	0.23%	-0.25%	0.25%	-	
03 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Social Cohesion and Equity	2.92%	5.99%	5.91%	-	-	0.17%	0.17%	-	-	
04 QUALITY EDUCATION	Social Cohesion and Equity	2.92%	-6.61%	-1.63%	-	-	-0.19%	-0.05%	-	-	
05 GENDER EQUALITY	Social Cohesion and Equity	2.92%	-35.92%	2.49%	28.08%	10.81	-1.05%	0.07%	0.82%	0.32%	
06 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
07 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	7.83%	10.84%	35.06%	24.55%	22.58%	0.85%	2.75%	1.92%	1.77%	
08 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	Urban Economy and Municipal Finance	20.86%	10.56%	15.33%	-2.90%	-2.24%	2.10%	3.20%	-0.61%	-0.47%	
09 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Infrastructure Development	26.77%	29.96%	-18.33%	9.47%	0.35%	8.02%	-4.91%	2.53%	0.09%	
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	Social Cohesion and Equity	2.92%	-9.54%	9.99%	-8.08%	-0.06%	-0.28%	-0.29%	-0.24%	0.00%	
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Infrastructure Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13 CLIMATE ACTION	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15 LIFE ON LAND	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	7.83%	-21.35%	-65.89%	100%	30.09%	-1.67%	-5.16%	7.83%	2.36%	
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	Planning and Governance	9.61%	-65.75%	-31.50%	4.53%	21.85%	-6.32%	-3.03%	0.44%	-2.10%	
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	Planning and Governance	9.61%	2.06%	9.63%	-13.08%	-	0.20%	0.92%	-1.26%	-	
			Variation in territorial progress toward compliance with the 2030 Agenda				**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	
							2.99%	**-6.12%**	**10.70%***	**2.19%***	

"*"Preliminary value because not all SDGs have reported indicators for 2024 and 2025.
"-" No indicator value for the evaluated year.

4.3 CONTRIBUTION OF THE PREFECTURE OF MANABÍ TO THE 2030 AGENDA

The overall contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda in 2025 reaches 80.78%, representing a positive variation of +5.21% compared to 76.78% recorded in 2024. This result marks the highest level in the series, surpassing the 80.56% achieved in 2022.

Evolution of the Contribution 2022–2025			
2022	2023	2024	2025
80,56%	67,46%	76,78%	80,78%
–	-16,26%	+13,81%	+5,21%

SDGs	IPT	(W)_2021-2023	(W)_2023-2027	(A) 2022	(A) 2023	(A) 2024	(A) 2025	(D) 2022	(D) 2023	(D) 2024	Var 2023	Var 2024	Var 2025
01 NO POVERTY	1	2.916%	3.499%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	2.92%	2,92%	3.50%	0.00%	20,00%	0,00%
02 ZERO HUNGER	1	2.916%	3.499%	70.45%	59,63%	15,64%	44,98%	2.05%	1,74%	0.55%	-15,36%	-68,53%	187,59%
03 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	1	2.916%	3.499%	100.00%	94.00%	94.58%	100.00%	2.92%	2,74%	3.31%	-6.00%	20,74%	5,73%
04 QUALITY EDUCATION	1	2.916%	3.499%	91.56%	96.20%	87.59%	100.00%	2.67%	2,80%	3.06%	5.07%	9.26%	14,17%
05 GENDER EQUALITY	1	2.916%	3.499%	100,00%	41.00%	100.00%	100.00%	2.92%	1,20%	3.50%	-59.00%	192,68%	0.00%
06 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	3	5.223%	5.223%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.22%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
07 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	3	0.000%	0.000%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
08 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	2	20.855%	20.855%	100,00%	100.00%	85.01%	87.21%	20.86%	20.86%	17.73%	0.00%	-14.99%	2,59%
09 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	4	13.383%	13.383%	83.16%	55,29%	62.57%	73.32%	11.13%	7.40%	8.37%	-33.51%	13.16%	17.18%
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	1	2.916%	0.000%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.92%	2,92%	0.00%	0.00%	-100,00%	0.00%
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	4	13.383%	13.383%	95.59%	96.05%	100.00%	100.00%	12.79%	12,85%	13.38%	0.49%	4.11%	0.00%
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	3	0.000%	0.000%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
13 CLIMATE ACTION	3	5.223%	5.223%	100.00%	5.86%	100.00%	100.00%	5.22%	0.31%	5.22%	-94.14%	1606.89%	0.00%
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	3	0.000%	0.000%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
15 LIFE ON LAND	3	5.223%	5.223%	93,01%	72.25%	71.02%	72.25%	4,86%	3,77%	3.71%	-22,32%	-1,70%	-1,74%
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	5	9.608%	9.608%	96.97%	82.89%	95.96%	100.00%	9.32%	7.96%	9.22%	-14.52%	15.77%	4,21%
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	5	9.608%	9.608%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
GADPM Contribution Index to the 2030 Agenda in Alignment with Territorial Needs and the PDOT								**80.56%**	**67.46%**	**76.78%**	**-16.26%**	**13.81%**	**5.21%**

ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF CONTRIBUTION BY SDG

The table of individual contribution by SDG reveals differentiated patterns in the 2022–2025 trajectory. The Contribution indicator (A) measures the percentage of compliance with PDOT indicators aligned with each SDG, weighted by the investment budget. The Weighted Contribution indicator (D) incorporates the TPI weight to reflect the relative importance of each SDG according to territorial priorities.

SDGs with stable 100% contribution (A): SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 6 (with no direct PDOT targets) maintain a 100% contribution throughout the period, indicating full compliance with their aligned PDOT indicators. SDGs 4 and 5 reflect the consistency of the Prefecture's social policies.

SDGs with the greatest increase in 2025: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) stands out, with a variation in contribution (A) of +187.59% between 2024 and 2025, rising from 44.98% to 100%. This reflects the full implementation of programmes related to irrigation systems, nurseries, and support for producers. SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) shows an increase of +4.21% in its weighted contribution.

SDGs with the highest weighted investment (D) in 2025: SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) accounts for the largest weighted contribution (18.19%), followed by SDG 11 (13.38%) and SDG 15 (9.61%). This is consistent with TPI priorities, which assign greater weight to the Infrastructure Development dimension (26.77%) and Environmental Sustainability and Resilience (19.22%).

SDGs with indirect or cross-cutting contribution: SDGs 7 (Energy), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) do not register PDOT targets with a dedicated budget allocation code during the period. However, they do receive real contributions from the Prefecture of Manabí through other investment lines —solar lighting in bridges (SDG 7), physical rehabilitation programmes and inclusion policies (SDG 10), the Agroecological Producer School and the "100% Made in Manabí" label (SDG 12), the Artisanal Fisheries School (SDG 14), and institutional innovation projects FM_PDOT_MP_37 and administrative sources FM_PDOT_ME_53/54/56 (SDG 17)— as well as through future projects currently under design. Their interpretation requires understanding contribution as cross-cutting, rather than as an absence of action.

Overall interpretation: The overall contribution of 80.78% in 2025 confirms sustained recovery following the 2023 decline (67.46%), with a variation of +13.81% compared to 2024 and +5.21% compared to the previous year. The four-year series (80.56% 67.46% 76.78% 80.78%) reflects a cycle of methodological adjustment followed by institutional recovery, reaching a historical high.

What does the "contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda" mean, and what about the remaining 19.22%?
The global contribution indicator of the Prefecture of Manabí compares what the institution could contribute —based on its competencies and the budget planned in the PDOT 2023–2027— with what it effectively delivered in 2025. This is measured as the percentage of compliance with PDOT indicators aligned with each SDG, weighted by executed investment and by the relative weight of each dimension of the Territorial Prosperity Index (TPI). A contribution of 80.78% means that the Prefecture fulfilled 80.78% of what it had planned to implement under its own planning framework; it does not mean that 80.78% of Manabí's territorial progress is attributable to the Prefecture.

The remaining 19.22% corresponds to PDOT targets under the Prefecture's responsibility that were not achieved in 2025 (i.e., indicators below 100% or without budget execution during the period), not to a share that must be covered by other actors. Within the provincial territory, the 22 cantonal GADs and the 56 rural parish councils also exercise their respective competencies (drinking water and sanitation, urban planning, intra-cantonal mobility, cemeteries, among others), as do national government ministries (health, education, security, environment). Full achievement of the 2030 Agenda in Manabí therefore requires coordination across all three levels of government, as well as engagement from the private sector, academia, and international cooperation. This report documents the specific contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí within this framework of shared responsibility and complementarity.

Figure 3.1. Level of GADPM Contribution to the SDGs (Projected Year 2025)

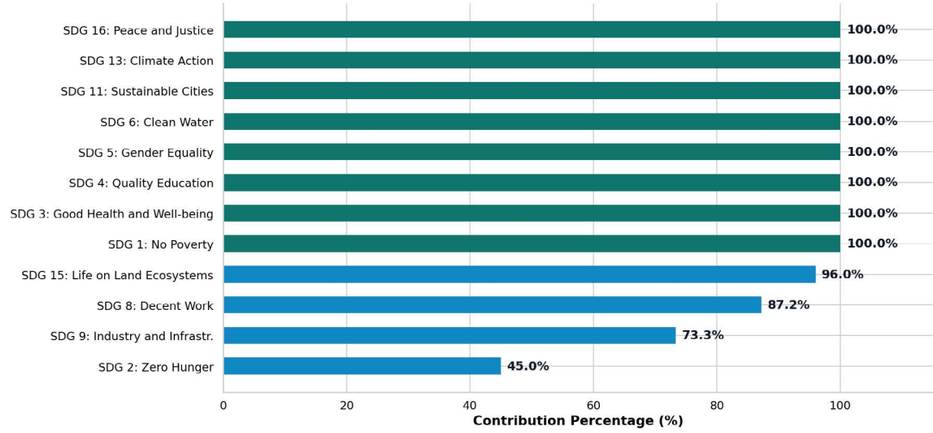


Figure 3.2. Strategic Alignment: Distribution of Targets by PDOT Axis grouped by SDGs (2025)

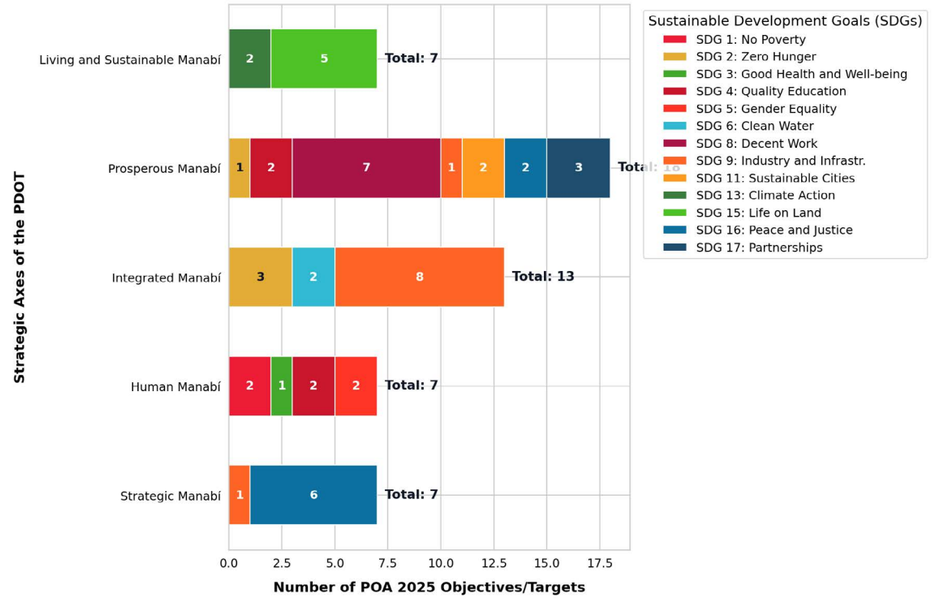
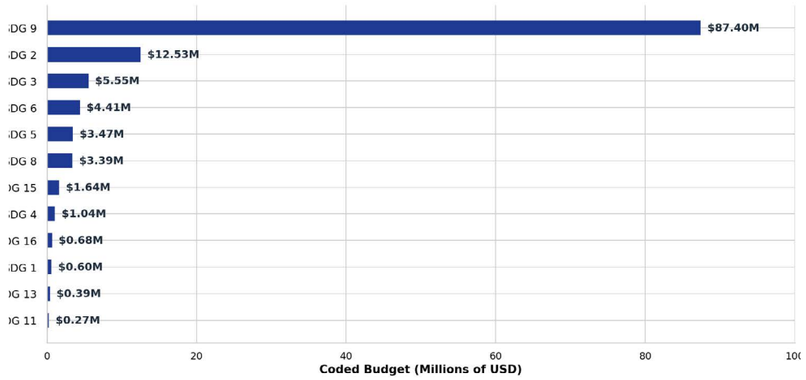


Figure 3.3. Distribution of Financial Investment (Coded Budget) by SDG in 2025



1 NO POVERTY

SDG1

SDG 1. NO POVERTY

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

1.1 - 1.2 Reduce urban–rural inequality gaps in poverty.

1.3 - 1.4 Promote comprehensive humanitarian assistance through plans, programmes, and projects that improve people's quality of life.

1.5 Mitigate the effects of emergencies and/or disasters through the timely delivery of food, technical, and humanitarian assistance to people in vulnerable conditions.

1.a Coordinate with different organizations to strengthen cooperation aimed at reducing poverty, mitigating the effects of emergencies, and improving the population's quality of life.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	2.92%	2.92%	3.50%	3.50%

TPI Dimension: Social Cohesion and Equity · Weight: 2.92%
Territorial Progress 2025 0.22%



Production of vitamin and nutritional blocks for livestock through the livestock-focused Producer Schools, in the Flavio Alfaro canton.

PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ Desarrollo y Equidad

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATOR

N°2	N°3	Type of alignment with the 2030 Agenda	Indicator name	Unidad	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objetive	Annual variation chart
1.1	1.1.1	2030 Agenda Indicators	Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line, disaggregated by sex, age, employment status, and geographic location (urban or rural)	Percentage	4.57	3.91	2.07	2.40	2.80	Decreasing	
1.2	1.2.1	2030 Agenda Indicators	Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, disaggregated by sex and age	Percentage	32.57	29.32	24.54	26.67	24.33	Decreasing	
1.2	1.2.2	2030 Agenda Indicators	Proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national	Percentage	49.9	48.1	39.4	43.8	51.01	Decreasing	
1.5	1.5.1	2030 Agenda Indicators	Number of deaths, missing persons, and people directly affected by disasters per 100,000 inhabitants	Percentage / 100,000.00	192.95	0	602,97	4723,21	3558,07	Decreasing	

** The annual variation values have a limit of -100% and +100% so as not to alter the final calculation. Values with this mark show growth or decline far above these limits.
Source: INEC (ENEMDU, ESPAC, Administrative Records), BCE, National Police. S/I = No information available.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual contribution to the SDG	Average unit investment
Number of people served through comprehensive humanitarian assistance (FM_PDOT_MH_29)	$384.026.05	$81.760.00	$284.600.72	$283.512.79	1.607.00	3.712.00	4..562.00	4.352.00		72.64 USD / Number of people
Number of families benefited through the construction of rural housing (FM_PDOT_MH_31)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0	0	0	0		0.00 USD / Number of families

Source: CEG GADPM. Note: This indicator has had no investment or intervention in the territory.



Production of vitamin and nutritional blocks for livestock through the livestock-focused Producer Schools, in the Flavio Alfaro canton.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INDICATORS

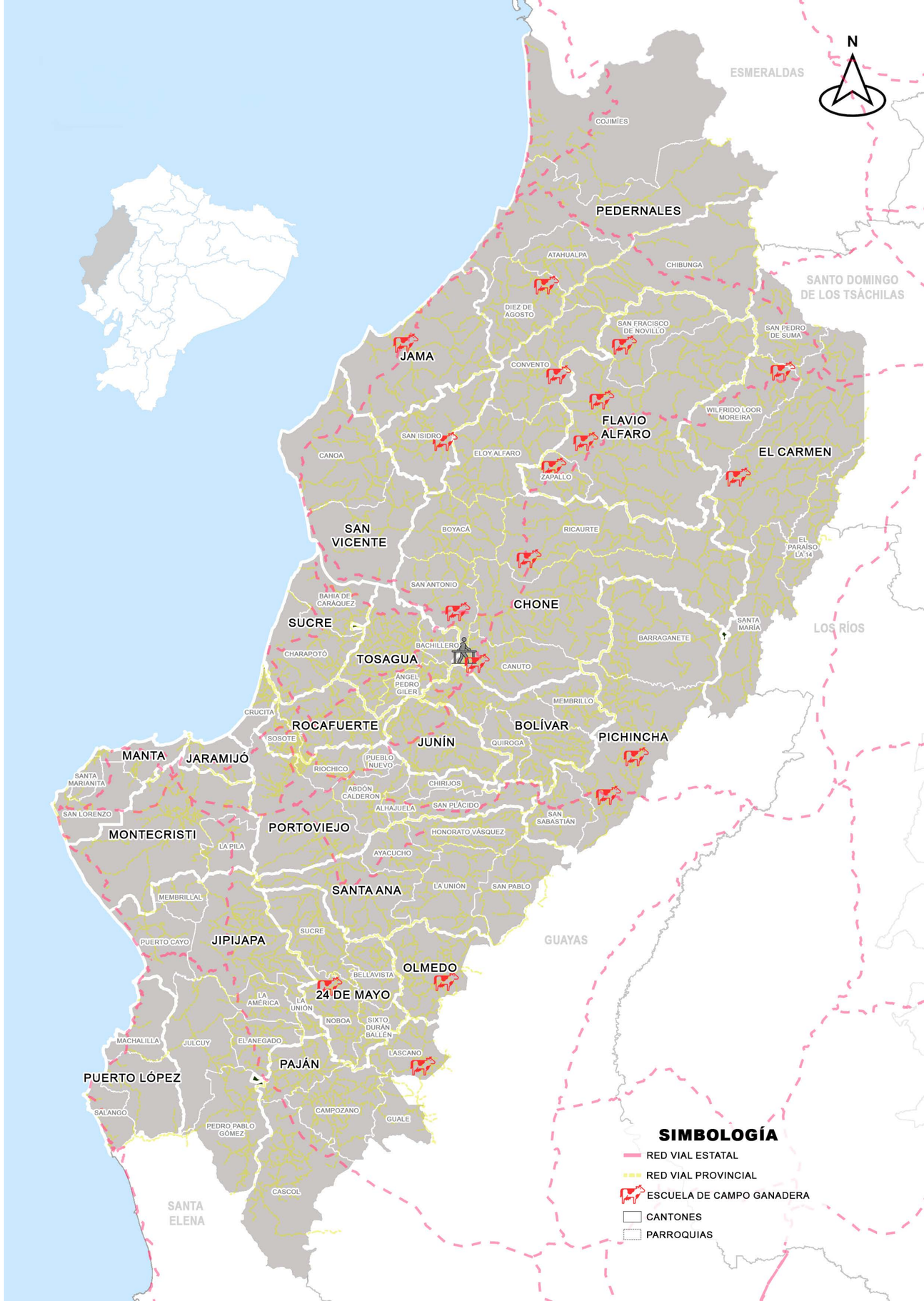
The year 2025 showed mixed signals in the fight against poverty in the province of Manabí. All values reported below correspond to the provincial disaggregation for Manabí calculated by INEC. Indicator 1.1.1 (extreme poverty below the USD 1.25/day line) declined steadily, from 4.57% in 2021 to 2.40% in 2024, reaching 2.08% in 2025, the lowest figure in the provincial series. Income poverty (1.2.1, national poverty line) stood at 32.57% in Manabí in 2021 and decreased to 26.67% in 2024, remaining above the national average but showing a downward trend.

