



4^o Voluntary National Review, Mexico 2024

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



ECONOMÍA
SECRETARÍA DE ECONOMÍA

MX
AGENDA 2030



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Secretariat of Economy

Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade

Global Economic Intelligence Unit

Executive Secretariat of the National Council
for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Voluntary National Review, México 2024

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Acknowledgements

We thank all the agencies and institutions of the Government of Mexico, and private sector and civil society organizations who collaborate day in and day out in favor of sustainable development through their actions.

We thank the teams involved in the preparation of the reviews submitted in 2016, 2018 and 2021, whose contributions were essential for the creation of this fourth edition of Mexico's Voluntary National Review 2024.

We thank the members of the National Council of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its working committees; to the SDGs Specialized Technical Committee (CTEODS by its Spanish acronym); as well as to the institutions and organizations that, with their active and purposeful participation, made possible the celebration of the 2030 Agenda National Convention, held in October 2023, which constituted one of the most important inputs for the preparation of this Review.

We thank the United Nations System in Mexico, for being a strategic ally that has accompanied the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda (SECNA by its Spanish acronym), not only in this Review but also in a great deal of initiatives.

Likewise, we give special recognition to the translation work into indigenous languages coordinated by the National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALI by its Spanish acronym); as well as to the Secretary of Welfare; the Secretariat of Culture; the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare; the National Institute of Social Economy; the Tosepan Titataniske Co-op Union and Ternium, whose contribution was essential for the consolidation of this document. We particularly thank the protagonists of these efforts, who enriched the analysis of their study through their testimonies.



This review is dedicated to the people of Mexico.

Considerations about the Translation into Indigenous Languages

For the first time, this Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda is fully translated into the two most spoken indigenous languages in Mexico: Nahuatl and Mayan. This translation contributes to the democratization of knowledge about the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations, a global agenda implemented by the Government of Mexico. This shared commitment resonates with the ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples, reflected in their cultural practices of social, natural, environmental and economic well-being. These practices remain in balance with the environment in which their communities have developed historically, highlighting the importance of understanding and valuing their contribution to the sustainability of Mexico.

Also for the first time, the translations were carried out applying a collective methodology assisted by the National Institute of Indigenous Languages, as part of the implementation of its new model of comprehensive professionalization in indigenous languages and with the collaboration of Tomás Serrano Coronado, specialist in translation and training of translators. This methodology adheres to the international principle of “the Centrality of Indigenous Peoples”, which guides the 2022–2032 International Decade of Indigenous Languages, as it promotes that translations be predominantly carried out with the translators interculturally caring for and agreeing on the translation process and the final product, which seeks to gather indigenous peoples' vision and sustainable practices, codified in their languages, in order to ensure the understanding of the translated texts by indigenous peoples and communities in their national languages.

All of this done under the international principle of “leaving no one behind”, of the 2030 Agenda, and with the purpose of having the information produced by government institutions be accessible to the entire diverse population that speaks Mexico's national indigenous languages. In that same sense, we shall have to make progress in audio broadcasting for those who do not read their language, and in the written and oral translation into the other national indigenous languages of this Fourth Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda of the Government of Mexico.

The translators into Huasteca Nahuatl of Veracruz who participated are: Bonifacio Hernández Hernández, Eladio Cruz Martínez, Leonarda Hernández Hernández and Victoriano de la Cruz Cruz.

The translators into Yucatecan Mayan who participated are: Alejandra Sasil Sánchez Chan, Ermilo López Balam, Felipe de Jesús Castillo Tzec, José Concepción Cano Sosaya and Samuel Canul Yah.

National Institute of Indigenous Languages.



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PRESENTATION

In 2018, Mexico began a deep transformation that placed historically excluded majorities at the center of public policies. Under this guideline, we drew up a National Development Plan with a humanistic vision.

From the start of the current administration (2018–2024), we were clear that it was essential to align the government program with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to have them be agendas that walked hand in hand and nourished each other. While at the international level we made the commitment to “leave no one behind,” at the national level, we are guided by the premise that, “for the good of all, the poor come first.”

This initial strategic decision not only laid the foundation for coherence between a global and a national agenda, but also made it easier for Mexico to prepare progress reports on each of the SDG targets.

During the last five years, the 2030 Agenda in Mexico has advanced substantively. For this reason, we considered it appropriate to submit our Fourth Voluntary National Review. Without losing the rigor of numbers, documented sources and evidence, this time we also want to tell stories, since behind SDGs are the people, institutions and social organizations that work tirelessly for social justice and sustainability.



The premise of this Review is that achieving SDGs is not the governments' exclusive responsibility. That is why its protagonists are the myriads of voices that add to the 2030 Agenda. Each initiative, from its field of advocacy, unites with others to form a mosaic as plural and diverse as our country is.

In the following pages, you will learn about very different experiences. Some come from society and work in the land, translating a global agenda into a local action program. Others come from the government and manage to cover a large part of the national territory. From co-ops to young apprentices, including farming men and women, each of these experiences is unique, but they share a common goal: to contribute to the advancement of this global agenda that brings us all together. They are inspiring testimonies that demonstrate the power of commitment and collaboration.

With the delivery of this Fourth Voluntary National Review, Mexico is positioned at the forefront of accountability before the international community and embodies innovative elements in favor of inclusion. It is especially significant to note that this report has been translated into Nahuatl and Mayan, two of the 68 indigenous languages that constitute Mexico's rich cultural heritage. Currently, more than 7 million people speak an indigenous language in Mexico, which shows the vitality of indigenous peoples who have resisted attempts at cultural subjugation for centuries.

Another innovative aspect is that, in parallel to this presentation, Mexico has opened spaces in international fora for productive sectors and unions to render an account of the progress in their respective fields. In addition, the Government of Mexico has strengthened collaboration with state and municipal governments to have them submit their reports to the United Nations as well. Thanks to this coordination, before the end of 2024, Mexico will have submitted more than 35 subnational reviews, which positions Mexico as one of the world leaders in review submission at this level.

Nowadays, we're witnessing strong tendencies towards unilateralism and isolationism in various parts of the world, accompanied by xenophobic and regressive attitudes that perpetuate divisions based on religion and skin color. That is why today more than ever it is essential to reaffirm the value of multilateralism as the way to build a just and lasting peace.



Precisely, in this context, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) become an alternative to division and confrontation. We must vindicate them like when all of humanity, regardless of its political system, religion or geographical area, managed to agree to promote a common agenda. This is a hopeful vision in which environmental, social and economic sustainability can be achieved.

The 2030 Agenda is a commitment to the present, but it is also the acknowledgement that our current actions have profound consequences for the future of the planet and the people who will inhabit it.

We hope this Fourth Voluntary National Review is a testimony to the transformative power of partnerships, and at the same time serves as an inspiration for all generations, but especially the younger ones, to take ownership of SDGs and act accordingly. With 2030 getting closer, time is a precious resource that we must make the most of. Mexico reaffirms its commitment as the engine of progress in the 2030 Agenda and urgently calls on the international community to redouble their efforts and actions to achieve our common goals.

Mtra. Raquel Buenrostro Sánchez
Secretary of Economy

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MÉXICO

AGENDA 2030



1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



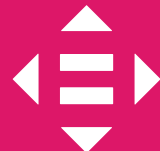
8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES



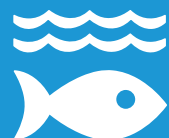
12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON
LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS





INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The Member States of the United Nations (UN) adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the purpose of achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in social, environmental and economic aspects, focused on poverty reduction and, therefore, in reducing the inequalities that persist in our societies.

The mechanisms established for their monitoring and examination make the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) a first-rate exercise to share each country's progress and challenges towards the goal of “leaving no one behind”, which in our country we complement with the principle of “leaving no one out”; an aspiration that was expressed as a priority policy of the 2019–2024 National Development Plan (NDP).

Based on the general guidelines established by the United Nations System for the preparation of these voluntary national reviews, the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SECNA by its Spanish acronym) took on the task of defining the approach, structure and contents of Mexico's Fourth VNR.



In this process, the exchanges held with the different actors in the governmental and non-governmental spheres played an essential role, an example of this was the 2030 Agenda National Convention. More than 1,000 people from academia, civil society organizations, youth groups, the union sector and the private sector, representatives of the legislative branch and the Federal Public Administration, among others, gathered at this meeting. Through roundtables, workshops, panels and conferences, the axes on which this VNR would revolve were outlined, under the premise of democratizing the 2030 Agenda and with the aim of giving voice to the protagonists building sustainable development and well-being in Mexico.

Thus, a mosaic of diverse experiences was formed which, rather than exhausting the complexity of the 2030 Agenda in Mexico, captures that diverse and very broad framework of sustainable development and well-being.

Subsequently, the team preparing the Fourth VNR carried out a precise analysis of the coupling of the 2019–2024 National Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda. Emblematic sustainable development initiatives from those in charge of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the country were identified: civil society, private sector and government. Beginning from all that was a broad process of exchanges and consultations, visits to the areas where these experiences take place and in-depth interviews with the people who give life to them, beyond just gathering official spokespersons' statements and institutional documents.

At tandem, quantitative and qualitative data were collected and systematized on these initiatives' main impacts and their contribution to the goals set by this Agenda. At this stage, it was essential to carry out fine weaving work —artisanal and in situ, just as the subjects who are visibilized in this Review taught us— between the targets that make up SDGs and the economic and social development indicators available in our country.

To do this, it was imperative to understand, on the one hand, poverty's multidimensional scope —which goes beyond economic income indicators and is linked to the absence of fundamental rights— and, on the other, the comprehensiveness perspective of sustainable development, or well-being, as we conceive it in our country.

Therefore, this Review contains three large sections. The first, titled “Mexico and the 2030 Agenda, a Shared Path”, seeks to provide elements on the context from which we tackled this review exercise, our approach to poverty reduction, state planning, national priorities and our welfare model.



In the second section, "Mexico and the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda", six sustainable development initiatives are presented, which make up a melting pot of voices and actors with impact at a local and national scale, which emerge from the public, private or social sphere and give life to the 2030 Agenda. This is the substance of our review, the collection of emblematic well-being experiences by word-of-mouth.

The third section, titled "Balance, Lessons Learned, Challenges and Next Steps in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda", focuses on identifying the main teachings from this travelled path and the steps to be taken towards 2030.

Rather than trying to exhaust the debate on sustainable development and its progress in Mexico, this Review seeks to incite dialogue among peers and, from a different, surely risky, methodological proposal, rethink the relevance and ownership of the 2030 Agenda, which undoubtedly belongs, from our perspective, to the subjects with and for whom inequality-reducing public policy is made.

While this Fourth Voluntary National Review shows methodological innovations with respect to the review exercises submitted in 2016, 2018 and 2021, it takes the lessons learned from those review exercises as a starting point and opts for a methodology that favors qualitative analysis.

We have gone from that first approach focused on identifying institutional actors and mechanisms involved in achieving the SDGs in the 1st. VNR, to positioning the various sectors in order to achieve their targets, included in the 2nd. VNR, and from a quantitative evaluation of the 17 SDGs and identifying programs that contribute to their fulfillment, to conceiving in this 4th. VNR that executing public policy and enforcing the 2030 Agenda share a common space, without distinctions, when both seek to address the gaps that limit everyone's access to a life of well-being.

In other words, we moved from a broad diagnosis to data-focused analysis to offer today a comprehensive review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Mexico.

As in the previous reviews, the analysis presented here was based on data offered by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI by its Spanish acronym), a public and autonomous agency responsible for Mexico's National Statistical and Geographic Information System.¹

¹ Mexico also has the Sustainable Development Goals Information System (SIODS), a tool developed by the National Digital Strategy Coordination of the Office of the President and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography. The information on the progress in monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Mexico is available at: <https://agenda2030.mx/#/home>



It should be said that we have also made progress over these years in strengthening the institutionality of the 2030 Agenda in Mexico, with the creation of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda and its Executive Secretariat² (SECNA by its Spanish acronym), in force since 2017. In all 32 states in the country, there are Monitoring and Implementation Entities. As of December 2023, thirteen state and local governments had registered their Voluntary Subnational Reviews with the United Nations system, which reaffirms their commitment to this shared agenda.³

In the same vein, as part of civil society, the private sector, the union sector, and universities and higher education institutions, took on the task of carrying out their respective reviews of the implementation of SDGs in close collaboration with SECNA. These exercises represent a novel participation experience and reappropriation of the 2030 Agenda, and constitute a substantial part of the inputs of this Fourth Review.

In turn, to encourage the participation of our country's youth, in October 2023 the Youth Network of 2030 Agenda Ambassadors was formed, with 32 young people (one per state), with the aim of bringing SDGs closer to this sector. Their activities are based on the dissemination of and training in topics linked to climate change or science and technology, in addition to leading projects related to reforestation, caring for seas and oceans, urban gardens, among others topics.⁴

Added to these actions are the efforts undertaken by legislative work, through which greater reflection regarding the 2030 Agenda and its issues has been promoted, with the purpose of achieving a greater coupling of public policy and government action, driven by the three levels of government to accomplish its targets.⁵

Finally, the initiatives gathered here emerge from the diversity of civil society and the State. In this Fourth Voluntary National Review, we want to share with the world our path and our life experiences in the pursuit of a just, equitable, generous and more human future.

² An account of SECNA's institutionality journey is available at: <https://www.gob.mx/agenda2030/documentos/memoria-de-trabajo-secna2030?idiom=es>

³ SECNA's support includes making useful tools available to local governments for their reporting process, such as the Methodological Guide for the Preparation of Voluntary Reviews of Subnational Governments, available at: <https://www.gob.mx/agenda2030/documents/methodological-guide-for-the-preparation-of-voluntary-reports-of-subnational-governments?idiom=es>

⁴ On the Youth Network, see the section included in Annex A.

⁵ On legislative work and the 2030 Agenda, see Annex B.

Sustainable Development Goals Specialized Technical Committee (CTEODS by its Spanish acronym)



Goal

Created in 2015, it **coordinates** conceptual, methodological, technical and operational work.

Within the framework of the **National Statistical and Geographic Information System**, these works create and update information required to design and evaluate public policies aimed at fulfilling SDGs.



Structure

Chair:

Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda.

Technical Secretariat:

National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) .

Members:

- 19 agencies
- Government Agencies
- Autonomous Bodies

They compile the information necessary for the publication of 2030 Agenda indicators in Mexico.



Sustainable Development Goals Information System (SIODS by its Spanish acronym)

One of the main functions of CTEODS is the management of SIODS.

- It is the platform that **collects information** from CTEODS members
- It permanently displays **quantitative information on Mexico's progress** in all 169 targets of the 17 SDGs
- It has **247 unique indicators**:



Global



Regional



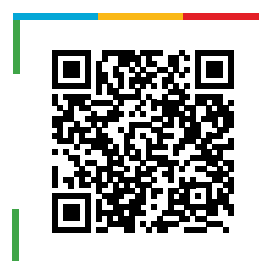
National



Through INEGI, data is reviewed, processed and analyzed and then uploaded to the SIODS platform.

For more information visit or scan the QR code:

<https://agenda2030.mx/index.html?lang=es#/home>





PART
01



Mexico and the 2030 Agenda, a Shared Path

Mexico and the 2030 Agenda, a Shared Path

The 2030 Agenda is not a foreign global proposal for Mexico, its principles and objectives are rather part of our vision of transformation, which places at the center of public policies the most impoverished peoples and communities due to the neoliberal project imposed over decades in Mexico and throughout Latin America.

That economic-social model created the great evils that afflict our planet and that the 2030 Agenda seeks to revert:

- Hunger and Poverty,
- Economic and Gender inequality,
- Climate crisis, Environmental Pollution and Loss of Ecosystems,
- Exclusion of indigenous peoples,
- Consumerism, Wars, Migration and Forced Displacement,
- Various forms of exploitation, to name a few.

Therefore, from a sovereign exercise, this administration assumed the task of implementing a welfare policy that modifies the structural relationships that create inequality and reproduce poverty. Our government decided not to follow the path of neoliberal orthodoxy, but rather to have all public policy focus on the well-being of the vast majority, and all growth accompanied by a fairer distribution of wealth.

Thus, in the context of the crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic, instead of resorting to debt, we decided to prioritize the poorest. No tax incentives or debt forgiveness were given to large companies, on the contrary, tax collection was maintained and, with it, sufficient resources were obtained to guarantee and even increase social programs, which reached 7 out of 10 families by 2023,⁶ making it possible to maintain domestic consumption. At the time, this allowed for an accelerated micro and macroeconomic recovery.

In the current administration, public spending aimed at social protection increased, reaching historic figures. Thanks to these policies, from 2018 to 2022, we managed to lift more than five million people out of poverty, which has a direct and very encouraging impact on Sustainable Development Goal 1: No poverty, while the gap between the poorest and richest decile was reduced six times in the same period, despite the global economic crisis and the pandemic, thereby achieving relevant progress in reducing inequalities (SDG 10).

This Voluntary National Review visibilizes the way in which Mexican citizens have decided to move towards well-being and sustainable development. There are communities in our country that, for hundreds of years, have developed their own solutions to the problems that the 2030 Agenda has stated since 2015. Today, these communities promote and are part of diverse programs and projects that underpin economic, social and cultural alternatives converging with the 2030 Agenda from specific territories.

⁶ See stenographic version of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's press conference on April 12, 2022, 100 Days, Administration's Fourth Year, available at: <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/articulos/version-estenografica-100-days-fourth-year-of-government?idiom=es>

The 2030 Agenda and the National Development Plan

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development coalesces with Mexico's 2019–2024 National Development Plan and with other government planning instruments in its principles, targets and goals. Our NDP clearly establishes the paradigm shift in the national political model approved at the ballot boxes on July 1, 2018. This change includes questioning the very concept of “development”, in the abstract, with one focused on correcting social injustices.

For our government, economic growth does not make sense as a goal in and of itself, but rather as a means to achieve a higher goal: the general well-being of the population, in which society participation is essential.

We summarize this model of inclusive well-being with the phrase coined by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador: “For the good of all, the poor come first.” This commitment, in turn, coalesces with the principles of sustainability, inclusion and social participation that the global agenda promotes.

In its section regarding “Social Policy”, the NDP makes clear the main task of the Mexican State: to be a guarantor of rights, that is, those inherent to people, inalienable, universal, interdependent, indivisible and mandatory. In this sense, the National Development Plan lists the prime social care programs, some of which are part of this Voluntary National Review.

These social programs have been cross-sectionally designed to achieve the greatest possible well-being of our population, primarily the welfare of those who have been impoverished by the neoliberal regime.

For this reason, care priorities are expressly identified in the design and operation of social programs: people experiencing poverty or social deprivation, as stated in the 2030 Agenda targets. These social programs are not limited to short-term assistance actions, but rather seek to reverse structures of inequality.

According to the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL by its Spanish acronym):



Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that includes aspects related to living conditions that infringe the dignity of people, limit their fundamental rights and freedoms, prevent the fulfillment of their basic needs and make their full social integration impossible.

(CONEVAL, 2016).



In line with the above, Mexico uses a poverty measurement methodology that links three focuses: economic well-being, social rights and territorial context. This perspective recognizes that.



The poor population suffers from insufficient economic resources and, at the same time, the exercise of their fundamental rights is infringed due to lack of access to food, health, education, social security or decent housing.

(CONEVAL, 2016 and 2019).



Therefore, the achievements accomplished in *SDG 1 "No poverty"* have a direct impact on other SDGs (2, 3, 4, 8 and 10)⁷ and indirectly on others (SDG 5,⁸ for example).

In this way, the focus of our government's social programs is to build a framework of distributive economic well-being that immediately leads to the social inclusion of the dispossessed majorities and recovers sovereignty in its various dimensions. Five years after its implementation, very significant progress has been reported in most of the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs that make up the 2030 Agenda, which will be detailed further down.

To achieve the NDP's goals, dispersed budgets were redirected since 2018 towards significant programs with high social and economic impact, in such a way that the economic resources for these programs have been guaranteed

in the Federal Expenditure Budget (FEB). Starting in 2018, budget programs in our country are linked to SDGs and their targets.⁹ The percentage of budget programs by area linked to at least one SDG in fiscal year 2024 is 83.8%. In addition, budgets were increased substantially, some were even doubled during 2022 and 2023, as is the case with the *Sembrando Vida* program (Sowing Life).

From 2018 to 2024, social development spending, which includes economic and social benefits, cash or in-kind benefits, as well as expenses on services and transfers to individuals and families, increased by approximately 38.3%, from 2.715 trillion pesos (153.944 billion dollars) in 2018 to 3.756 trillion pesos in 2024 (211.721 billion dollars) (IMCO, 2023).¹⁰



⁷ SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 3: Health and Well-being; SDG 4: Quality education; SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth; SDG 10 Reduced inequality.

⁸ SDG 5: Gender equality.

⁹ See Annex "Linking the Budget with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" issued by the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit, available at: https://www.ppef.hacienda.gob.mx/work/models/7183r4r/PPEF2024/oiqewbt4/docs/exposition/EM_Anexo.pdf

¹⁰ Compiled by authors with data from IMCO (2023) and the Federal Expenditure Budget for the corresponding year and the Federal Expenditure Budget for 2024.



Linking the Budget with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Methodology designed to align Mexico's Budget Programs with the **169 targets of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

It was created in collaboration with the Office of the President, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit, taking into account the participation of agencies and entities of the Federal Public Administration (FPA), and it was implemented in 2019 for the first time.

This **methodology consists of an analysis based on two stages:**

Stage 1	Stage 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying the common goals between Budget Programs (BPs) and SDG targets. Verifying whether Budget Programs' design matches the targets' purpose. Verifying whether Budget Programs meet the needs of the actors involved in achieving the target. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoroughly analyzing the precise relationship between a BP and a target, acknowledging that a BP may contribute to achieving a target, but not necessarily be sufficient to achieve it. Determining their degree of linkage by verifying the BP's contribution type, whether direct or indirect.

For **2024**, **83.8%** of the total Federal Expenditure Budget is **linked to SDGs**.

For more information visit or scan the QR code:

<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/Datos-Abiertos>



Regarding the above, it is important to note that, in November 2019, the President submitted a draft decree to amend and expand Article 4 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States on welfare, whereby the obligation of the State to respect and recognize senior citizens' right to receive a non-contributory pension was established; as well as a pension for people with permanent disabilities, mainly for girls, boys, youth and the indigenous population.

A scholarship system was also established for students experiencing poverty all school levels in our country. In addition, the National Health System for Well-being was created in order to guarantee comprehensive health care for the Mexican population, particularly those who do not have social security. Today, these provisions and programs are part of a state policy rather than a government policy and constitute the aspiration to achieve the right to welfare.

The social policy of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's administration is directed at very diverse subjects, but they have a common denominator: they were all victims of the marginalization caused by the hegemonic economic system from 1982 to 2018. That is, senior citizens affected by the dismantling of the social protection system; youth from poor families who did not manage to get into or remain in the school system or in the workforce; small male and female farmers; indigenous peoples whose livelihood is artisanal work; migrant communities; people living with a permanent disability, and, substantially, all poor women in our country. All of them are leading subjects for the 2030 Agenda and its targets.

Finally, with regard to sustainable development, it is important to highlight that the NDP establishes that the President shall:



Consider in all circumstances the impacts that his or her policies and programs will have on the social fabric, ecology and political and economic horizons of the country. Furthermore, he or she shall be guided by a notion of development that corrects social injustices and promotes economic growth without affecting peaceful coexistence, solidarity ties, cultural diversity or the environment.

(Government of Mexico, 2019).



On the one hand, the promotion of justice and the strengthening of institutions are fundamental targets of both the NDP and the 2030 Agenda in *SDG 16 "Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies."* This is not only a goal in and of itself, but also an indispensable means for the effective realization of the goals established by the current government and by the 2030 Agenda. In the Mexican case, thanks to the fight against corruption and the republican austerity policy, tax revenue almost tripled and superfluous spending was reduced, allowing significant amounts of resources to be allocated to national priorities. On the other hand, by addressing the social and economic causes of violence, progress is being made in peace building with social justice.