Multidimensional poverty (1.2.2) declined from 49.92% in 2021 to 43.80% in 2024, reflecting sustained improvement; however, in 2025 it increased again to 51.01% due to the rise in simultaneous deprivations in education, health, housing, and employment—consistent with the impact of economic contraction and the security crisis on households in Manabí. Indicator 1.5.1 (people affected by disasters per 100,000 inhabitants) recorded 192.96 in 2021 and peaked at 4,723.22 in 2024—driven by extreme climate events affecting Ecuador's coastal region—before decreasing to 3,558 in 2025, still high and reflecting the territorial vulnerability of a province with 307 km of coastline exposed to El Niño and recurrent flooding.

In this context, the Prefecture of Manabí maintained a 100% contribution (A) to SDG 1 throughout the four years of the series (2022–2025) and increased its weighted contribution (D) from 2.92% to 3.50%. The Prefecture's investment in indicator FM_PDOT_MH_29 (comprehensive humanitarian assistance) amounted to USD 283,512.79 in 2025, reaching 4,352 people, which results in an average unit cost of USD 65.15 per beneficiary. To contextualize this figure, it is worth noting that the cost of an emergency food kit managed by international cooperation organizations in the region ranges between USD 80 and USD 120 per household, while private psychosocial support services in Manabí report reference fees of USD 40 to USD 70 per individual session. By combining food assistance, health support, and psychosocial care within a single intervention, the Prefecture's comprehensive humanitarian assistance program demonstrates significant cost-effectiveness for vulnerable households.

The Livestock Field School good practice, with a total investment of USD 805,797.77 and 500 livestock producers directly trained, complements emergency assistance with a structural intervention aimed at generating sustained increases in household income. The program represents an average unit cost of USD 1,611.60 per trained producer in a 24-month program, equivalent to USD 67.15 per producer per month — a benchmark comparable to any university-level technical extension program in the region.

Status	Ongoing (69%)
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Productive Development
Beneficiaries	500 Small-scale livestock farmers
Partners	GIZ, MAG, INIAP, IICA
Implementation period	24 months
Total investment	$805.797,77
Funding source	Prefecture own resources
Linked SDG	SDG 1, 2, 8
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_1.jpg: Livestock Farmer Field Schools across the 22 cantons, concentrated in rural inland areas.



"LIVESTOCK, KNOWLEDGE, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL MANABÍ"

Project Description

The Livestock Field School aims to strengthen the productive capacity and sustainability of small-scale livestock farmers in Manabí through practical training modules and specialized veterinary services focused on genetic improvement. The project emerged from participatory budgeting processes and is implemented in coordination with national and international partners.

The theoretical and practical training is delivered directly on farmers' properties, combining technical expertise with local knowledge. Each field school operates as a collective learning space where livestock farmers exchange experiences, receive tailored technical assistance, and access inputs for herd improvement. This model promotes ownership of knowledge and ensures its replicability across the territory.

SDG Impact

SDG 1 (No Poverty): Increased income opportunities for small rural livestock farmers through genetic improvement and sustainable production practices, contributing to rural poverty reduction.

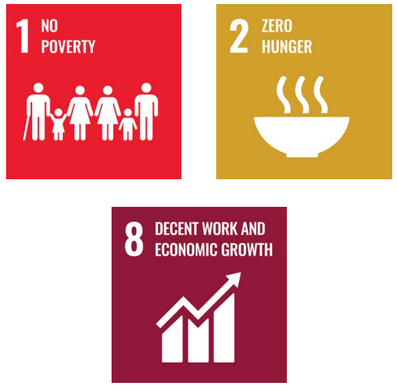
SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Strengthening local livestock production to support food security.

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Generation of rural employment opportunities and improved productivity in Manabí's livestock sector.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- On-site training: the school goes to the producer, not the other way around.
- Bovine genetic improvement as an income-generation strategy..
- 500 livestock farmers across 22 cantons with province-wide coverage.
- Integration with participatory budgeting mechanisms.
- Technical cooperation with GIZ, MAG, INIAP, and IICA.

LINKED SDGs:





Hands-on animal-health workshop in the Flavio Alfaro canton.



Examination of cows' uteruses in preparation for the insemination process, in the Flavio Alfaro canton.

2 ZERO HUNGER

SDG2

SDG 2. ZERO HUNGER

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

2.1 Ensure food security through access to safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary needs of the population of Manabí.

2.2 Strengthen Family and Peasant Agriculture and promote the inclusion of fresh, nutritious, and healthy foods, in line with local culture, to improve food and nutrition security and reduce child malnutrition.

2.3 Consolidate value chains linked to key territorial assets, with an emphasis on endogenous territorial development and the incorporation of clean and environmentally friendly technologies.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**70.40%**	**59.53%**	**15.64%**	**44.98%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	**2.05%**	**1.74%**	**0.55%**	**1.57%**

TPI Dimension: Social Cohesion and Equity · Weight: 2.92%
Territorial Progress 2025: Preliminary (data not yet available for all indicators)



Drying of fine-aroma cacao under canopy dryers (marquesinas).

PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ Desarrollo y Equidad

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Prevalence of malnutrition (weight-for-height, standard deviation > +2 or < -2 from the median of the WHO child growth standards) among children under 5 years of age, disaggregated by type (wasting and overweight)	Percentage	S/I	S/I	17.70	16.20	S/I	Decreasing	
Production volume per work unit, disaggregated by size and type of holding (agricultural / livestock / forestry)	Ton/ha	2.54	2.74	2.74	3.40	S/I	Increasing	

** Annual variation values have a limit of -100% and +100% so as not to alter the final calculation. Values marked this way show growth or decline far above these limits.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual Contribution to the SDG	Average unit investment
Operational area of public and community provincial irrigation and drainage systems (FM_PDOT_MI_18)	$4.941.266.18	$4.011.260.81	$3.588.121,53	$3.196.229.45	3.543.00	704.00	0	0		3.705.41 USD / ha
Length (km) of riverbeds and irrigation and drainage infrastructure rehabilitated and/or maintained (FM_PDOT_19)	$3.677.889.47	$2.796.330.26	$0.00	$1.303.449.32	159.35	279.18	21.08.00	18.50		16,267.53 USD / Number (km)
Shallow or deep wells constructed (FM_PDOT_MI_20)	$0.00	$0.00	$316.071,66	$1.492.655.29	0	0	36.00	36.00		25,121.21 USD / Number (u)
Number of UPAs benefited through the strengthening of agroecological productive capacities (FM_PDOT_MP_34)	$2.484.353.83	$2.123.406.73	$456.776,09	$1.309.063.03	1.793.00	3.171.00	136.2.00	2.525.00		720.10 USD / Number (UPAS)

Fuente: SIGAF/POA GADPM. P = Budget. R = Result (physical target). %C = % Compliance. [ELIM.] = Indicator eliminated in PDOT 2023–2027. [Previous PDOT] = Only operated in PDOT 2021–2023.



Manual harvesting of coffee beans.

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Food security and agricultural production are key pillars of Manabí's economy, particularly in the context of its designation as a World Region of Gastronomy 2026 and the International Year of Women Farmers 2026.

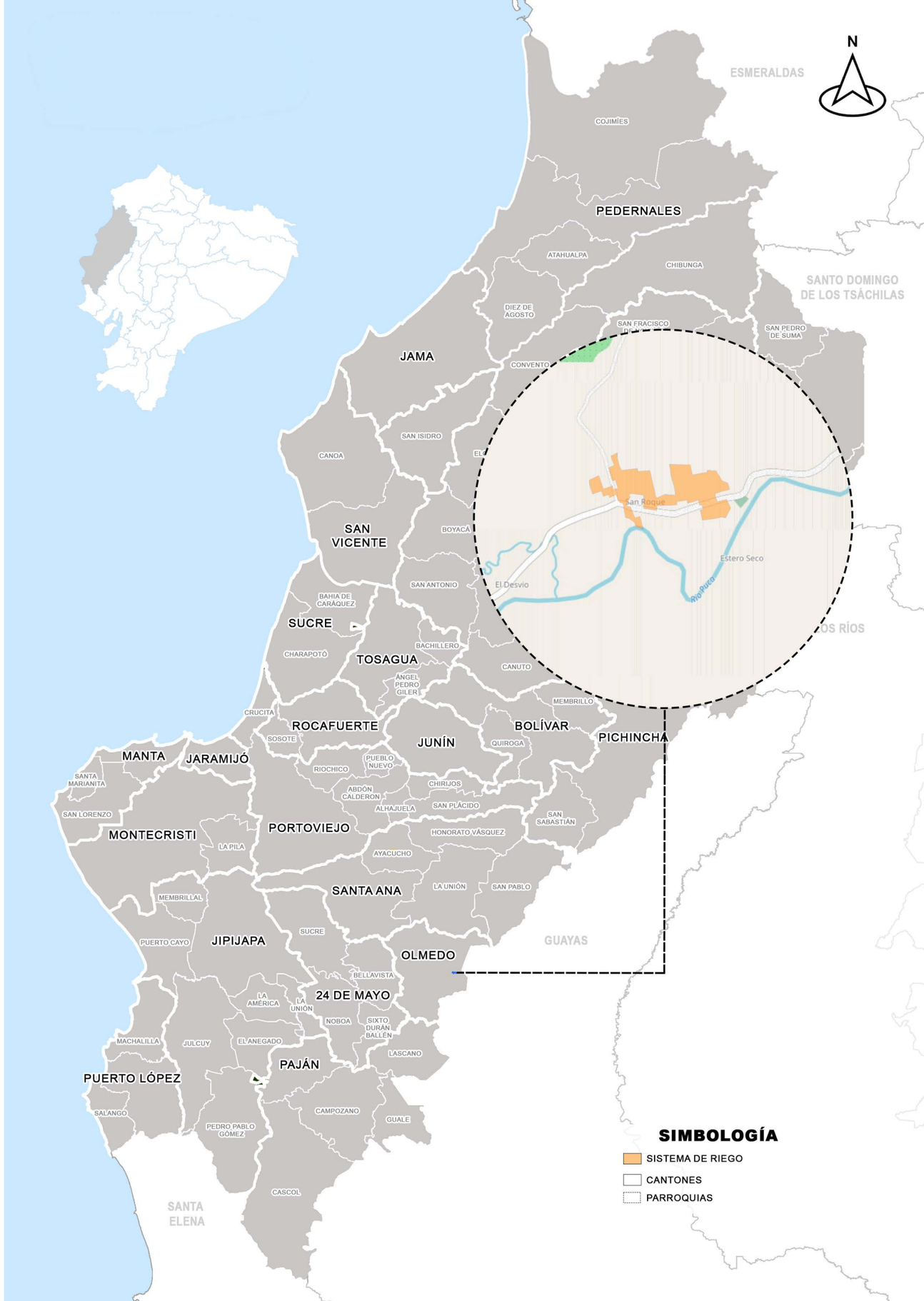
In Manabí, the provincial agricultural productivity indicator (2.3.1) showed a significant increase, rising from 2.54 tons/ha in 2021 to 3.40 tons/ha in 2024 (+33.86%). This reflects improvements in technical assistance, access to improved seeds, and the rehabilitation of irrigation systems. The 2025 value is pending official release by INEC and will be updated in the ILV 2026. The data is derived from ESPAC-INEC with provincial disaggregation.

The prevalence of child malnutrition among children under five (2.2.2) showed a slight improvement in 2024 (16.20% compared to 17.70% in 2023); the 2025 value remains provisional pending official publication.

The total investment of the Prefecture of Manabí in the four SDG 2 PDOT indicators amounted to USD 7,301,397.09 in 2025. The resulting unit costs are consistent with the technical standards of public agricultural investment: USD 3,705.41 per hectare of operational area within public irrigation and drainage systems (FM_PDOT_MI_18); USD 16,267.53 per kilometer of rehabilitated irrigation channels and infrastructure (FM_PDOT_MI_19); USD 25,121.21 per shallow or deep well constructed (FM_PDOT_MI_20); and USD 720.10 per Agricultural Production Unit (UPA) benefiting from strengthened agroecological capacities (FM_PDOT_MP_34).

As a comparative benchmark, the construction of a deep well of approximately 60 meters in depth in the Ecuadorian private market — including drilling, casing, pumping systems, and distribution networks — generally ranges between USD 30,000 and USD 45,000, placing the provincial unit cost within an efficient market range. Regarding the agroecological strengthening of Agricultural Production Units, the USD 720 investment per productive unit represents a cost between three and five times lower than the equivalent private consulting services and, according to POA monitoring data, enables measurable improvements in productivity per hectare.

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Vice-Directorate of Irrigation and Water Resources
Beneficiaries	60 farming families
Partners	None
Implementation period	60 days
Total investment	$84.175,07
Funding source	Prefecture own resources
Linked SDG	SDG 2, 1, 6
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_2.jpg: Irrigation System in Olmedo Canton (Northeastern Area), Detailed View of the Polygon.





César García
FIASA Project Coordinator – INIAP

SECTORAL PARTNER ENDORSEMENT

It is an honor to extend a cordial greeting to the Prefecture of Manabí, highlighting the valuable coordinated work being carried out in the territory between the Provincial Government and the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP), an entity attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGAP), for the benefit of the province's agricultural sector and Ecuador's broader agri-food system.

The interinstitutional coordination that has been consolidated reflects a shared vision of development, in which strengthening local capacities constitutes a fundamental pillar. In this context, joint efforts have enhanced technology transfer processes, particularly through the training of the Prefecture's technical teams, creating conditions for knowledge to be institutionalized, replicated, and sustained over time.

This approach is especially relevant considering that territorial technicians, due to their proximity to producers, facilitate the effective adaptation of technologies to local realities. This contributes to greater effectiveness in agricultural extension processes and to the continuous improvement of production systems.

Within this framework, the implementation of the project "Promotion of practices for the prevention and integrated management of pests for the development of sustainable, resilient, and efficient agriculture – FIASA," funded with resources allocated by the National Government for agricultural research through the Fund for Research on Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and Sustainable Agriculture (FIASA), and implemented in coordination with the initiatives of the Prefecture, has generated concrete synergies. These efforts have expanded intervention coverage, strengthened local capacities, and consolidated tangible results in the territory, directly benefiting producers.

This joint work represents a clear example of how interinstitutional cooperation effectively contributes to sustainable development, promoting more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable production systems.

I express my recognition to the Prefecture of Manabí for its openness and commitment, and, within the framework of the project's technical management, reaffirm the willingness to continue strengthening this strategic alliance in support of territorial development.

FIASA

"WATER ALL YEAR ROUND FOR 60 RURAL FAMILIES IN OLMEDO"

Project Description

The San Roque irrigation system, located in the rural community of San Roque in Olmedo canton, was developed to strengthen smallholder family farming by ensuring a reliable year-round water supply for 20 productive hectares.

The system draws groundwater through a 60-meter deep well, equipped with a pumping station and a 2.2 km distribution network, with a flow rate of 7.5 liters per second. It guarantees agricultural production throughout the year, including during dry seasons, benefiting families engaged in the cultivation of peanuts, plantains, vegetables, cacao, and fruit crops.

The system includes both preventive and corrective maintenance mechanisms, eansuring service continuity and hydraulic efficiency over time.

Impact on the SDGs

SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Ensures local food security through continuous agricultural production, enabling crop diversification and eliminating seasonal dependency.

SDG 1 (No Poverty): Promotes sustainable rural economic reactivation for 60 families who are now able to produce year-round.

SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Enables efficient management of groundwater resources through technically designed infrastructure.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Year-round agricultural production, even during drought periods.
- 20 productive hectares with guaranteed irrigation.
- Crop diversification: peanuts, plantains, vegetables, cacao, and fruit crops.
- 60-meter deep well + 2.2 km distribution network.
- Preventive maintenance ensuring long-term sustainability.

LINKED SDGs:



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG3



Comprehensive medical brigade in rural areas for priority-attention groups.

SDG 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGET

3.1 - 3.2 Contribute to the reduction of maternal, neonatal, and child mortality through the coordination of comprehensive and preventive health services across the territory.

3.4 Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and the promotion of mental health and well-being.

3.6 Contribute to the reduction of deaths and injuries caused by road traffic accidents.

3.7 Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services.

3.9 Reduce deaths and illnesses caused by environmental pollution.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**100.00%**	**94.00%**	**94.58%**	**100.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	**2.92%**	**2.74%**	**3.31%**	**3.50%**

Dimensión IPT: Cohesión Social y equidad · Peso: 2.92%
Avance territorial 2025: Preliminar (sin datos completos para todos los indicadores)


Comprehensive medical brigade in rural areas for priority-attention groups.

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Percent-age	93.1	92.1	93.5	99.06	S/I	Increasing	
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	Persons 100.000,00	29.75	33.96	19.06	30.79	S/I	Decreasing	
Birth rate per 1,000 inhabitants	Persons 1.000,00	16.2	15.9	15.1	12.80	S/I	Increasing	
Mortality rate of children under 5 years of age	Persons 1.000,00	9.67	10.26	9.38	10.16	S/I	Decreasing	
Neonatal mortality rate	Persons 1.000,00	4.43	4.91	4.39	4.66	S/I	Decreasing	
Mortality rate attributed to cardiovas-cular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases	Persons 100.000,00	272.85	271.69	246.08	255.08	S/I	Decreasing	
Mortality rate due to suicide	Persons 100.000,00	5.79	4.91	4.22	2.59	S/I	Decreasing	
Mortality rate due to injuries caused by traffic accidents	Persons 100.000,00	15.96	18.01	19.29	18.24	S/I	Decreasing	
Fertility rate among adolescents aged 10 to 14 per 1,000 women in that age group	Persons 1.000,00	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.20	S/I	Decreasing	
Fertility rate among adolescents aged 15 to 19 per 1,000 women in that age group	Persons 1.000,00	5	4.5	4	3.20	S/I	Decreasing	
Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning	Persons 100.000,00	1.14	0.53	0.65	0.65	S/I	Decreasing	

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2024	Individual contribution to the SDG	Average unit investment
Number of people served through comprehensive and preventive health actions (FM_PDOT_MH_26)	$4'799.917,26	$4'043.227,67	$5'308.830,91	$8'814.727,69	128.360	103.772	94.579	101.861		41,92 USD / Number of people

Source: SIGAF/POA GADPM. P= Budget. R= Result (physical target). %C= % Compliance. [ELIM.] = Indicator eliminated in PDOT 2023–2027. [Previous PDOT] = Only operated in PDOT 2021–2023.

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Manabí faces persistent public health challenges that require a comprehensive approach. All indicators presented correspond to the provincial disaggregation for Manabí calculated by INEC, based on administrative records from the Ministry of Public Health and vital statistics.

The maternal mortality rate (3.1.1) increased slightly from 29.76 per 100,000 live births in 2021 to 30.79 in 2024, remaining relatively stable (+3.46%). The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (3.1.2) remained close to universal coverage (98.95% in 2021 and 99.06% in 2024). Under-five mortality (3.2.1) rose from 9.67 to 10.16 per 1,000, and neonatal mortality (3.2.2) from 4.43 to 4.66 per 1,000 over the same period.

The mortality rate from non-communicable diseases (3.4.1) shows sustained improvement, decreasing from 272.85 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2021 to 255.86 in 2024 (-6.23%). Suicide mortality (3.4.2) declined significantly from 5.79 in 2021 to 2.59 in 2024 (-55.27%), marking the lowest level in the series and a positive outcome. In contrast, mortality from road traffic accidents (3.6.1) worsened, increasing from 15.97 in 2021 to 18.24 in 2024 (+14.2%), reflecting pressures from the growing vehicle fleet and road safety challenges.

Adolescent fertility among girls aged 10–14 (3.7.2) remained stable at 0.20 per 1,000, while for the 15–19 age group it declined from 4.70 to 3.20 per 1,000 (-31.9%). Mortality due to poisoning (3.9.3) decreased from 1.14 to 0.65 per 100,000 (-43.0%).

Most health indicators for 2025 are not yet officially published by INEC and are therefore considered provisional. They will be updated in the ILV 2026 once the corresponding administrative records are released.

The indicator FM_PDOT_MH_26 (people reached through comprehensive and preventive healthcare actions) executed USD 3,814,727.69 in 2025 and provided 101,861 services, resulting in an average unit cost of USD 37.45 per service provided. This figure includes basic medical care, preventive check-ups, comprehensive outreach campaigns in rural communities, and dental, ophthalmological, and physiotherapy support. To contextualize this value: a general medical consultation in the private sector in Manabí has a reference cost ranging from USD 30 to USD 50; basic dental care ranges between USD 35 and USD 80; and an ophthalmological examination with visual acuity assessment generally costs between USD 40 and USD 60.

The free provincial service offer financed with public resources therefore operates at a unit cost comparable to the lowest-cost private consultation, with the substantial difference that the beneficiary population — predominantly residing in rural parishes and vulnerable peri-urban areas — would not be able to afford such services through the private sector.

The Child Development Centers good practice, implemented through an agreement with MIES, presents a unit cost of USD 371.75 per child served annually in a comprehensive service model that combines nutrition, early childhood stimulation, health monitoring, and family support.

Los Centros de Desarrollo Infantil, en convenio con el MIES, y el programa Rompiendo Barreras de rehabilitación física constituyen las intervenciones emblemáticas del GADPM en salud y bienestar.

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Human Development
Beneficiaries	1.503 Children
Partners	MIES
Implementation period	261 days
Total investment	$558.743,38
Funding source	Own resources Prefecture + MIES
Linked SDG	SDGs 3, 1, 4, 10
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_3.jpg: Child Development Centers (CDCs) Distributed Across the Central and Southern Cantons of Manabí.

"PROTECTED EARLY CHILDHOOD: COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR 1,503 CHILDREN"

Project description
The Prefecture of Manabí, through its Human Development Directorate and in partnership with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), operates Early Childhood Development Centers across the province. These centers provide comprehensive care to children aged 12 to 36 months in vulnerable conditions, including early stimulation, nutritious meals, health monitoring, and family support.

The model aims to ensure cognitive, emotional, and social development in early childhood as a strategic investment to break intergenerational cycles of poverty and inequality in rural and peri-urban areas of Manabí.

SDG impact
SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being): Comprehensive early childhood care including health, nutrition, and early stimulation components.
SDG 1 (No Poverty): Breaks poverty cycles by investing in human capital from early years.
SDG 4 (Quality Education): Early stimulation as the foundation for cognitive development.
SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): Expands access to essential services in rural areas with limited public provision.

KEY INSIGHTS

- 1,503 children receiving comprehensive care.
- Early stimulation + nutrition + health + family support.
- Partnership with MIES as a national cooperating institution.
- Coverage in rural and peri-urban areas.
- Investment in human capital from early childhood.

LINKED SDGs:



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG4

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

4.3 Ensure equal access to quality technical, vocational, and higher education.

4.4 Promote civic education, territorial leadership, and skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

4.7 Foster education for sustainable development, human rights, and a culture of peace.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**91.56%**	**96.20%**	**87.59%**	**100.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	2.67%	2.80%	3.06%	3.50%

TPI Dimension: Social Cohesion and Equity · Weight: 2.92%
Territorial Progress 2025: Preliminary (data not yet available for all indicators)


Seed selection for sowing in the Tintales community, Río Chico.

PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ Desarrollo y Equidad

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objetivo	Annual variation chart
Percentage of third-level enrollment in the province compared to the country ***	Percentage	11.07	11.78	11.08	S/I	S/I	Increasing	
Gap between women and men enrolled in third-level education ***	Percentage	36.89	40.81	43.26	S/I	S/I	Decreasing	

*** Complementary indicators with provincial disaggregation, but which do not directly measure compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Presupuesto 2022	Presupuesto 2023	Presupuesto 2024	Presupuesto 2025	Resultado 2022	Resultado 2023	Resultado 2024	Resultado 2025	Individual contribution to the SDG	Average unit investment
Number of people benefited through comprehensive educational, cultural, and sports actions (FM_PDOT_MH-27)	$69.404,15	$762.536,94	$518.941,47	$697.908,66	12.118	13.012	17.335	20.134		32,69 USD / Number of people
Number of people benefited through the coordinated intervention of public equipment for recreational and sports purposes (FM_PDOT_M-H_32)	$67.241,19	$104.921,31	$59.445,38	$0.00	0	37.328	0	5.720		5,38 USD / Number of people
Number of human settlements benefited through a community technological system (FM_PDOT_MP_38)	$6.400,00	$214.769,87	$111.124,97	$290.576,07	0	153	153	200		1.230,97 USD / Number of human settlements
Innovation and technology adoption index (FM_PDOT_MP_40)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0	0	0.03	0		0,00 USD / Number

Source: SIGAF/POA GADPM. P = Budget. R = Result (physical target). %C = % Compliance. [ELIM.] = Indicator eliminated in PDOT 2023–2027.
[Previous PDOT] = Only operated in PDOT 2021–2023.



Organic-fertilizer production workshop.

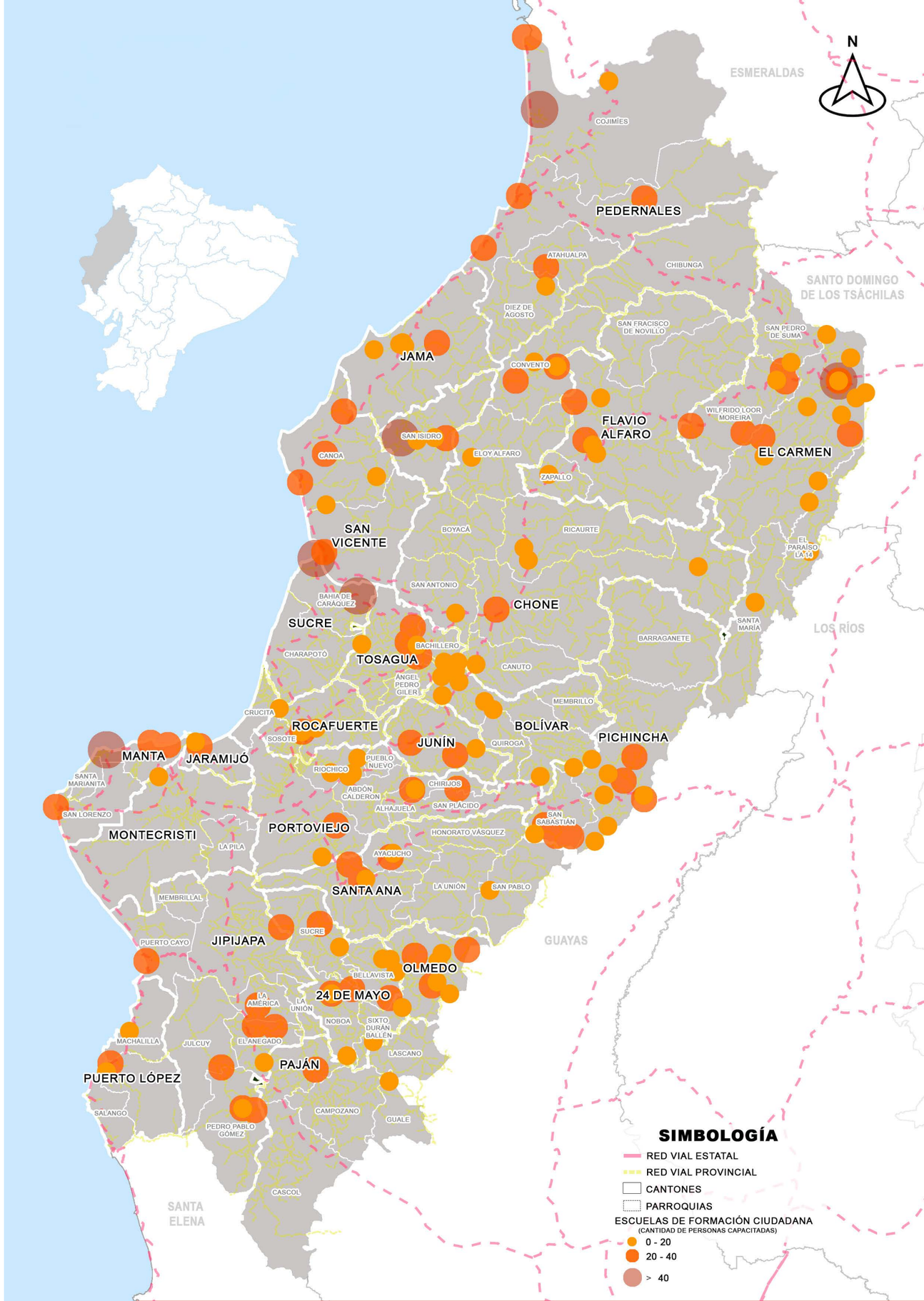
INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Quality education is a strategic pillar for the territorial transformation of Manabí. The higher education enrollment indicator (4.3.3) shows a growing trend, with the province's share of national enrollment increasing from 11.07% in 2021 to 11.08% in 2023; data for 2024–2025 is pending official release by INEC and will be updated in the 2026 VLR.

The gender gap in higher education (complementary indicator 4.3.3) has historically favored women, who are overrepresented in university enrollment in Manabí: the gap increased from 36.90% in 2021 to 43.26% in 2023, widening this female advantage. This is a positive indicator in terms of equal access to education, although it invites reflection on the factors behind lower male participation in higher education.
Indicator FM_PDOT_MH_27 executed USD 697,908.66 with 20,134 beneficiaries of comprehensive educational, cultural, and sports activities, yielding a unit cost of USD 34.66 per person. The year's flagship good practice, Civic Education and Territorial Leadership, trained 5,560 people across 22 cantons with a total investment of USD 201,093.90, resulting in a unit cost of USD 36.17 per participant in a programme with academic endorsement from Manabí's universities, a hybrid delivery model (MOODLE plus in-person sessions), and modules of 40 to 60 hours. The equivalent programme, contracted through a private academy or a university without a formal agreement, would carry a reference cost of between USD 200 and USD 400 per participant. The difference is explained by the interinstitutional coordination model with no resource transfer and by the economies of scale achieved through territorial deployment.

Civic Education and Territorial Leadership Program

Status	Ongoing (19%)
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Citizen Participation
Beneficiaries	5.560 people
Partners	None
Implementation period	August 2025 – December 2026
Total investment	USD 201.093,90
Funding source	Own Prefecture resources
Linked SDG	SDG 4, 16, 17
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_4.jpg: Citizen Training Schools Across the 22 Cantons, with Point Size Proportional to the Number of People Trained.





Civic Education and Leadership Schools in Manabí's rural communities.



Civic Education and Leadership Schools in Manabí's rural communities.

"ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: 5,560 LEADERS TRAINED ACROSS 22 CANTONS"

Project description

This project strengthens the civic capacities of community leaders—both men and women—to enhance participation in local governance through training programs endorsed by provincial universities. The curriculum includes citizen rights, participation mechanisms, PDOT 2023–2027 management, leadership, public policy, and project design.

Implementation is carried out in coordination with universities, local governments (GADs), NGOs, and civil society organizations, through a hybrid format combining virtual learning (MOODLE platform) and in-person sessions. The model includes a structured process of enrollment, monitoring, and certification, ensuring training quality and traceability of results.

SDG Impact

SDG 4 (Quality Education): Non-formal education with academic endorsement, strengthening citizens' capacities.
SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions): Reinforcement of participatory governance and democratic culture.
SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals): Multi-actor collaboration with universities, local governments, and civil society.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Training programs endorsed by universities in Manabí.
- Hybrid format: MOODLE platform + in-person territorial sessions.
- 5,560 beneficiaries across 22 cantons.
- Topics: PDOT, leadership, public policy, and project design.
- Strengthening of the social fabric for improved governance.

LINKED SDGs:



5 GENDER EQUALITY

SDG5

SDG 5. GENRE EQUALITY

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership.

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**100.00%**	**41.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	2.92%	1.20%	3.50%	3.50%

TPI Dimension: Social Cohesion and Equity · Weight: 2.92%
Territorial Progress 2025: 0.32%



Participatory process for the drafting and enactment of Manabí's first LGBTIQ+ public policy.

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Femicide rate (per 1,000 women) ***	Percentage 1.000,00	0,48	1.19	1,53	0,12	S/I	Decreasing	
Number of women holding elected office (mayor's offices, prefecture, provincial assembly members)	Percentage	32.35	32.35	37.65	37.65	37.65	Increasing	
Formal employment wage gap between men and women ***	Percentage	-3.96	-6.75	-4.60	-4.46	-3.46	Decreasing	

Source: INEC (ENEMDU, ESPAC, Administrative Records), BCE, National Police. N/A = No information available.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual SDG contribution	Average unit investment
Percentage of gender-based violence victims served and reported to the GADPM UPEV (FM_PDOT_MH_28)	$199.750,00	$92.600,00	$95.980,75	$251.875,30	1.333,33	0.41	12	100		4.925,18 USD /%
Percentage of compliance with annual indicators up to 2027 for the Public Policies: "for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women"; "for the Promotion of the Rights of Adolescents and Young People"; "for the Promotion and Defense of the Rights of LGBTIQ+ Persons" in the Province of Manabí (FM_PDOT_MH_30)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2.595.059,97	0	0	0	62		41.855,81 USD /%

Source: SIGAF/POA GADPM. P = Budget. R = Result (physical target). %C = % Compliance. [ELIM.] = Indicator eliminated in PDOT 2023–2027. [Previous PDOT] = Only operated in PDOT 2021–2023.

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

The International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 gives special relevance to SDG 5 in this edition of the VLR. In Manabí, 351,591 women live in rural areas (40.52% of the female population), acting as producers, processors, and custodians of ancestral culinary knowledge—the same women whose agricultural work provides the raw materials that underpin the gastronomy positioning Manabí as a World Gastronomy Region. The femicide rate (5.1.1) declined steadily from 0.48 per thousand women in 2021 to 0.12 in 2024 (-75.0%), an encouraging trend; the 2025 figure is pending official release by INEC and will be updated in the 2026 VLR.

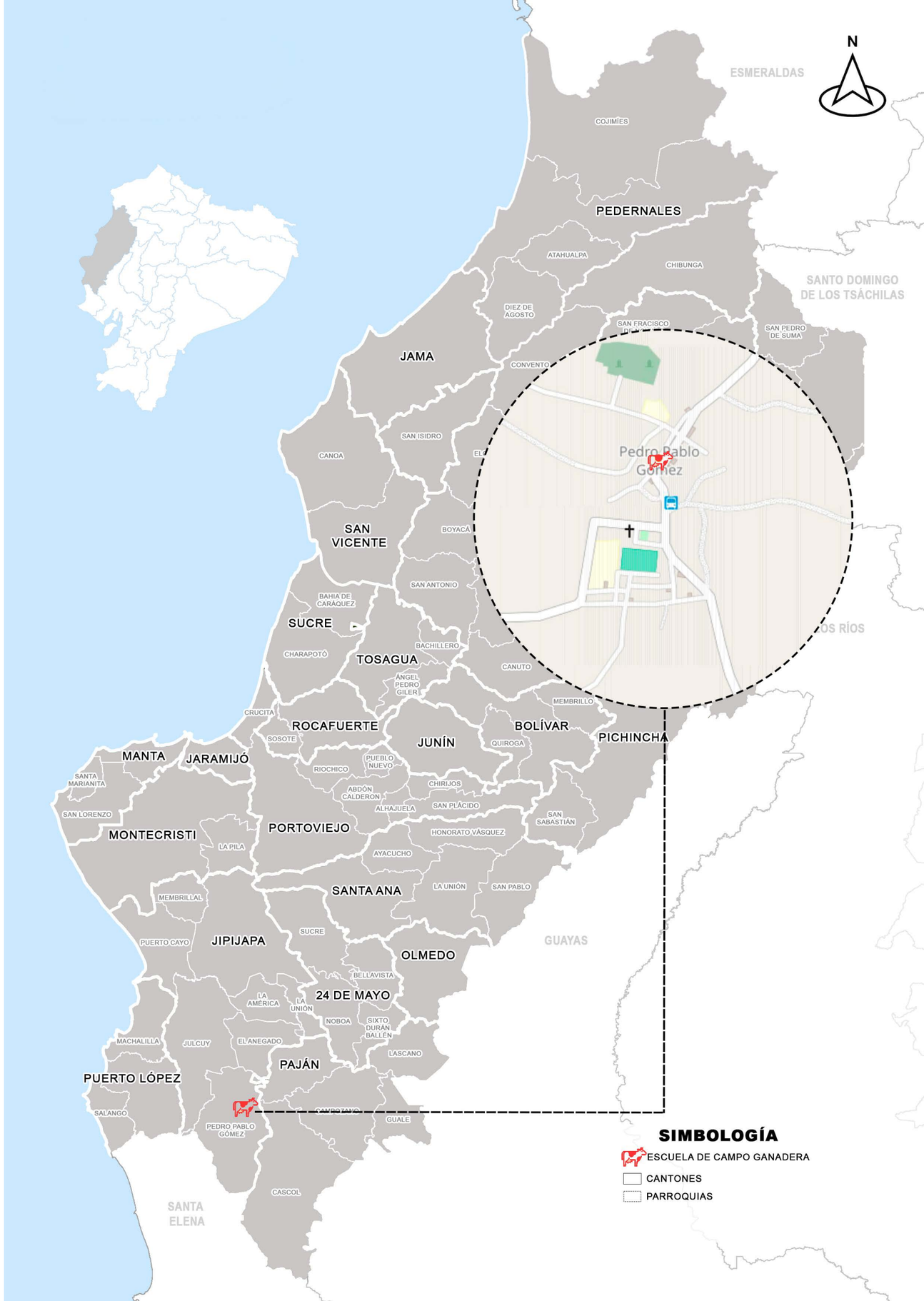
Women's participation in elected positions (5.5.1) remained within a range of 32.35% to 37.65% in the 2021–2024 period, reflecting a structural ceiling that calls for parity-focused policies. The gender wage gap (5.a.1) in formal employment was estimated at -4.46% in 2024 and reached -3.49% in 2025, indicating a slight reduction in the historically favourable gap for women in formal employment.

The investment of the Prefecture of Manabí in SDG 5 amounted to USD 2,846,935.27 in 2025, distributed across two PDOT indicators. The first, FM_PDOT_MH_28 (percentage of victims of gender-based violence assisted), executed USD 251,875.30, achieving 100% coverage of the demand received by the Provincial Unit for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence (UPEV). The second, FM_PDOT_MH_30 (implementation of Public Policies on Gender, Youth, and LGBTIQ+ populations), executed USD 2,595,059.97, reaching 62% progress during the first year of implementation following the participatory formulation of the three policies.

The “Mujeres de Campo Gomences” School in Pedro Pablo Gómez exemplifies the convergence between IYWF 2026 and RMG 2026: 27 women empowered in agroecological cacao production, supported by the coordination of nine national and international partners.

The “Mujeres de Campo Gomences” School

Status	Finalizado
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Productive Development
Beneficiaries	27 Women Producers
Partners	GIZ, MAG, INIAP, IICA, PMA, EbA LAC, INAMHI, FIASA, Swiss Cooperation
Implementation period	12 months
Total investment	USD 419.778,00
Funding source	Own Prefecture Resources + International Cooperation
Linked SDG	SDG 5, 1, 2, 8, 12
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_5.jpg: School in Pedro Pablo Gómez (Jipijapa Canton, Southern Area) – Enlarged Detail.