Economic Policy for Welfare

Our National Development Plan states that economic policy's goal is not to produce harmonious numbers and statistics, but rather to output well-being for the population. Macro-indicators are a measuring tool, not an end. For this reason, the economic and social policies promoted by the current administration have achieving the best welfare of the population as their primary goal.

The principles of the economic model within the Fourth Transformation are summarized in austerity, honesty, sound finances, separation of political power from economic power, recovery of the State's strength as a guarantor of sovereignty, stability and the rule of law, as generator of coherent public policies and as an articulator of national purposes. This is expressed more clearly in the following lines taken from the NDP:



Public power must first serve the public interest, not private interests, and the validity of the rule of law must be complemented by a new social ethic, not by the implicit tolerance of corruption. ... We shall return to the path of growth with austerity and without corruption, fiscal discipline, cessation of debt, respect for the autonomous decisions of the Bank of Mexico, job creation, strengthening of the domestic market, promotion of agriculture, research, science and education.

(Government of Mexico, 2019).



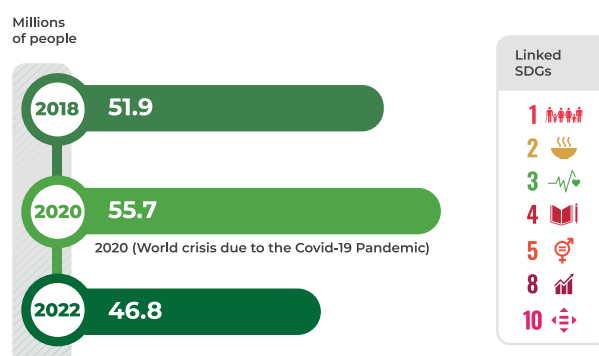
In this sense, the aim is for the effects of public policies and social programs to last beyond a six-year term, for them to be universal, vconstitutional and for them to be tangibly manifested in people's lives and in the country's progress.

The economic and social measures implemented in Mexico managed to mitigate the effects of the global crisis triggered by the pandemic; various macroeconomic indicators account for the country's achievements. As we mentioned at the beginning, one of the most significant indicators refers to the decrease in the population experiencing multidimensional poverty nationwide. Poverty in our country fell from 41.9% in 2018 to 36.3% in 2022. That is, we went from 51.9 million people in multidimensional poverty to 46.8 million.¹¹

That is, more than five million Mexican men and women came out of poverty, representing the greatest reduction in this indicator in the history of the country.¹²

Poverty Reduction*

(From 2018 to 2022, over 5 million people came out of poverty)



Source: Own elaboration with data from CONEVAL

*Moderate and extreme poverty is considered. According to CONEVAL, the population experiencing poverty is that which has at least one social deficiency among the six indicators of educational lag, access to health services, access to social security, housing quality and spaces, basic housing services, and access to food, and that whose income is insufficient to acquire the goods and services they require to satisfy their food and non-food needs.

As can be seen, the first SDG, referring to ending poverty, has been one of the priority axes of our government.

¹¹ According to data from CONEVAL, 2023.

¹² Even despite the pandemic, our country managed to reduce poverty from 52.25% in 2020 to 36.3% in 2022 (CONEVAL, 2023), the lowest number in the last 30 years, which contrasts with the minimal reduction of this indicator in Latin America for the same period (around 4%). According to data recovered in CEPALSTAT Databases and Statistical Publications of ECLAC.



Economic inequality is one of the issues intrinsically linked to the capitalist production model, which has caused the wealth of the 99% of the world's population to be less than that owned by the wealthiest 1% (OXFAM, 2023). During the neoliberal period, levels of inequality, poverty and marginalization increased significantly. In our country, uneven growth in different regions was evident, with rates close to 4% in the north and center, while negative rates were recorded in other regions, revealing a sustained decline that worsened poverty and inequality.



The policies implemented in our country since 2018 have contributed significantly to reducing inequality, as seen in the Gini index. This indicator, which measures economic inequality in society by exploring the concentration level in the distribution of income, has shown a downward trend. In 2016, the index was 0.486 and, thanks to government actions, by 2022 it was reduced to 0.431 (CONEVAL, 2023).



The notable decrease in economic inequality in Mexico is expressed in the reduction of the gap between rich and poor. In 2018, people in the richest decile earned 21 times more than people in the country's poorest decile. In 2022, this was reduced to the wealthiest earning 15 times more than the poorest.

(CONEVAL, 2023).



Something similar happened with inequalities on a regional scale, since various states in the South South-East have seen a substantial change in their economy thanks to investment in public works in that region of the country. The state of Tabasco alone went from last place in economic growth in 2018 (-5.3) to being in the top four in the third quarter of 2023 (6.5), according to data submitted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).¹³

In Mexico, a key element to reduce poverty (SDG 1) and inequalities (SDG 10) has been the increase in the general minimum wage, which went from 88.4 pesos per day (4.9 dollars)¹⁴ in 2018 to 248.9 pesos per day (14 dollars) in 2024. On the other hand, the minimum wage for the Northern Border Free Zone went from 88.4 pesos per day (4.9 dollars) in 2018 to 374.9 pesos per day (21.1 dollars) in 2024. Between 2018 and 2024, this increase has allowed recovering the minimum wage's purchasing power by 110%,¹⁵ covering 1.73 times the CONEVAL income poverty line.

In addition, it is estimated that it directly benefits more than 8.9 million workers (CONASAMI, 2023a).

¹³ According to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) in its Quarterly Indicator of State Economic Activity updated as of the third quarter for 2018 and 2023.

¹⁴ According to the average exchange rate of 2023:17.7382. Exchange rate prepared with data from the Official Gazette of the Federation, published by the Bank of Mexico. Going forward, any additional conversion will be made using the average exchange rate for 2023.

¹⁵ Considering inflation.

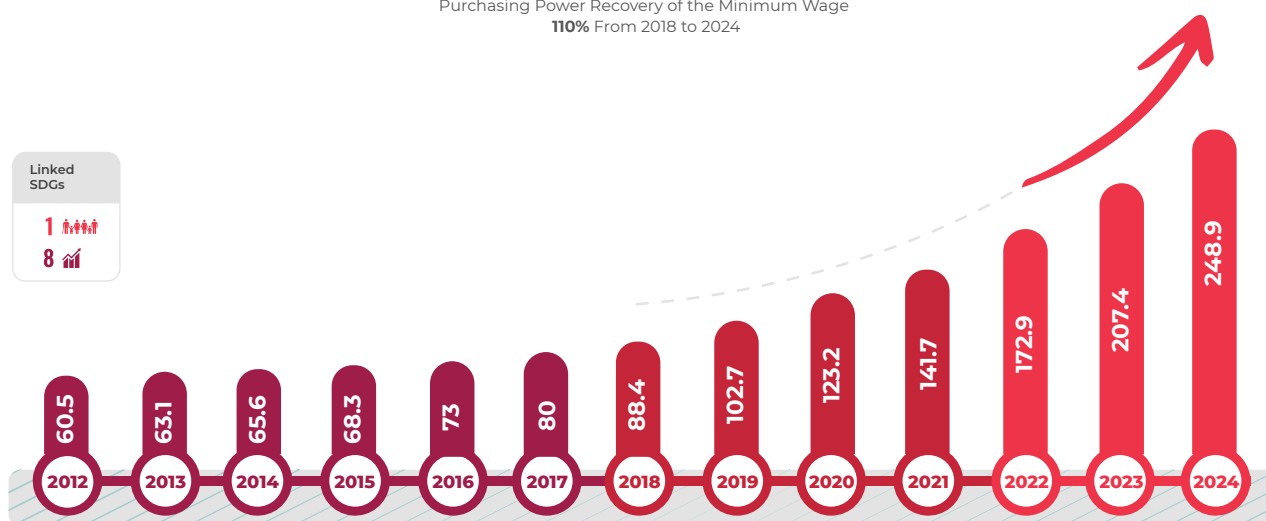


From December 2018 to January 2024, six increases to the minimum wage were approved in a three-way manner — involving the government, the working sector and the business sector. With this policy, Mexican

workers' purchasing power has recovered. Which contributes directly to guaranteeing decent work for Mexican men and women (SDG 8), which eventually translates into reducing inequalities (SDG 10).

General Minimum Wage Record Increases*

Purchasing Power Recovery of the Minimum Wage
110% From 2018 to 2024



Source: Bank of Mexico

*During the previous six-year administration, the average increase in the general minimum wage between 2013 and 2018 was approximately 6.6%. While, in the 2019–2024 period, the average increase was 19%, almost triple compared to the previous administration.

Another labor policy in favor of the working sector having had a favorable impact on their living conditions, is the ban against outsourcing, by means of an amendment to the Federal Labor Law and other legal provisions enacted in May 2021, which compels contractors to recognize their personnel, as well as guarantee the payment of the minimum wage and current social benefits (SDG 8).

Derived from the legal and institutional changes that this labor reform entailed, the foundations of a new labor model were also laid in which unions regained the historical meaning that originated them in the attainment of labor rights and in the defense of their guild's demands, under the principles of union freedom and democracy.¹⁶

¹⁶ The efforts of some unions which have taken a greater commitment linked to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the development of more sustainable communities through various actions stand out. In this way, the actions of these organizations are not limited to meeting the goals linked to SDG 8 on decent work, they go beyond that, by promoting specific projects that transcend topics such as preventive health (SDG 3); promoting safe and healthy work environments (SDG 8); rainwater recovery (SDG 6); caring for the environment (SDG 13), decent housing (SDG 11), cultural education and professionalization (SDG 4), among others. To delve deeper into the role of unions in the 2030 Agenda, see Annex C.

Minimum Wage in Mexico



The 2019–2024 National Development Plan (PND) seeks to boost economic reactivation, the domestic market and jobs, through a policy of salary recovery and social justice.

General Minimum Wage Increases



Purchasing power bounced back by 110% in this administration, which benefited the population with the best income in the country.

Comparative Purchasing Power Minimum Wage covered ¹



Higher salary:

19% average annual salary growth since 2019, above year-on-year inflation.



Greater consumption

Over 40% increased consumption in the poorest households.



Greater Social Justice:

people experiencing poverty was reduced from 41.9% in 2018 to 36.3% in 2022.

To protect people's purchasing power, the president will submit a constitutional reform initiative to ensure the increase of the minimum wage to levels above inflation.

¹ Real growth rate at 2018 prices.

Economic Bases that Allow the Progress of SDGs

These and other economic policies have resulted in the indicators that we review below and have shown that, notwithstanding the global economic crisis, the country's current economic situation is undergoing one of its best moments and has favorable impacts on Mexican families' wallets.

During the review period, Mexico maintained economic stability and quickly recovered from the effects of the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which made it possible to create jobs, increase income and improve millions of people's living conditions. The World Bank ranked Mexico as the 14th economy in the world according to gross domestic product (GDP) during 2022.¹⁷

At the end of 2023, with estimates from the International Monetary Fund, Mexico rose to the 12th position of the world's largest economies, ranking above South Korea, with a GDP of 1.8 trillion dollars (31.9 trillion pesos) in 2023; 600 billion dollars (10.6 trillion pesos) above the GDP reported in 2018, at the beginning of the current six-year term, at current prices.¹⁸

With a stable and growing economy, our country demonstrates its ability to attract investments and promote economic development, which translates into greater job opportunities.

In turn, during 2022, the high level of inflation in the world was one of the most alarming macroeconomic indicators. However, inflation recorded in Mexico that year was 7.8%,¹⁹ below that of the United States (8.0%), the Euro zone (8.4%), the other members of the OECD (8.2%) and the world average (8%). This was the result of public policies implemented by the Government of Mexico regarding energy cost subsidies and rapid action in managing interest rates by the Bank of Mexico.²⁰

Maintaining inflation below the average of the rest of the countries implies that the national currency's purchasing power was more solidly preserved. This benefited the population by providing price stability of goods and services, without affecting family consumption.



¹⁷ According to data from the World Bank (2022a).

¹⁸ With data and information from the International Monetary Fund (2023a).

¹⁹ According to data from INEGI (2023a).

²⁰ According to data from the World Bank (2022b).

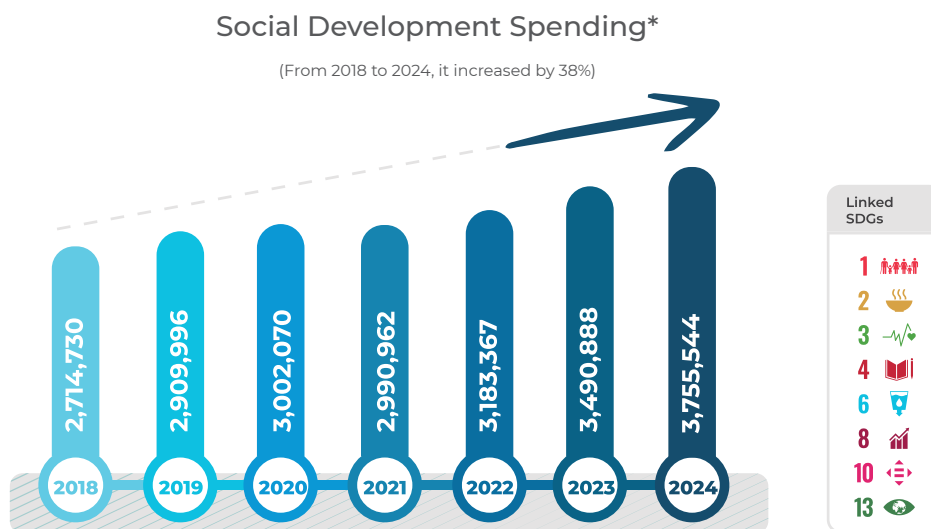


During 2023, the Government of Mexico and the Bank of Mexico were constant in implementing measures to control and improve inflation levels, therefore, at the end of 2023, inflation was 4.66, below the inflation recorded during 2022 (7.82%),²¹ and the average for other regions such as the G20 (6.5 %)²² and the OECD (6.0%).²³

The fiscal strategies implemented during President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's government, in addition to the application of republican austerity policies and the responsible management of public finances, have caused public debt to maintain a stable trajectory. Mexico's public debt as of December 2023 represented 46.8%²⁴ of the GDP, while it was 123%²⁵ in the United States and 106%²⁶ in Canada, as of 2023.

This stability is essential to achieve sustainable development, if we understand that *sustainability* implies not compromising the future of generations to come. That is to say, the President's decision not to acquire debt—even in the context of global emergency—is an example of a vision of well-being that is responsible for those who come behind and is part of the 2030 Agenda in its target 17.4 where it is proposed to achieve long-term debt sustainability.

Regarding tax revenues, tax collection has been increased. As of December 2023, accumulated collection was 4.74 trillion pesos (267 billion dollars), which represents a 71% increase in tax revenue for the country, in comparison to the end of 2018, when tax revenue was 2.77 trillion pesos (156 billion dollars).²⁷



Source: IMCO

*In millions of 2024 pesos. Expenditure on social development considers budget allocations to actions related to the promotion, provision, regulation, monitoring and evaluation of services in areas such as education, recreation, culture, health, housing, urban and rural essential services, and environmental protection. Spending on social development also includes economic and social benefits, benefits in cash or in kind—for both the insured and uninsured population—as well as expenditures on services and transfers to individuals and families.

²¹ According to data from INEGI (2023b).

²² With data and information from the OECD (2023a).

²³ With data and information from the OECD (2023a).

²⁴ Data and information from the SHCP (2024).

²⁵ According to data from Fiscal Data USA. (2023).

²⁶ Data from the International Monetary Fund (2023b).

²⁷ According to SAT data (2024).

Target 17.1 of the 2030 Agenda proposes improving domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection. In Mexico, this has been achieved without international support and has made greater investment in public works and an increase in the budget for social development possible, as mentioned previously.

In turn, the decision not to increase taxes has not only preserved the population's income, but has also protected its purchasing power, preventing it from being affected by additional tax burdens.

Mexico has solid international reserves, with a significant 22.85% growth. During this six year term, reserves went from 173.775 billion dollars (3.08 trillion pesos) in November 2018, to 213.479 billion dollars (3.78 trillion pesos) in February 2024 (Banco de México, 2018 and 2024). By maintaining robust reserves, Mexico improves its ability to meet international financial commitments and maintains favorable conditions to attract investments that, in turn, will translate into greater employment. In addition, this provides certainty and confidence regarding the country's liquidity and the strength of the peso in the face of an unfavorable economic outlook.

By the way, the appreciation of the Mexican peso is worth highlighting, since it has become one of the currencies that has strengthened the most against the dollar in recent years, maintaining that trend during 2023.

As of July 28 of that year, it recorded an 18 % maximum appreciation (Banco de México, 2023) against the US currency. This is an indicator of economic stability that suggests the confidence of investors and international markets, reflecting effective fiscal and monetary policies and solid economic performance. This trend benefits consumers by reducing import costs.

Added to these indicators are the positive data that employment in Mexico has shown during the last year. According to INEGI figures, the economically active population (EAP) recorded in our country was 60.6 million people in January 2024.

Of the EAP, 58.9 million people were employed, which represents 97.1%, 552 thousand more than in January 2023.²⁸ In November 2023 alone, Mexico ranked as the 2nd OECD country with the lowest unemployment at 2.6% of the economically active population.²⁹



²⁸ According to data from INEGI (2024a).

²⁹ According to data from the OECD (2023b).



The above is not only relevant to achieve full employment (SDG 8), but has multiplier effects on many SDG targets: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10. Decreases in the unemployment rate means well-being, while a greater number of people have income to access food, goods and services essential for a dignified life. Furthermore, low unemployment rates contribute to economic stability, as an active labor market drives economic growth and strengthens people's financial security.

In this context, the policy to promote micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) promoted by the Government of Mexico seeks to strengthen the national economy since, in addition to contributing to regional development, it is an effective measure in favor of employment and the well-being of a representative segment of the population.

In Mexico, MSMEs represent 99.8% of the business sector, all of them —4.7 million MSMEs— with sociocultural qualities that show the world Mexico's diversity and wealth (INEGI, 2020).³⁰ These companies are our economy's engine, since they generate 52.2% of income and employ more than 26 million people (68.4% of the economically active population), showing their impact on the achievement of *SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth* (INEGI, 2020). Therefore, it is essential for the government, private and social sectors to provide them with the necessary tools to seize their potential and join national and international markets, taking into account the less favored communities at all times to have fairer, more inclusive and sustainable development.³¹

Thus, we reach 2024 with positive economic growth indicators, low unemployment rates, controlled inflation and public works projects that demonstrate the good direction of the Mexican economy, a product of the political regime change undertaken since 2018. This marks an important achievement of the 2030 Agenda's target that aims to enhance global macroeconomic stability (Target 17.13). This is not minor if we consider that a country's macroeconomic stability determines the impact of its social programs. For all these reasons, there is a rule in public policies' design and implementation: the poor come first.



³⁰ Globally, MSMEs represent 90% of the business sector, they create between 60 and 70% of jobs and they are responsible for 50% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (UN, 2023b).

³¹ To delve deeper into the policy to promote MSMEs and their contribution to the 2030 Agenda, see Annex D.



PART
02



Mexico and the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda



Mexico and the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

In September 2023, during the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, Mexico announced that, according to the most recent UN Sustainable Development Report (2023a), our country has a 2030 Agenda compliance rate of 69.7%. Without a doubt, there is still a lot to be done, but we have an important foundation from which we can deepen the implementation of policies that have worked on not leaving anyone behind and leaving no one out.

This section includes priority programs and emblematic projects of different social actors that have adopted the 2030 Agenda in Mexico. From a comprehensive perspective and with SDG's cross-sectional approach, we seek to visibilize with them the wealth of practices aimed at materializing sustainable development with cultural and geographical relevance, as we're convinced that there are no generic recipes to fulfill SDGs.

Thus, the initiatives included in this section share criteria such as: active participation from vulnerable groups; prioritization of high-poverty areas; actions related to environmental preservation and education; actions promoting gender equality, among others. These programs and projects also show our country's lively sociocultural diversity, which is typical of the historical heritage of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples and communities that the current administration considers as subjects of law and not objects of government charity, as previous administrations did.³²

The methodological approach used in while analyzing these programs is based on considering the comprehensiveness of sustainable development as necessary.

That is, the 2030 Agenda cannot be sectioned and its fulfillment cannot be fragmentary. Sustainable development—conceived in our country as a well-being model—has permanently interconnected economic, social, environmental and cultural dimensions. The egalitarian and brotherly Welfare State proposed by our government aims to realize the rights to food, education, health, work, culture, housing and social security. Each right impacts the others and the condition of poverty limits to all.

For this reason, the complexity, objective, context, subjects (target population), intervention actions and results are analyzed for each flagship project or program, in quantitative but, fundamentally, qualitative terms. From this, the SDGs and targets they directly and indirectly contribute to or impact are identified, in order to later draw lessons learned and challenges foreseen for 2030 afterwards.

In this sense, this Review addresses different programs that make up the Welfare policy of the Government of Mexico, as well as the efforts made by other social actors, aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda goals. These actions are not considered isolated, but rather as part of the same vision and, particularly, as coming from the voice of those who give meaning to this shared commitment. Thus, we understand this review exercise as an effort to democratize the message and to reappropriate the Sustainable Development Agenda.

³² Incidentally, in February 2024, the president of Mexico submitted a bill to amend article 2 of the Constitution, which seeks to ensure the rights of the country's indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities and peoples, by recognizing them as subjects of public law, as well as establishing their legal personality and own heritage based on their free self-determination. See: http://sil.gobernacion.gob.mx/Librerias/pp_ContentidoAsuntos.php?SID=&Clave=4696946



Sustainable Development from Six Emblematic Initiatives

This Fourth VNR focuses on submitting a representative sample of the programs and projects that are being executed by the government, the private sector and civil society to achieve sustainable development and well-being goals. Like any sample, the review fails to incorporate many other very valuable experiences, but those visibilized here shed light on the path that Mexico has taken in pursuit of the common goal of inclusive well-being.

It is notable that all the initiatives described are based on a shared vision in which the people participating in them are recognized as subjects of law. Therefore, from their planning, it is assumed that government, private or social investments in these programs are part of their co-responsibility with society to ensure society's rights and not assistance conditioned on behaviors or loyalties.

Governmental and social expectations regarding these initiatives are very high since, while direct and immediate benefits are expected for the people involved in them, it is recognized that the profound economic, social and cultural transformations that they will produce will benefit the nation as a whole in multiple related dimensions.

Some initiatives directly impact the productive capacity of agricultural lands while helping to recover and conserve forest ecosystems, enrich food environments and improve health and strengthen economic sovereignty. Others facilitate the labor or educational integration of youth and, with this, creates economic security in families, expands the margin of income distribution, stimulates the national economy and contributes to community mental health. They all ensure rights.

In all cases, very positive impacts are also observed in the reconstitution of the social fabric; the initiatives visibilized here reflect the comprehensive vision to address the sustainable development contained in the 2030 Agenda.

Sembrando Vida (Sowing Life) is one of the priority programs of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's administration. Currently, it is the largest productive reforestation program in the world with an investment of over 100 billion pesos (5.637 billion dollars), from 2019 to June 2023, in order to combat rural poverty and environmental degradation and, contribute to food self-sufficiency mainly in indigenous communities (Government of Mexico, 2023).