Gender-focused Producer Schools in Pedro Pablo Gómez, commemorating the International Day of Rural Women, 15 October 2025.



Gender-focused Producer Schools in Pedro Pablo Gómez, commemorating the International Day of Rural Women, 15 October 2025.

"WOMEN OF CACAO: PRODUCTIVE EMPOWERMENT IN PEDRO PABLO GÓMEZ"

Project Description
The "Mujeres de Campo Gomences" School, located in the rural parish of Pedro Pablo Gómez in the canton of Jipijapa, is part of the Producer Field School project with an agroecological approach. Composed of 27 women, it implemented weekly theoretical and practical training sessions focused on cacao cultivation.

The model empowers rural women as productive agents and custodians of ancestral knowledge, in direct convergence with the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 and the designation of Manabí as a World Gastronomy Region 2026. Participants strengthened their capacities in soil management, biological pest control, post-harvest processes, and commercialization.

SDG Impact
SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Economic empowerment of rural women through productive training.
SDG 1 (No Poverty): Increased household income.
SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Agroecological cacao production.
SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Rural female employment.
SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): Sustainable agroecological approach.

KEY INSIGHTS

- 27 women empowered in agroecological cacao production.
- Convergence IYWF 2026 + RMG 2026: those who produce, transform, and preserve.
- 9 national and international partners articulated.
- Weekly hands-on training on farms.
- Replicable model in other rural parishes.

Contexto internacional
CAJA IYWF2026: La Asamblea General de la ONU declaró 2026 como Año Internacional de la Mujer Agricultora. En Manabí, 351.591 mujeres residen en áreas rurales (40,52% de la población femenina). Según la ESPAC-INEC 2024, las mujeres representan el 18% de los productores agropecuarios registrados, con autoidentificación mestiza/montubia (37%), instrucción primaria (52%) y parcelas menores a 2 hectáreas. La mano de obra familiar agrícola provincial totaliza 150.545 personas (60% del total), donde la contribución femenina es determinante.

LINKED SDGs:



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SDG6

SDG 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

6.1 Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution and increasing recycling and safe reuse.

6.5 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels.

6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Aporte (A)	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	0.00%	0.00%	5.22%	5.22%

TPI Dimension: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience · Weight: 0.00%
Territorial Progress 2025: Preliminary (data not yet available for all indicators)



La Pipona Irrigation System, Rocafuerte.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual SDG contribution	Average unit investment
Length of dredging activities and other works (FM_PDOT_MI_21)	$0.00	$0.00	$974.405,81	$268.677,31	112.515,59	0	109,42	153,10		11,02 USD / Number (km)
Volume of dredging activities and other works (FM_PDOT_MH_31)	$0.00	$0.00	$6.140.322,35	$2.748.896,33	0	0	3.821,70	569.715		2,02 USD / Number (m3)

Source: SIGAF/POA GADPM. P = Budget. R = Result (physical target). %C = % Compliance. [ELIM.] = Indicator eliminated in PDOT 2023–2027. [Previous PDOT] = Only operated in PDOT 2021–2023.

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Integrated water resource management is a strategic responsibility of the Prefecture. The INEC indicator framework does not assign direct territorial indicators to SDG 6 at the provincial level, as drinking water and sanitation coverage fall under municipal competencies. Within this framework, the Prefecture of Manabí carries out significant direct actions: in 2025, investment in dredging and hydraulic works reached $3,017,573.64, distributed across two PDOT indicators: dredging length (FM_PDOT_MI_21, $268,677 with 153.1 km executed) and dredging volume (FM_PDOT_MI_22, $2,748,896 with 569,715 m³).

These interventions maintain the hydraulic capacity of river channels, reduce flood risks in urban and rural areas, and safeguard water availability for irrigation and consumption during the dry season.

The contribution (A) to SDG 6 reached 100% in both 2024 and 2025, after being 0% in 2022 and 2023, reflecting the formal incorporation of these indicators into the PDOT 2023–2027. Complementary works under the Triple AAA Plan in the Chico River sub-basin (Portoviejo canton), implemented through a tripartite agreement with FEPP and AECID–EU cooperation, protect existing water infrastructure and ensure access to drinking water for vulnerable rural communities during the rainy season.

Complementary Works - Triple AAA Plan

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Road Infrastructure Directorate / FEPP
Beneficiaries	El Gramal, Cruz Alta de Miguelillo, Cañales de Bijahual communities
Partners	AECID, European Union, FEPP
Implementation period	12 months
Total investment	$44.245,96
Funding source	International cooperation (AECID–EU) + institutional contributions
Linked SDG	SDGs 6, 11, 13
Territorial Coverage	No specific map available. Location: Chico River Sub-basin, Portoviejo Canton.



Protection works on the Garrapata River in the Santa Rita parish, Chone canton.



River-dredging works in the El Badeal community, in the Chone canton.

"PROTECTING RURAL WATER: CROSSINGS AND SLOPE STABILIZATION FOR COMMUNITIES IN PORTOVIEJO"

Project description

Construction of low-water crossings (causeways), slope stabilization works, drainage ditches, energy dissipators, and runoff channeling in areas within the influence of the Triple AAA Plan in the canton of Portoviejo. Implemented through a tripartite agreement with FEPP and the Municipal GAD, the project protects existing water infrastructure, ensures safe access to treatment plants during the rainy season, and strengthens Integrated Water Resources Management in vulnerable rural communities of the Chico River sub-basin.

SDG Impact

SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Protection of rural drinking water intake and treatment infrastructure.
SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Strengthening resilience of community infrastructure to climate events.
SDG 13 (Climate Action): Reduction of erosion processes and protection against seasonal runoff.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Multi-actor cooperation: AECID, European Union, FEPP, Provincial GAD, Municipal GAD.
- Protection of Triple AAA Plan water infrastructure.
- Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chico River sub-basin.
- Safe access to drinking water during the rainy season.
- Replicable inter-institutional co-management model.

LINKED SDGs:



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

SDG7

SDG 7 · AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

7.1 Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services.

7.2 Substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.

7.a Promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**00.00%**	**00.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**

TPI Dimension: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience · Weight: 7.83%
Territorial Progress 2025: 1.77%



Bridge at the Chisparo site, Flavio Alfaro canton.

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
% of new electric and hybrid vehicles registered in the province ***	Percentage	0,45	0,69	1,02	1,74	2,52	Increasing	
Proportion of the population with access to electricity	Percentage	98,33	99,09	99,58	99,81	99,82	Increasing	

Source: SIGAF/POA GADPM. P = Budget. R = Result (physical target). %C = % Compliance. [ELIM.] = Indicator eliminated in PDOT 2023–2027. [Previous PDOT] = Only operated in PDOT 2021–2023.

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

The energy transition and access to clean energy are measured through two territorial indicators from INEC. The proportion of the population with access to electricity (7.1.1) reached 99.82% in 2025, virtually universal, with a marginal increase of 0.01 percentage points compared to 2024. The complementary indicator of registered electric and hybrid vehicles (7.1.1) shows a sustained upward trend: it increased from 0.45% in 2021 to 2.52% in 2025, representing a 44.8% rise compared to 1.74% in 2024, reflecting the gradual adoption of clean mobility technologies in the province.

The Prefecture of Manabí does not operate PDOT indicators with specific codes directly aligned with SDG 7, as energy provision falls under the responsibility of the central government and the national electricity company. However, the institution contributes to the energy transition through road infrastructure: installation of solar lighting systems on 12 bridges within the provincial road network ($7,763,115.82 financed by the Development Bank of Ecuador), combining civil works with renewable energy, as well as incorporating energy efficiency criteria into new public infrastructure projects.

Solar lighting systems on bridges

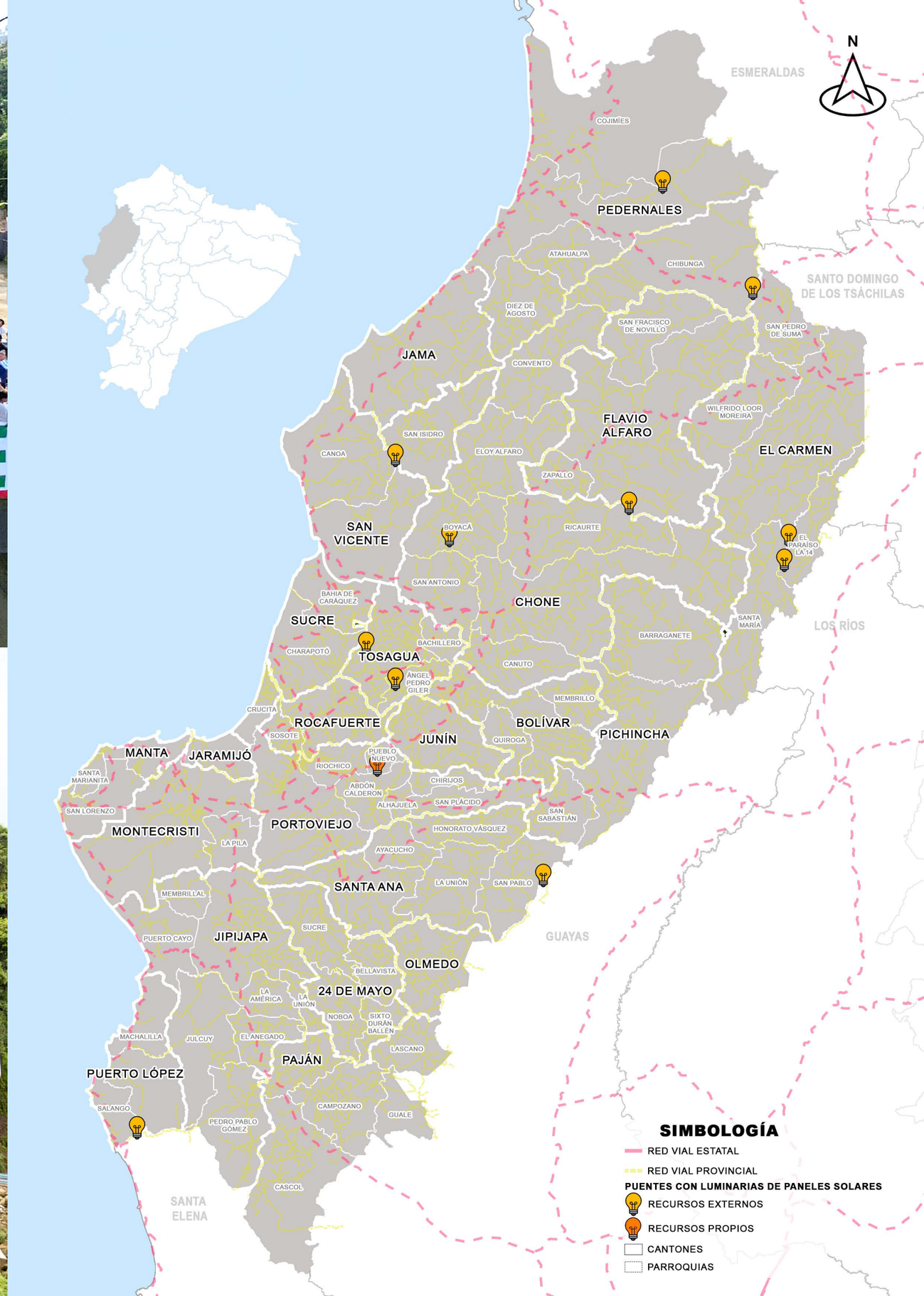
Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Roads and Public Infraestructure
Beneficiaries	Residents of rural areas and users of the road network
Partners	None
Implementation period	120 to 210 days
Total investment	$7.763.115,82
Funding source	Development Bank of Ecuador (BDE)
Linked SDG	SDGs 7, 9, 11, 13
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_7.jpg: 18 Cantons with Bridges Equipped with Solar-Powered Lighting Systems (Yellow: External Funding; Orange: Own Resources).



Integration bridge over the Pucón River connecting the Santa Ana canton with the Balzar canton (Guayas).



Bridge at the Río de Oro site, El Carmen canton.





Bridge over the Portoviejo River, in the Colón parish of the Portoviejo canton.

"SUNLIT BRIDGES: RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE ROAD NETWORK"

Project Description

The Directorate of Roads integrates autonomous solar-powered lighting systems into 12 bridges of the provincial road network. The project ensures permanent, safe, and efficient lighting in rural areas where access to the electricity grid is limited. Solar LED lighting reduces conventional energy consumption, lowers emissions, and ensures lower operating costs.

The project strengthens the resilience of road infrastructure and improves nighttime safety for rural communities that rely on these bridges for daily mobility.

SDG Impact

SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy): Implementation of renewable solar energy in public infrastructure.
SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure): 12 bridges equipped with clean technology.
SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Enhanced road safety at night in rural communities.
SDG 13 (Climate Action): Emissions reduction through the use of renewable energy.

KEY INSIGHTS

- 12 bridges equipped with autonomous solar lighting.
- Low-energy-consumption LED lighting systems.
- $7.76 million financed by the Development Bank of Ecuador (BDE).
- Nighttime road safety in areas without access to the electricity grid.
- Reduced emissions and operating costs.

LINKED SDGs:



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG8

SDG 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances.

8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation.

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, and entrepreneurship.

8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all.

8.6 Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training.

8.9 Develop and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism.

Contribución del GADPM a la Agenda 2030				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**85.01%**	**87.21%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	**20.86%**	**20.86%**	**17.73%**	**18.19%**

TPI Dimension: Urban Economy and Municipal Finance · Weight: 20.86%
Territorial Progress 2025: -0.47%



Students of the Manabí Gastronomy Training School at Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ Desarrollo y Equidad

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unidad	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	$/person	2956,72	3290,05	3505,05	3752,58	S/I	Increasing	
Average hourly income of employed persons, disaggregated by sex, age, occupation, and persons with disabilities	$/hour	2.49	2.57	2.56	2.88	2.82	Increasing	
Unemployment rate, disaggregated by sex, age, and persons with disabilities	Percentage	2.61	2.76	1.90	2.36	2.36	Decreasing	
Proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 who are not studying, employed, or receiving training	Percentage	21.23	21.45	21.39	22.53	22.53	Decreasing	
Proportion of children aged 5 to 17 engaged in child labor, by sex	Percentage	4.85	2.76	1.68	1.59	1.59	Decreasing	

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Annual Prefecture Contribution Chart	Average unit investment
Number of organizations benefited through the strengthening of associative capacities (FM_PDOT_DE017)	$441.215,77	$124.180,00	$0.00	$0.00	122	78	0	0		2.826,98 USD / Number of organizations
Business units advised (FM_PDOT_MP_36)	$612.864,05	$540.709,48	$1'476.842,21	$977.460,21	362	828	163	172		2.366,82 USD / Number of advised business units
Number of human settlements provided with tourism, cultural, or heritage infrastructure (FM_PDOT_MP_47)	$343.046,25	$128.480,38	$64.924,37	$59.724,23	4	2	3	0		66.241,69 USD / Number of human settlements
Number of human settlements where tourism, cultural, art, heritage, and social memory events are promoted (FM_PDOT_MP_48)	$751.156,86	$1'062.122,05	$537.279,13	$563.714,57	155	79	125	79		6.653,59 USD / Number of human settlements
Number of fairs/festivals organized and/or supported for gastronomic and tourism promotion (FM_PDOT_MP_49)	$0.00	$0.00	$219.941,84	$141.136,69	0	0	46	23		5.233,02 USD / Number of gastronomic fairs
Number of strengthened gastronomic infrastructures (FM_PDOT_MP_50)	$0.00	$0.00	$64.924,37	$59.724,23	0	0	0	0		0,00 USD / Number of gastronomic infrastructures
Number of gastronomic technical assistance actions implemented (FM_PDOT_MP_51)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$39.011,48	0	0	0	6		6.501,91 USD / Number of gastronomic training actions
Number of gastronomic, tourism, cultural, and heritage content pieces published (FM_PDOT_MP_52)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$163.642,50	0	0	13	70		1,971,60 USD / Number of virtual platforms

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Economic growth and decent work are key priorities for Manabí, particularly in the context of its designation as a World Gastronomy Region 2026. The indicators presented correspond to the provincial disaggregation of Manabí published by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) through ENEMDU, the Central Bank's Satellite Accounts, and National Accounts.

Real GDP per capita (8.1.1) reached $3,752.58 in 2024, representing a 7.36% increase compared to 2023 and a 26.92% increase compared to 2021 ($2,956.72); the 2025 figure is pending official release by INEC. The average hourly income (8.5.1) increased from $2.49 in 2021 to $2.88 in 2024, and stood at $2.82 in 2025.

The unemployment rate (8.5.2) remained low, increasing slightly from 2.36% in 2024 to 2.46% in 2025. However, underemployment remains a major concern: Manabí recorded a 27.3% underemployment rate according to the 2024 Annual ENEMDU, the second highest in the country.

The proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET rate, 8.6.1) deteriorated slightly, increasing from 22.54% in 2024 to 22.65% in 2025, affecting more than 1 in 5 young people in the province.

Child labor (8.7.1) declined from 4.85% in 2021 to 1.60% in 2024, with 2025 data pending. Manufacturing employment (9.2.2, reported under SDG 8) remained stable at 11.80% of total employment in 2025 (+0.35%), consolidating the recovery from 10.12% in 2021.

The Prefecture of Manabí invested $2,004,413.93 in 2025 through 7 active PDOT indicators, achieving an SDG contribution (A) of 87.21%.

The Manabí Millenary Gastronomy Program played a key role in economic dynamization, with:

* 22 gastronomic fairs, generating $1.5 million in circular economy,
* 463 individuals trained in gastronomy,
* Participation in international events such as Madrid Fusion and ITB Berlin.

Adequate employment in the province reached only 29.3% according to ENEMDU, well below the national average of 37.1%, highlighting the structural gap in decent work. The World Gastronomy Region 2026 strategy aims to address this gap through the strengthening of agro-food and tourism value chains.

Manabí Millenary Gastronomy

Status	Ongoing (65%)
Executor	Promotor Committee (GADPM, FUEGOS, Chamber of Industries of Manabí, ULEAM)
Beneficiaries	1.592.840 Inhabitants
Partners	IGCAT
Implementation period	2023–2027
Total investment	$100.000 aprox. (2023–2025)
Funding source	Prefecture of Manabí + FUEGOS + Chamber of Industries of Manabí + ULEAM
Linked SDG	SDGs 8, 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 12
Territorial Coverage	No specific map available. Provincial coverage: 22 cantons.



Dra. Diane Dodd
President of IGCAT

SECTORAL PARTNER ENDORSEMENT

From IGCAT, we extend our congratulations to the Prefecture of Manabí and all territorial stakeholders on their designation as a World Region of Gastronomy 2026, a recognition that goes beyond symbolism and highlights a deep commitment to identity, sustainability, and territorial development grounded in food culture.

Manabí has demonstrated that gastronomy is far more than a tourism resource: it is a tool for transformation. Through the preservation of ancestral knowledge, the valorization of local products, and the promotion of more sustainable food systems, the region has successfully articulated tradition and innovation for the benefit of its communities. Its approach places people at the center, recognizing the essential role of producers, fishers, traditional cooks, and new generations as guardians of a living heritage.

The designation as a World Region of Gastronomy 2026 also acknowledges Manabí's capacity to build a model that connects biodiversity, landscape, culture, and identity. Initiatives that promote food sovereignty, responsible consumption, climate resilience, and the strengthening of local economies reflect a vision aligned with the values promoted by IGCAT in Europe and worldwide.

This recognition is also an invitation to move forward. Manabí is emerging as an international benchmark capable of inspiring other territories to rediscover the value of their gastronomic heritage as a driver of sustainable development, social cohesion, and collective pride. From IGCAT, we are honored to accompany this process and to continue building, together with Manabí, a future where gastronomy serves as a bridge between cultures, territories, and generations.

IGCAT
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
GASTRONOMY, CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM



World Region of Gastronomy – Manabí Awarded 2026 recognition.



Application of techniques for the proper preservation of food, gastronomy laboratory, Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

"ANCESTRAL GASTRONOMY AS A DRIVER OF EMPLOYMENT AND PROSPERITY"

Project Description
Manabí Millenary Gastronomy has consolidated following its designation as a World Region of Gastronomy 2026 by IGCAT (December 10, 2024). A total of 22 gastronomic fairs have been implemented, generating an estimated $1.5 million in circular economy impact, along with participation in international events (FITUR Madrid, Madrid Fusion, World Food Gift Challenge in Sicily, ITB Berlin), publication of gastronomic works, and a training program with 463 participants.

The project strengthens the territorial brand and prepares the 2026 agenda, including the 2nd World Gastronomy Summit at ULEAM and the Young Chef of the Americas Award.

SDGs Impact
SDG 8 (Decent Work): Job creation and economic dynamization in gastronomic tourism, agri-food production, and the creative economy. The value chain connects rural producers, processors, restaurants, and distributors.
SDG 1 (No Poverty): Income generation for small-scale producers.
SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Strengthening food sovereignty.
SDG 4 (Quality Education): 463 people trained in gastronomy.
SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Rural women as carriers of culinary knowledge.
SDG 9 (Infrastructure): Development of initiatives such as the Iche School-Restaurant-Lab and the Pacific Convention Center.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- First World Region of Gastronomy in Latin America.
- 22 fairs generating $1.5 million in circular economy impact.
- 463 participants in gastronomic training programs.
- International presence: Madrid Fusión, ITB Berlin, Sicily.
- Central narrative axis of the ILV 2025.

LINKED SDGs:



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SDG9

SDG 9 · INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

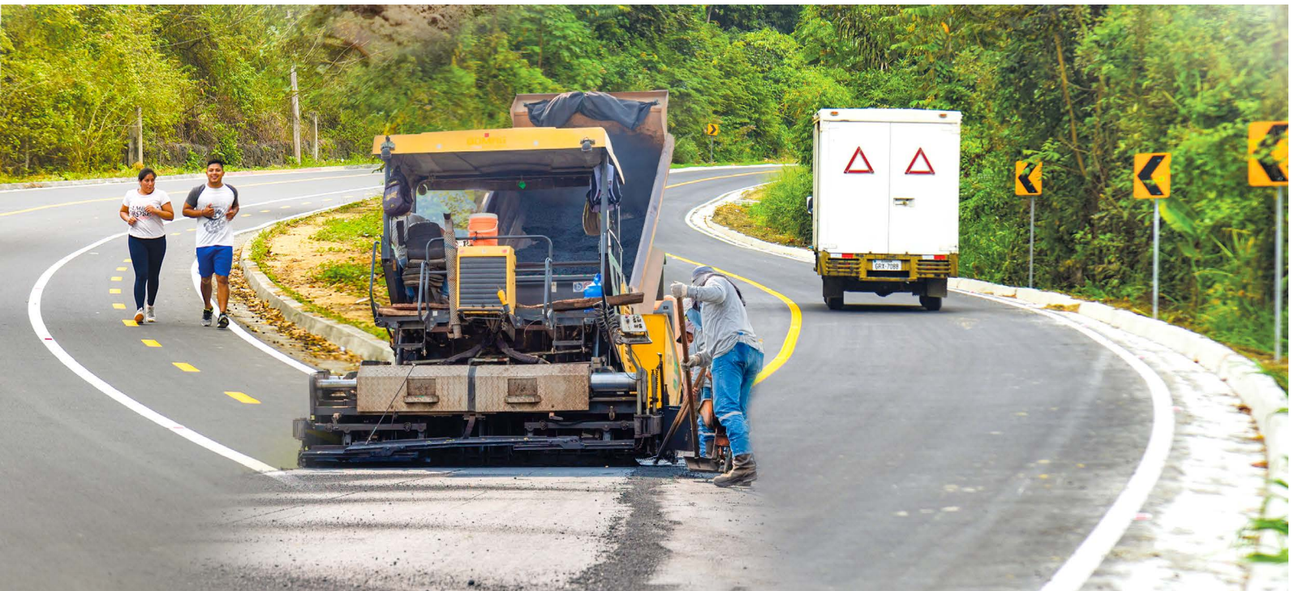
9.1 Develop reliable, sustainable, resilient, and quality infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being.

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

9.a Facilitate the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological, and technical support.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**83.16%**	**55.29%**	**62.57%**	**73.32%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	**11.13%**	**7.40%**	**8.37%**	**9.81%**

IPT Dimension: Infrastructure Development Weight: 26.77%
Territorial Progress 2025: 0.09%



TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Manufacturing sector employment as a proportion of total employment	Percentage	10.12	13.15	10.74	11.75	11.80	Increasing	

Source: INEC (ENEMDU, ESPAC, Administrative Records), BCE, National Police. N/A = No information available.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual SDG contribution	Average unit investment
Number of projects managed with Higher Education Institutions (FM_PDOT_ME_55)	$0.00	$0.00	$153.806,65	$153.806,65	0	0	6	7		14.514,20 USD / Number
Length of roads with structure maintained in their current condition (FM_PDOT_MI_11)	$12'957.703,91	$13'755.057,75	$17'807.019,88	$7'353.396,60	1206.86	775.59	1590,35	704,71		12.126,84 USD / Number (Km)
Length of roads improved in their material condition (FM_PDOT_MI_12)	$35'077.954,37	$22'532.220,16	$13'143.593,32	$9'659.752,71	520.91	250.46	118.77	141,82		77.914,38 USD / Number (Km)
Length of natural-surface roads without structure (summer roads) maintained in their current condition (FM_PDOT_MI_13)	$11'384.269,31	$12'219.082,12	$1'587.280,62	$16'787.414,70	10.305,83	8.196,63	10.369,84	10.003		1.079,81 USD / Number (Km)
Number of bridges and major civil works intervened (FM_PDOT_MI_14)	$11'336.889,33	$5'633.117,12	$5'748.272,83	$6'658.215,31	52	18	34	27		224.248,05 USD / Number (bridges)
Length of roads built under the PROVIAMA program (FM_PDOT_MI_15)	$1'916.172,79	$2'882.917,38	$332.478,29	$917.722,87	140,90	10	0	0		40.088,08 USD / Number (Km)
Number of road machinery units renewed or increased (FM_PDOT_MI_16)	$0.00	$0.00	$4'991.706,42	$4'506.230,57	0	0	0	18		527.663,17 USD / Number (units)
Number of project profiles prepared for Territorial Strategic Operations (FM_PDOT_MI_23)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0	0	0	0		0,00 USD / Number
Number of public infrastructure study files prepared in the pre-investment phase (FM_PDOT_MI_24)	$36.716,73	$89.378,14	$2'023.940,90	$2'645.576,17	3	3	62	61		37.175,29 USD / Number (pre-investment files)
New or inactive productive infrastructures made operational (FM_PDOT_MP_35)	$242.648,84	$77.433,21	$62.365,57	$31.394,48	12	15	0	1		14.780,080 USD / Number (new or inactive infrastructures)

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Road infrastructure represents the largest investment of the Prefecture of Manabí and the dimension with the greatest gap according to the TPI (weight 26.77%). In 2025, SDG 9 accounted for $48,585,581.41, equivalent to 68.4% of total annual investment and a weighted contribution (D) of 13.38%.

The linked PDOT indicators include:

- Road maintenance (FM_PDOT_MI_11): 704.71 km with $7.35 million.
- Road improvement (FM_PDOT_MI_12): 141.82 km with $9.65 million.
- Seasonal rural roads (FM_PDOT_MI_13): 10,003 km maintained with $16.79 million.
- Bridges and major infrastructure (FM_PDOT_MI_14): 27 projects implemented with $6.66 million.
- Renewal of road machinery (18 units).
- Technical studies (61 dossiers).
- University linkage projects (FM_PDOT_ME_55, 7 projects).

The SDG contribution (A) improved from 62.57% in 2024 to 73.32% in 2025.

Provincial manufacturing employment (9.2.2) remained stable at 11.80% of total employment in Manabí in 2025, consolidating a steady recovery from 10.12% in 2021.

SDG 9 concentrates 68.4% of the institution's annual investment (USD 48,585,581.41), reflecting the prioritization established by the Territorial Prosperity Index, which assigns the highest weight (26.77%) to the Infrastructure Development dimension. The resulting unit costs are as follows: USD 12,126.84 per kilometer of roadway with preserved structural conditions (FM_PDOT_MI_11); USD 77,914.38 per kilometer of roadway improved in its material composition (FM_PDOT_MI_12); USD 1,079.81 per kilometer of seasonal rural road maintained (FM_PDOT_MI_13); USD 224,248.05 per bridge or major engineering structure intervened (FM_PDOT_MI_14); USD 527,663.17 per renewed road machinery unit (FM_PDOT_MI_16); USD 37,175.29 per pre-investment dossier prepared (FM_PDOT_MI_24); and USD 14,514.20 per project managed jointly with higher education institutions (FM_PDOT_ME_55).

The cost per kilometer of improved roadway falls within the sector's reference range (USD 60,000–120,000 depending on the type of road surface and terrain conditions), while the cost per bridge reflects the diversity of spans and structural complexity within the Bicentennial Roads Program. Investment in seasonal rural roads, with a very low unit cost (USD 1,080/km), is what enables the maintenance of rural connectivity across a provincial road network of approximately 10,000 kilometers, which without this systematic maintenance would become impassable for six months each year during the rainy season.

The Bicentennial Roads Program -covering 118.8 km with $53.41 million in CAF financing- represents the largest road transformation in Manabí's history, reducing travel times by up to 52% between productive centers in the central-southern region of the province.

Road infrastructure has a proven multiplier effect: it connects rural producers to markets, reduces agricultural transport costs, improves access to essential services, and stimulates gastronomic tourism, strengthening the productive value chains that underpin the World Region of Gastronomy 2026.

Bicentennial Roads of Manabí

Status	En ejecución (1%)
Implementing Unit	Project Management Unit UGP
Beneficiaries	695,730 people (direct beneficiaries)
Partners	CAF — Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean
Implementation period	2026–2027
Total investment	$53,41 million
Funding source	CAF Loan ($43,4M) + Prefecture resources
Linked SDG	SDGs 9, 1, 2, 8, 11, 13, 15
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_9.jpg: Route of the Bicentennial Roads in the Central-Southern Area (Portoviejo–Santa Ana–Pichincha–Bolívar).





Diana Mejía
CAF Representative in Ecuador

SECTORAL PARTNER ENDORSEMENT

CAF -Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean- is a committed partner in the comprehensive development of territories. Under this premise, we support the progress of Manabí through rural roads that function as the arteries of the local economy. We understand that without them, high agricultural transport costs and lack of connectivity exclude families from the opportunities they deserve (SDG 1).

In this regard, the roads planned and implemented by the Prefecture of Manabí will facilitate access to markets and reduce travel times, enabling small-scale producers to compete more efficiently (SDG 8). We are confident that this investment will not only translate into improved incomes (SDG 1), but will also stimulate local employment in construction and be consolidated through long-term road maintenance policies.

At the same time, we recognize a direct relationship between road development, food sovereignty (SDG 2), and community well-being. While quality roads ensure the flow of food, they also strengthen the social environment by allowing children to travel safely and reliably to their schools.

Finally, together with the province, we aim to develop resilient and high-quality infrastructure (SDG 9) using local materials. Under this vision, these efforts must address the challenges of climate change by integrating robust drainage systems that protect investments and ensure the durability of roads during the rainy season.

From CAF, we reaffirm our commitment to connecting and supporting territorial development in an integrated manner, working hand in hand with the actors who transform everyday life at the local level.

BANCO DE DESARROLLO DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

"118 KILOMETERS TRANSFORMING CONNECTIVITY IN MANABÍ"

Project description
The Bicentennial Roads Program represents the largest road infrastructure transformation in the history of Manabí: 118.8 km of new asphalt-paved roads across three strategic corridors.

Calceta–Quiroga–El Desvío Corridor (53.18 km / $19.74M) connects Bolívar and Pichincha with Chone and Tosagua, reducing travel time from 1h25m to 53 minutes.

Ayacucho–San Pablo–Provincial Border Corridor (43.33 km / $20.84M) integrates Manabí with Guayas, reducing travel time from 1h30m to 43 minutes.

Colón–Quimís Corridor (22.29 km / $12.83M) connects Portoviejo, Jipijapa, and Montecristi, reducing travel time from 1h16m to 58 minutes.

The program is complemented by a Territorial Agenda that articulates productive, tourism, social, and environmental projects under the UN-Habitat Strategic Territorial Operations approach.

SDG Impact
SDG 9 (Infrastructure): 118.8 km of high-standard roads reducing travel times by up to 52%.
SDG 1 (No Poverty): Road investment contributes to reducing the GINI index and multidimensional poverty.
SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Market connectivity for 30% of agricultural production in the central-southern region.
SDG 8 (Decent Work): Job creation in construction and dynamization of the Manabí–Guayas logistics corridor.
SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities): Rural–urban integration through Strategic Territorial Operations.
SDG 13 (Climate Action): Resilience measures including drainage systems and slope reforestation.
SDG 15 (Life on Land): Interaction with Protected Forests and Sustainable Use and Conservation Areas (ACUS).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 118.8 km of asphalt roads across 3 strategic corridors.
- $53.41 million investment financed by CAF.
- 695,730 direct beneficiaries.
- Travel time reduction of up to 52%.
- Territorial Agenda aligned with UN-Habitat frameworks.

LINKED SDGs:



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG10

ODS 10.REDUCED INEQUALITIES

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

10.1 Progressively achieve and sustain income growth for the poorest 40% of the population.

10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all people.

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities in outcomes.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicador	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**00.00%**	**00.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	2.92%	2.92%	00.00%	00.00%

TPI Dimension: Social Cohesion and Equity · Weight: 2.92%
Territorial Progress 2025: -0.00%



Services provided at the “Manabí Humano” Network of Physical Rehabilitation Centers.

PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ Desarrollo y Equidad

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, disaggregated by sex, age, and persons with disabilities	Percentage	19.43	21.29	19.16	20.71	20.72	Decreasing	

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2025	Budget 2024	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual SDG contribution	Average unit investment
Number of families benefited through the management of rural land legalization processes (FM_PDOT_AH36)	$57.938,01	$115.760,03	$0.00	$0.00	159	300	0	0		378,43 USD / Number of families

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Reducing inequalities remains a structural challenge for Manabí. Indicator 10.2.1 (proportion of people living below 50% of median income) remained virtually unchanged: 20.71% in 2024 and 20.72% in 2025 (+0.05%), reflecting persistent inequality. Ecuador's national Gini Coefficient stood at 0.463 in December 2024 (INEC), and for the first-time rural areas showed a worse income distribution than urban areas during the 2023–2024 biennium, reversing a historical trend.

As explained in Section 2.6 of this report, SDG 10 does not register a dedicated coded investment within the current 2023–2027 PDOT, since indicator FM_PDOT_AH36 (rural land tenure legalization) operated only under the previous PDOT. Provincial action aimed at reducing inequalities is therefore channeled, without double counting, through SDGs 1, 3, and 5.
The Breaking Barriers good practice, implemented through 64 physical rehabilitation centers coordinated with parish-level GADs across 13 cantons and providing 161,767 services in 2025, executed USD 85,174.22, resulting in an extraordinarily low unit cost of USD 0.53 per service provided. This figure is explained by the co-management model: parish GADs contribute the physical facilities and basic utilities, while the Prefecture of Manabí provides clinical equipment, professional personnel, and the management model.

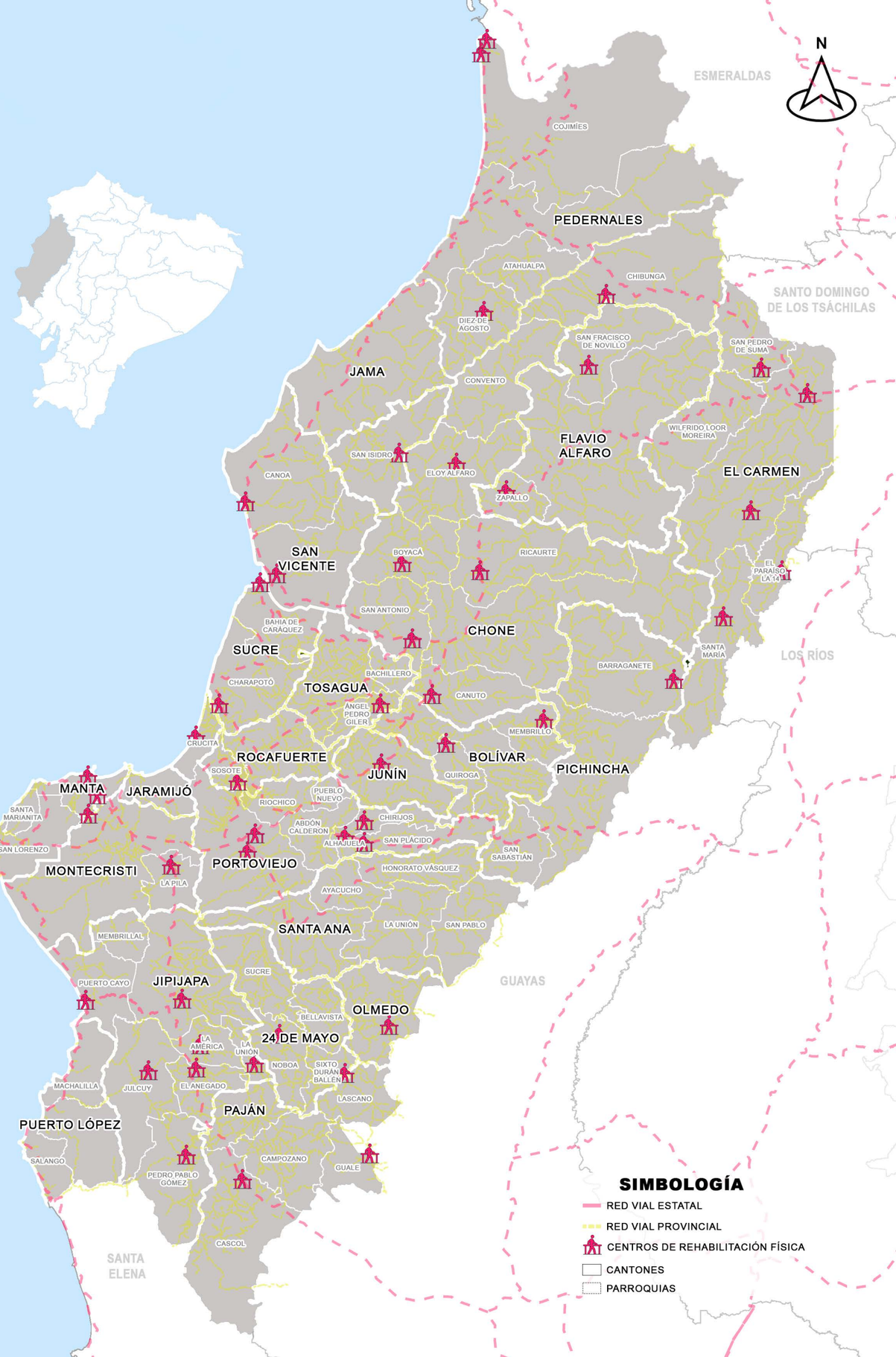
A private physiotherapy session in Manabí has a reference cost ranging from USD 15 to USD 30, while an occupational therapy session generally costs between USD 20 and USD 40. The difference compared to the provincial unit cost is therefore of several orders of magnitude, demonstrating the highly subsidized nature of the service and its substantial impact on real accessibility for persons with disabilities and priority care groups in rural parishes where no equivalent private services exist.
Public policies for the LGBTIQ+ population and for adolescents and youth, developed through participatory processes, complement the inclusion approach that characterizes Manabí 5i.