Another emblematic program is **Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro** (Youth Building the Future), the largest state commitment to Mexican youth that faced social and labor exclusion for years. This program offers youths who did not manage to enter or remain in the education or labor systems the necessary tools to develop and train themselves to practice a trade. The accumulated investment in Youth Building the Future (JCF by its Spanish acronym) is 109 billion pesos (6.144 billion dollars) and, by 2023, it had already exceeded the goal of including 2.3 million youths into the program that was set at the beginning of the six year term.³³

Another experience that links youths with labor and education is the **Escuela Técnica Roberto Rocca** (Roberto Rocca Technical School) in the municipality of Pesquería, Nuevo León, implemented by steel company Ternium in 2016. This school offers recent technical and theoretical high school training in Mechatronics and Electromechanics to young men and women of the municipality, regardless of their socioeconomic level, providing them with quality education and links to the industry.

One of the many opportunities created by this initiative is the inclusion of girls and young women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

An example of social and solidarity economy's relevance in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda are the **Nodes to Promote the Social and Solidarity Economy** (NODESS by its Spanish acronym). An emblematic program of the National Institute of Social Economy of the Government of Mexico, based on establishing local partnerships with various institutional actors interested in developing this type of economy in their territories. Its objective is to promote support, research, incubation and acceleration processes for collective and community ventures under the social and solidarity economy's vision.

Highlighting the importance of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and rural communities for sustainable development in our country, we share two experiences: one undertaken by the Government of Mexico and the other by civil society and the co-op movement.

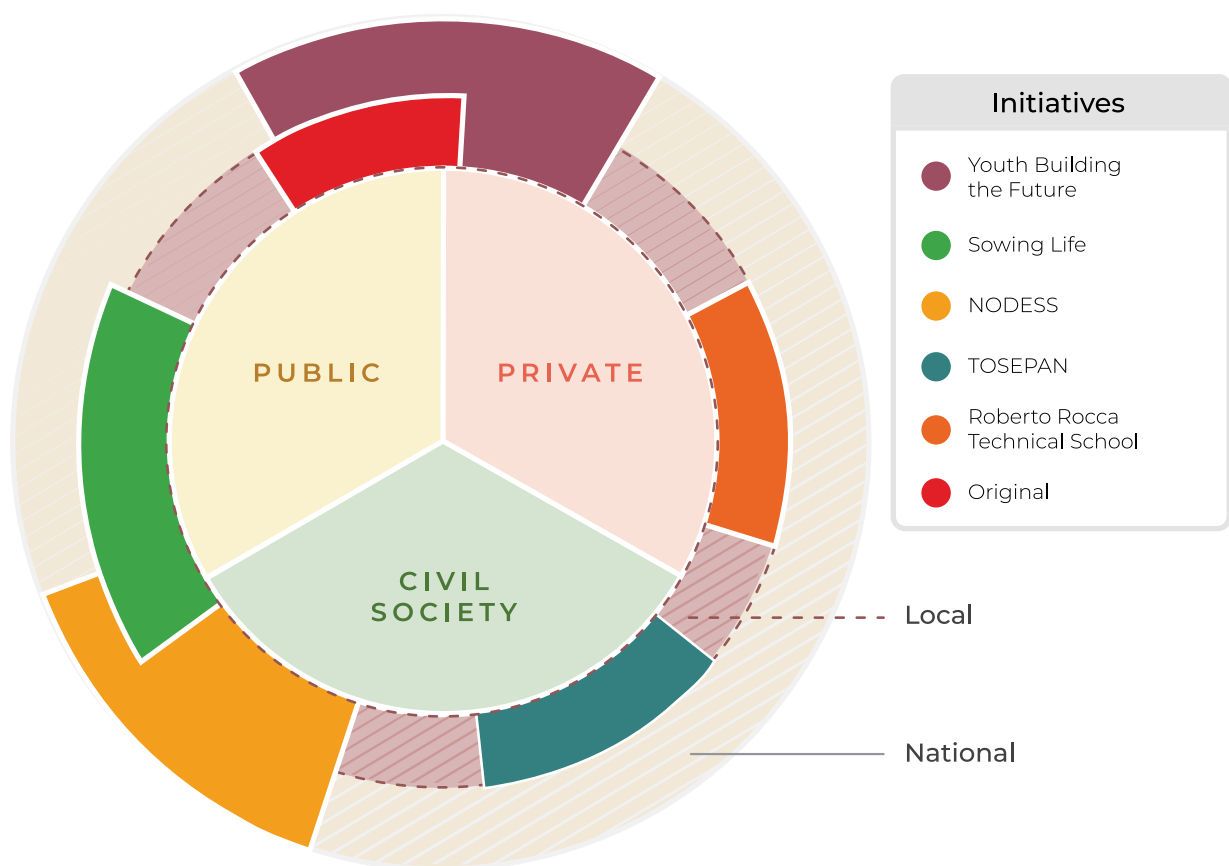


³³ See stenographic version of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's press conference on December 13, 2023 available at: <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/articulos/version-estenograficaconferencia-de-prensa-del-presidente-andres-manuel-lopez-obrador-del-13-de-diciembre-de-2023>.

1 More than a social program, “Original” was conceived as a movement in defense of the collective rights of Mexico's creative communities. This movement engages with communities from an egalitarian relationship based on recognition and respect. Its purpose is to raise awareness with the active support of the State about the value of artisanal work, fight recurrent plagiarism of traditional designs and symbols of our country's indigenous, Afro-descendant and mestizo communities, and resist the historical marginalization and dispossession that these creative communities have suffered.

2 While the “Tosepan Co-Op Union” is a project that was born in the Sierra Norte de Puebla and currently has 500 co-ops in the states of Puebla and Veracruz, this project was promoted by the communities dedicated to the agricultural production of coffee, pepper, cinnamon and other local products of these territories. Nowadays, they have co-ops for production, marketing, savings and loans, health, care, housing, among others. This co-op union also represents a privileged space to trigger the economic autonomy of indigenous women.

Melting Pot: Six Sustainable Development Initiatives





The Program that Sows Life



Globally, small producers are responsible for 80% of the 1.3 billion tons of food for human consumption that are produced annually in the primary sector.

(Luiselli, 2018).



In Mexico, five million agricultural production units produce nearly 300 million tons of food annually (INEGI, 2023c), and over 50% of the agricultural food consumed in the country is produced by small and medium-scale producers³⁴ (Government of Mexico, 2024).

Although food is an essential material resource for society, poverty and marginalization determine that large segments of the Mexican population, particularly in rural areas, lack food in sufficient quantity and quality. This lack was exacerbated as a direct consequence of the neoliberal reforms that handed over farming to the private business sector to the detriment of ejidos and communal lands. These reforms included the end of the agrarian distribution achieved in the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

These provisions meant a change in the political and economic regime that represented the breaking of the social pact embodied in the Constitution of 1917, since they impacted the ownership of natural resources, land, water, forests and biodiversity.

Subsequently, Mexican farming experienced decades of abandonment that created greater poverty, migration and environmental degradation: change in land use, erosion, lack of access to water and loss of agrobiodiversity.

All of this, in turn, expanded food insecurity. By 1995, Mexico produced 86.35% of its total demand of the four staple grains: corn, wheat, beans and rice, that is, we depended on the outside world for less than 15%. By 2022, we would only produce 56.74% of our total demand of these grains (CNA, 2023).

That is, half of what we consume depends on what is produced in other countries. This has important implications in terms of food security and, therefore, in terms of national security.

On the other hand, being one of the countries with the greatest biodiversity in the world, Mexico has the responsibility of ensuring its preservation for future generations. It is in this context that Sowing Life was born, a federal program implemented since 2019 that addresses both interconnected problems: environmental degradation and poverty (SEGOB, 2022).

This is an answer to the relationship between biodiversity loss and the persistence of poverty, since:



These phenomena coincide geographically in rural areas, where livelihoods depend on embodied natural capital in the form of forests, grasslands, soils, water and wildlife.

(Pérez, 2023).



³⁴ 71.8% of these units had an area of up to 5 hectares and 28.2% had a larger area.



According to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 2022), 80% of the world's biodiversity is protected under the custody of indigenous peoples.

In this sense, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's government decided to support the Sowing Life program in the towns with the highest level degree of marginalization and whose municipalities have medium to very high levels of social lag or with income below the poverty line by rural income.³⁵ These are also the regions with the highest biodiversity in the country and populations mostly made up of indigenous and Afro-Mexican populations.

Sowing Life has mechanisms for agricultural subjects³⁶ to establish agroforestry productive systems on their plots for self-consumption and the marketing of food and timber trees (SDG 1, 2 and 8).

In addition, it grants monthly financial resources to sowers through transfers conditional on compliance with a work plan designed by a technical team and monthly attendance at the meetings of their Farming Learning Community (CAC by its Spanish acronym). Economic transfers represent compensation for their work and part is allocated to savings³⁷ (SDG 8 and 10).



In this regard, Undersecretary of Productive Inclusion and Rural Development, Hugo Raúl Paulín Hernández, in charge of implementing the program, assures that:

Male and female farmers in Sowing Life are not only agricultural subjects but are subjects of law because, upon entering the program, he or she assumes the commitment to work in response to the support they receive: each male and female farmer receives six thousand pesos monthly (\$338.3 dollars). In return, that person has to fulfill a work plan that is made up of several things: work on their plot, participation in their work group, which is the Farming Learning Community, and their participation in some type of community task. That is their work plan.

Paulín, 2023.

The NDP establishes that the Sowing Life program is of great importance for the fulfillment of the well-being goals defined by this administration. And its formula breaks with the traditional vision —handout-oriented— of rural support with poverty alleviation programs and constitutes a medium and long-term welfare policy for the population most affected by neoliberal policies.

Undersecretary Paulín Hernández emphasizes that the people enrolled to Sowing Life:

They are subjects of law, not beneficiaries, because farm work is a right and what this government has done is to enforce these rights: the right to work, to have a decent life, and to have sufficient food.

Paulín, 2023.

The rights that the Undersecretary refers to are, in and of themselves, SDGs: Decent Work and Zero Hunger.

³⁵ Set by CONEVAL. In the case of municipalities classified as having a low and very low level of social lag, municipalities with incomes below the poverty line for rural income are considered.

³⁶ The target population of SV are agricultural subjects, men and women, of legal age who live in rural towns, whose municipalities have levels of social lag and who have ownership or possession of 2.5 hectares available to be worked in an agroforestry project

³⁷ In 2023, the amount was six thousand Mexican pesos and, in 2024, six thousand 250 Mexican pesos (338.3 and 352.3 dollars, respectively).

Sowing Life represents one of the largest reforestation efforts in the world and farming rescue in the country's history. Its importance lies in the fact that it promotes food self-sufficiency (SDG 2), the income of residents is improved (SDG 1, 8 and 10) and the vegetation cover of more than one million hectares in the country is recovered (SDG 15),³⁸ in addition to contributing to the reconstruction of the social fabric (SDG 16). Due to its favorable impacts, its implementation began in other Latin American countries, such as Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Ecuador and Cuba (SDG 17).³⁹

The task of the State in the Mexican Humanism vision is to create structural conditions for well-being. It is about breaking poverty's reproduction dynamics by promoting strengthening and social participation, as well as productive inclusion and community development.

In that sense, the State is promoting a process of agroecological transition that is analyzed below.


Agroecology for Sustainable Development

Unlike other rural support programs, *Sembrando Vida* (Sowing Life) encourages subjects of law to establish agroforestry productive systems—which combine producing traditional crops together with fruit and timber trees—and the milpa interspersed with fruit trees system (MIAF). These programs are based on the acknowledgement, redesign and strengthening of farming productive systems, which are built on crop diversity, and they represent one more state-run effort to advance the agroecological transition of the Mexican fields.



The agroforestry system is already a diversified crop approach, in contrast to traditional monoculture, that promoted a strong chemical component. And then in *Sembrando Vida*, we marked a watershed when we promoted diversified crops and the milpa interspersed with fruit trees simultaneously. We proposed not only to produce grains but also the milpa, a system as a whole, which is more than sowing corn and beans, it is a way of food self-sufficiency in farming.


Paulín, 2023.

MIAF


**Milpa Interspersed with Fruit Trees
(MIAF by its Spanish acronym)**

Agroecological system made up of different crops that interact with corn, such as beans, pumpkin and chili; which includes the presence of fruit and timber trees in the same space. It is an example of sustainable agriculture that takes advantage of plant diversity to improve soil fertility and protect it from erosion, maximizing land yield.

In addition to serving as a rural agricultural alternative for small production units, this system, which is based on the traditional pre-Hispanic milpa, is supported by the world-view of the indigenous peoples of Mexico, in which interdependence and harmony with nature are valued.



³⁸ SDG 15: Life on Land.

³⁹ According to AMEXCID (2024), Sowing Life reaches 14,000 men and women sowers in Guatemala; 10,000 in El Salvador; 2,000 in Belize; 10,000 in Honduras; 5,000 in Cuba; 2,500 in Venezuela; and 2,500 in Colombia.

The program is committed to an agroecological model that transcends capitalism's production ways in farming, which are structured under the scheme of intensive agriculture. In that sense, Sowing Life represents a break with the traditional model, by promoting an agroecological approach that allows farmers to earn income with their production unit in the short, medium and long terms.⁴⁰ Likewise, the use of agrochemicals in Sowing Life plots is gradually eliminated to replace them with organic inputs, which, without a doubt, is an important contribution to preserving the life of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15), as well as to achieving responsible production and consumption (SDG 12).

In economic terms, the program has had a strong deployment of resources that boost

local economies and ensure access to healthy and culturally relevant foods, since, with this agroforestry model, sowers:

Always have an income and don't put all their eggs in one basket, because if a pest comes and kills all the mangoes, their entire sowing is gone. Here, if a pest comes, it will kill the mangoes, but there are other fruit trees and other crops that are not affected. Therefore, it is also a productive strategy that gives them a greater guarantee in food and income.

Paulín, 2023.

This agroecological model recovers tradition and rural knowledge, since the interspersed milpa is age-old rural wisdom. The milpa is not from the 20th century, it is a way of life, a way of feeding oneself, and what Sowing Life has done is to recover and strengthen this age-old knowledge.

Self-Organization and Farming Learning Communities

Farming Learning Communities (CAC by its Spanish acronym) are made up of 25 sowers, they are spaces created to give life to "knowledge dialogues", and they have community nurseries and biofactories. In all 18,605 CACs,⁴¹ sowers collect seeds and reproduce them following the conditions of their region. Some are used as animal feed, some others are replanted, since they were being lost. The technical team that accompanies the program in these tasks is very relevant, but also the historical knowledge of the farming communities, which is combined virtuously.

We call them farming learning communities because we wanted to propose that knowledge is not only on one side, but rather that there is knowledge on the farming side and knowledge of the technical personnel, and that only when we achieve a mechanism for that knowledge to enter into dialogue, then there is a broader benefit, ... there is age-old knowledge that surpasses or is another approach to technical knowledge received in schools and universities.

Paulín, 2023.

With these actions that promote community organizational structures, community self-sufficiency and autonomy are encouraged, resuming ways of farming organization, promoting the culture of saving, promoting sustainability, which contributes to the regeneration of the social fabric (SDG 16).⁴²



⁴⁰ According to the Undersecretariat of Productive Inclusion and Rural Development, as of November 24, 2023. See Table A1 of Annex E.

⁴¹ Short term: annual crops; medium term: fruit and agro-industrial trees; long term: timber.

⁴² SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions.

Women Sowers of Life

There are 66.7 million women living in Mexico, of which 14.1 million live in rural towns (21.1% of the total number of Mexican women), with the majority age group being 14 to 64 years old (66.2%). Of the total number of women of working age living in Mexico, 1,070,000 women work in the primary sector, 86.2% carry out activities related to agriculture (SIAP, 2023).

Despite the relevance of this sector, inequality gaps prevail in the rural area, especially in the regulatory structure. This is explained because, historically, our country has maintained an unequal distribution in favor of men. However, women's control of land and other resources has multiple positive repercussions, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):



Food security and family well-being are. ... Important reasons to protect or increase women's access to and control over land and other productive resources. Various studies show that when women are in charge of resources, they are more likely to use them to increase food consumption, protection and general well-being of the family, as well as to reduce malnutrition in children.

(FAO, 2006).



In the world, and in our country, rural women —mainly those belonging to indigenous or Afro-descendant cultures— suffer the highest poverty rates. Female farmers depend on forests for fuel, fodder and food, which also makes them more vulnerable to climate change.



In general, women in almost all regions of the world ultimately have responsibility for their children and other dependents, regardless of whether a male point of reference exists in the home, and they are also usually responsible for the family's food security.

(FAO, 2006).



Therefore, the persistence of poverty in rural women increases the risks of child malnutrition and lack of access to food for all members of the family nucleus. Thus, in order to address this situation, one of Sowing Life's fundamental policies is to promote access to the program for the greatest number of women.

By 2023, the program had 146,000 women sowers registered, representing 32.5% of all enrolled sowers. Although they do not always have ownership of the land, women are considered subjects of agricultural law and beneficial owners of the land they work.

Sowing Life recognizes that female farmers substantively contribute to food production, the transformation and protection of native seeds, environmental management, marketing, and food preparation and conservation. Therefore, Sowing Life pays special attention to strengthening their social and productive inclusion through policies and actions that decisively contribute to the achievement of *SDG 5 Gender equality*.



For women sowers, Sowing Life represents a stable economic income, access to healthy food for them and their families, job creation in the medium and long term, training and technical advice, social recognition of their work and political and community participation in decision-making within CAC decisions.

In 2023, the women sowers meeting “Visionary women, promoters of change and equality” was held in Mexico City, where more than two thousand women dedicated to food production from 21 states participated through the Sowing Life and Production for Well-being programs. All of them attended with the support of their CACs.

In addition to recognizing their work, this meeting served to create links and partnerships between women sowers from all over Mexico.

Farming is traditionally a very sexist sector. In Sowing Life, we have found that there is a new leading role for women and we are overcoming a lot of sexist resistance—which we have not eradicated, but we have gained ground in—both women and men sowers recognize women's leadership in the rural sector and in farming. After five years of participating and being part of these farming learning communities, women have earned a place and recognition that they did not have before in coordination, management, training and monitoring tasks.

Paulín, 2023.

Impacts of Sowing Life

As we have seen, Sowing Life is a comprehensive program, so the results it generates are multidimensional, which are described as job creation, an increase in the income of sowers' families, an increase in the coverage of their nutritional needs and higher levels of food security in the country, the preservation of the environment, among many others. Below, we present a comprehensive analysis of the impacts that this program has generated in terms of sustainable development for the subjects and communities where it is implemented.

Sowing Life is probably the program that contributes most directly and globally to the fulfillment of SDG 1, End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Due to its characteristics, its target population and the actions it triggers, the program has a decisive impact in ensuring *that all men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have the same rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, property and control of the land and other assets, inheritance, and financial services, including microfinance (Target 1.4).*

As of December 2023, this program included 441,466 sowers, favorably impacting—indirectly—a rural population of more than 1.7 million people in Mexico⁴³

That is, these 1.7 million people today have economic income to cover their basic needs, in addition to having access to family orchards, planted with their own hands, to cover their food requirements.

⁴³ According to data provided by the Secretariat of Welfare through the Undersecretary of Productive Inclusion and Rural Development, with a cutoff date as of December 31, 2023. See Table A1 in Annex E.

These are 1,103,665 hectares sowed with 1,158,209,415 plants, including commercial crops such as coffee, nopal and agave; forests such as cedar, tabebuia rosea and pine; spices such as cinnamon, pepper and oregano; fruit trees such as soursop, peach and avocado; and the staple annual farming crops: corn, beans and pumpkin.⁴⁴

In this sense, by allowing the achievement of food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, its contribution to *SDG 2 Zero Hunger* is very significant, since it helps to *double agricultural productivity and the income of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, among others, by means of a secure and equitable access to land, other production resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities to create added value* (Target 2.3).

In this regard, Ricardo Hernández, a Sowing Life farmer in Huehuetla, Hidalgo, Otomi-Tepehua Region, states:

Many years ago, staple grains such as corn and beans had stopped being produced. There had been a lot of migration and the Mexican countryside had been left aside. The impact that Sowing Life has given us is to produce our own grains and have self-sufficiency in corn and bean grains for our communities.

Hernández, 2023.

On the other hand, Sowing Life is also a substantial factor in promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8). Specifically, it addresses Target 8.5, as it is a means to achieve full and productive employment, focused on rural areas.

In addition to creating almost 441,000 permanent jobs in agricultural production, it promoted the involvement of 96,203 youth scholarship recipients as field personnel in productive issues. Likewise, it promoted the creation of 390 co-ops, banks and community savings banks. Due to their target population, these actions have favorable repercussions on reducing inequalities and poverty (SDG 1 and 10), as well as on economic growth (SDG 8).

On the other hand, Sowing Life represents a decisive program for environmental recovery. By 2023, Sowing Life reported the reforestation of more than one million hectares (as of July 2023, the percentage of progress was 121%). Furthermore, around 65% of the program's species are endemic and native, which has a favorable impact on the life of terrestrial ecosystems.

By 2023, Sowing Life had 15,114 community nurseries established and the same number of biofactories. With there bioinputs, soil improvement, increased plant nutrition and pest and disease control are achieved.



⁴⁴ See Table A1 in Annex E.

According to the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC):



Mexico has a forest area of around 100 million hectares that annually captures 193 million tons of CO₂ just by existing. Sowing Life's captures are an important addition to Mexico's contribution to the world not only to mitigation, but also to adaptation to climate change.

(INECC, 2021).



Until 2023, a cumulative total of 5.89 million tons of CO₂e will be captured in Sowing Life plots.⁴⁵

Through this and other actions, Sowing Life has a direct contribution to achieving SDG 15, sustainably managing forests, combat desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.⁴⁶

On the other hand, awareness about the current environmental crisis is a palpable result in the communities that Sowing Life reaches. In this regard, Ricardo Hernández states:



We have the issue of droughts and we have achieved goals but we have lost plants, and we have to return to replant what we lose. But I don't think this is only a challenge for my CAC, rather it is a challenge for the entire country and the entire world. Climate change is real. We are experiencing it now and we have to do something significant —like the Sowing Life program— to leave a better future for the next generations, our sons [and daughters] and even our grandsons [and granddaughters] because by planting a timber tree, we are guaranteeing that there will be good oxygen for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years.

Hernández, 2023.



While we also contribute to the fulfillment of *SDG 12 Responsible production and consumption* with the manufacturing and use of bioinputs in Sowing Life plots to the detriment of agrochemicals, by implementing actions focused on achieving sustainable management and the efficient use of natural resources (Target 12.2), we achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and significantly reduce their release to the atmosphere, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse effects on human health and the environment (Target 12.4).

In this sense, this program also contributes directly to *SDG 3 Good health and welfare*, specifically by reducing the number of deaths and diseases caused by hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination (Target 3.9), since thousands of liters of biofertilizers have been produced in each of the more than 15,000 biofactories. This has nourished the soil of more than one million hectares, which contributes to reversing the damage caused in past decades.

⁴⁵ According to data provided by the Undersecretary of Productive Inclusion and Rural Development, with a cutoff date as of December 31, 2023. See Table A1 in Annex E.

⁴⁶ Sowing Life directly contributes to the following targets by ensuring conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and arid areas; promoting sustainable management of all types of forests, ending deforestation, recovering degraded forests and increasing afforestation; combating desertification, rehabilitating degraded lands and soils, including lands affected by desertification, drought and floods; ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biological diversity; adopting urgent and significant measures to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halting the loss of biological diversity; promoting fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and promoting adequate access to these resources; integrating the values of ecosystems and biological diversity into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies; mobilizing and significantly increasing financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity and ecosystems; and mobilizing a significant volume of resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management (Targets: 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.6; 15.9; 15a and 15b).



On the other hand, the program impacts the following SDGs: 5, for being a vehicle to achieve greater economic autonomy by sowers; 10, since its efforts aim to *progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population* (Target 10.1); *empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all* (Target 10.2); and *adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality* (Target 10.4).