Breaking Barriers

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Human Development
Beneficiaries	64 centres; 161.767 services
Partners	Local Governments (13 cantons, 35+ parish)
Implementation period	2020–2027
Total investment	$85.174,22
Funding source	Own prefecture resources
Linked SDG	SDGs 10, 3, 1, 11
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_10.jpg: Rehabilitation Centers (pink icons) across the 22 cantons, with a concentration in Portoviejo, Chone, El Carmen, Jipijapa, and Pedernales.

Services provided at the “Manabí Humano” Network of Physical Rehabilitation Centers.

Services provided at the “Manabí Humano” Network of Physical Rehabilitation Centers.



"PHYSICAL REHABILITATION ACROSS THE TERRITORY: 161,767 SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2025"

Project Description
The "Breaking Barriers" program operates 64 physical rehabilitation centers in rural parishes across 13 cantons, in coordination with parish-level GADs. In 2025, the program provided 161,767 services to persons with disabilities and priority attention groups. The initiative guarantees access to specialized healthcare services in areas where public service provision is limited, helping reduce territorial inequalities. The centers operate in community spaces staffed by professionals in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, delivering free services under a rights-based approach.

SDG Impact
SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): Equitable access to rehabilitation services in more than 35 rural parishes where no alternative public services exist.
SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being): 161,767 physical rehabilitation services provided.
SDG 1 (No Poverty): Free services that eliminate economic barriers to access.
SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Decentralized services that strengthen territorial cohesion.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 64 rehabilitation centers across 13 rural cantons.
- 161,767 services provided in 2025.
- Coordination with more than 35 parish-level GADs.
- Free services delivered under a rights-based approach.
- Reduction of territorial health gaps.

LINKED SDGs:



Services provided at the "Manabí Humano" Network of Physical Rehabilitation Centers.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDG11

SDG 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems.

11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory planning and management

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

11.a Support positive economic, social, and environmental links between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**95.59%**	**96.05%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	12.79%	12.85%	13.38%	13.38%

TPI Dimension: Social Cohesion and Equity · Weight: 0.00%
Territorial Progress 2025: Preliminary (data not yet available for all indicators)



Art schools (dance, painting, film, theater and music) of the Prefecture of Manabí.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Annual Prefecture Contribution Chart	Average unit investment
Number of autonomous territorial jurisdictions benefited through the implementation of OETs (FM_PDOT_AH37)	$5.954,94	$28.800,00	$0.00	$0.00	48	22	0	0		496,59 USD / Number of autonomous territorial jurisdictions
Number of initiatives for recovering identity, cultural, and heritage values (FM_PDOT_MP_45)	$17.348,00	$0.00	$165.879,88	$0.00	2	2	2	2		22.903,49 USD / Number of initiatives
Number of tourism organizations that received support (FM_PDOT_MP_46)	$301.914,98	$213.621,62	$219.941,84	$141.136,69	50	55	20	24		5.883,32 USD / Number of tourism organizations

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

SDG 11 takes on particular relevance in the lead-up to the 2026 HLPF, which will conduct an in-depth review of this goal in New York (7–15 July 2026). This coincides with the 10th anniversary of the New Urban Agenda and the UCLG World Congress in Tangier (June 2026). Manabí does not currently have INEC territorial indicators assigned to SDG 11 at the provincial level, as most of these competencies fall under municipal governments. Nevertheless, the contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí remains significant: the contribution rate (A) remained at 100% in both 2024 and 2025, with a weighted contribution (D) of 13.38% under the TPI Infrastructure Development dimension.

Investment was channeled through tourism and cultural promotion initiatives (USD 141,136.69 in 2025), strengthening 24 tourism organizations, producing two identity recovery memory documents, and supporting cultural events across the province's 22 cantons. The Cultural Cartography of Manabí — consisting of 22 cantonal postcards and one provincial postcard developed through participatory processes with the Ministry of Culture — represents an innovative tool for territorial planning and heritage promotion.

The Strategic Territorial Operations, developed under the UN-Habitat approach, integrate productive, tourism, social, and environmental projects within a multi-level planning framework that the Prefecture will present as a best practice at the 2026 HLPF.

Cultural and creative routes

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Tourism, Culture and Heritage
Beneficiaries	Visitors, GADs, tour operators, cultural managers, and artisans
Partners	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.
Implementation period	2025
Total investment	$8.082,00
Funding source	Prefecture of Manabí own resources + Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
Linked SDG	SDGs 11, 4, 8
Territorial Coverage	Sin mapa específico.

LA PUERTA DE ORO

GASTRONOMÍA MILENARIA

El Carmen

Pichincha

Olmedo

Paján

Flavio Alfaro

Junín

Santa Ana

24 de Mayo

Chone

Bolívar

Jipijapa

Tosagua

Montecristi

Rocafuerte

Portoviejo

Pto. López

Manta

Jaramijó

Pedernales

Sucre

Jama

San Vicente

E
N MANABÍ S
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WORLD REGION OF GASTRONOMY
MANABÍ AWARDED 2026

Cultural and Creative Route of Manabí.



Presentation of the Cultural and Creative Route across the cantons, Portoviejo.



Presentation of the Cultural and Creative Route across the cantons, Montecristi.

"LIVING CARTOGRAPHY: 22 CANTONS MAPPING THEIR CULTURAL IDENTITY"

Project description

Implemented through an agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the project developed the Cultural Cartography of Manabí: a participatory and georeferenced process that identified, documented, and classified heritage landmarks, artistic expressions, ancestral knowledge, and community practices across the province's 22 cantons. As a result, 22 cantonal postcards and one provincial postcard were produced as tools for territorial promotion, fostering social appropriation of cultural heritage. The material is displayed in tourism, cultural, and heritage spaces, consolidating its role as a strategic communication resource.

SDG Impact

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Contribution to Target 11.4 — protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage. The georeferenced cartography serves as a territorial planning tool.
SDG 4 (Quality Education): Educational material for schools and community spaces.
SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Tourism positioning and the revitalization of local cultural economies.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Georeferenced Cultural Cartography covering all 22 cantons.
- 22 cantonal postcards plus 1 provincial postcard.
- Participatory process involving cultural managers and communities.
- Digital platform: gendoc.culturaypatrimonio.gob.ec/rutas culturales
- Tool for sustainable tourism planning.

International context

CAJA HLPF 2026: The High-Level Political Forum (7–15 July 2026, New York) will review SDG 11. This coincides with the 10th anniversary of the New Urban Agenda and the UCLG World Congress in Tangier (June 2026). Manabí's experience in community risk management, territorial planning, and cultural cartography contributes to the global debate on sustainable and inclusive cities.

LINKED SDGs:



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

SDG12

SDG 12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

12.2 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

12.4 Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste.

12.8 Ensure that people have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development. sostenible.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**00.00%**	**00.00%**	**00.00%**	**00.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%	00.00%

TPI Dimension: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Weight: 0,00%
Territorial Progress 2025: Preliminary (data not yet available for all indicators)



Casa Deli Producer Schools with an agroecological focus.

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

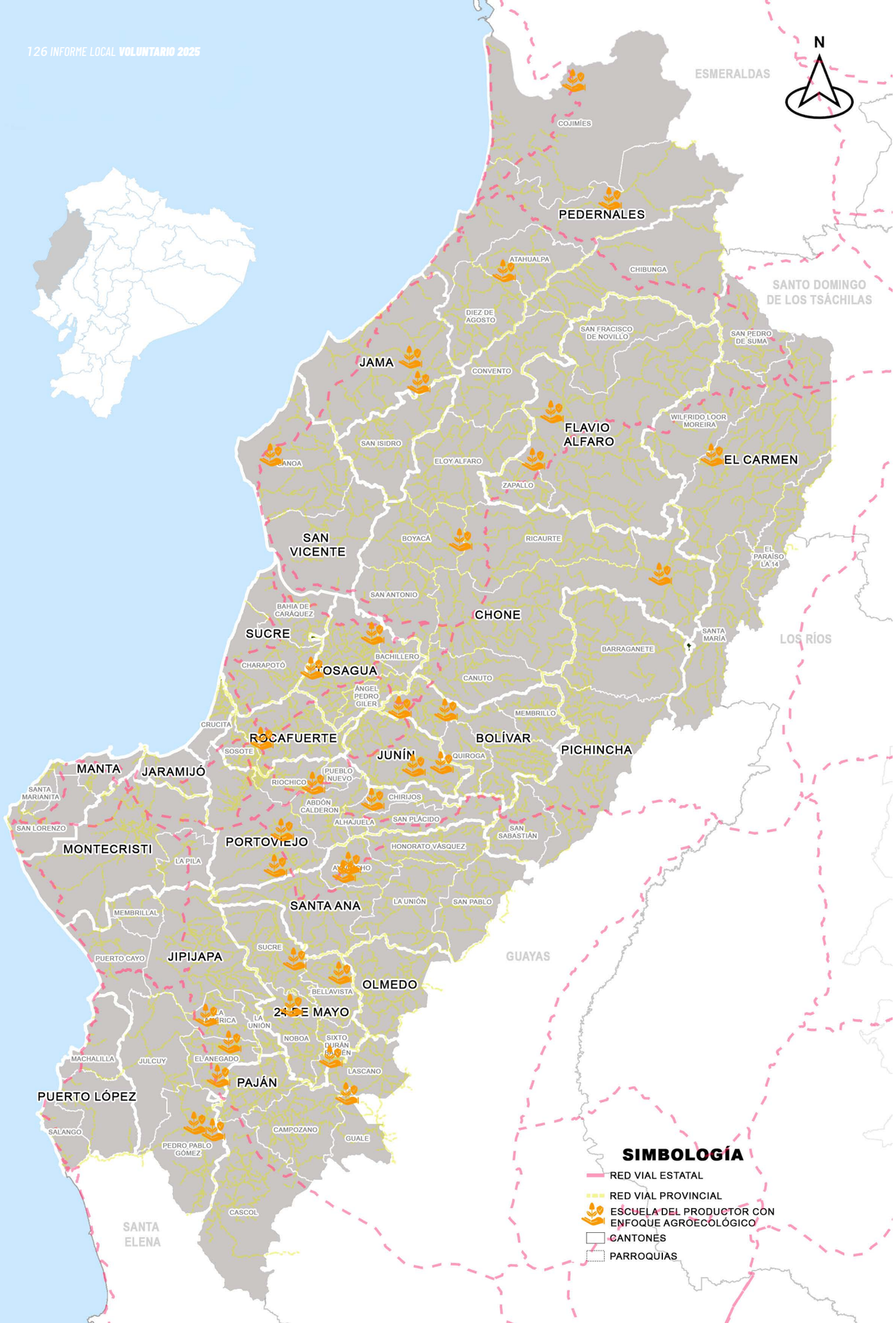
Responsible consumption and production are directly linked to Manabí's agricultural vocation and its designation as the World Gastronomy Region 2026. The INEC indicator framework does not assign direct territorial indicators to SDG 12 at the provincial level, and the 2023–2027 PDOT does not include indicators with budget allocation and a specific code linked to this SDG; nevertheless, the provincial contribution remains indirect yet substantial. The Agroecological Producer School trained 900 producers in integrated soil management, biological pest control, organic production, and good agricultural practices, with an investment of USD 419,778 and the participation of nine international cooperation partners.
The "100% Made in Manabí" label, the Manabí Diet, and the agroecological approach promote sustainable production patterns and responsible consumption at the provincial scale. The convergence with IYWF 2026 further reinforces the importance of agroecological practices led by rural women as a model for responsible consumption, food sovereignty, and circular economy within the framework of the World Gastronomy Region 2026 initiative.

Agroecological Producer School

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Productive Development
Beneficiaries	900 producers
Partners	GIZ, MAG, INIAP, IICA, PMA, EbA LAC, INAMHI, FIASA, Swiss Cooperation
Implementation period	12 months
Total investment	$419.778,00
Funding source	Own Prefecture resources + International Cooperation
Linked SDG	SDGs 12, 2, 1, 8, 15
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_12.jpg: Agroecological Schools Across the 22 Cantons, Concentrated in Agricultural Areas.



Casa Deli Producer Schools with an agroecological focus.



PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ
Desarrollo y Equidad

"900 PRODUCERS LEARNING TO FARM WITH NATURE"

Project description

The project contributes to strengthening the technical capacities of producers to address agricultural challenges in a sustainable and profitable way. The Producer School was implemented through theoretical and practical modules covering integrated soil management, biological pest control, organic production, and good agricultural practices. The model emerged from participatory budgeting processes and was implemented in coordination with nine cooperation partners. Each school operates as a collective learning space where producers exchange experiences and access technical assistance.

SDG Impact

SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): Training in agroecological practices that reduce the use of agrochemicals and promote sustainability.
SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Improved agricultural productivity.
SDG 1 (No Poverty): Diversification of rural incomes.
SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Sustainable rural employment.
SDG 15 (Life on Land): Soil conservation and biodiversity protection.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 900 producers trained in agroecology.
- Modules on soil management, biological control, and organic production.
- Participation of 9 national and international cooperation partners.
- Participatory budgeting approach.

LINKED SDGs:



13 CLIMATE ACTION

SDG13

SDG 13. CLIMATE ACTION

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

13.3 Improve education, awareness, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	100.00%	5.86%	100.00%	100.00%
Weighted Contribution (D)	5.22%	0.31%	5.22%	5.22%

TPI Dimension: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience · Weight: 0.00%
2025 Territorial Progress: Preliminary (without complete data for all indicators)



Macro photograph of a blue bellflower (campanilla azul), a floral species of our Cinco Cerros ACUS (Conservation and Sustainable Use Area), located in the Paján canton, covering an approximate area of 21,000 ha.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual contribution to the SDG	Average unit investment
Number of people served through the Environmental Education Agenda (FM_PDOT_BF08)	$14.000,00	$0.00	$0.00	$64.072,79	1.116	580	997	1.057		20,82 USD / Number of people
Number of people served through comprehensive emergency management (FM_PDOT_BF09)	$70.175,00	$202,868,00	$5.593,74	$209.548,35	3.840	0	0	21.751		16,63 USD / Number of people

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Climate action is a cross-cutting pillar of the management approach of the Prefecture of Manabí, primarily articulated through the GIZ EbA LAC program and the Climate Change axis of the ODSSH Observatory. The INEC indicator framework does not assign direct territorial indicators to SDG 13 at the provincial level — the closest indicator is 1.5.1 (people affected by disasters), reported under SDG 1 — therefore, progress measurement relies on the institutional contribution of the Prefecture. In 2025, provincial investment linked to SDG 13 increased significantly, from USD 5,594 in 2024 to USD 273,621.14 in 2025. The two PDOT indicators showed strong results: the Environmental Education Agenda reached 1,057 people (100% compliance), while comprehensive emergency management benefited 21,751 people (100% compliance), the latter representing an extraordinary increase compared to 3,768 beneficiaries in 2024.

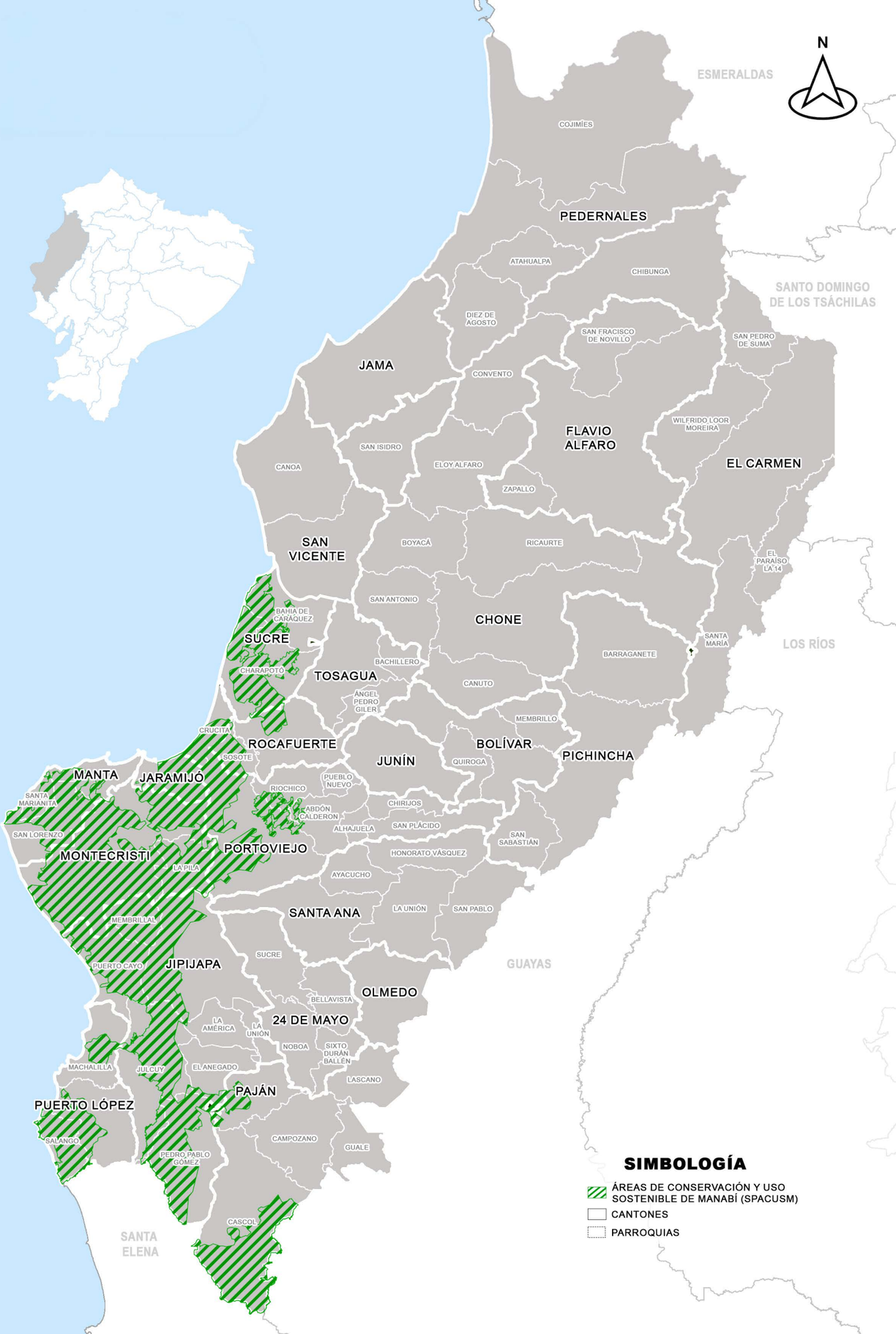
The declaration of five Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (ACUS) — covering 241,431.39 hectares protected across nine cantons — constitutes the province's most ambitious regulatory framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The SPACUSM, financed by Andes Amazon Fund and implemented by Fundación PASOS and CEIBA, integrates carbon sink conservation, watershed protection, and sustainable productive activities.

The establishment of Community Risk Management Committees strengthens territorial resilience in the face of extreme climate events affecting the province.

Declaration of Five Provincial ACUS Areas

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Legal Counsel of the Prefecture / Directorate of Environment and Risk Management
Beneficiaries	N/A (Provincial Regulation)
Partners	N/A
Implementation period	N/A
Total investment	N/A
Funding source	N/A
Linked SDG	SDGs 13, 15, 6, 11
Territorial Coverage	No specific map available. ACUS located along the coastal strip and the central mountain range.