Sowing Life is a successful program not only because of the number of hectares that have been reforested or because of the number of men and women sowers who resumed work on their plots; but because it is a vehicle for those people who dedicate their lives to growing food to always have available, sufficient and quality food to feed their family. It is a multidimensional program, which has positive impacts on the environment from an agroecological paradigm of healthy food production without agrotoxins, through which gender gaps are closed and economic alternatives are formed from a social, solidarity, community vision.

Forest Area Increase by State



Note: State boundaries were taken from INEGI's 2020 Basic Information Project. Hectares shown in states may differ from the exact number due to the rounding of numbers for their graphic representation on the map.



A Commitment to Youth: Youth Building the Future

According to the perspective of the Government of Mexico, youths are subjects of rights and the State must ensure the conditions for their full development. Due to their role as indispensable agents for structural change, it is a priority to support policies that allow their social and labor inclusion, particularly if we seek to establish a country with welfare.

Mexican youth constitute approximately one third of the country's total population;⁴⁷ therefore, in addition to being an essential actor in national development, they represent a key agent in achieving its sustainability.

In our country, since the beginning of this century, the demographic dividend was emerging as a great opportunity to boost the pace of the economy, however, it was not well taken advantage of by some governments that, over several decades, relegated youth to a second place.

The lack of a policy aimed at this population sector not only translated into a lack of educational and employment opportunities, transcending into the violation of their fundamental rights, but also restricted their ability to develop both professionally and personally, by putting them in unemployment and marginalization.

This situation was further aggravated by the constant social stigma around youth, who came to be disparagingly referred to as NEETs (*ninis* by its Spanish term),⁴⁸ blurring state responsibility and blaming them for their condition. This position does not recognize that the place that people occupy in society is not the exclusive result of their individual circumstances and decisions. On the contrary, there is an economic and social structure, as well as material and symbolic circumstances that condition people and mark their possibilities for social mobility. Inequalities in our societies affect young people above all.

Exclusion, added to economic precariousness, within a context of growing violence, which was the product of an erratic public security policy, contributed to this sector being at greater risk of being captured by organized crime, causing a greater rupture in the social fabric.



⁴⁷ According to the 2020 Population and Housing Census data from INEGI (2023d), it is estimated that 37.7 million youth (from 12 to 29 years old) resided in Mexico, which represented 30% of the country's population (125.5 million).

⁴⁸ Term derogatorily used by some former Mexican presidents to refer to young people who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training, or as is said in Spanish, who neither study nor work (*ni estudia ni trabaja*).



Historically, youth it has been the ones facing the greatest barriers to entering the labor market. Data reported by the International Labor Organization (ILO) indicate that youth are three times more likely than adults to be unemployed; and those who manage to find a job are usually employed under high labor rotation schemes, lower incomes, or in the informal sector (ILO, 2020).

In Mexico, the unemployment rate for people aged 18 to 29 has always remained above the national average. But this situation worsens for poor young people, since “at the regional level, it is confirmed that young people from the highest income quintiles have an unemployment rate on average three times lower than those from the poorest quintiles.” (ECLAC, 2015: 44). In the case of Mexico, the unemployment rate in young people aged 15 to 29 by economic stratum reported that quintile I (lowest income) had an unemployment rate of 10.6; while in quintile IV (highest income), it was reduced to 4.4.

In addition to this reality, there are other dysfunctions in the labor market that affect the younger population, which are due to the disparities that exist between the job profiles posted in job openings and job seekers.

More than half of Mexican companies claim to have difficulties finding qualified personnel for the jobs they offer (STPS, 2021).⁴⁹ In Mexico, young people trying to enter formal employment for the first time seem to experience the same difficulties throughout their search. We have, on the one hand, the limitation represented by companies demanding skills that young people did not develop during their professional training, and on the other, the rejection for not having work experience.

The above represents a vicious circle, since it is very difficult for young people to accumulate the required experience if they are not given the opportunity to work, and it is even more complicated for those people who do not have the necessary studies to enter the labor market.

Likewise, the indicators linked to the average income received by the young population are not encouraging either, since they reveal the salary gap that exists between this age group with respect to the adult population. The average monthly income of young people is 5,675 pesos (319.9 dollars), which is below the income of people over 30, who on average receive 6,495 pesos (366.2 dollars) (STPS, 2021).

This disparity is even more evident when it comes to young women, who receive a lower income than men of the same age for the same work, receiving an average monthly salary of five thousand 82 pesos (286.5 dollars) (STPS, 2021).

This working condition constitutes an obstacle that impacts the lives of young people in various ways, not only by reducing their expectations about the future, but also in the way they perceive themselves:



The acceptance of their own marginalization ... makes them vulnerable and conditions them to reproduce poverty and exclusion, it exposes them to risks in the field of reproductive health and, in some cases, it turns them into potential participants in transgressive activities.

(CEPAL, 2015: 33).



⁴⁹ According to data from the STPS, 2021.



To put it briefly, employment is a crucial link in the social inclusion of youth. Under the premise that youth is not only our future, but the present of our country, the Government of Mexico implements a social policy aimed at addressing the causes that limit their development.

The arrival of Andrés Manuel López Obrador to the presidency of Mexico in 2018 represented a substantial shift to advance in that direction, by placing, for the first time, the well-being of this sector of the population as a central element of the National Plan.

Youth Building the Future, for the Inclusion of Youth

The NDP's National Public Security Strategy establishes as a priority objective to ensure employment, education, health and welfare through job creation, fulfilling the right of all youth in the country to higher education, investing in infrastructure and health services by means of regional, sectoral and situational development programs.

JCF emerged as part of these actions and to address the causes that limit the career paths and job prospects of Mexican youth aged between 18 and 29 years. It is a federal program with the goal of promoting the labor inclusion of 2.3 million youths who were not studying or working, through on the job training.

Since 2019, the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS) is the entity responsible for implementing this program that unites the experience of workplaces in all regions of the country with the energy and intelligence of youth, contributing to the personal and vocational development of this sector, but also to the well-being of their families and communities.

The program aims to include this population in a productive activity, promoting their linkage with economic units, through job training for up to 12 months.

During their stay in the program, the Government of Mexico grants each apprentice a monthly scholarship of 6,310 pesos (355.7 dollars)⁵⁰, equivalent to a minimum wage. As mentioned by the Undersecretary of Employment and Labor Productivity, Quiahuitl Chávez, Youth Building the Future was born with the idea of reversing the neglect suffered for decades by millions of young people throughout the country.

In addition to this scholarship, the male and female apprentices of Youth Building the Future are incorporated into the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) for the months that their training process lasts. In this sense, the program is an opportunity to ensure this sector's rights of formal employment, specifically the right to health insurance, thereby increasing the chances of them choosing in the future to remain under these protection schemes throughout their lives.



⁵⁰ Scholarship amount for 2023. This amount is updated according to the increase in the annual minimum wage, which was 7,572 pesos (426.9 dollars) for 2024.

Therefore, through all the elements that make up a program like Youth Building the Future, we can ensure that Mexico moves towards fulfilling *SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth* and, particularly contributes to the *targets related to achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value; and substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training* (Target 8.5 and 8.6).

Likewise, Youth Building the Future is raising greater awareness among the young population about the importance of safety and health at work, an essential right which can only be accessed through social security, representing a relevant step in addressing Target 8.8 of the SDGs, which seeks to *protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment*.

From On-the-Job Training to Decent Work

Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro (Youth Building the Future) operates under a unique co-responsibility framework, in such a way that the participation of companies and workplaces has been fundamental for the existence of a program of this nature. It is not a labor relationship, but rather a mentoring and training relationship on the components of a formal job, and has the guarantees of decent work, which has been achieved thanks to the active collaboration of the active private sector responsibly committed to the training of Mexican youth.

Addressing all the country's labor realities, JCF integrates the participation of economic units of all sizes, from large companies to small workshops, businesses, social organizations and public institutions. By 2023, just over half a million workplaces joined this program, providing training and enrolling their apprentices into the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), reaching locations where no one reached before.⁵¹

In this way, the apprentices are developing the skills valued by the labor market, making it possible to close the gaps that exist between the young people's labor skills and the profiles that companies require to fill their job openings, since they are themselves the economic units in charge of developing training plans.



⁵¹Data provided by the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS by its Spanish acronym). See Table A2 in Annex E.

Thanks to this training model, the program is now becoming a successful strategy to increase the opportunities of this sector that seeks to be linked to a productive activity. Data from the National Survey of Household Income and Expenditure (INEGI 2022a) shows that 6 out of every 10 youths, obtain a productive job or occupation after participating in the program. In other words, those who graduate from the program are three times more likely to find work compared to those who search on their own (CONASAMI, 2023b).⁵²

Additionally, while not everyone who graduates from JCF goes into a productive activity, positive effects that this program has in the life path of this sector have been identified, since a significant part of JCF graduates decides to resume their studies at the end of their training.

Thus, the program contributes to the achievement of the targets focused on *ensuring equal access for all people to quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university (4.3); and substantially increase the number of people who have relevant skills, particularly technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship (4.4).*

Added to this is the significant impact that JCF has on access to health, since young learners are 25.1% more likely to have access to health services, compared to young people who do not study and do not work (CONASAMI, 2023b). With this, the program directly addresses the fulfillment of SDG 3, specifically the target referring to *achieving universal health coverage, and access to quality essential health-care services (Target 3.8).*

Youth Building the Future and Peace with Social Justice

Although the Youth Building the Future program places youth at the center of its priorities, like other programs that comprise the welfare policy of the Government of Mexico this has been an effort that has also contributed to closing inequality and gender gaps that persist in the country, under the principle of leaving no one behind and leaving no one out.

At the beginning of this administration, the inclusion of 2.3 million young people was set as a goal for this program, a goal that was not only achieved, but exceeded.

According to data provided by the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare, more than 2.8 million youth, women and men, have gone through the program, representing a social investment of 111,694 million pesos (6,296 million dollars) in the last 5 years.⁵³



⁵² According to data from CONASAMI (2023b). For more detail see Table A2 in Annex E.

⁵³ See Table A2 in Annex E.

On this, Undersecretary Quiahuitl Chávez points out:

It is a historic investment that contrasts practically with the country's entire youth-oriented budget over the past three decades.

Chávez, 2023a.

This refers to what was corroborated by the President:⁵⁴ in five six year terms of the neoliberal period, they gave youth, in all programs, just 7,500 million pesos (422 million dollars).

For JCF youths, access to a monthly scholarship during their stay in the program, as well as the opportunity of joining a productive activity at the end of it, has meant the chance to achieve greater economic autonomy, mainly for those who remained more dependent on their family nucleus. This, without a doubt, has turned something beneficial for all these families, since:

The presence of economically dependent young people in the home may become a burden. ... If they are employed, they can contribute to family well-being and help prevent poverty or escape it in low-income households. The evidence in 18 countries in the region shows that the weight of children's labor income in total family income reaches approximately 32%.

(CEPAL, 2015: 48).

Likewise, along with this reality, within thousands of households in Mexico, particularly those experiencing a greater condition of marginalization, the presence of young apprentices is an important source of income that has constituted the sustenance of the entire family economy.

Many of these people, who have become heads of households, are contributing to poverty reduction in the country, by allowing their families to have their basic needs met, such as those linked to food, clothing, housing, health, education, among others. In this way, through JCF, not only is the image of youth dignified and their sense of belonging strengthened within their communities, it also contributes significantly to the fulfillment of SDG1, aimed at ending poverty.

On the other hand, this program plays a fundamental role in the country's pacification strategy, contained in the NDP goals, which moved to change war measures for a comprehensive peace and security policy that addresses the causes of violence linked, largely, to poverty.

Both problems are closely intertwined and respond to a situation of structural violence, that is, an unequal social structure that excludes certain groups from the possibilities of ensuring their own food, housing, health, employment, education, among others. This is manifested through social exclusion, racism, classism, inequality based on sex and other types of discrimination.

In that sense, JCF seeks to respond to a painful issue, since violence is the main cause of death in youth regionally.

The program is summarized in the President's emblematic motto "scholarship yes, cartel hitmen no", and it is a training program, but not a training program for ordinary work as it may be in some other country, but rather considered as a tool to rebuild the social fabric and give opportunities to the youths who need it most and who have had fewer opportunities.

Chávez, 2023b.

⁵⁴ See stenographic version of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's press conference on Friday, January 19, 2024 available at: <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/es/articulos/version-estenografica-conferencia-de-prensa-del-presidente-andres-manuel-lopez-obrador-del-19-de-enero-de-2024>

With very positive results, Youth Building the Future implements a targeting strategy in municipalities that have high crime rates, with the objective of having the young population of marginalized communities have life options and avoid them being absorbed by the economy of violence.

In the 50 municipalities with the highest crime rate, the program has benefited 354,000 youth,⁵⁵ a number that has undoubtedly contributed to reports by the National Registry of Detentions of a constant and sustained decrease in the detention of young people for crimes in both federal and local courts, well as common jurisdiction, acknowledging that peace is the fruit of justice, as the President pointed out.

Chávez, 2023b.

The results obtained after five years of implementing the program show its direct influence on fulfilling *SDG 16, Peace, justice and strong institutions and, in particular, Target 16.1* by actively contributing to pacification and strengthening the social fabric.⁵⁶ As a result of the strategy of prioritizing municipalities with high crime rates, the commission of high-impact crimes has been reduced by 18% in the areas where the program operates.⁵⁷

Thus, with a cross-sectional approach, JCF serves youth who live in municipalities with high social lag, as well as members of historically discriminated groups, among which are indigenous and Afro-Mexican youth.

With this, it has been possible to link this sector with the job opportunities that exist in their region, looking to establish a link with their communities, in addition to contributing to those who migrate, either by choice or not by need (Target 10.7).

By 2023, 58% of the people in the program are women. That is, nearly 1.65 million young women have managed to join various productive activities and train for work.⁵⁸ This is no small number, if we take into account that, throughout history, women's participation in the labor market has faced significant obstacles due to culturally assigned roles, such as responsibility for unpaid care work and domestic work.

In Latin America, the group of youths detached from the educational system and the labor market is made up of 73.5% women (ECLAC, 2015). Likewise, young Mexican women are four times less likely than young men their age to study and work (OECD, 2017). One of the main reasons that hinder their inclusion into the labor field is the lack of time availability to access paid employment.

This has negative repercussions that translate into an increase in the wage gap between men and women as age increases. In summary, women accumulate less work experience due to the greater burden of care work.

Undersecretary Quiahuitl Chávez highlights the importance of JCF for women in general and, in particular, for young women who are mothers.

Health insurance covers maternity during pregnancies and, subsequently, women can use their leave days and the training continues, they are not discharged for being pregnant or on maternity.

Chávez, 2023b.

⁵⁵ Data as of November 2023, numbers updated as of December 2023 is found in Table A2 Annex E.

⁵⁶ Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

⁵⁷ According to the Undersecretary of Employment and Labor Productivity, Quiahuitl Chávez Domínguez at the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare. Available at: <https://www.gob.mx/stps/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-y-el-servicio-nacional-de-empleo-fundamentales-para-abatir-las-desigualdades-sociales?idiom=es>

⁵⁸ Data provided by the STPS. See Table A2 in Annex E

In the same sense, selection or rejection based on gender is not allowed by workplaces; they must accept applications from any person, regardless of their gender, religion or sexual orientation (SDG 10, target 10.2). In other words, no form of discrimination is tolerated.

Karina Alejandra Chan Ortega, an apprentice from the first class of Youth Building the Future, tells her experience in the program:

I showed them that we can also do very hard work, proving that women have the same capacity as men, but I don't want to denigrate men, they are also very good and we need them, otherwise we would not have a balanced job.

Chan, 2023.

In this way, the program has positively contributed to challenging stereotypes and overturning the belief that there are exclusive activities for men in which women have no place.

We can affirm that JCF promotes labor inclusion by helping to *ensure the full and effective participation of women and equal leadership opportunities* (Target 5.5); and to *adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels*. (Target 5.c).

Youth Building the Future is a comprehensive program designed with the goal of building the conditions leading to the full development of Mexican youth, with the purpose of ensuring that this well-being lasts in the long term and remains for future generations.

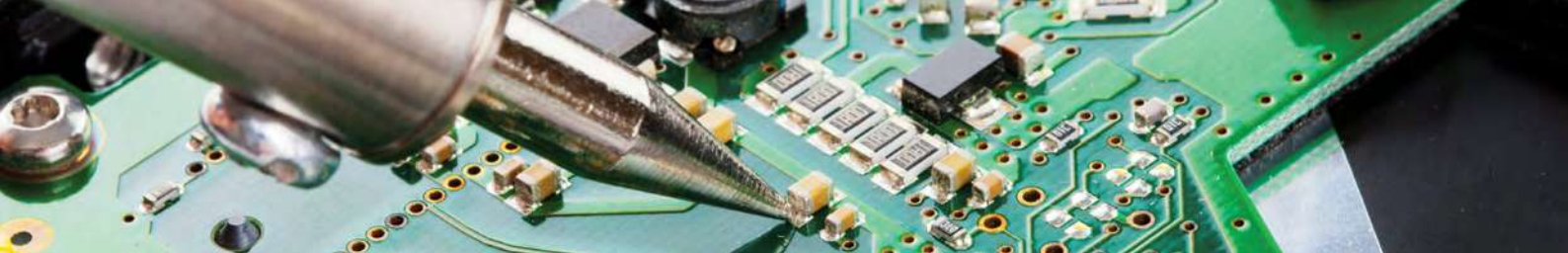
This way, various gaps in terms of labor and social inclusion are being closed, but perhaps the most valuable achieved effect so far is the way in which the program has profoundly touched the lives of young people, by giving them back confidence in themselves.

As a result of the various policies promoted by the Government of Mexico aimed at youth care, as well as the historic social investment behind these efforts, a tangible impact has been achieved in the lives of the country's youth, as well as in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals referring to this population sector. This is intended to ensure that the benefits created by these actions last and leave a positive mark on the development and well-being of youth throughout their career path.

In the same sense, by prioritizing the youth who need it most, a high school is moving forward in the state of Nuevo León, municipality of Pesquería, with the support of the private sector, the Roberto Rocca Technical School.

This initiative is a success story of the private sector that favorably transformed the lives of the people of Pesquería. Its inclusion in this Fourth VNR answers the wish of having these actions be recognized and replicated, which go beyond a mere requirement to comply with the company's sustainability programs, but rather seek to contribute to the community where they are.





From Pesquería to the World, the Roberto Rocca Technical School

In Mexico, active participation of public and private agents is essential in building a more inclusive society, with well-being and in which all people can access the same opportunities. In this sense, collaboration between companies, civil organizations, academic institutions and government entities is key to advancing the achievement of the SDGs included in the 2030 Agenda.

Within the framework of these efforts, socially responsible companies play a key role, since it is through their actions that they can positively impact communities, sustainability and the environment.

For many years, the role of companies was linked to their contribution to national development through economic growth, investment, taxes, as well as the creation of job sources. Currently, however, by assuming a greater social commitment, there are more and more cases in which they participate in creating initiatives that directly benefit the people and communities where they carry out their productive activity.

Based on this approach, companies' contribution is not limited to executing programs and policies that impact society's welfare; it also seeks to ensure that the effect derived from their efforts contributes to the building of a better future for upcoming generations.

This Fourth Voluntary National Review visualizes one of the many experiences linked to this sector, which shows the important role it can play in the construction of sustainable development, when guiding light of greater social justice and welfare aim are shared.

That is why we highlight Ternium's commitment to youth and their professional development, recognizing the value of promoting training for those who will become this country's productive force and its agents of change within their communities. The company has implemented various actions that contribute to promoting quality education for youth of the places where it operates.

In addition to being a leading steel company in our country, Ternium is highly integrated into its value chain. Its activities range from iron extraction in its own mines and steel manufacturing, to the manufacturing of finished products with high added value and their distribution.

Together with other companies of the Techint Organization, and as part of its Social Development programs, Ternium has launched an education-based project as "the cornerstone of individual and social progress."⁵⁹

Through a network of technical schools, it has managed to bring youth closer to the development of technological skills, widely valued by the labor market, at the same time as it has contributed to generating greater equality of opportunities among the youth population.

⁵⁹ According to data from the official website of the Roberto Rocca Technical School.



Ternium is business actor that contributes to the fulfillment of *SDG 4 Quality education*, and in particular the target of *increasing the number of people who have the relevant skills, mainly technical and vocational, to access employment and decent jobs* (4.4).

The educational offer that this network gathers includes specialty programs in mechatronics and electromechanics at the technical high school level, which are offered in the town of Pesquería, Nuevo León, in Mexico, as well as specialty programs in electromechanics and electronics, at the technical upper secondary education level, which are taught in the city of Campana, Argentina.

For Quality Technical Education

Since 2013, the Ternium Industrial Center, located in Pesquería, Nuevo León, has been a greatly relevant hub in the training of technical personnel in the region. In 2016, it created the Roberto Rocca Technical School (ETRR by its Spanish acronym), with an investment of 30 million dollars (532,146 pesos). Since then, this institution has provided high school education to the young population of the surrounding communities.



The profile of the young graduates of this school is characterized by the integration of what is human with what is technical. To do this, an education linked to the real needs of the productive sector is promoted. With this, the Roberto Rocca School directly contributes to the fulfillment of *SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth*, by providing students with the essential skills to enter the labor market, as well as goal 8.6.⁶⁰

Framed within a dual training model, this project seeks to strengthen and implement innovative practices, in order to train technical personnel capable of adapting to the demands of the world of labor, academia and the current and future challenges of this industry. Efrén Castillo, the school's director, tells us that:

It is above all an open school for technical education, for highly employable careers. But it is not only about preparing people for a job, but also giving them full training so that they can continue studying at university when they graduate after three years, if it is their wish, which was still something unattainable for most a few years ago.

Castillo, 2023.

From 2016 to 2023, 601 students graduated in the five classes that finished high school. All of them received scholarships covering at least 96% of tuition cost, which has been a relevant effort to increase access to scholarships in developing countries. (Target 4.b).

Additionally, each student is in charge of a laptop, a fundamental tool, throughout the six semesters of high school. Added to this are other benefits such as food and transportation, to which they are entitled, with a monthly contribution that is established according to a socioeconomic study.⁶¹

⁶⁰ Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

⁶¹ According to data submitted by the Roberto Rocca Technical School director at the First 2030 Agenda National Convention.

With the aim of strengthening youths' job opportunities, they are taught 10 hours of intensive English per week, from the fourth semester onward, allowing them to enjoy the advantages that come from being bilingual when looking for a job at the end of their studies.

In turn, they are given the opportunity in their last year to participate in training programs that create mutual benefits for both the students and local industries. Professional internships are made up of activities or training spaces in which youths, under supervision, can articulate theory and practice by getting closer to real work situations.

Education at All Levels

In addition to high schools, Ternium supports other complementary educational programs, such as scholarships for primary, secondary, technical high school, engineering and postgraduate students. Secondary students are offered afternoon workshops that reinforce their knowledge in mathematics, writing, art and science.

The certification is also available to faculty and students at other public institutions. It is even open to people who are already in the workforce and need to certify their empirical knowledge. Through this achievement, the Roberto Rocca Technical School (ETRR) contributes to the fulfillment of the target that seeks to significantly increase the supply of qualified teachers (4.c).



We have realized that the earlier we can influence children's education in Mexico, the easier it is for older generations to ensure that they can respond to the country's needs. If we do it at older ages, it will be more complicated, therefore, instead of just increasing support at the engineering and postgraduate levels, Ternium has undertaken the task of moving forward in partnering with other companies to create opportunities at basic training levels.

Castillo, 2023b.

In 2020, this high school was certified as a Festo Authorized and Certified Training Center (FACT), the first FACT⁶² center in Nuevo León and the third in Mexico. This represents a great opportunity for people wanting to get a certification, particularly in specialties like pneumatics, electropneumatics, hydraulics and electrohydraulics.

Likewise, in order to expand the scope of this educational project, the ETRR has established interagency collaborations with other efforts of the Government of Mexico, such as the constant liaising with the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) as well as with other welfare policy programs, like the emblematic Youth Building the Future program.