Shrub species from the dry forests, “Bosque Alimentario y de la Interculturalidad” ACUS (Food and Interculturality Forest), covering an approximate area of 180,000 ha.





Entrance to La Tomatera ACUS, located in the Portoviejo canton, covering an area of 4,900 ha.



Lagoon with endemic species in the Forest Park (Parque Forestal), located in the Portoviejo canton.

"FIVE PROTECTED AREAS TO PRESERVE THE FUTURE OF MANABÍ"

Project description

The Prefecture of Manabí issued five resolutions declaring Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (ACUS): Cordillera del Bálsamo (052-RES), Bosque Alimentario y de la Interculturalidad (053-RES), Sendero de los Monos with 13,278.89 hectares (054-RES), La Tomatera (055-RES), and Cinco Cerros (056-RES). These areas are part of the SPACUSM framework, which covers 241,431.39 hectares across nine cantons, financed by Andes Amazon Fund and implemented by Fundación PASOS and CEIBA. Each ACUS includes an Alternative Management Study.

SDG Impact

SDG 13 (Climate Action): Regulatory framework for climate change adaptation and mitigation through ecosystem conservation.
SDG 15 (Life on Land): 241,431.39 hectares under provincial protection.
SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Protection of water sources and watersheds.
SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Territorial resilience and land-use planning.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Five ACUS declared in 2025.
- 241,431.39 hectares protected across nine cantons.
- SPACUSM with a comprehensive regulatory framework.
- Financing provided by Andes Amazon Fund.
- Each ACUS includes an Alternative Management Study.

SDGs LINKED:



14 LIFE BELOW WATER

SDG14

SDG 14. LIFE BELOW WATER

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

14.2 Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems.

14.4 Effectively regulate fisheries exploitation and end overfishing.

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

TPI Dimension: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience · Weight: 0.00%
Territorial Progress 2025: Preliminary (data not yet available for all indicators)



Delivery of a lifeboat (rescue craft), in the Puerto López canton.



Beneficiaries of the artisanal-fishing Producer Schools in Puerto Cayo, Jipijapa canton.

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Life below water is closely linked to the coastal identity of Manabí, whose 307-kilometer coastline hosts strategic marine ecosystems and ancestral fishing communities. The INEC indicator framework does not assign direct territorial indicators to SDG 14 at the provincial level, and the 2023–2027 PDOT does not include indicators with budget allocation and a specific code linked to this SDG. However, the Prefecture of Manabí channels its contribution through the Artisanal Fishing School, which strengthened the capacities of 821 fishers in operational skills, rescue techniques, and preventive navigation, with an investment of USD 301,782.63.

The program was implemented in coastal communities from Pedernales to Puerto López, in coordination with MAG, MPCEIP, and WFP. Artisanal fishing is a key sector for food security and productive value chains within the framework of the World Gastronomy Region 2026 initiative, as seafood products from Manabí are essential ingredients in the province's gastronomy. Protecting fishery resources through responsible fishing techniques contributes simultaneously to the environmental and economic sustainability of coastal communities, as well as to the maritime vocation that defines the cultural and gastronomic identity of Manabí.

Artisanal Fishing School

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Productive Development
Beneficiaries	821 Artisanal fishers
Partners	GIZ, MAG, MPCEIP
Implementation period	8 months
Total investment	$301.782,63
Funding source	Own prefecture resources
Linked SDG	SDGs 14, 1, 8, 12
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_14.jpg: Fishing Schools Along the Coastal Strip (from Pedernales to Puerto López).



Delivery of communication and marine-fisher kits.



Delivery of communication and marine-fisher kits.





Delivery of kits to organizations along the northern fishing coast of Manabí province. Rescue equipment, in the Puerto López canton.



Artisanal fishing pier in the Puerto López canton.

"SAFER FISHERS: STRENGTHENING RESPONSIBLE FISHING"

Project description

The project strengthens the operational, rescue, and preventive navigation capacities of artisanal fishers and boat owners through the provision of specialized resources. It improves working conditions, increases productivity, and promotes well-being in fishing activities. The initiative was implemented in coastal communities across Manabí in coordination with MAG and MPCEIP, benefiting 821 fishers through equipment provision, maritime safety training, and responsible fishing techniques.

SDG Impact

SDG 14 (Life Below Water): Strengthening sustainable artisanal fishing through training in responsible techniques.
SDG 1 (No Poverty): Improved incomes for artisanal fishers.
SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Safer working conditions.
SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): Techniques that minimize environmental impact.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 821 fishers strengthened in operational capacities.
- Rescue and preventive navigation equipment provided.
- Coordination with MAG and MPCEIP.
- Coastal communities across more than eight cantons along the coastline.
- Responsible fishing as a pillar of sustainability.

SDGs LINKED:



15 LIFE ON LAND

SDG15

SDG 15. LIFE ON LAND

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

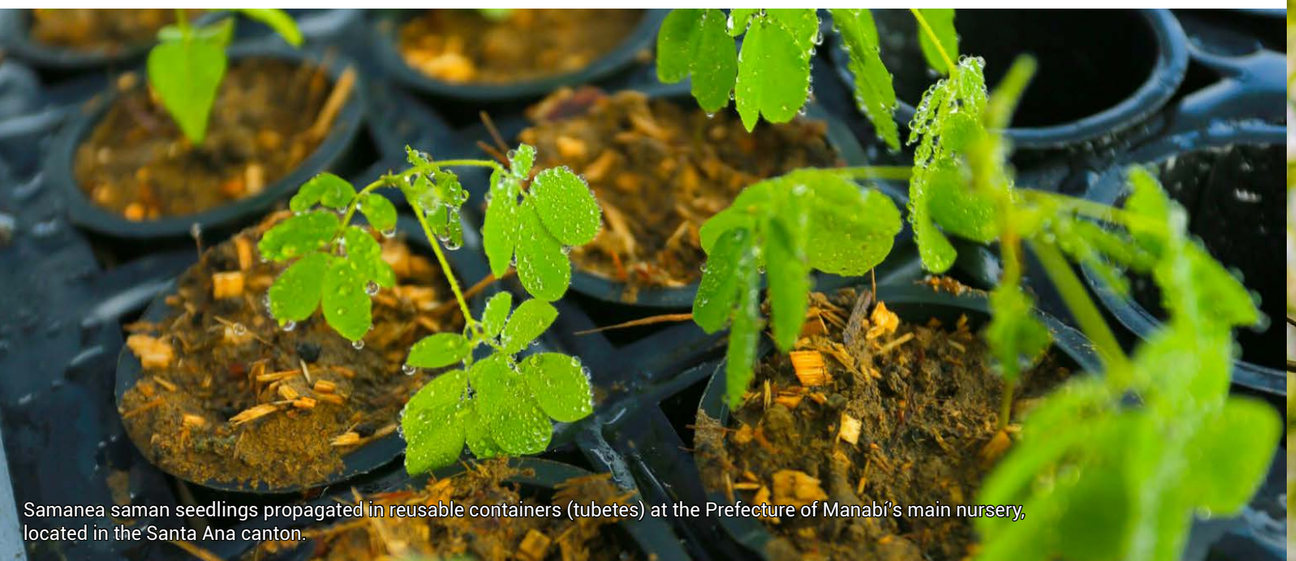
15.2 Sustainably manage forests and combat desertification and land degradation.

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats.

15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into planning, development processes, and poverty reduction strategies.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**83.01%**	**72.25%**	**71.02%**	**95.96%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	**4.34%**	**3.77%**	**3.71%**	**5.01%**

TPI Dimension: Environmental Sustainability and Resilience· Weight: 7.83%
Territorial Progress 2025: 2.36%



Samanea saman seedlings propagated in reusable containers (tubetes) at the Prefecture of Manabí's main nursery, located in the Santa Ana canton.

PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ Desarrollo y Equidad

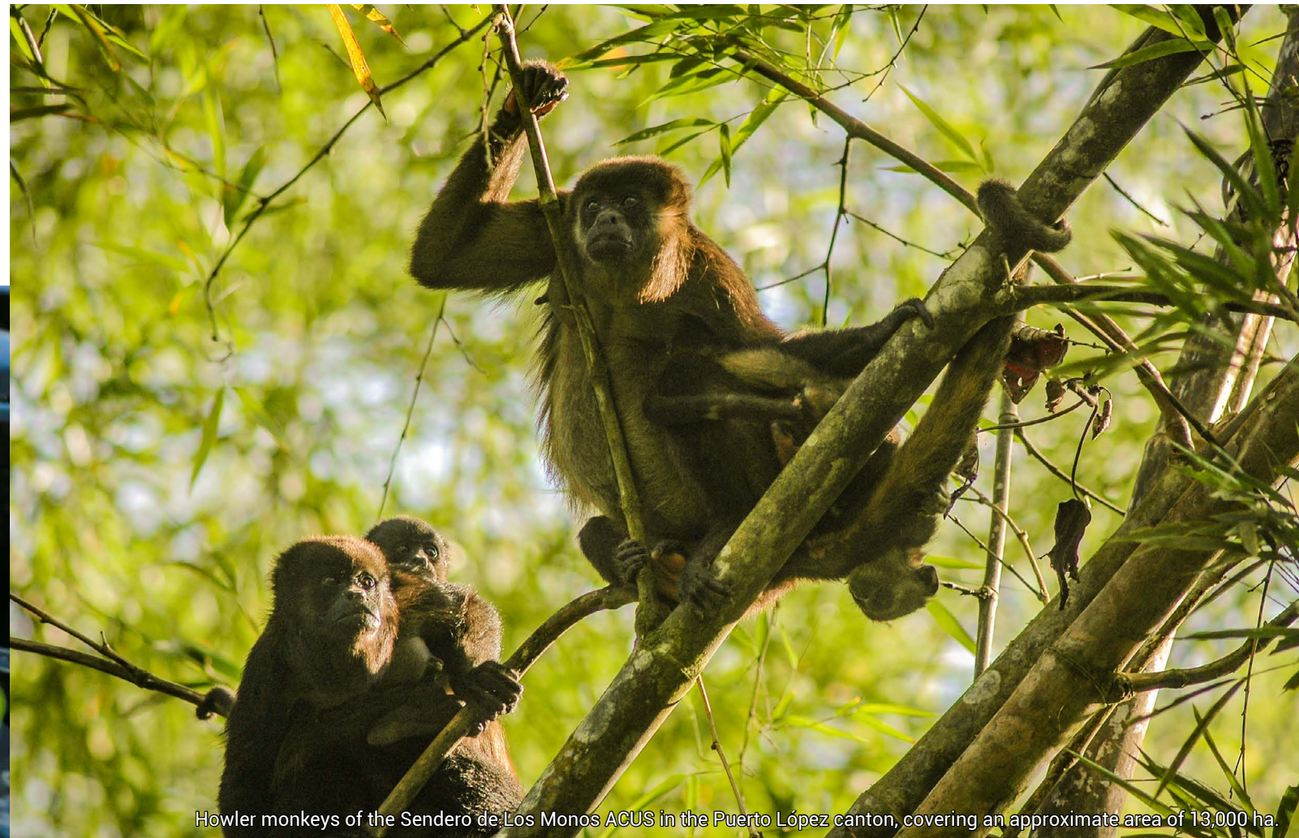
TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Forested and reforested area **	Ha	1.001,97	788	268,75	777,21	1.009,81	Increasing	

** Complementary indicators with provincial disaggregation that do not directly measure compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual contribution to the SDG	Average unit investment
Planted area requiring environmental conservation (FM_PDOT_MV_02)	$1'341.063,53	$1'437.173,42	$6.630,00	$256.291,16	501.65	240.60	730.31	462.70		1.571,45 USD / ha
Area planted with forest species of productive interest under sustainable management (FM_PDOT_MV_03)	$0,00	$0,00	$0,00	$256.291,16	468.17	29.4	45.51	547.11		235,09 USD / ha
Number of temporary nurseries implemented (FM_PDOT_MV_04)	$5.000,00	$11.584,85	$1'203.456,31	$333.210,95	12	36	31	23		15.227,96 USD / Number of nurseries
Percentage of planted area designated for conservation in ecosystem biocorridors and conservation and sustainable-use areas (FM_PDOT_M-V_05)	$81.885,59	$29.372,61	$0.00	$256.291,16	23.27	0	0,40	21.69		16.465,25 USD / %
Registration of Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas with management plans (FM_PDOT_M-V_06)	$155.500,00	$133.220,00	$16.840,00	$176.645,58	30.23	0	6.698.02	0		71,99 USD / ha



Howler monkeys of the Sendero de Los Monos ACUS in the Puerto López canton, covering an approximate area of 13,000 ha.



Photograph of a Brown Pelican captured in the Cordillera de Bálsamo ACUS, located in the Sucre canton, covering an approximate area of 22,000 ha.

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

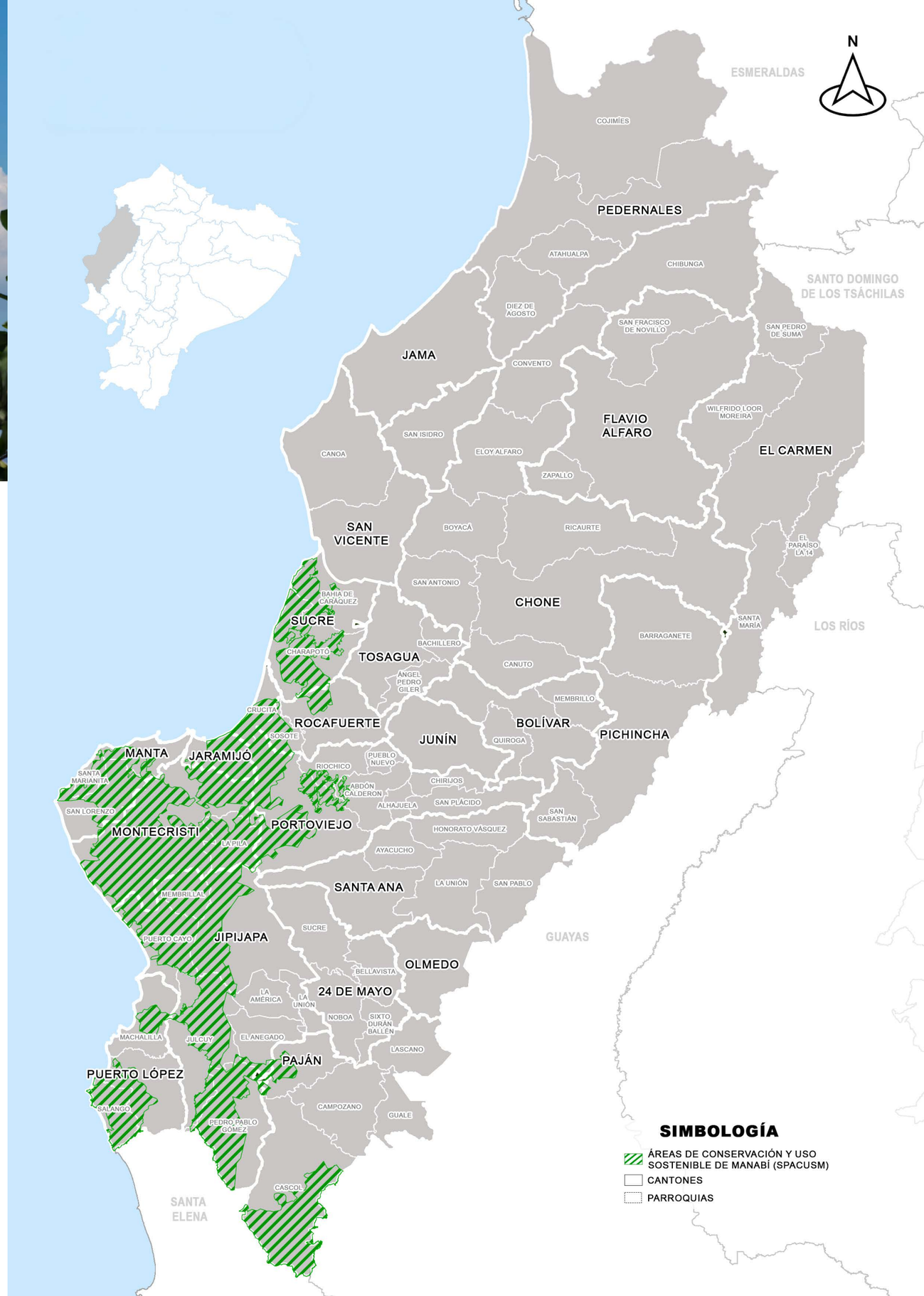
The conservation of terrestrial ecosystems recorded one of the most significant territorial advances in Manabí during 2025. The forested and reforested area indicator (15.1.1), with provincial disaggregation by INEC, reached 1,009.81 hectares in Manabí, representing a 30.09% increase compared to the 776.21 hectares recorded in 2024. This surpassed the 1,001.97 hectares registered in 2021 and marked the highest figure in the series.

The investment of the Prefecture of Manabí in the five SDG 15 PDOT indicators amounted to USD 1,278,730.01 in 2025, distributed as follows: FM_PDOT_MV_02 (area planted for environmental conservation) with USD 256,291.16 and 462.70 hectares, equivalent to USD 553.89 per reforested hectare; FM_PDOT_MV_03 (sustainable productive forestry) with USD 256,291.16 and 547.11 hectares, equivalent to USD 468.44 per hectare; FM_PDOT_MV_04 (temporary nurseries implemented) with USD 333,210.95 and 23 nurseries, equivalent to USD 14,487.43 per community nursery installed; FM_PDOT_MV_05 (surface area within ecosystem biocorridors and ACUS) with USD 256,291.16 and 21.69% of the provincial territory under coverage; and FM_PDOT_MV_06 (ACUS management plans) with USD 176,645.58.

The unit costs for reforestation fall within the sector's reference range (USD 400–1,500 per hectare depending on plantation type, density, and species), while the cost of establishing a community nursery represents a low-cost, long-term model capable of producing plant material for multiple planting cycles. The Provincial System of Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas of Manabí (SPACUSM), with 241,431.39 hectares under protection across five Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (ACUS), combines provincial funding with a grant from the Andes Amazon Fund (USD 380,190 in two phases), implemented through the PASOS and CEIBA foundations.

SPACUSM — Sistema Provincial de Áreas de Conservación

Status	Ongoing (60%)
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Environment and Risk Management
Beneficiaries	974.921 inhabitants of 9 cantons
Partners	Andes Amazon Fund (vía Fundación PASOS y CEIBA)
Implementation period	2025–2027
Total investment	Phase 1: $207.500 + Phase 2: $172.690
Funding source	Donation Andes Amazon Fund
Linked SDG	SDGs 15, 13, 6, 2
Territorial Coverage	SDG Map_15.jpg: Green Corridors of the ACUS in the Central-Southern Coastal Zone.





Carla Gavilanez
CCoordinator of the EbA LAC Program - GIZ

SECTORAL PARTNER ENDORSEMENT

The "Scaling up Ecosystem-based Adaptation Measures in Rural Areas of Latin America" (EbA LAC) Program is implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) as the lead agency, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), across three countries: Ecuador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. In Ecuador, the program is implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE) and is financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN).

From the EbA LAC Program, it is an honor to welcome the presentation of the 2025 Voluntary Local Review of the Prefecture of Manabí, which reflects strong leadership in the territorial implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

We deeply value the joint work experience developed with the Provincial Government, particularly in the territorialization of the Sustainable Development Goals through the Ecosystem-based Adaptation approach. This process has positioned Manabí as a national benchmark in integrating environmental sustainability, ecosystem conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable productive development into territorial planning and land use management.

The progress achieved demonstrates a strategic commitment to transforming the challenges of climate change into opportunities to strengthen livelihoods, protect natural resources, and improve the quality of life of the population through solutions that bring together multiple stakeholders and levels of government.