Within the framework of this program, the participation of apprentices has been promoted in workshops where they are trained in skills required by the labor market and they visit the industrial plants where they will eventually be hired.

⁶² Festo is the company with the most advanced technology in pneumatics and hydraulics, and has headquarters in various parts of the world, including Mexico.



Equal Opportunities, Science and Technology

There is no doubt about the contribution that the Roberto Rocca Technical School has made to the benefit the surrounding communities. Before this project existed, only two out of every 10 young people had the opportunity to access high school in Pesquería, Nuevo León.

In 2023, eight out of 10 young people accessed high school. This contributes to SDG 4 and 10, since in addition to being a way to access education, it is also a way to reduce inequalities.

According to data from UNESCO (2023), the average global rate of female researchers for 2019 was only 29.3% and only 35% of students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs were women.

In Mexico, women make up 38% of enrollment in STEM programs; this number will increase if science and technology are promoted from basic education levels. Therefore, the efforts of the ETRR, currently made up of 37.5% women, are notable, and they are an important drive to achieve gender equality (SDG 5). Citlalli Romo, ETRR student, tells us about her experience.

I am very happy that they have inclusion here at the high school; if a woman is afraid of going into machines, the teachers encourage us that it is possible, that not only men go into that type of work that requires strength. ... I like that there is even a women's committee that encourages all the girls here to know that they can do it and that the level between men and women in a technical high school can be equal.

Romo, 2023.



Science and technology are critical aspects for sustainable development, in the sense stated by the UN:



Science, technology and innovation are formally agreed upon as a means or ends for 12 of the 17 goals and 26 of the 169 targets.

(UN, 2021).



Thus, this experience can provide elements to consider for a future roadmap that deepens a proposal towards national scientific and technological sovereignty.

Mexican youth are the present and future of the country, therefore, betting on their well-being from a comprehensive and rights perspective is a fundamental task.

In addition to contributing to their personal and professional development, the promotion of quality education for this sector is an effective way to distance them from behaviors that are potentially harmful to their own lives.



There is a series of problems in Pesquería that are representative of the problems experienced by all communities on the outskirts of large cities, such as violence and drug addiction in the surroundings, which are a multifactorial problem. And we have realized that we must work to train youth, but we must also do it hand in hand with families. For this reason, we promote periodic meetings with families to support them precisely in this transition of what is the training of an adolescent.

Castillo, 2023.

José Alberto Pecina Fernández, a fifth semester student of electromechanics at ETRR, confirms that the school's arrival in Pesquería was beneficial for the youth of said community:



I think it has encouraged all the young people here in the area, young people who perhaps did not have the tools or the possibilities to get ahead ... we all had someone we knew who wanted to excel in that (programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and it was really very complicated, you had to go to downtown Monterrey and, currently, everything is right here in Pesquería.

Pecina, 2023.



Without a doubt, Ternium's work in this educational project reflects the positive impact that companies can have on regional development and the benefit of their people when they decide to assume a greater social commitment and bet on the sustainability of their operations, creating opportunities within them. It is precisely through these actions that companies can be a central actor in achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

It also represents a model that, through its visibility, can be replicated by the private sector, transcending the creating of more ecosystems in which companies, under a social responsibility approach, assume a proactive role towards the community.





Economy for Life and Sustainable Development

If anything has distinguished the passage of capitalist systems in neoliberal phases around the world, it has been the growing social inequality emanating from the adoption of their economic policies. This was presented as a model that would be more efficient and generate greater well-being under the deception that the benefit of large capital would translate into the benefit of everyone, more wealth would be created, and it would trickle down from the highest strata, allowing the middle classes and those living in poverty to stay afloat.

Contrary to these promises, today there is unquestionable evidence of the profound disparities that this model brought with it, since in addition to causing an exacerbated concentration of wealth in the highest sectors of society, said concentration continues to increase.

On the opposite side, for people living in poverty, this model not only did not represent an opportunity, on the contrary, it reduced the possibilities of social mobility for those who lack the necessary means.



In Mexico, it is estimated that 74 out of every 100 people born in homes from the lowest social level fail to overcome poverty. This is more dramatic in the south of the country and deepens with women and darker-skinned people of color.

(CEEY, 2019).



The neoliberal model did little to reduce this problem; on the contrary, it privatized the control of public goods, which were previously oriented toward addressing social needs.

The idea of the welfare state was abandoned, and with it, the possibility of ensuring equal access to a minimum level of well-being and rights for everyone, and mediation in access was given to the market.

Throughout Latin America, millions of people were forced into outrageous marginalization conditions: living below the poverty line, with high rates of malnutrition, mired in unemployment, excluded from the educational and health systems, confined in precarious housing, lacking basic services and without any possibility of exercising their fundamental rights.

This explains the multiple social movements that broke out at the beginning of the 21st century throughout the region, which represented an uncompromising questioning of this model. Many of these experiences managed to reverse some of the damage caused by neoliberalism. However, the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic revealed the fragility of health and social protection systems around the world, privatized and reduced to a minimum for decades. In addition to this, the pandemic also had profound effects on the increase in inequality gaps, as well as a drop in people's income and education.

Today, derived from these factors, the world finds itself at a crossroads, since if it continues along the same path, it will be increasingly complicated to build public goods with which to face great global inequalities, and on which the feasibility of the goals proposed by the 2030 Agenda depends, should control over said factor is not recovered.



Therefore, it is imminent to move towards more inclusive models that once again consider social well-being as a priority, as well as to commit to the reorganization of the economy's productive ways and consumption (SDG 12), and the human relationships involved in their development.

Given this opportunity, the social and solidarity economy represents an alternative to the current economic system.

With it, we seek socio-labor inclusion and people development, through the establishment of sustainable productive projects based on relationships based on cooperation, redistribution, self-management and citizen participation.

The social economy constitutes a means to promote job creation in which decent working conditions are ensured, and to develop previously marginalized sectors from that.

Social Economy viewed from Public Policy

In response to this need, the National Institute of Social Economy (INAES by its Spanish acronym) has had an important participation in creating public policies aimed at promoting and consolidating social economy, through participation, training, research, dissemination and support to productive projects in the sector.

Our social economy vision is to have companies coexisting with the rest of the economic sectors, but in which ownership is not centralized on a few. Ownership is not the government's, it belongs to the citizens, people who organize themselves to communicate what their needs are.

Martínez J.M., 2023.

In order to move forward in this sense, INAES developed the 2021–2024 Social Economy Promotion Program (PFES by its Spanish acronym), aligned with the 2019–2024 National Development Plan and the 2020–2024 Sector Welfare Program, which focuses on promoting new social economy companies by incubating projects, as well as providing financing and technical assistance.

The Nodes to Promote the Social and Solidarity Economy (NODESS by their Spanish acronym) are a support network, through which cooperation is sought between local actors interested in thinking, boosting and implementing actions to promote the social and solidarity economy in Mexico.

These local partnerships are made voluntarily, with at least three institutional actors:

- 1 Academic institutions,
- 2 Local governments,
- 3 Social Sector Organizations of the Economy.⁶³

With the aim of promoting the incubation of collective ventures through support, training and research.

⁶³ Social Sector Organizations of the Economy (OSSEs by their Spanish acronym) are made up of: first level OSSEs in production and consumption (*ejidos*, communities, goods and/or services producer co-ops, goods and/or services consumers co-ops, social security societies, mutual companies, commercial companies, rural production companies and irregular companies). They also include first-level OSSEs in financial services: savings and loan co-ops, workers' savings banks, mutual insurance companies, agricultural and rural insurance funds, community financial companies, non-regulated multiple purpose financial companies, and credit unions. In addition, there are second-level OSSEs such as *ejido* unions, community unions, co-op organizations, collective interest rural associations, rural production company unions, and integrated agricultural and rural insurance funds organizations (INAES, 2021). In the rest of the section, we will adopt the general term "co-ops" for the purpose of simplifying collective understanding and reference to the various OSSEs mentioned above.

As described by INAES' general director, Juan Manuel Martínez Louvier, these nodes mobilize greatly accumulated forces in the national educational system, particularly within higher education institutions, to which other social economy actors, such as co-ops, community ejido-owner groups, rural production companies, members of civil society, local governments, even private companies.

Each of these partnerships was born from a momentum that is based on the principles

and values of social economy: the free choice and the free will to participate in these collective efforts.

The current NODESS network is located throughout the country. As of 2023, it is made up of 260 nodes and 170 pre-NODESS, that is, 430 partnerships that bring together 1604 organizations, of which: 31% are higher education institutions, 34% are co-op businesses, 13% are local governments and, the rest, other types of organizations.⁶⁴

Social Economy and Regional Development



The role of the nodes has been fundamental to develop skills and means for the productive and financial inclusion of co-ops, ejidos and associations, mainly those that have sustainable initiatives and that are established on the principles of the social and solidarity economy, though collective work.

(INAES, 2022).



Likewise, from these nodes, access to savings, credit, insurance and other financial services has been promoted, through social economy entities, aimed at a currently excluded population, allowing more people to access these services in places where the other kinds of financial services would hardly reach.

All these collective efforts, birthed under the social and solidarity economy framework, have meant the creation of job sources, as well as the creation of development opportunities at the regional level, in which 415 thousand people have been impacted at least.⁶⁵

These actions contribute to the achievement of SDG 8 and address target 8.3, through the promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

The diversity of actors that make up these nodes, as well as their geographical focus, are key elements in the creation of impetus and actions that address local problems, in addition to the collective needs that co-ops address in each region. In this sense, we have opted for those collective ventures that can represent a sustainable productive source for the benefit of those who participate in them, as well as their community, mainly in rural areas, where inequality gaps are even more notable and where livelihoods continue to be linked to working the land.

⁶⁴ Data provided by INAES. See Table A4 in Annex E.

⁶⁵ See Table A4 in Annex E.



By 2023, 198 NODESS promoted the creation of family or urban gardens, as well as sustainable food production.⁶⁶ Thus, progress is made in achieving SDG 2, particularly in the target focused on ensuring sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality (2.4); as well as achieving SDG 1.

Likewise, since 2019, actions have been promoted through 219 NODESS to create energy co-ops, which represent an alternative for the sustainable development of their communities, affecting the achievement of SDG 7 referring to Affordable and Clean Energy.



Social Economy for Equality

From a cross-sectional approach, priority is given through NODESS to co-ops, ejidos and associations located in municipalities with the highest marginalization rate, with indigenous and Afro-Mexican presence, with high violence rates and with populations in social or natural emergency situations (INAES, 2022).

This way, we contribute to the fulfillment of SDG 1, more directly impacting goal 1.4, *by ensuring that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.*

The priority attention of these populations aims to bring greater opportunities for sustainable development within them, which have been victims of the systematic dispossession of their lands for decades and, with it, their means of subsistence.

Likewise, we seek to enhance the community practices that characterize these indigenous populations, which have been the means to resolve their basic needs despite exclusion, in order to recover the ideas that promote collective, cooperative and supportive action that was displaced from popular consciousness.

Social economy affords us the great opportunity to resume previously untapped and extremely wise practices in a globalized country with a privileged geographical location, with goods and services of the highest quality and technological value, that were thought to represent the past. If we do not seek positive integration, market forces will intervene in the most exacerbated dispossession of these communities.

Martínez J.M., 2023.

⁶⁶ Data provided by the National Institute of Social Economy. See Table A4 of Annex E.

Likewise, social economy represents a viable option to advance the inclusion of women in productive activities —particularly women who live in indigenous communities— without them having to face discrimination or be relegated to precarious activities.

This takes on a greater dimension if we take into account that capitalist systems have perpetuated women's involvement in certain roles, limiting their job opportunities. In relation to this, the director of INAES points out:

If we go by the classic rules of capital, women would be condemned to never be protagonists. Women are decapitalized, as land ownership does not exceed 20% in our country. ... Social economy has to do with a feminist economy, because if we try to ensure that women's access to the economy is through capital, it's going to take forever. Rather, if we remove that asymmetry, then we achieve women being participants in other types of processes. It is changing the rules of the game and making one's ability to generate wealth the admission ticket.

— Martínez J.M., 2023.

From 2019 to 2023, 197 NODESS have implemented specific support, strengthening and associative entrepreneurship actions to empower women, developing said actions to include women into productive activities, promoting care economy and goods and services creation, making important progress towards the goal of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5).

Thanks to all these actions, NODESS constitute a key pillar to move towards Mexico's economic and social transformation based on a welfare policy, all this without compromising people's quality of life, the environment or economic development, by betting on communities' economic sustainability, directly contributing to the fulfillment of *SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities*.

NODESS Tijuana

An emblematic example of this type of synergies is NODESS Tijuana, located in the state of Baja California. This node is made up of the Tijuana Campus of the National Technological Institute of Mexico, in partnership with the Municipal Citizen Participation Institute of Tijuana's City Hall and the Unión de Cooperativas de la Frontera Norte (Northern Border Co-op Union).

NODESS Tijuana has more than five years of field work experience, which has made it possible to identify the needs of this region, where most productive activities are linked to the processing and service industries.

Taking this reality into account, they have promoted the creation of projects aimed at strengthening food sovereignty, which constitute a source of development of the community's sustainability in the long term, thus contributing to the fulfillment of SDG 2.



In order to achieve the feasibility of these efforts, this node has promoted the visibility of the SDGs among youth, as well as the role of the social economy in achieving its targets. To this end, it developed a social service system with students where they are trained on strategic issues related to sustainable development, reaching more than 10 thousand youth throughout the country by 2023.

All the above, in order to raise greater awareness among youth about the relevance of addressing these priority objectives from different fields and putting them into practice, making this vision endure throughout their professional and personal career. Regarding this, Professor Rodolfo Martínez Gutiérrez from NODESS Tijuana points out:

We have found that, based on this awareness about the SDGs, young people are identifying goals that can eventually link them to professional careers or higher secondary education studies, so that the desire to study a major makes sense. If the goal is health or environmental issues, they identify which career path is related to that goal and identify study preferences that will eventually translate into a profession.

Martínez R., 2023.

While these actions are linked to youth's educational development, contributing to the fulfillment of SDG 4, these efforts have encouraged in this sector to assume a proactive role in its community, out of which the social fabric may be recovered, particularly in various regions in the north of the country where high rates of violence persist. In this way, we contribute to addressing of *SDG 16 Peace, justice, and strong institutions*.

This node also works with other organizations, especially with the Environmental Committee of Baja California, an entity that summoned all upper secondary and higher education institutions to monitor and evaluate how initiatives are worked on within each of institutions to achieve SDGs. These actors' participation is a clear example of a virtuous partnership, grounded on the fulfillment of SDG 17.

This has allowed the integration in these projects of the student and teaching communities, that have been trained to disseminate what the social and solidarity economy nodes and the 2030 Agenda are, in order to develop an alternative economy's true ecosystems with sustainable development as a guiding light.

These activities are carried out setting off from a vision of knowledge democratization, which is why mechanisms for knowledge exchange have also been implemented, where diplomas and training are essential so that the social and solidarity economy is known cross-sectionally.

In short, this experience is an example of territorialization and democratization of the 2030 Agenda, worthy of replication by academia with the commitment to welfare and sustainable development. In that same perspective of democratization and territorialization of the global sustainable development agenda, we will address below an experience of defending the cultural heritage of our indigenous peoples that shows us the path towards ODS 18.





Original, a Movement for Cultural Diversity

Mexico is one of the countries with the greatest cultural, natural and linguistic wealth in the world. Our Constitution recognizes the nation's pluricultural nature, originally based on its indigenous peoples, “who are those who descend from populations that lived in the country's current territory when colonization began and who preserve their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, or part of them” (Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, Art. 2).



Our country has a population of 23.2 million people aged three years and older who self-identify as indigenous, which is equivalent to 19.4 % of the total population in that age range. Likewise, there are 7,364 ,645 people aged three and older who speak an indigenous language.

(INEGI, 2022b).



The Mexican Constitution also recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to preserve and enrich their languages, knowledge and all the elements that make up their culture and identity. However, a historical and systematic abandonment by the State, typical of a colonial vision, prevailed in most rural regions where these cultures live, which created high marginalization rates.

In this context, the Secretariat of Culture of the Government of Mexico, in charge of preserving and protecting the country's cultural heritage and diversity, began an international complaint process in 2020 regarding improper cultural appropriation practices by large transnational fashion industry brands that impacted the textile artistic creations emanating from Mexico's original towns and communities.

From 2012 to 2022, at least 23 clothing brands were identified for plagiarizing designs from Mexican indigenous communities. The communities most affected by these practices are located, precisely, in the states with the highest poverty rate in our country: Oaxaca, Chiapas and Hidalgo. As of 2021, 64 cases of cultural misappropriation of these brands have been documented, which appropriate elements of indigenous cultures for private commercial purposes.

The Secretariat of Culture explains that plagiarism violates the collective intellectual creativity of indigenous peoples, it violates the right to originality, disrupting the historicity of those who have dedicated their lives and time to capturing a way of life and understanding of the world in their works. Plagiarism also damages the artisan's and his or her community's privacy, profiting from their worldview, erasing their culture's meaning and sense.

In this context, “Original” was born, a program to make indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities' cultural rights effective. More than a program, Original conceives itself as a movement, through which the Mexican State assumes its responsibility to protect and strengthen the country's creative communities, made up of art-creating subjects, through a horizontal and communicative relationship to implement public policies for the welfare of these populations.



As part of this movement, the Federal Law for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples and Communities was approved in 2020, which establishes sanctions for those who steal or plagiarize these communities' textile and cultural identity. This law aims to recognize and ensure the protection of the cultural heritage and collective intellectual property of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities. With this law, the Secretariat of Culture acquired the necessary legal support to face legal procedures against plagiarism.

The purpose of this movement is summarized in raising awareness about artisanal value, fighting recurrent plagiarism of traditional designs and symbols of our country's indigenous, Afro-descendant and mestizo communities, and resisting the historical marginalization and dispossession that these creative communities have suffered with the active support of the State at the national and international level.

In these years, in addition to initiating civil and legal actions in cases of plagiarism, the sustainability of economic centers around popular creators was promoted, mainly the textile and silversmith artistic communities.

Weaving Sustainable Development

Since 2018, the Secretariat of Culture has been working in and with artisan communities through training programs for them to reinforce their techniques and add value to their creative work through labeling, promotion or online sales, and prepares an annual exhibition that shows part of the artistic value that these communities create. In 2021, Original saw the light with its first textile art runway show at the Los Pinos Cultural Complex in Mexico City.⁶⁷

The “National Meeting of Artisans” is an annual event in which hundreds of male and female artisans participate and is visited by hundreds of thousands of people; it includes workshops and forums on topics such as intellectual property, collective property, community art, collective rights, community heritage management, intangible cultural heritage, conscious commercialization, cultural appropriation, among others. In addition, the artisans make demonstrations to the public about fabric dyeing techniques with natural elements belonging to their communities.

One of the central activities of this meeting are the runway shows where the textile and silversmith pieces made by artisans are paraded by the artisans themselves, in an act of reappropriation of their work from the affirmation and pride of producing unique and beautiful pieces, valued in their fair dimension. Parading on these runway shows is the resistance of cultures that strived to protect their symbols, their forms of knowledge and existence, their traditions and their vision of the future.



⁶⁷ Since 2018, Los Pinos Cultural Center is, by decision of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the Official Residence of the People of Mexico. It was previously the home of the presidential family.

Each piece is unique, of great complexity and perfection, which condenses ancestral knowledge and represents an entire community's particular way of being in the world. In its production, raw materials from the people's natural environment are used. In its iconography and the materials it is made of, it crystallizes its landscape. In its preparation, the organic links of an entire town are activated, from the production of raw materials to the finished products. In this regard, the Undersecretary of Cultural Development, Marina Núñez Bernal, states:

Everything that is plagiarized loses its substance. One buys something that is left without soul, because the soul is given by the communities. They make unique pieces, when one industrially reproduces something, one strips away what is original from the piece; and one takes away all its meaning. In fact, the meaning that the production has through its different techniques, is stripped away also. One takes away recognition, the possibility of remuneration for the creation and remuneration for the exploitation of something that does not belong to one.

Núñez, 2023.

Original works on its community management model of cultural heritage under six ethical principles:

- 1 Direct work with the artisans;
- 2 Equality in the productive collaboration;
- 3 Respect for collective intellectual property;
- 4 Recognition of creative people and the culture they belong to
- 5 Appraisal of the artisanal trade and the cultural load of traditional iconography, symbols or designs;
- 6 Appreciation of what is unique and unrepeatable.

This program has an Advisory Council of male and female artisans that defines, together with the Secretariat of Culture, the actions to follow and the policies to implement, and from there, the training needs of the artisans are also determined. By 2023, 78 training sessions were organized in which around 500 people who make up Original participated.⁶⁸

The Secretariat of Culture traveled around 70,000 kilometers between 2020 and 2022 to meet textile creators in their own contexts and listen to their demands in the 68 languages that represent them. During its third and most recent edition, held in November 2023, 1,068 artisans participated, representing 229 municipalities of all 32 states in the country, which concentrate more than 30 ethnic groups. Since its first edition and by 2023, 112 textile artisan and silversmithing groups have participated.



⁶⁸ Training on the following topics: Heritage and commerce, marketing channels, organizational and cooperative models, social network management for sales and promotion, among many others.

Original and the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda recognizes and acknowledges culture cross-sectionally, which is shown in several targets of the 17 SDGs; however, one of the most important challenges for a future global agenda is, without a doubt, to include a specific goal that puts culture at the center of sustainable development.

This proposal was raised by Mexico during the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, MONDIACULT, in September 2022 and was unanimously approved by 173 ministers of culture from around the world, therefore, as UNESCO itself points out:



In their daily lives, the practices, knowledge and creations that constitute the Intangible Cultural Heritage make up the identity of the communities and the individuals who develop them. They have been founded on values such as solidarity and reciprocity and have played a fundamental role in strengthening the social fabric inclusively, especially among the most vulnerable population.

(UNESCO, 2022b).



This is extremely important for our country and our region, which has inherited high levels of inequality, but which also has a strong cultural heritage that can be consolidated as the engine of sustainable development.

Even without having a specific SDG and serving as an example of the potential that culture has as a development and welfare factor, Original reports substantial contributions to various SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, since it is a program that affects territories that include high levels of poverty and strong cultural diversity.

Original's composition is diverse, but the majority of the people who make it up belong to indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples (more than 70%), while more than 64% of the total are women, according to data obtained by the Secretariat of Economy.

From the Mexican State's perspective, Original contributes to reducing poverty in the communities with which it works, where poverty violates people's dignity and limits their fundamental rights, preventing the fulfillment of their needs and their full social integration. This is done thanks to job creation and improving working conditions. With this, it not only contributes to SDG 1, but also to the entire 2030 Agenda, since sustainable development is comprehensive and poverty is multidimensional.

In this understanding, Original has an important contribution to the goal of "Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere." Specifically, Original is linked to the target of ensuring *that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.* (Target 1.4). These aspirations fully represent the deep meaning of Original.

According to the aforementioned data, 98% of the artisans who make up the program have increased their income from participating in it. This not only contributes to the achievement of SDG 8, but also has multiplier effects, as we will see below.



Virginia Nevárez, Rarámuri artisan from the state of Chihuahua, founder of the Semati Tewé Collective, states that:

Thanks to being part of Original I have gained an income, not only for myself, but for the people around me, like my mother. The colleagues from the collective try to involve family so that it serves as income for the family and not just for us.

Nevárez, 2023.

By increasing the economic resources of a large conglomerate of artisans, Original indirectly contributes to the fulfillment of SDG 2, specifically to the target of ending hunger and ensuring access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round (Target 2.1).