Within this framework, the EbA LAC Program will continue working with the Provincial Government of Manabí on initiatives that deepen and scale up the achievements made in climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation across the territory of Manabí.



Team of the EbA LAC – GIZ Programme.

"241,431 PROTECTED HECTARES: A PACT WITH THE NATURE OF MANABÍ"

Project description
The SPACUSM establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for the management of conservation areas in Manabí. The five declared ACUS areas (Cordillera del Bálsamo, Bosque Alimentario, Sendero de los Monos, La Tomatera, and Cinco Cerros) cover 241,431.39 hectares and each includes an Alternative Management Study. The initiative protects biodiversity, water sources, and strategic ecosystems while promoting sustainable productive activities. It is implemented by Fundación PASOS and CEIBA with financing from the Andes Amazon Fund.

SDG Impact
SDG 15 (Life on Land): 241,431.39 hectares under conservation and sustainable use management.
SDG 13 (Climate Action): Carbon sinks and climate regulation.
SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Protection of watersheds and water sources.
SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Sustainable productive activities compatible with conservation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 241,431.39 hectares protected through five ACUS areas.
- Provincial ordinance serving as the regulatory framework.
- Nine cantons directly benefiting from the initiative.
- Financing from the Andes Amazon Fund (USD 380,190).
- Balance between conservation and sustainable production.

SDGs LINKED:



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDG16

ODS 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related mortality rates.

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice.

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

16.6 Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

16.7 Ensure inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**96.97%**	**82.89%**	**95.97%**	**100.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	9.32%	7.95%	9.22%	9.61%

TPI Dimension: Planning and Governance · Weight: 9.61%
Territorial Progress 2025: -2.10%



Meeting with Diana Mejía, representative of the multilateral CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean).

PREFECTURA DE MANABÍ Desarrollo y Equidad

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 inhabitants, disaggregated by sex and age	Persons/ 1.000,00	12,06	31,54	58,54	51,08	74,11	Decreasing	
Proportion of detainees who have not been sentenced, as a percentage of the total prison population	Percentage	28,17	37,04	28,68	29,73	29,32	Decreasing	

Source: INEC (ENEMDU, ESPAC, Administrative Records), BCE, National Police. N/A = No information available.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual contribution to the SDG	Average unit investment
Percentage of PDOT indicators with an information source in the Administrative Registry (FM_PDOT_ME-53)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$52.094,03	0	0	1.05	80		642,74 USD / %
Percentage of PDOT indicators published in the SIL (FM_PDOT_ME-54)	$0.00	$0.00	$17.263,25	$52.094,03	0	0	0	75		924,76 USD / Percentage
Percentage of the GADPM investment budget allocated to the needs of citizens, communities, and groups (FM_PDOT_ME-56)	$0.00	$0.00	$3,970,00	$52.094,03	0	0	0.16	6.20		8.815,10 USD / Percentage
Autonomous territorial jurisdictions benefited through coordinated institutional services in the territory via decentralized technical offices (FM_PDOT_ME-57)	$7.780,00	$30.000,00	$6.829,00	$0.00	0	10	33	33		586,97 USD / Number of jurisdictions
Number of people trained and certified by academic institutions (FM_PDOT_ME-59)	$0.00	$0.00	$94.932,00	$0.00	0	376	1.575	0		48,66 USD / Number of people
Number of people whose civic capacities were strengthened (FM_PDOT_ME-60)	$249.041,89	$376.620,50	$211.609,14	$47.908,68	1.002	419	1.223	2.878		160,30 USD / Number of people
Number of people informed about interventions in the territory (FM_PDOT_ME-61)	$0.00	$0.00	92.363,52	$273.942,11	0	0	20.289	38.060		6,29 USD / Number of people
Number of valid ISO 9001:2015 certification records during the evaluation period (FM_PDOT_MP-39)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0	0	0	1		0,00 USD / Number of ISO 9001:2015 certifications
Number of records of new and unique management-system certifications valid during the evaluation period (FM_PDOT_MP-41)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0	0	2	0		0,00 USD / Number of certified management systems

Source: SIGAF / POA GADPM. P = Budget. R = Result (physical target). %C = Compliance percentage. [ELIM.] = Indicator eliminated from the 2023–2027 PDOT. [Previous PDOT] = Operated only under

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

SDG 16 represents the greatest challenge for Manabí in 2025. Ecuador closed the year as the most violent country in Latin America, with a national homicide rate of 50.9 per 100,000 inhabitants (InSight Crime). Provincial disaggregation places Manabí above the national average, with 74.11 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, positioning the province at the epicenter of the security crisis along Ecuador's coast. Indicator 16.1.1 (intentional homicides) deteriorated from 12.06 in 2021 to 51.08 in 2024 and 74.11 in 2025, the worst result in the series and a cumulative increase of 514% over four years.

Manta reached 119 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, becoming one of the most violent cities in the country. According to specialized analyses, the territorial dispute between Los Choneros and Los Lobos for control of drug trafficking routes explains a significant share of the increase. The proportion of unsentenced detainees (16.3.2) remained almost stable, declining slightly from 29.73% in 2024 to 29.32% in 2025, a relative reduction of 1.38%. In response to this context, the Prefecture of Manabí presented the Peaceful Coexistence and Violence Prevention Plan at the OAS Convention (Washington, 2025) and received 200 leadership scholarships in artificial intelligence in recognition of the plan's innovative approach.
The investment of the Prefecture of Manabí in the nine SDG 16 PDOT indicators amounted to USD 478,132.88 in 2025. The most significant unit costs are as follows: USD 642.74 per percentage point of compliance of the PDOT indicator supported by administrative records (FM_PDOT_ME_53); USD 924.76 per percentage point of indicators published in the Local Information System (FM_PDOT_ME_54); USD 586.97 per territorial jurisdiction served by decentralized technical offices (FM_PDOT_ME_57); USD 48.66 per person trained with academic certification (FM_PDOT_ME_59); USD 160.30 per person strengthened in civic capacities (FM_PDOT_ME_60); and only USD 6.29 per person informed about territorial interventions (FM_PDOT_ME_61).

This latter figure — covering transparency initiatives, institutional communication, and territorial outreach — reflects a very high level of communication efficiency, especially considering that a citizen information report prepared through private consultancy services with equivalent territorial coverage would cost several thousand dollars.

The year's flagship good practice — the Provincial Government being the only prefecture in Ecuador with a recertified ISO 37001:2016 Anti-Bribery Management System certification, complemented by adherence to the National Public Integrity and Anti-Corruption Plan 2024–2028 and the 2025 Transparency Campaigns reaching 3,574 people — consolidates its national leadership in institutional transparency with a total investment of USD 11,165.35.

Institutional Transparency: 4 Milestones in 2025

Status	Completed
Implementing Unit	Directorate of Transparency
Beneficiaries	3.574 people + general public
Total investment	$11.165,35
Linked SDG	SDGs 16, 17



Signing of the Prefecture of Manabí's letter of accession, together with the Transparency and Social Control Branch, represented by attorney Luis Cabezas.



External Recertification Audit of ISO 37001:2016, conducted by AENOR ECUADOR S.A.



External Audit of the Anti-Bribery Management System under the ISO 37001:2016 standard, conducted by Eng. Roberto Almeida, representative of AENOR ECUADOR S.A.

"TRANSPARENT MANABÍ: THE ONLY PREFECTURE IN ECUADOR WITH ISO 37001"

ISO 37001:2016 Recertification

Recertification audit of the Anti-Bribery Management System, covering financial and non-financial controls to mitigate bribery risks in bridge construction projects. Cost: USD 4,370. Duration: 120 days. Progress: 100%.

Adherence to the 2024–2028 National Public Integrity Plan

On 9 December 2025, the Highest Authority signed the Letter of Adherence to the 2024–2028 National Public Integrity and Anti-Corruption Plan together with the Transparency and Social Control Branch.

Code of Ethics Aligned with ISO 37001

Through Resolution No. GADPM-PREM-2025-758-RES (18 September 2025), the institutional Code of Ethics was reformed to incorporate principles, values, and ethical conduct guidelines aligned with ISO 37001 standards.

Transparency Forums 2025

From 21 November to 9 December: 1,732 public servants participated in awareness sessions, 177 were trained in internal control standards and the Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS), eight business partners participated, and 157 children and adolescents from the "Training Values" project were reached. Investment: USD 6,795.35.

IDEAS CLAVE

- The only prefecture in Ecuador with ISO 37001 anti-bribery certification.
- Adherence to the 2024-2028 National Anti-Corruption Plan.
- Reformed and disseminated Code of Ethics.
- 3,574 people reached through the Transparency Forums.

SDGs LINKED:



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG17

ODS 17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

LINKED PROVINCIAL TARGETS

17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization and national capacity for revenue collection.

17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources from multiple sources.

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships.

Contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda				
Indicator	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Contribution (A)	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**	**0.00%**
Weighted Contribution (D)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

TPI Dimension: Planning and Governance · Weight: 9.61%
2025 Territorial Progress: 0.05%



Meeting of the Provincial Roundtable for Multilevel Planning and Coordination.

TERRITORIAL PROGRESS INDICATORS

Indicator name	Unit	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Objective	Annual variation chart
Resources mobilized through international cooperation ****	Percentage	0,72	1,06	0,20	0,15	0,10	Increasing	
Proportion of the provincial budget financed by domestic taxes ****	Percentage	2,03	1,15	2,61	2,60	3,54	Increasing	

Source: INEC (ENEMDU, ESPAC, Administrative Records), BCE, National Police. N/A = No information available.

CONTRIBUTION INDICATOR OF THE PREFECTURE

Indicator	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Individual contribution to the SDG	Average unit investment
Institutional innovation project (FM_PDOT_MP_37)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0	0	12	12		0,00 USD / Number of projects with innovation components
Percentage of compliance with the Innovation and Digital Transformation Agenda – Manabí 4.0 (FM_PDOT_MP_42)	$0,00	$0,00	$0,00	$0,00	0	0	0	0		0,00 USD / Percentage
Number of COBIT processes implemented (FM_PDOT_MP_43)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0	0	12	0		0,00 USD / Number of COBIT processes

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Strategic partnerships are the driving force behind all actions carried out by the Prefecture of Manabí. The indicator measuring resources mobilized through international cooperation (17.1.2) declined from 0.72% of the budget in 2021 to 0.15% in 2024 and 0.10% in 2025 (-34.87% in the last year), reflecting the contraction of non-reimbursable financing. In contrast, the proportion of the budget financed through internal tax revenues (17.1.2) increased significantly: from 2.03% in 2021 to 2.60% in 2024 and 3.54% in 2025 (+35.89%), the highest figure in the series, demonstrating strengthened own-source revenue collection.

The Prefecture records PDOT indicators aligned with SDG 17 with an institutional focus: administrative sources for PDOT indicators (FM_PDOT_ME_53, 80% compliance in 2025), publication in the SIL system (FM_PDOT_ME_54, 75%), investment budget with citizen participation (FM_PDOT_ME_56, 6.20%), and institutional innovation projects (FM_PDOT_MP_37). The main strength of SDG 17 lies in the consolidated partnership network: UNDP, INEC, CONGOPE, SNP, GIZ-EbA LAC, CAF, IGCAT, UCLG, Regions4, ORU Fogar, Andes Amazon Fund, AECID-EU, and five universities in Manabí (UTM, ULEAM, UNESUM, ESPAMMFL, and USGP). The Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Ordinance, the first at the provincial level, provides the legal framework to attract private investment.

Looking ahead to 2026, participation in the UCLG World Congress in Tangier and the HLPF in New York further consolidates Manabí's international visibility.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Ordinance

Status	Ordinance Approved
Implementing Unit	Office of Legal Counsel / Directorate of Cooperation and Funding Management
Beneficiaries	General population
Total investment	N/A
Linked SDG	SDGs 17, 9, 8



Signing of a memorandum of understanding with Inka Mattila, UNDP Resident Representative in Ecuador.



Citizens' Assembly of the Joint Participatory Budget at the San Pedro de Suma Parish GAD, El Carmen canton.

"A FRAMEWORK TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT: THE FIRST PROVINCIAL PPP ORDINANCE"

Description

The Provincial Council issued Ordinance CPRM-DSEG-2025-004-ORD regulating the governance and implementation of projects under the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) model. The ordinance provides legal certainty, establishes clear rules regarding rights, obligations, and risk-sharing mechanisms, and creates a climate of trust for private investment, technology transfer, and specialized knowledge. It also regulates procurement procedures, contractual transparency, and quality standards.

SDG Impact

SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals): Regulatory framework to attract private investment in infrastructure and services.
SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure): Mechanism for road, productive, and technological projects.
SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Job creation through public-private investment.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- First PPP ordinance at the provincial government level.
- Legal certainty for attracting investment.
- Contractual transparency and protection of the public interest.
- Complements the Manabí SDG Territory Ordinance.

SDGs LINKED:



5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS OF THE 2025 CYCLE

The year 2025 closes the fourth consecutive cycle of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of the province of Manabí. The evidence systematized in this document allows five major conclusions to be drawn from the annual exercise.

First. The overall contribution of the Prefecture of Manabí to the 2030 Agenda reached 80.78% in 2025, the highest value in the four-year series, with a positive variation of +5.21 percentage points compared to 76.78% in 2024 and +13.32 points compared to 67.46% in 2023. This result consolidates the recovery following the 2023 methodological adjustment and surpasses the initial 2022 peak (80.56%). Annual investment totaled USD 71,014,247.27, distributed across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with 68.4% concentrated in SDG 9 (Infrastructure), consistent with the Territorial Prosperity Index, which assigns the highest weight to this dimension (26.77%). Cumulative investment for the 2019–2025 period reached USD 574,181,604.58, representing the largest subnational investment effort on Ecuador's coastal region.

Second. The provincial economy recorded the best performance of the series: Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 18.53% to USD 6.377 billion; its share of national GVA increased from 4.06% to 5.15%; GVA per capita rose by 11.02% to USD 3,752.58; and quarterly remittances reached USD 62 million. However, this recovery coexists with a still fragile labor structure: full formal employment reaches only 29.3%, underemployment remains at 27.3% — the second highest rate in the country — and multidimensional poverty affects 51% of the population. The narrative of economic recovery must therefore be interpreted alongside the province's unresolved structural challenges.

Third. The designation of Manabí as World Region of Gastronomy 2026 by IGCAT, formalized on June 27, 2025, in San Vicente, positioned the territory on the global stage and activated the central narrative axis of the VLR: gastronomic heritage as a driver of backward productive linkages (rural producers, women farmers, artisanal fishers) and forward linkages (hospitality, trade, transport, and the orange economy). Its convergence with the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026, declared by the United Nations General Assembly, consolidated rural women in Manabí — 351,591 people, representing 40.52% of the provincial female population — as a central subject of public policy for the Prefecture.

Fourth. Citizen security was confirmed as the most significant structural challenge. The provincial intentional homicide rate rose from 51.08 to 74.11 per 100,000 inhabitants (+45.09%), with Manta reaching 119 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants — one of the highest rates in the country. The phenomenon responds to the escalation of disputes between organized criminal groups over illicit trafficking routes along Ecuador's coast and exceeds provincial competencies. Nevertheless, the Prefecture supports the multilevel response through the Peaceful Coexistence and Violence Prevention Plan, the Sustainable Development and Human Security Observatory, and coordination with the Metropolitan District of Quito and ECU 911. The 200 leadership scholarships in artificial intelligence obtained during the OAS Convention 2025 recognized the innovative approach of the Plan.

Fifth. The institutionalization of accountability was consolidated through three milestones: (i) the ISO 37001:2016 anti-bribery recertification, maintaining Manabí as the only prefecture in Ecuador with this certification currently in force; (ii) adherence to the National Public Integrity and Anti-Corruption Plan 2024–2028, signed on December 9, 2025; and (iii) the 2025 Transparency Campaigns, which reached 3,574 people. The version 2025 Methodology for Contribution to the 2030 Agenda, validated by the United Nations Development Programme, the National Institute of Statistics and Census, the CONGOPE, and the five universities of Manabí, maintains its replicability for other subnational governments in Ecuador and Latin America.

5.2 ACCUMULATED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 2022–2025 SERIES

The four consecutive Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) of Manabí provide a medium-term perspective that goes beyond the annual exercise and acquires particular relevance ahead of the United Nations High-level Political Forum 2026, where the province will present its experience.

First accumulated lesson. The sustainability of accountability exercises is viable at the subnational level. The series — 2022 (80.56%), 2023 (67.46%), 2024 (76.78%), and 2025 (80.78%) — demonstrates that institutional contribution fluctuates due to technical and contextual factors, but that the methodological discipline of the Observatory makes it possible to recover and surpass the baseline level. This is the first replicable lesson: the VLR is not an event but an institutional process, and its sustainability depends on the maturation of the capacities of the Development Planning Directorate and the network of technical partners.

Second accumulated lesson. Methodological maturation produced the V.2025 Methodology, validated by the national statistical system and the provincial university system, enabling other subnational governments in Ecuador to initiate analogous processes — the Municipality of Manta is the first canton to replicate the exercise with provincial technical assistance. The replicable lesson is that quantitative methodology requires a one-to-one alignment between each PDOT goal and a specific SDG target, and that this anti-double-counting discipline is the condition for comparability and legitimacy of the reported contribution.

Third accumulated lesson. The Territorial Prosperity Index, developed with UN-Habitat in 2021, remains a useful prioritization tool four years later. The dimensions with the greatest gaps — Infrastructure Development (26.77%) and Environmental Sustainability (19.22%) — have concentrated investment decisions and generated the most visible advances of the period: the Bicentennial Roads program, with 118.8 kilometers of new roads and USD 53.41 million in investment, and the Provincial System of Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (SPACUSM), with 241,431.39 hectares protected across five Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas (ACUS).

Fourth accumulated lesson. Sustained interinstitutional cooperation is the critical success factor. The network of structural partners - United Nations Development Programme, National Institute of Statistics and Census, the National Planning Secretariat, CONGOPE, GIZ through the EbA LAC Program, CAF, IGCAT, United Cities and Local Governments, Regions4, ORU Fogar, Andes Amazon Fund, AECID-EU, UN-Habitat, MIES, MAG, MPCEIP, INIAP, IICA, World Food Programme, INAMHI, FIASA, Swiss Cooperation, and the six universities of Manabí - was built throughout the four cycles and today constitutes reusable institutional capital for any new territorial initiative. The structural lesson is that no complex public policy can be implemented in institutional isolation.

Fifth accumulated lesson. The pending challenges are clear and must shape the agenda of future cycles. Citizen insecurity requires a multilevel response articulating provincial competencies (prevention, coexistence, interinstitutional cooperation) with national competencies (law enforcement, justice, anti-narcotics policy). Multidimensional poverty - affecting 51% of the population - requires deepening targeted interventions in the rural parishes with the highest incidence, especially in the central-southern and northeastern areas of the province. Closing gender gaps in formal employment and land tenure access requires scaling rural women's productive empowerment programs beyond pilot cohorts. Climate change adaptation requires consolidating SPACUSM through fully funded 10-year management plans and budgeted forest ranger programs. Finally, the digital transition of the provincial state requires operationalizing the Manabí 4.0 Agenda with committed goals and resources.

Manabí closes the 2022–2025 cycle with valuable institutional assets: four sustained Voluntary Local Reviews, a nationally validated and replicable methodology, a consolidated interinstitutional network, an operational Sustainable Development Observatory, and international recognition as a Local4Action Hub of United Cities and Local Governments, World Region of Gastronomy 2026 by IGCAT, and a benchmark member of Regions4. The presentation of this experience at the United Nations High-level Political Forum 2026 and at the UCLG World Congress is not an endpoint, but the beginning of the second four-year cycle of the exercise. Manabí is changing forever.



Leonardo Orlando
PREFECTO DE MANABÍ