The increase in economic income of the people who make up Original means that 96% of male artisans and 95% of female artisans identify providing their families with access to health services. and preschool, primary and secondary education as a result of participating in the program (SDG 3 and 4).⁶⁹

Thus, families are able to cover basic health needs and ensure better nutrition derived from the increased economic income. In addition, the program has an action focused on addressing the specific health needs of artisans, which directly contributes to the SDG 3.⁷⁰

Regarding SDG 4, Original's contribution occurs in two dimensions: directly, by providing permanent technical training to male and female artisan; and, indirectly, by setting the conditions that contribute to girls and boys, children of artisans, to enter and stay in school. Specifically, their contribution is linked to Target 4.5, which states that, by 2030, *gender disparities in education be eliminated and equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations be ensured*.

This is of utmost importance, since the majority of participants in Original come from families that have suffered from multidimensional poverty, as they saw their fundamental rights to health, education, food, among others, be infringed, in addition to lacking economic resources. The experience of one artisan, Pedro Martín from Cuetzalan, Puebla, shows how exclusions are experienced by this sector of the population:

My mother used to wash other people's clothes in Cuetzalan, we would walk an hour to our community, she would weave at the end of the day and I would always say to her: 'I'm going to get you ahead, mother' and I began to acknowledge myself and ask 'what am I good at? why am I here? in this world?' I noticed I was good with threads; I was good at carving; I was good with a lot of things.

Martín, 2023.



⁶⁹ According to data obtained by the Secretariat of Economy, 2023.

⁷⁰ For example, it provides support for cataract surgery and other recurring diseases in that sector, according to data provided by the Secretariat of Culture, 2023.

Today, Pedro has his own clothing brand, he has won awards for his artistic work in weaving, he founded an association where he teaches textile art and a local gourmet food restaurant where female survivors of gender violence work. This is just an example of the thousands of experiences that converge in Original.

This program also reports progress on targets focused on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5). The above is also a result of the program's own composition, with a large female majority that faces the belittling of textile craft work, which in many communities is still considered exclusive to women and is unpaid.

Original contributes to visibilizing these problems and helps to improve families' income by providing social and economic value to their work, removing it from the domestic sphere, assigning it a fair value that fosters adequate economic conditions to ensure the exercise of other rights.

Some data related to this: with Original, 81.3% of the women in the program began selling their creations on social networks, thereby expanding their market; 78.5% of artisans affirm that, with Original, they began to assign value to their work, and 76.6% said that they began to calculate their costs and establish sales prices. It is very significant that 73.6% of the women in the program are already receiving digital payments, which allows them to expand their sales.⁷¹

All of this has a positive impact on the achievement of the targets of *SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth*, but also on the SDG related to gender equality and the reduction of inequalities. Specifically, it contributes to recognizing and *valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and promoting shared responsibility within the household and the family* (Target 5.4).

Likewise, it ensures women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life (Target 5.5). Original is an example of *undertaking actions to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources* (Target 5.a).



⁷¹ Data obtained by the Secretariat of Economy, 2023.

Regarding this situation, Virginia Nevárez Durán points out:

Yes, the dynamic is a little complicated because, in my group, five of us are mothers and it is difficult to mediate being a mother and an artisan, it is a dynamic that has to be thought out very well. Right now, we only get together on Tuesdays, sometimes to work when there is work, sometimes to train. We have trained a lot on many topics.

Nevárez, 2023.

This way, this program has been a very relevant contribution to the creation of material and symbolic conditions to achieve the economic autonomy of indigenous and Afro-descendant women in our country, as proposed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC):

Achieving equality for women as outlined in SDG 5 requires for their autonomy to be protected as a fundamental requirement, and for this protection cover both the physical and economic dimensions.

(ECLAC, 2022).

On the other hand, as a direct result of the training provided by Original, 91.4% of artisans claim to have implemented digital tools to manage their businesses,⁷² the aim of one of the targets of SDG 9.⁷³

This has strengthened the skills of the family businesses that make up Original and with this, they contribute to SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth, in its following targets:⁷⁴

- *Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-small-and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services. (Target 8.3).*
- *Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value (Target 8.5).*
- *Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment. (Target 8.8).*

Teresa Lino, textile artisan from the municipality of Hueyapan, Puebla, summarizes all of the above as follows:

It is a job inherited by our ancestors, perhaps at some point with the risk of losing all this but, through this project, Original is a way of expressing ourselves and dignifying ourselves, of dignifying making our products known, that the work is original, that it is done with our hands, not only with our hands, but also done our thinking and our heart.

Lino, 2023.

Thus, access to new markets, training and protection of the rights of artistic creations have contributed to increasing the welfare of artisans' households.

⁷² Data obtained by the Secretariat of Economy, 2023.

⁷³ Target 9.c: Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet.

⁷⁴ In addition to the targets stated above, this program aims to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products (Target 8.9). Original's Advisory Council has proposed to promote cultural tourism by raising awareness of the heritage and beauty of artisan's communities.

We are always online, placing orders by phone, looking for other ways to reach other markets; in Chihuahua, especially in the Sierra, communication is very difficult. Sales have been generally outside the state, we have had sales in Canada, the USA, one person from Africa, that is, we have managed to reach other places.

Nevárez, 2023.

That is why this program is so important, because in terms of reducing inequalities, it contributes to the fulfillment of the following targets:

- *Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average (10.1).*
- *Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all (10.2).*
- *Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard (10.3).*
- *Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality (10.4).*

Also, in a very specific way, it contributes to achieving SDG 11 by *strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage (Target 11.4), as well as support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning (Target 11.a).*

There is a significant contribution to SDGs 12 and 15 because, according to the data from the aforementioned survey, there are positive impacts on communities by promoting practices for environmental protection, such as the reduction of solid waste, efficiency in productive processes, recycling and the promotion of initiatives for the preservation of green areas.

In this regard, artisan Pedro Martín states:

There is no shortage of people who tell me: 'Pedro, are you going to have a more massive production, in which you can sell something cheaper?' And I started to think about it, but what does that bring? pollution for dyes, for washes, and art should not contaminate Mother Earth or the ecosystem.

Martín, 2023.

On the other hand, for hundreds of people, Original has also meant the possibility of remaining in their communities and not being forced to migrate in search of economic opportunities. Therefore, it has had an important impact on the reconstruction of the social fabric, which contributes to SDG 16.

[With creative work] we also avoid migration, the loss of language, of traditional dress in our communities and in the way in which each person flourishes as a human being, from our niches, where not all of us have to look to the North—where there is material wealth— but we can also materialize it from our communities.

Martín, 2023.

In summary, through a program that defends, promotes and values a historically marginalized and undervalued activity and its main creators: poor rural indigenous women, conditions are set to build economic, political and social equality not only for that sector of the population, but for the ecosystem that surrounds it. With this, colonial and patriarchal paradigms are called into question, which in the coming generations will make change the trajectories of the girls and boys of these communities and of the entire country.





Tosepan Co-Op Union: A Good Life Project

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the Sierra Nororiental de Puebla where the co-op “Tosepan Titataniske” (United We Will Triumph in Nahuatl) emerged in 1980 and focused its activities on the collection of local products such as pepper and coffee to stand up against intermediaries and sell their products directly. This strategy was implemented with the goal of stopping the shortage of staple products to feed their families and as an organizational response to preserve their rights and culture.

For decades, practices such as monopolies and speculation on basic foodstuffs became widespread in the Mexican countryside, which increased prices and raised poverty and hunger among indigenous populations. Furthermore, the intermediation in the purchase and sale of crops by a few merchant families created inequality in those areas.

These conditions were aggravated with the entry into force of neoliberal policies that directly affected the price of some staple products that sustain entire populations:



During the 1990s, the Sierra Nororiental de Puebla suffered a severe crisis that brought greater poverty to its people. Given the loss of income (the price of coffee was only enough to cover the cost of its harvest) and the lack of jobs, there was massive migration of the productive population to large cities or to the United States.

(Aguilar, Vargas and Rojas, 2019).



In this context, a co-op movement emerged with only 47 members from five communities. By 2023, there are 48,251 families affiliated and working with any of the programs of the Tosepan Co-Op Union, resulting in over four decades of struggle in the Sierra Nororiental. Each co-op is legally incorporated and has its Board of Directors, and the Union has its headquarters in the municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso, Puebla, and its current President is a woman.

According to the first president of the Tosepan Co-Op Union, Paulina Garrido, this organization seeks to collectively build a “good life” project,⁷⁵ which they have called “Yeknemilis” in Maseual language, always privileging the sustainable productive appropriation of its lands (Garrido, 2023). This paradigm is based on a logic that conceives mountains, water and biodiversity as a source of life. There, the communities coexist with nature from in a fundamentally farming-oriented way of life.

The Tosepan Co-Op Union is governed by four fundamental axes:

- 1 Social
- 2 Environmental
- 3 Triggering the local economy
- 4 Cultural

Focused on revaluing the traditions and customs of indigenous peoples, as well as strengthening their language.

⁷⁵ “Good life”, “living well”, “good living”, are some paradigms proposed by the indigenous peoples of Latin America, where the recognition of the nature's rights is paramount, as well as the recovering the principles of reciprocity, complementarity, solidarity and harmony between human beings and nature.

For Tosepan, defending their lands against extractive projects that harm Mother Earth has been fundamental, as demonstrated by their constant mobilizations to prevent the installation of mining and hydroelectric projects on its lands.⁷⁶

In 2010, the residents and City Council of Cuetzalan unanimously rejected the installation of a transnational store that offered to create 60 jobs and that would impact the local economy, rendering 1,500 workers from 300 commercial establishments unemployed.

A Collective and Communal Organization Model

Co-ops apply social and solidarity economy principles in all their activities, from adhesion to voluntary withdrawal: community assembly participation, direct voting in collective decisions, in which consensus is preferred, equitable distribution of resources, promotion of education, training and information for all members, to name a few.

They also resume the practice of communal work mechanisms such as “faena” (work for the benefit of the community and common spaces) and “mano vuelta” (rotating work for the benefit of a family). They also practice bartering⁷⁷ and strongly promote gender equality.

Of the people who make up the Tosepan Co-Op Union, 74% belong to the Maseual-Tutunaku indigenous peoples; and over 60% are women.

For the first time in its more than four decades of existence, Tosepan has a female president, Paulina, who highlights the importance of this achievement in a rural context historically affected by gender inequality. She affirms that progress has been slow but that it is a challenge they are working on:

I believe that this can be the first step for women; often, due to the context in which we live, it is culturally difficult for women to believe in themselves. The co-op has given us those tools, so that we can work on it, dissipate it and, on the contrary, do that we can begin to have those places, those spaces. And now I feel proud to represent many women.

Garrido, 2023.



⁷⁶ High voltage line in the Teziutlán II-Papantla Junction and Cuetzalan Substation (LAT Project), linked to the construction of hydroelectric plants and mining concessions in Cuetzalan, Tetela and Tlatlauquitepec, in Espinosa and Meza, 2019.

⁷⁷ Mechanism for the exchange of goods and services where money does not intervene and which has a pre-Hispanic origin in our country.

Tosepan and Sustainable Development

This Voluntary National Review visibilizes some experiences of the various sectors of society that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and, without a doubt, one of the most emblematic projects of sustainable development and well-being from and for those who were marginalized decades ago, is the Tosepan Co-Op Union.

Tosepan has the characteristic of being an authentic Co-Op Union, which carries out very diverse actions with the same goal, the building of a good life for its members, their families and their community. In that sense, we will take a tour of this organization as a representative sample of its work for sustainable development.

Tosepan has opted for an agroecological model that has crop diversity as the key to its growth. From a comprehensive vision and with the aim of avoiding families falling prey to international coffee prices, they opted for a diversified production of coffee plantations, vegetables, corn, fruits, pepper and the production of eggs and meat for self-consumption and sale (SDGs 2 and 12). In addition, they produce plants to reforest the area (SDG 15).

By 2023, all its crops are free of chemical residues, such as fertilizers and pesticides. The choice of organic production expresses its commitment to nature and the next generations. With fair trade certifications, they show their commitment to cooperative and non-exploited work (SDG 8).

Tosepan has ratified its commitment to caring for the environment and life and, therefore, all its processes are done through the rational use of nature's resources.⁷⁸ With all this, there is an important contribution to SDG 2, 12 and 15 (specifically target 12.2: Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources), since they are ensuring the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems in agroecological production (Target 15.1) and promoting fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of using resources (target 15.6).

However, there is also a contribution to SDG 3, since one of its targets proposes: *to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination* (3.9).



⁷⁸ For some years, at the beginning of the organization, they used chemicals in order to accelerate production, but when they saw the consequences that these had on the land, they reoriented their vision and opted for agroecology.

In addition to contributing decisively to ensuring access to healthy, nutritious and sufficient food throughout the year, which Target 2.1 places special emphasis on the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants.

It also is an important contribution to the aspiration to end all forms of malnutrition and double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale foodproducers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, and family farmers, through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment (Targets 2.2 and 2.3).

This producer and marketer of organic coffee has been reaching markets in the United States and Europe since 2003, and since 2005 in Japan, with the certification of organic product for export. To measure the importance of this product, one must know that 847 producers from 50 communities participate in its organic coffee program.⁷⁹

The Tosepan coffee co-op is considered the main indigenous coffee producing co-op in Mexico. However, Tosepan Titataniske does not depend solely on the profits derived with this product, but rather it depends on the entire complementary system of diversified production that generates income throughout the year for its co-op members. With this, there is a substantial contribution to SDG 1 and 10, since economic income from the sale of various products increases significantly (Target 1.1 and 10.1), which in turn has an impact on greater equality and social, economic and political inclusion (Target 10.2 and 10.4).

This production system is similar to the one implemented in the Sowing Life program: agroforestry systems and interspersed milpas. It is no coincidence, the milpa is a complex system inherited from the Mexican farming tradition. In the lands of Tosepan Titataniske they also setup a nursery within each plot, in which organic fertilizer is produced and each producer selects the seeds to sow and determines the plant that best suits their needs.



The biodiversity of the region is such that more than 100 different plants (some estimates reach 150 plants) can be found in one hectare of land, making them the most biodiverse coffee plantations in the country. From the coffee plantation, families obtain coffee and pepper for export, fruits for regional markets, medicinal, ornamental and aromatic plants for family use, enough firewood to satisfy their fuel needs and a wide variety of quelites and chiltepines to improve their diets.

(Aguilar, Vargas and Rojas, 2019).



Tosepan also beekeeps the native bee known as *pisilnekmej*.⁸⁰ Since 2003, they have improved harvests of virgin honey, pollen, propolis and wax, and have ventured, with very good results, into the production of shampoo, cream and honey gel. In relation to this, Paulina Garrido comments:



In addition, several people from the communities are being employed. The product is transformed in these links. First, we collect honey. We already have a cosmetics line and to reach that final product, there are several steps and jobs where there is opportunity for youths to work. With the honey and the coffee, we now have a cafeteria. We transform the coffee, sell it in different presentations, but also have it already in a cup.

Garrido, 2023.

⁷⁹ Data from the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA, 2017).

⁸⁰ "The *pisilnekmej*, or little bee, or *Scaptotrigona mexicana*, is one of the country's native stingless bees that is distributed from Tamaulipas, through the Gulf of Mexico, to Chiapas. In the Cuetzalan, Puebla region, they nest in holes in trunks or branches. ... As it feeds on medicinal plants, its honey has healing properties that combat respiratory problems, such as coughs, stomach ailments, and heals wounds" (Secretariat of Culture, 2021)



At Tosepan, they are also leaders in the production of high-quality pepper. Each year, they dry 850 tons in the sun in the organization's seven collection centers, which they market in both domestic and international markets.

With crop diversity, they help ensure the sustainability of food production systems, they contribute to the maintenance of ecosystems, they strengthen the capacity to adapt to climate change, extreme weather events, droughts, floods and other disasters, and they progressively improve the quality of soil and land (Target 2.4).

These actions also contribute to promoting responsible production and consumption, and implementing sustainable management and the efficient use of natural resources (SDG 12); as well as achieving higher levels of economic productivity through crop diversification. In addition, they promote policies to support productive activities, the creation of decent jobs, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation (SDG 8). They also encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized businesses and, as we will see below, they are pioneers in promoting and ensuring access to financial services.

Savings and Loan Co-Op

The Tosepantomín Solidarity Bank (Everyone's Money in Nahuatl) is not restricted to savings and loans, but includes life insurance, payment of remittances, as well as the payment of a few services. It currently grants loans for: women, agricultural activities, backyards, transportation, housing, commerce, SMEs and emergencies. Access to banking, financial and insurance services is promoted and expanded through these mechanisms, as established by target 8.10 of the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, the president of Tosepan points out:

“The women were interested in saving because they said that we are the ones who care for the family, the children, education, health, for so many things that are required at home on a day-by-day basis.”

Garrido, 2023.

As of 2022, they had 50,114 members, belonging to 500 communities in 50 municipalities of Puebla and Veracruz; and reported savings of 665 million pesos and loans placed for 725 million pesos (Garrido, 2023).

These actions contribute directly to the established goal of promoting development oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, through access to financial services (8.3).

In addition, they strengthen the economic independence of women co-op members, thus impacting SDG 5. This, in turn, represents a fundamental step in strengthening the financial sovereignty of the families that make up Tosepan and it sets the conditions to access other services and exercise rights.



Health and Well-Being in Sustainable Development

Tosepan Pajti (Health for All in Nahuatl), is a health co-op with focused on promotion and prevention. From this perspective, family and the community lie at the center of health; and are determined by diet and living conditions in general:

Several components can make up a healthy family, what one consumes, how one produces it, what type of food one consumes and what one needs within one's home to be well, not just physically, emotionally too, housing wise, that is also an important part in a family's health, these are the components that make up this well-being.

Garrido, 2023.

Traditional medicine has important roots in the country's rural areas, since it constitutes age-old experiences accumulated over time, which ensure its accessibility and low costs, making it an alternative for primary health care. In addition, this co-op's actions focus on promoting healthy habits.

In this sense, health promoters encourage and train families to install backyard family orchards, where not only vegetables and fruits are harvested, but also plants for medicinal use, and promoters also provide advice for their conservation.

Health promoters also teach workshops to prepare remedies based on the knowledge inherited from the use of plants in the region. The co-op has a lab where syrups, capsules, ointments and lotions are made with local species, which are marketed mainly outside the community. With this, they promote access to the benefits of using genetic resources and traditional knowledge, as well as these resources' fair and equitable distribution, as stated in Target 2.5.

Among the actions implemented by this program are home visits, where the health team prepares family diagnoses on people's health conditions, the state of the home, hygiene and nutrition habits, or garbage management, with which they contribute to achieving SDG 3 Good health and well-being of the population from a comprehensive perspective, reducing maternal and infant mortality and premature deaths from non-communicable diseases.

The health co-op also offers dental care to its members and ensures low costs for clinical tests through its own lab. Finally, this co-op played an important role in the design of Tosepan's housing program:

Because people get sick less often if the place they live in is suitable. People get sick less often if their home is not damp or leaky, if it is not filled with smoke, if the floor is made of cement and not dirt, and if there's good ventilation and lighting. People get sick less often if there's an orchard with vegetables and medicinal plants in the area, as well as backyard animals for eggs and meat, except corralled, not loose. And Pisilnekmej apiaries are a must too.

(Tosepan Co-Op Union, UCT, 2018)



Homes for Well-Being

Tosepan Tichanchiuaj, (We Build our Homes Together in Nahuatl), is a co-op that emerged in response to the need to improve the homes and quality of life of its co-op members. Thus, they ventured into the production of materials for the construction of sustainable homes with various eco-techniques. This system covers the collection, filtering and storage of rainwater, the use of energy-saving light bulbs, eco-friendly stoves and renewable energy, as well as wastewater treatment, production of honey, vegetables, medicinal plants, eggs and meat (SDG 6).

These actions not only contribute to SDG 11 and, particularly, to the target that aims to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services (Target 11.1), but they also contribute to the advancement of targets related to climate (SDG 13) and clean energy (SDG 7). This is done by strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (Target 13.1).

They specifically contribute to the purpose of ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services and substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (Target 7.1 and 7.2). It should be noted that construction materials are produced with cooperative work (SDG 8; Target 8.5 and 8.8).

According to a member of the organization, the housing program has had an extremely positive impact in reducing mortality linked to gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases in children under five years of age attributable to housing conditions, thereby reinforcing SDG 3. From 2007 to 2018, over 16 thousand families participated in this program, which created jobs for over 1,500 people (SDG 8), which also represents an alternative to migrating to large cities for economic reasons and the strengthening of the community's social fabric (SDG 16).



Tosepan Siuamej Co-Op

The women of the Tosepan Co-Op Union created the *Tosepan Siuamej* Co-Op (United Women in Nahuatl), where they operate and manage bakeries, tortilla shops, hominy mills, grocery stores, among other ventures. In addition to representing direct income, these ventures create actions in favor of this sector's economic and social independence.



"In addition to getting trained in productive activities, we had many workshops on gender equality, which helped us value ourselves. And this is how we paved the way to form our women's Co-Op."

(UCT, 2018).



Thus, SDG 5 is directly addressed by ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life (Target 5.5); and by creating equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources (Target 5.a).

Tosepan and Education

For the Tosepan Co-Op Union, education is fundamental for all people throughout life, which is why the Kaltaixpetaniloan Training Center (The House Where One's Spirit Opens in Nahuatl), was launched in 2003. Through their courses and workshops, they help provide their members with the necessary technical and vocational skills to access employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, which means important progress in Target 4.4.

The trainings are aimed at providing the *theoretical and practical knowledge needed to promote sustainable development, among other things, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development*, as stated in Target 4.7.

In the same vein, the school for the preschool, primary and secondary education of the co-op's girls, boys and youth was built in 2006, Tosepan Kalnemachtiloan (Everyone's School in Nahuatl). This is a substantial contribution to SDG 4, not only for helping to ensure that all girls and boys have early childhood care and development services, quality pre-primary education and that girls and boys complete primary and secondary education —free, equitable and quality education— but, above all, for producing relevant and effective learning results (Target 4.1 and 4.2).



Through an alternative education model, they promote the active participation of mothers and fathers, while recovering many of their community's knowledge and customs. For this reason, children learn to read and write in their mother tongue and practice the principles and values of cooperativism, they cultivate the fields and take care of Mother Earth. The agricultural education provided is theoretical and practical. The school has a school-farm, a milpa and an orchard where new generations learn to work the fields.

After these educational experiences, the music school and the *Yeknemilis* Symphonic Band were born:



What we have today are boys, girls and youths that are proud of their language, their culture and their maseual identity; they are connoisseurs of the fields that have been the life of parents and grandparents; they are music and art lovers. Happy and self-confident boys, girls and youths taking the first steps towards a better life.

(UCT, 2018).



Everyone's Home

The Tosepan Kali Co-Op (Everyone's Home in Nahuatl) was born in 2004 to offer ecotourism services, with the aim of promoting tourism and environmental culture. This space contributes to natural environment conservation. The co-op is made up of young people (half are men and half are women). This project is directly linked to the target of promoting sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products (Target 8.9).

Tosepan also has other projects such as a radio station, a bamboo cooperative and, recently, they even began providing internet and mobile phone services, which we won't delve into due to lack of space.

For now, it suffices to say that civil society initiatives are essential to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda. There will be no authentic sustainable development without living community organizations. In that sense, co-ops in Mexico are a fundamental pillar for indigenous communities, since they boost local economies, create decent jobs and have the active support of their participants. They are also spaces to preserve, not only Mother Earth, but the culture, language and knowledge of the communities as well.



This organization type transforms the lives of each and every one of us who participates in them, which is why I dare to say that it has been a very positive transformation process, especially, to continue revaluing and strengthening some of the age-old practices of our forefathers and foremothers.

Garrido, 2023.





PART
03



**Balance, Lessons Learned,
Challenges and Next Steps
in the Implementation of the
2030 Agenda**



Balance, Lessons Learned, Challenges and Next Steps in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

In the Third VNR, we pointed out some commitments that guided us in the period we review here, such as prioritizing our attention on the most vulnerable population, promoting economic reactivation, the domestic market and employment, continuing the fight against corruption and maintaining a responsible use of public resources. Thanks to this, by 2023 our country gave a general progress report on the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals of nearly 70% (UN, 2023a), which challenges us to accelerate and deepen policies focused on well-being and building a world with equality.

Mexico's obtained results in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a melting pot of six emblematic programs show important progress in the 17 SDGs and its 169 goals.

Looking ahead to the global agenda's second half of its implementation, it is worth highlighting the good practices and emblematic experiences for sustainable development that our country has had, in order to achieve continuity and, with it, continue advancing in poverty reduction and ensuring the entire population's fundamental rights.⁸¹

As a summary, we can say that among the main impacts that these initiatives have had, we found that their recipients or participants are more protected from poverty, destitution, food insecurity and unemployment, than those who are not part any of these initiatives.



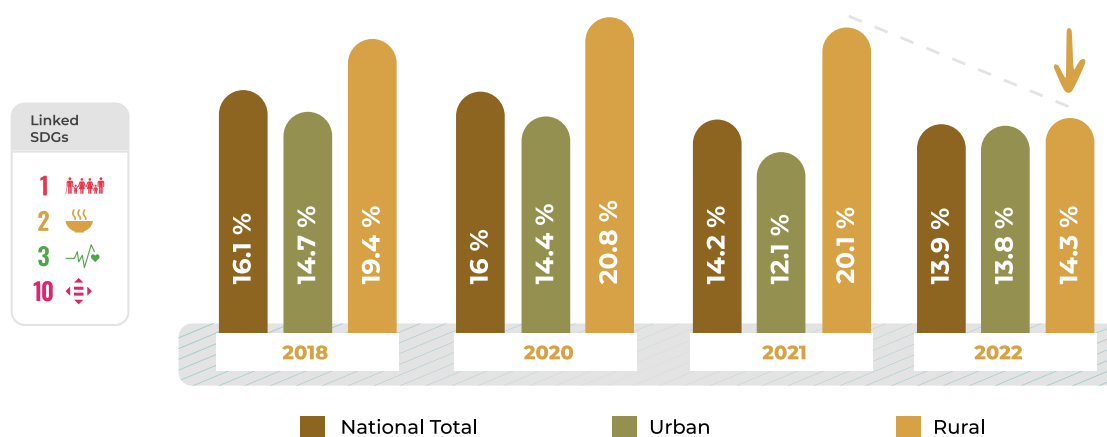
⁸¹ In the same sense as indicated in the Mexico's 2019-2023 National Review, submitted pursuant to resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 of the Human Rights Council, within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, available on the page: <https://www.ohchr.org/es/hr-bodies/upr/upr-home>

We can unequivocally affirm that Sowing Life, Youth Building the Future, Original, NODESS, the Roberto Rocca Technical School and the Tosepan Co-Op Union have a positive effect on the lives of the people they reach. This is not minor, some of these initiatives have approximately 3.8 million people directly linked to them, without considering the impact they have on their families, which is estimated to reach—indirectly—almost 12 million people.⁸²

The findings show that Sowing Life contributed to improving the quantity and quality of food consumed by the program's sowers and their families, which affords children under six years of age to have a greater probability of consuming acceptable levels of healthy foods than children not enrolled in the program through their families.

Population under 5 y/o Showing some Type of Malnutrition

(This indicator was reduced from 2018 to 2022. Reduction was greater in rural areas in the country.)



Source: Sustainable Development Goals Information System, Mexico. INEGI.

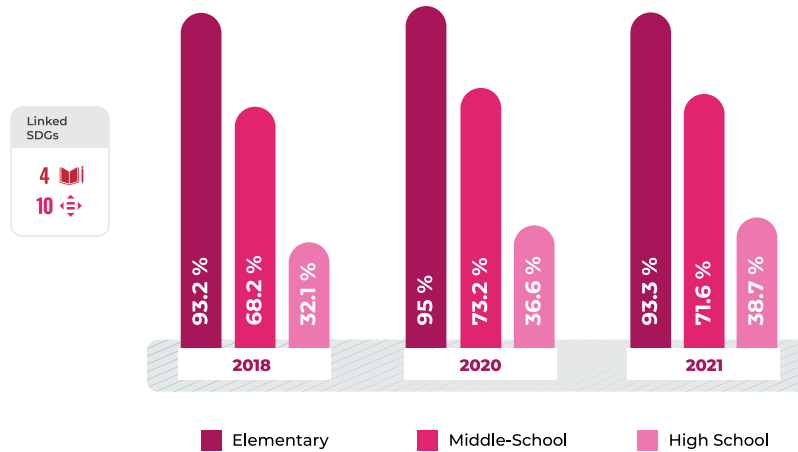
The same happens with the Tosepan Co-Op Union, which represents a source of employment, access to decent housing, education and health for its members. These effects are replicated with the people who make up Original, who declare that they have increased their levels of access to health and education through the improvement of their living conditions promoted by the dignification of artisanal work and respect for cultural heritage.

While Youth Building the Future, the Roberto Rocca Technical School and the NODESS have positive impacts on access to two fundamental rights: education and employment. These three initiatives provide necessary tools for the inclusion of vulnerable sectors in education, employment, decent work and entrepreneurship, as shown in the increase in the education completion rate of indigenous language speakers.

⁸² Our own estimates considering these initiatives' indirect impact on households, based on the average number of people that make up a household, according to the National Household Income and Expense Survey 2022.

Completion rate index of indigenous language speakers

Education completion rate increased from 2018 to 2022. This increase was greater among indigenous language speakers.



Source: SIODS with data from ENIGH.

* Completion rate in primary and secondary education remained stable, while at the high school level it increased by 5.4%.

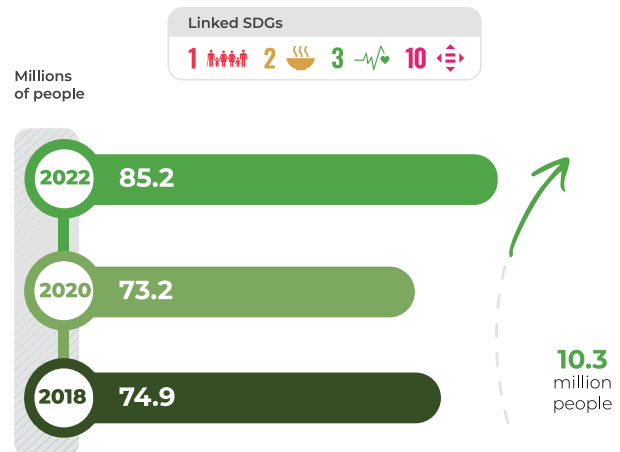
These experiences share an element of training and education that increases chances for improvement in people's employability, which translates into better economic income.

All the initiatives that make up this Fourth VNR are successful measures to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger in the short, medium and long term and were particularly effective during the COVID-19 pandemic, where levels of unemployment and food insecurity increased substantially on a global scale.⁸³

In this context, we highlight the government action to implement parallel policies that contributed to containing, on the one hand, poverty and food insecurity and, on the other, promoted labor inclusion and energize the domestic market, which complemented the effects of the other programs and create more sustainable results.

From 2018 to 2022, Mexico managed to increase the number of people with food security by more than 10 million, that is, people who have physical and economic access at all times to enough, safe and nutritious food to satisfy their nutritional needs.⁸⁴

Food security increased by more than 10 million Mexicans men between 2018 and 2022*



Source: CONEVAL

* According to the FAO, food security exists when all people have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

⁸³ On the economic impacts of the pandemic and its repercussions on compliance with the 2030 Agenda, see the Mexico's Third VNR (2021).

⁸⁴ This increase is related to the decrease in multidimensional poverty and, among other factors, is due to the approval of the General Education Law General Law on food health in schools, which establishes that: childhood's best interest must be ensured; guidelines for the preparation, distribution and sale of food and beverages within every school, under nutritional criteria, must be defined. In addition, it promotes: the sale of natural and prepared, healthy, sustainable, and regional foods and beverages and the consumption of simple drinking water; it prohibits the sale and advertising of processed and bulk foods and beverages that do not promote the health of children or put them at risk due to their low nutritional value. As well as the front labeling of foods and beverages, which is aimed at reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (Official Mexican Standard, NOM-051-SCFI/SSA1-2010, which came into force in March 2020). These achievements are expected to be strengthened with the approval of the General Law of Adequate and Sustainable Food in March 2024.

One of the main findings in this review is the importance of macroeconomic stability for sustainable development, since the low inflation that we achieved in the country, added to constant salary increases, resulting in families' purchasing power remaining unaffected. Due to this, the impacts of the initiatives presented herein were enhanced.

Sowing Life, Youth Building the Future, Original, Tosepan, the Nodes to Promote the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Roberto Rocca Technical School, constitute key initiatives for post-pandemic recovery from an inclusive and rights-based approach,

and all of them contribute decisively to the achievement of SDG 1 which, as we have insisted, has an impact on multiple targets and encompasses other SDGs of the development agenda.

Initiatives such as Original, Sowing Life, Tosepan and NODESS manifest a deep commitment to nature and its care, while Youth Building the Future and the Roberto Rocca Technical School show us that without youth there is no possible or desirable sustainable development, and that all efforts to redirect the course of our societies are focused on youth and on children.



Lessons Learned

The first great lesson that we can draw after reviewing Mexico's progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through these emblematic programs launched by civil society, the business sector and the government is that sustainable development is everyone's task. The 2030 Agenda belongs to all people, groups, institutions and governments committed to a more just and equitable world.

The second is that sustainable development is comprehensive, there can be no economic growth with social inequality, or improvement in people's living conditions to the detriment of nature. The commitment to care for Mother Earth, the ecosystem we inhabit and the people who work the land, ensures the breaking away from the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation. Raising the living standards of agricultural subjects has a positive impact on environmental preservation and vice versa.

An example of the above is Tosepan, which promotes productive activities at the credit co-op. This, in turn, creates income to access other services and, mainly, creates material conditions to fully exercise the rights to education, health and culture. Agroecological production—both from this co-op and from Sowing Life—not only impacts the protection of the environment, but it is also a model for the reproduction of life that nature itself appreciates and that provides better harvests in reciprocity.

Collective and community work helps in the improvement of plots and homes which, in turn, create adequate environments and ensures access to healthy foods that, as a whole, afford well-being.

Reaching this level of transformation of communities' social life has not been a free of contradictions, the main challenge that this co-op managed to overcome was converting to organic agriculture after a period of agro-industrial experimentation. However, these types of projects, rooted in local areas, are essential to achieve global goals, since they embody concrete solutions to problems that require specificity.

That is to say, there are no generic recipes for sustainable development, and therein lies another extremely important lesson: the cultural relevance that these initiatives imprint on each of their actions is the key to provide effective attention to particular problems.

We also draw an important lesson regarding the preponderance of rural space for sustainable development. The countryside and the people that live in it and give it meaning are the protagonists of development with well-being. Therefore, it is no coincidence that more than 70% of the SDGs are linked to the rural realm.

Another lesson that we recovered along this process is the power that culture has on sustainable development, as it expresses the diversity and resistance of the communities that make up this world; therefore, it is essential to include culture in a specific and cross-sectional way in an upcoming development agenda.

In short, the paradigm shift promoted by the Government of Mexico has shown that it is essential for social programs and civil society actions to link two focuses: the focus on economic well-being and the focus on social rights. This means that there can be no economic growth if there is no equality.



The historical poverty embedded on indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities is beginning to decrease as a result of these programs. In various ways, all of them have contributed to help more than five million people leave poverty in Mexico between 2018 and 2022.

Various studies and data available refer to the high impact of these programs in actions that translate into compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, fundamentally with regard to reducing poverty in all its forms; promoting inclusive education and learning opportunities for vulnerable populations; reducing gender inequalities and empowering of women; promoting inclusive economic growth under decent work conditions; strengthening peace and access to justice; and promoting activities to include indigenous communities.

Despite being perfectible, these experiences should be replicated in places where they have not yet reached, and in addition to their geographical expansion, they should be disseminated to subjects that are not yet their target. For example, Sowing Life could cover the fishing communities of our country and also focus on the reforestation of mangroves; Original could be expanded to other types of artistic expressions in addition to textiles and silversmithing; while Youth Building the Future could further strengthen its strategy aimed at youth from indigenous peoples, to youth with disabilities and prioritize women facing obstacles accessing the labor market, to just name a few.

In the spirit of strengthening the scope of the priority programs of the Government of Mexico and other initiatives that contribute to sustainable development, the participation of the United Nations System can play a relevant role, since its technical support has made it possible to achieve the evaluation of these efforts' impact and continuous improvement. With their cooperation, it has been possible to evaluate and improve the application of these programs at the local level, as well as abroad, in countries such as Honduras and El Salvador, where some of these programs operate

Finally, we highlight the relevance of partnerships to meet the goals, since the 2030 Agenda will only be possible if we all do our part in the shaping the world into the world we want. The foregoing in no way evades the responsibility of governments towards their societies of ensure the conditions that lead to the full exercise of rights; on the contrary, an active society is vital to energize its governments.



Challenges and Next Steps

SDGs represent an aspiration for social and environmental justice, and propose a change in consumption and production patterns, as well as a criticism of the concept of development linked exclusively to growth. Therein lies the greatest challenge for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda, carrying out a deep transformation process of our paradigms and practices.

In the current context of rising global levels of hunger and malnutrition, actions aimed at achieving food security and sovereignty are urgent.⁸⁵ Therefore, it is essential to strengthen and amplify alternatives such as the Tosepan Cooperative and the Sowing Life program, which guarantee access to healthy foods for a large group of people, either through self-consumption or by selling their products at affordable prices in the local market.

However, one of the biggest challenges these initiatives face is their vulnerability to the environmental crisis and climate disasters. For example, the honey production of the Tosepan Titataniske Co-op fell by half after Hurricane Grace (2021), and they produced only two thousand liters of the four thousand they used to produce, which caused losses in the co-op's income and a significant decline in bee colonies, causing damage to the ecosystem. Something similar happened with Hurricane Otis, in October 2023, which devastated hundreds of crops in the Sowing Life plots on the coast of Guerrero.

In this context, the effort of NODESS, Sowing Life and Tosepan to improve education, awareness and human and institutional capacity regarding climate change mitigation, reduction of its effects and early warning becomes more relevant (Target 13.3). In the case of Tosepan, this takes on greater significance, since the education provided is from early childhood. There lies the commitment, in the education of our girls and boys based on the love of nature and their community.

Thus, one of the challenges of the development agenda in our country is achieving welfare policy continuity, regardless of changes in administration, and for future governments decisively commit to the humanity objectives that the 2030 Agenda represents, in the same expansive logic that this administration has had by doubling the budget of some social programs to ensure progress towards the end of poverty.⁸⁶



⁸⁵ Up to 828 million people suffered from hunger in 2021: 46 million more people than in 2020 and 150 million more than in 2019, mainly due to human-caused conflicts, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recessions, FAO, IFAD, WHO, WFP and UNICEF, (2022).

⁸⁶ For example, the budget of the Sowing Life program for 2019 was 15 billion pesos (845,632,589 dollars) and for 2023, it reached 37 billion pesos (2.085 billion dollars). See Table A1 of Annex E.

Pointing in this sense is the bill submitted by the president of Mexico in February 2024 to elevate to constitutional rank some of the social programs reported in this VNR and which ensure fundamental rights.

In tune with the challenge proposed by the 2030 Agenda, the social programs examined here are a paradigm shift in the conceptualization of people, who are subjects of law, as well as a profound break with the handout-oriented ways of social policy that for decades reproduced discriminatory conceptualizations against the most vulnerable populations. Thus, another important challenge is to maintain the policy that acknowledges people, which characterized the government of President López Obrador.

Finally, in the search for the common aspiration to transform our consumption and production patterns into more sustainable ways, the Social and Solidarity Economy gains relevance, which today represents an alternative to revert the great inequalities derived from adopting neoliberal models around the world for over 40 years. The challenge is to achieve recognition of this type of economy among broad sectors of the population, to make it current in citizens' daily lives and in public life.

Through this form of economy, it is possible to advance in the recovery of public goods—which were privatized for decades—by promoting productive projects, created collaboratively, which constitute a sustainable source for the benefit of the community and achieve a better distribution of wealth, particularly in spaces that have suffered greater marginalization, by promoting their communities' productive, labor, economic and social inclusion.

With this review, the Government of Mexico shares with the people and governments of the world some of the transformative experiences of the Mexican State and its achievements on the journey to renew sovereignty, reformulate social relations and guide the exercise of government to build a fair and inclusive society. These experiences show the power of public policies consistent with a political and economic administration centered on people and communities.



Data show the early results of these policies in protecting and recovering natural ecosystems, integrating new generations with dignity into society, daily exalting and honoring our vast cultural heritage, laying the foundations for a new social and solidarity economy, linking talent development with wealth generation, and reorganizing in the fields a productive, generous and harmonious life model with nature. Thus, the Mexican State reaffirms its commitment to humanity, by putting the most vulnerable at the center of its efforts so that no one is left behind and no one is left out. Therefore, the starting point and ongoing reference for Mexico's transformation continues to be, for the good of all, the poor comes first.





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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- AMEXCID:** Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation
- CAC:** Farming Learning Community
- CEEY:** Espinosa Yglesias Learning Center
- CESOP:** Center for Social and Public Opinion Studies
- CNA:** National Agricultural Council
- CONASAMI:** National Minimum Wages Commission
- CONEVAL:** National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy
- EAP:** Economically Active Population
- ECLAC:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- ENIGH:** National Survey of Household Income and Expenditures
- ETRR:** Roberto Rocca Technical School
- FACT:** Festo Authorized and Certified Training
- FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- FEB:** Federation Expenditure Budget
- GDP:** Gross Domestic Product
- IFAD:** International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ILO:** International Labor Organization
- IMF:** International Monetary Fund
- IMCO:** Mexican Institute for Competitiveness
- IMSS:** Mexican Social Security Institute
- INAES:** National Institute of Social Economy
- INECC:** National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change
- INEGI:** National Institute of Statistics and Geography
- JCF:** Youth Building the Future
- MIAF:** Milpa Interspersed with Fruit Trees
- MSMEs:** Micro, small and medium enterprises
- NDP:** National Development Plan



NODESS: Nodes to Promote the Social and Solidarity Economy

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OSSE: Social Sector Organizations of the Economy

PFES: Social Economy Promotion Program

SAGARPA: Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food

SAT: Tax Administration Service

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

SE: Secretariat of Economy

SECNA: Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda

SEGOB: Secretariat of the Interior

SEP: Secretariat of Public Education

SHCP: Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit

SIAP: Agri-Food and Fisheries Information Service

SIODS: Sustainable Development Goals Information System

STEM: Science, technology, engineering and mathematics

STPS: Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare

SV: Sowing Life

UN: United Nations Organization

UNESCO: United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

VNR: Voluntary National Review(s)

WFP: World Food Program

WHO: World Health Organization



ANNEXES

Annex A

Youth Network for the 2030 Agenda

At the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SECNA), it has been of utmost importance to add the efforts of all the actors that influence the dissemination and implementation of the Agenda at the local level in the country, particularly, the participation of youths, who will take the lead to continue on the path of sustainable development in the coming years.

Youths have various spaces to influence the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, whether through civil society organizations, academia, or youth networks that promote dialogue and activism activities. They are the ones who position issues such as climate change and lead movements that contribute to visibilizing these problems and placing them on the public agenda of their territories.

For this reason, in August 2023 we launched a call to put together the First Youth Network for the 2030 Agenda with 32 young people (one person per state) between the ages of 18 and 29, with the aim of bringing SDGs closer to children, youths and teenagers.





The Network's young men and women have a support team to develop work plans for the benefit of their towns. Additionally, they take a training program to strengthen their skills in promoting and implementing the Agenda. In this sense, the Network provides tools for youths to promote sustainable development in their environment.

After its presentation at the First National Convention for the 2030 Agenda in October 2023, its activities have focused on disseminating content on social networks; providing training on SDGs in schools, universities and businesses; organizing events to bring young people closer to science and technology; leading reforestation and flora and fauna rescue projects; raising awareness about caring for the seas and oceans, setting up urban gardens; participating in activities for educational transformation, among others.

The efforts of the Youth Network and its partners constitute an important leap-ahead in the territorialization of the 2030 Agenda, since youth participation is essential to ensure sustainable development beyond 2030.



Annex B

Contributions to the 2030 Agenda from the Legislative Branch

In the legislative realm, the push to advance the 2030 Agenda are considerable. Mexico has a bicameral Legislative Branch that has allowed the collaboration of both legislative bodies in the dissemination and promotion of the 2030 Agenda goals.

Through the participation of legislators, the three branches of government were urged to align their policies and government actions in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals and reflecting on the relevance of adjusting parliamentary work similarly was promoted (SDG 17).

These efforts have been translated into initiatives, points of agreement, seminars, forums and publications, encouraged by the activity of the different parliamentary groups which make up the country's legislative agenda, each with its priorities and programmatic concepts.

By means of a point of agreement approved in a plenary session on March 28, 2023, the Chamber of Deputies urged state congresses to establish legislative commissions responsible for monitoring and promoting compliance with the SDGs.

In addition to these actions, the deputies at the Congress of the Union have requested progress reports on the Agenda's implementation in all 2,471 municipalities and 16 boroughs of Mexico City, thus becoming involved in the observance and surveillance of subnational governments' actions on the issue.





The Senate of the Republic passed a bill to reform said Chamber's regulations, published in the Official Gazette of the Federation, allowing bills and opinions submitted in Plenary Session to explicitly express their relationship with SDGs. This way, senators and their technical teams commit to visibilizing the contribution of their legislative work towards enforcing international commitments.

Different learning centers belonging to the Chambers have analyzed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in different areas of the Federal Public Administration. In particular, the Center for Public Finance Studies carried out a technical analysis of the impact that approved programs have on Federal Expenditure Budgets, which allowed adjustments to be made to the operating rules of various public policy programs to maximize results in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda.

In turn, the Center for Social and Public Opinion Studies (CESOP) teaches different courses on sustainable development and SDGs. This technical entity of the Chamber of Deputies disseminates valuable information about the Agenda through social networks, efforts aimed at both public servants and people in general.



Annex C

The Role of Unions in Sustainable Development

Work is a fundamental right that, in addition to being a source of income that guarantees a minimum level of protection, it is an activity that confers identity and allows people's personal and professional fulfillment.

Under this premise, the participation of unions in improving their members' working and salary conditions constitutes a task that directly impacts the well-being of the working class, as well as that of their families, contributing significantly to the fulfillment of SDG 8. The above takes on a greater dimension if we take into account that just over 5 million workers in Mexico are currently part of a union.

In recent years, the world of work in Mexico has experienced a profound transformation derived from the legal and institutional changes brought about by the Labor Reform of May 1, 2019. The implementation of this new labor model set the bases for unions to resume the historical meaning that gave rise to them and, with it, their role in recovering workers' rights, as well as defending their demands under the principles of union freedom and democracy.

In this sense, the cornerstone of the new model is the personal, free, direct and secret vote to elect leadership, validate the content of their collective bargaining agreements, or to settle a dispute regarding the ownership of the collective bargaining agreement between unions. With this, the practices that turned them into tools of control were put to an end, allowing for workers' voices to be well represented today, unlike in the past, and for their voices to be translated into better labor and salary benefits, through authentic collective bargaining.

Currently, the positive effects that collective bargaining has brought within the framework of the Labor Reform are clear. The process of legitimizing agreements increased the salary differential existing between employers with people who legitimized their agreements and employers without people who legitimized their agreements by between 6.7 and 7.1 percent (CONASAMI, 2023c).

Likewise, under this new model, more and more women are ensured to be in management positions within unions, an area historically dominated by men. The Labor Reform considers that unions must include a proportional representation clause based on gender in their bylaws, which means that, if 60% of members are women, at least 60% of leadership positions must be filled by women.



As of 2023, this has made it possible for at least 308 women to serve as secretaries general in their unions, and for 8,000 women to hold positions within their unions. With this, the demands of working women are not only better represented, but this also contributes to increasing their participation in collective bargaining within their unions (Target 5.5 and 8.5).

Through social dialogue, unions have maintained an important participation in policy-making focused on recovering labor rights. A clear example of this is the outsourcing reform, promoted in a three-way manner in 2021.

More and more unions are assuming a greater social commitment linked to the development of more sustainable communities. As an example of this, various union centers have undertaken actions aimed at fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. This has been done through projects framed in the axes of social development, economic development and environmental sustainability, by means of which, issues linked to promoting preventive health (SDG 3); safe and healthy work environments (SDG 8); rainwater recovery (SDG 6); decent housing (SDG 11); the preservation of the environment (SDG 13); and cultural education and professionalization (SDG 4) have been addressed. In the same vein, we find unions that promote the culture of caring for the environment, mainly among children, seeking to raise awareness through education about the importance of sustainable development through local actions such as beach cleaning, reforestation and garbage separation.

Although the role of unions is inscribed in the recovery of labor rights and the dignity of work, the scope of their contribution in other social spheres is even greater when they assume a proactive role, seeking to transcend in the comprehensive well-being of people. In this way, unions are a relevant actor in the achievement of the SDGs, without limiting this to the targets linked to labor and labor relations.

Annex D

MSMEs in Well-Being and Sustainable Development

The most significant sectors of economic activity where Mexican MSMEs are involved in are retail, services and manufacturing. Active participation of women in making these companies is essential. In Mexico, 1.6 million MSMEs are women-owned (INEGI, 2022c). This represents 36.6% of the all MSMEs. If we add to this that women hire more women to work in their businesses (two paid women for every man) and that 86.1% of their staff remains employed throughout the year, then there is a great opportunity in this sector to promote economic independence and women's autonomy (SDG 5 and 10) (INEGI, 2021).

Regarding women-led MSMEs, 5 out of every 10 women work in commerce, due to the fact that they spend more time in unpaid care activities, among other reasons (INEGI, 2022c). Women assign an average of 30.8 hours per week to unpaid domestic work, while men assign 11.6 to domestic work (INEGI 2023e), representing an adverse effect on their participation in the labor market.

In our country, women-owned MSMEs are concentrated in South-Southeastern states: Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Yucatán and Campeche. The first three muster the highest poverty rates nationwide. Therefore, the promotion of these enterprises is essential to end poverty (SDG 1) and close various inequality gaps, creating positive impacts on SDG 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16.

Another important characteristic of Mexican MSMEs is that most of them are family-owned, which is why they share a collective sense, cultural identity values, customs and popular knowledge transmitted from generation to generation. One of their strengths is the great diversification of their products, which support families and communities when sold.





MSME Promotion Policy

The MSME Promotion Policy implemented by the Government of Mexico seeks to achieve the equitable distribution of development benefits among regions, economic sectors and diverse segments of the population. Therefore, it focuses on developing these companies' competitiveness in order to enhance their role among national suppliers linked to regional value chains being restructured due to the effect of nearshoring. Likewise, it seeks to promote the strengthening of these ventures owned and led by women, with priority attention in the South-Southeast region.

Among implemented actions, we find: 1) Digital inclusion, which is directly related to SDG 9 and target 9.c, increasing access to information and communications technology and striving to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet; 2) Financial inclusion, providing training and technological tools for people to be better prepared to make decisions regarding their business' finances and be creditworthy, directly impacting target 9.3, which proposes increasing MSMEs' access to financial services, including affordable credit, particularly in developing countries, and increasing their integration into value chains and markets, and 3) Commercial inclusion, through the development of value chains that promote commercial partnerships between MSMEs, which integrates them to other supply chains at a national and international level (SDG 8, 9 and 17).

Strengthening this business type is essential for sustainable development since, in addition to their contribution to SDGs, they represent a paradigm shift that places companies made up of vulnerable populations to varying degrees at the center, with their survival and the possibility of breaking with poverty and inequality logics depending on them. According to the UN, "MSMEs have the potential to transform economies, foster job creation and promote equitable economic growth" (UN, 2023b).

The challenges of these enterprises for 2030 focus on better appropriating the 2030 Agenda; increasing their life expectancy from 2 to 5 years in a more socially, economically, culturally and technologically-balanced environment (SDG 8); incorporating sustainability mechanisms in their production and marketing processes, increasing their resilience to climate change and raising awareness about the environmental cost of their products and services, as well as implementing renewable energies in their production and marketing processes (SDG 12 and 15).

Annex E

Table A1. Sowing Life / Secretariat of Welfare

Data cutoff date as of December 31, 2023

TABLE

A1

Action	Result
Prioritization in rural populations found in the country's highest biodiversity regions and whose municipalities have medium to very high levels of Social Lag.	<p>Coverage in 23 states, 28 territories. Municipalities: 1,068. Scope: 441,466 men and women sowers.</p> <p>Favorably impacting a rural population of over 1.7 million.</p>
Prioritization of care for the indigenous and Afro-Mexican population.	<p>Indigenous population participating in the program: 185,708, equivalent to 42%. Afro-Mexican population: about 1%.</p>
Establish agroforestry productive systems, which combine traditional crop production together with fruit and timber trees, and the Milpa interspersed with fruit trees system. This covers basic nutritional needs, promoting healthy and autonomous food self-sufficiency.	<p>1,103,665 hectares established and in the process of being established with 1,158,209,415 perennial plants, highlighting agro-industrial species such as coffee, nopal and agave; forest species such as cedar, Tabebuia rosea and pine; spices such as cinnamon, pepper and oregano; fruit trees such as soursop, peach and avocado, in addition to annual crops such as corn, beans and pumpkin.</p> <p>Derived from this was a greater bond with the land, with farming organizing, with intergenerational dialogue and with caring for the environment.</p>
Establishment of biofactories, biofertilizer and compost production.	<p>The plot agroecological management contributes to eliminating the use of agrotoxics. 15,114 biofactories were installed, where over 34 types of bioinputs are being produced, mainly taking advantage of local resources. The following have been produced: 276,955 tons of solid fertilizers and 45,863,511 liters of liquid fertilizers.</p>
Self-employment creation to improve income through productive projects.	<p>Permanent jobs created: 441,466 in agricultural production.</p> <p>Monthly income for sowing families: 6,000 Mexican pesos (338.3 US dollars) in 2023, and by 2024, 6,250 Mexican pesos (352.3 US dollars), due to the minimum wage increase.</p>
Plant sowing to regain forest cover. Climate change mitigation. Strengthening communities' resilience to climate changes.	<p>1,103,665 hectares established and in the process of being established. To date, in the Sembrando Vida Program, over 1.4 billion perennial plants have been established on plots, with an 82% survival rate, equivalent to 1,158,209,415 live plants on plots.</p> <p>Between 2019–2021, an estimated 5.89 million tons of carbon were captured, 50% of which was captured by the following species: mahogany, cedar, pine, coffee, cacao, white cedar, achiote, avocado, bottle gourd, crabwood and ciricote.</p>



TABLE

A1

Action	Result
Effective participation of women sowers with the purpose of closing gender gaps.	<p>Women sowers: 146,026, equivalent to 32.5% of the total population of the SV program. As of the second half of 2023, the Sembrando Vida Program has a list of active beneficiaries of 144,251 (32.68%).</p> <p>Percentage of women leading the Farming Learning Community (CAC) Steering Committee or commissions*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Coordinator 19% → Secretary 37.8% → Treasurer 39.5% → Nursery 18.7% → Work Plan Monitoring 16.3% → Biofactory 19.2% → Savings 46.4% → Sustainability 36.5% → Education 46.8% → Transparency and honesty 31.1% <p>The Commissions with the highest percentage of women at the head are: Savings, Education and Sustainability.</p> <p>*Data cutoff date: November 24, 2023.</p>
	<p>As of August 30, 2023, 18% of CACs are led by women.</p> <p>18.74% (3,532) of CACs have a Female Coordinator* at the head.</p> <p>*Data cutoff date: November 24, 2023.</p>
	<p>Participation in the "Meeting of Women Visionaries and Promoters of Change and Equality" in the Milpa Alta Borough. 2,154 women sowers from the 28 SV program territories in 21 states attended, chosen by their CACs.</p>
Community training through the formation of Peasant Learning Communities.	<p>As of November 24, 2023, 18,605 Farming Learning Communities were registered.</p>
	<p>15,114 communal nurseries.</p> <p>15, 114 biofactories.</p>
	<p>Strengthening communal autonomy and creating a feeling of belonging.</p>
	<p>Exchange of skills and knowledge.</p> <p>Creation of scientific knowledge and use modern techniques to combat pests to fertilize the soil and face climate change.</p>

TABLE

A1

Action	Result
Promotion of Co-Ops, banks and savings banks.	<p>Co-Ops formed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 390 group projects with support. → 109 groups in the process of being formalized → 93 groups in the process of being formalized with the SAT.
Integration of teams with the academic community from different institutions to carry out an independent program evaluation.	<p>Five interdisciplinary academic teams made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 34 expert independent researchers. <p>Creation of the gender, social, agroforestry, environmental and organizational roundtables.</p>
Inclusion Youth Building the Future (JCF) in Sowing Life.	From February 2019 to May 2022, 96,203 JCF scholarship recipients have been linked to the Sowing Life program. Record data of all youths who have been active as scholarship recipients in the program.
Federal government investment.	<p>2019: 15 billion pesos (845,632,590 dollars).</p> <p>2023: 37 billion pesos (2,085,893,721 dollars).</p>
Strengthening the program through its extension in other countries in Central America and the Caribbean.	The program began its execution in Guatemala, Belize and Cuba. In Guatemala, 14 thousand producers in 13 departments of the country will benefit.



Annex E

Table A2. Youth Building the Future /
Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare

Data cutoff date as of December 31, 2023

TABLE

A2

Action	Result
<p>Integration of young people between the ages of 18 to 29, who did not study or work, to companies, businesses and workshops for a period of up to 12 months.</p> <p>On-the-job training to support them in finding employment with the experience acquired by participating in the Program.</p>	<p>Historically, the Youth Building the Future program has benefited 2,852,504 youths, providing them comprehensive support that consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → On-the-job training. → Monthly economic support of 6,310 pesos (355.7 dollars) in 2023, equivalent to a minimum wage, granted directly and without intermediaries. In 2024, the support will be 7,572 pesos (426.9 dollars). → Health insurance from the Mexican Social Security Institute. <p>According to the National Minimum Wage Commission, 61.7% of the Program's graduates found employment.</p> <p>That is, 6 out of 10 youths benefited from the program and found employment during 2022.⁸⁷</p> <p>Program graduates have almost 2.7% more chances of finding a job compared to those young people who did not participate in the program (INEGI).</p>
<p>Granting of monthly financial support of 6,310 pesos (355.7 dollars), equivalent to a minimum wage.</p>	<p>As off 2023, over 2.8 million youths (women and men) have received comprehensive support that provides economic aid equivalent to a minimum wage every month, currently 6,310 pesos (355.7 dollars). However, in 2024, the support will be 7,572 pesos (426.9 dollars) according to the minimum wage increase.</p>
<p>Integration into the IMSS health insurance.</p>	<p>As of 2023, over 2.8 million young women and men have been integrated into the Mexican Social Security Institute during their training period.</p>
<p>Promote the participation of the public, private and social sectors to join in being workplaces and employers of apprentices.</p>	<p>From 2019 to 2023, the Program has had 536,285 participating workplaces.</p>
<p>Promote the effective participation of young women in the program with the purpose of contributing to closing gender gaps.</p>	<p>58% of the people in the Program are women (1,655,427).</p> <p>These women participate in historically male-dominated activities, such as science and technology.</p>
<p>Program prioritization in municipalities with high crime rates.</p>	<p>The program has benefited 375,045 youths living in the 50 municipalities with the highest crime rates in the country.</p>
<p>State investment.</p>	<p>The Program's Social Investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 2019: \$23,849,998,926.42 → 2020: \$24,598,181,095.35 → 2021: \$20,221,046,218.71 → 2022: \$21,115,443,034.90 → 2023: \$21,909,341,658.80 <p>With a total investment of \$111,694,010,934.18.⁸⁸</p>

⁸⁷ According to data from CONASAMI (2023b), El efecto del Programa "Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro" usando datos de la Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares 2022 (ENIGH 2022).

⁸⁸ Record of the program's social investment in dollars: **2019: 1,344,555,757 dollars. 2020: 1,386,734,905 dollars. 2021: 1,139,971,712 dollars. 2022: 1,190,393,785 dollars. 2023: 1,235,150,222 dollars. Total Investment: 6,296,806,381 dollars.**

Annex E

Table A3. Roberto Rocca Technical School (ETRR by its Spanish acronym) / Ternium

Data cutoff date as of December 31, 2023

TABLE

A3

Action	Result
Implementation of the Roberto Rocca Technical School in Pesquería, Nuevo León in 2016.	<p>Before 2016, only 2 out of 10 youths in Pesquería attended high school. Currently, 8 out of 10 do so.</p> <p>601 students have graduated in the 5 graduating classes generations that have finished high school.</p>
<p>Granting of scholarships to youths for them to carry out their studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Basic education → Technical High School → Field Trainings → Universities (undergraduate and postgraduate) 	100% of students are on scholarship at the Roberto Rocca Technical School.
	High school completion rate: 94%.
	<p>Number of scholarships assigned by educational level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 185 high school students with annual monetary support. → 320 students from the After School Roberto Rocca (ASRR) program supported with out-of-school hours reinforcement workshops. → 439 upper secondary education students.
	<p>Number of students continuing on to higher education: 243 ETRR,</p> <p>Number of Ternium scholarship recipients at these universities</p> <p>In total, the company grants scholarships to 31 ETRR graduates throughout their professional education.</p>
Professional training in companies to promote job placement.	Participation of all ETRR third year students (120) in professional field trainings in 10 different companies for almost a thousand hours in the 2023–24 school year.
<p>Workshops are provided that reinforce knowledge of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), writing and art.</p> <p>The students are provided with transportation and food to participate in the workshops.</p>	<p>Number of workshops and students who participated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → ASRR Middle School 320 middle school students. → ASRR Elementary School 240 elementary school students.
Promote integration into the labor market or continuing their university studies.	Number of working graduates: 276.
	Number of graduates studying higher education: 243.
	Number of companies that integrate high school graduates: 133 companies.
	Number of universities high school graduates are accepted to: 31 universities (in and out of the state and country).



TABLE

A3

Action	Result
Promote gender equality by including women in high school.	By 2023, enrollment of female students in high school is 37.5%.
Encourage student participation in international competitions related to their field of study (Robotics).	<p>The ETRR Robotics teams have participated in 4 international competitions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → World Educational Robotics Contest (WER2018) Shanghai. → World Educational Robotics Contest (WER2019) Shanghai. → FIRST Lego League (FLL2022) Brazil. → FIRST Robotics Championship (FRC2023) Houston.
Vocational and psychological assistance to students in complex family situations for them to continue their studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Holistic Student Assessment (HSA) test. Applied during the first semester and at the beginning of the sixth, which obtains each student's degree of socio-emotional development and helps design intervention strategies at an individual and group level. → Interview with students referred by teachers, staff or requested by the students themselves to explore situations that affect their socio-emotional state. → Interview with students' families with internal or external monitoring to establish agreements and strategies that promote the student's socio-emotional health. → Interview with mental health specialists who provide external follow-up to referred students with the purpose of knowing the student's evolution and establishing accompaniment strategies at school taking into account the recommendations of said specialists. → Grupo de Reflexión de Familias. Cursos, talleres y pláticas con familias de estudiantes con el propósito de reflexionar sobre la dinámica familiar y construir habilidades de crianza respetuosa bajo el modelo de la disciplina positiva. → Campañas de prevención. Intervenciones en grupos, a nivel de familias y con docentes y personal administrativo, así como con el Grupo de Reflexión de Familias que tiene el objetivo de informar, concientizar y construir estrategias que permitan promover la salud mental y física de quienes forman parte de la comunidad educativa y especialmente de los estudiantes. → Reuniones de aula. Reuniones semanales y/o quincenales desde el enfoque de la disciplina positiva con cada uno de los grupos con el objetivo de establecer un canal de diálogo que permita resolver situaciones relacionadas con la dinámica de grupo y la dinámica que el grupo establece con la institución. → Vinculación con instituciones públicas (SIPINNA, DIF). Trabajo en conjunto con las instituciones encargadas de resguardar el bienestar de los adolescentes mediante el envío de notificaciones de situaciones que violentan los derechos de los adolescentes. → Semana FoCo. Semana de Formación Continua en la que se capacita a docentes y personal administrativo sobre temas relativos al desarrollo adolescente y a la promoción de la salud mental.

Annex E

Table A4. Nodes to Promote Social and Solidarity Economy / National Institute of Social Economy

Data cutoff date as of December 31, 2023

TABLE

A4

Action	Result
Promote and develop Social and Solidarity Economy through local partnerships that make up the Social and Solidarity Economy Nodes.	<p>The NODESS network is located in all 32 states, it has 260 NODESS and 170 Pre-NODESS. It brings together 1,604 organizations, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 31% are higher education institutions → 34% are co-op companies, → 13% are local governments and the rest are other types of organizations.
Encourage sustainable food production in different territories, through local partnerships that make up the Social and Solidarity Economy Nodes.	198 NODESS. Promoting the creation of family or urban gardens, as well as sustainable food production.
Create services that collectively solve common needs and can become important sources of cooperative work that are sustainable over time, through NODESS.	<p>430 partnerships create associative entrepreneurship activities such as incubation, promotion and dissemination processes to use Savings and Loan Cooperatives, design inclusion and financial education actions, strengthen and/or manage Savings and Loan Cooperatives, promote and advice on user practices in collective saving, resulting in business plans to find financing.</p> <p>Impact on 415 thousand participating people.</p>
Promote participation, training, research, dissemination and support for Social and Solidarity Economy productive projects, as mechanisms to impact in the territories.	Since 2019, 430 Partnerships have provided support and business development to collective companies or organizations in the social sector of the economy, to strengthen them through virtual and in-person sessions linked to their territorial projects and processes.
Create economic opportunities for women.	<p>Since 2019, 197 NODESS have implemented specific accompaniment, strengthening and associative entrepreneurship actions to empower women, they have developed actions in their favor and to integrate them into productive activities, promoting the care economy and the creation of goods and services.</p> <p>Likewise, 56 NODESS are made up of women who take an active part in the NETWORK's territorial partnerships.</p>
Promote actions and processes that focus on the sustainable use of natural resources as a solid alternative to create decent work, for the development of communities.	Since 2019, 219 NODESS have promoted actions to create energy Co-Ops, as an alternative for the sustainable development of their communities.



Annex F

Original. Mexican Textile Art Gathering, 2023

Numbers Summary



Advisory Board 28 members

- 20 artisans in total
- 6 aides
- 1 Senator
- 1 private sector specialist (Citibanamex Cultural Promotion)



Guest artisans 528 guest artisans

- Plus 528 companions
- Plus 12 additional artisans from Guerrero's "This is for Acapulco" Original campaign (Original va por Acapulco). In total, 1068
- 104 are artisans invited to Original for the first time
- 26 are winners of the 2023 National Textiles and Rebozo Award



Represented groups 112 groups represented

- 55 from the first edition of Original in 2021
- 28 from the second edition of Original in 2022
- 29 groups added to the Original 2023 edition (Colectivo Llana Huaricnn, Soatl ih tetegan ih tojmiltl, Za zil beh, Uh tukul meya, Bordando Sueños, Tzahualli, Citlalime, among others)



Geographical distribution 32 states represented

- 229 municipalities, 25 of which are newly added ones (Calakmul, Camp.; Candelaria, Camp.; Casas Grandes, Chih.; Villa Guerrero, State of Mexico.; Tlacoachistlahuaca, Gro.; Salamanca, Gto.; San Miguel de Allende, Gto.; Santa Cruz de Juventino Rosas, Gto.; Chapantongo, Hgo.; San Pedro Tlaquepaque, Jal.; Del Nayar, Nay.; San Bartolo Coyotepec, Oax.; Santa Ana Zegache, Oax.; Santiago Ixtayutla, Oax.; Moctezuma, SLP.; Amatlán de los Reyes, Ver.)
- 311 towns
- 32 native languages and ethnic groups represented with around 287 speakers. Speakers of Cora, Huarijio and Paipai were newly added
- 16 are speakers of endangered languages: Cocopah (3), Huarijio (1), Kumeyaay (3), Paipai (1), O'odham (1) and Seri (7)



Original Training (from May 18 to July 11, 2023)

- 6 training nodes: Tijuana, BC; Taxco, Gro.; Guadalajara, Jal.; Oaxaca, Oax.; Chiapa de Corzo, Chis. and Tlaxcala, Tlax.
- 79 training sessions
- 436 trained artisans
- 4,859 km traveled



Casa de la Palabra Fora 12 fora during event days

- Taught by 39 speakers, 11 of them, artisans, and 4, cultural promoters, on topics related to collective intellectual property, cultural heritage, community management, among others
- 661 in-person attendees
- 27,223 virtual visits during Facebook and YouTube broadcasts



Original Escuincles 63 activities for children

- Workshops, story-time, exhibitions, theater performances, puppetry, music, etc.
- 10 programming spaces
- 11 master artisans participating as workshop leaders, narrators, etc.
- 6,245 children attending Original Escuincles activities
- Preparation of a Declaration of Girl, Boy and Adolescent Heritage Heirs



About the Original event

Over 100 activities in total,

- Fora, dye demonstrations, projections, exhibitions and activities for children
- 12,000 m² (11,900 m²) of space used by Original in the Los Pinos Cultural Complex
- Approx. 5,819 m² of sales space
- 415 stands for textiles, jewelry and accessories
- 41 spots for dye artists in the House of Dyes
- 65 spots for artisans of utilitarian and decorative art at Casa Original
- 7 runways in total
- 130 artisans contributed garments that were exhibited on the runways.
- 1,770 jobs created
- 19 foreign guests artisans from: Saudi Arabia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Norway and Peru



Companies and institutions partnering with Original 2023

- | | |
|---|---|
| → Canal Once | → State Council for Cultures and Arts of Chiapas |
| → TV Azteca | → Secretariat of Culture of the State of Tlaxcala |
| → Secretariat of Labor | → UNESCO |
| → Secretariat of Economy | → UNAM Legal Research Institute |
| → Secretariat of Welfare | → National Human Rights Commission |
| → INAES | → National DIF System |
| → Banamex Cultural Promotion | → Mexico City Passenger Transport Network Union |
| → Amazon | → FEMSA Foundation |
| → Google | → Hola Combo |
| → Meta | → Volcán Group |
| → ADO Foundation | → Alfaparf Milano México |
| → Secretariat of Culture of the State of Baja California | → El Globo Bambalinas |
| → Secretariat of Culture of the State of Guerrero | → BaByliss Pro |
| → Secretariat of Culture of the State of Jalisco | → Nadurtha Cosmetics |
| → Secretariat of Cultures and Arts of the State of Oaxaca | → NVLashes |



Indigenous Languages		Speakers
1	Amuzgo	12
2	Chinantec	3
3	Tabasco Chontal	1
4	Cora	1
5	Cocopah	3
6	Huarijio	1
7	Huastec	2
8	Huave	4
9	Huichol	7
10	Kumeyaay	3
11	Mam	1
12	Mayan	23
13	Mayo	1
14	Mazahua	13
15	Mazatec	7
16	Mixe	10
17	Mixtec	11
18	Nahuatl	61
19	Otomi	14
20	Paipai	1
21	O'dham	1
22	Popoloca	1
23	Seri	7
24	Tarahumara	11
25	Tarascan	13
26	Southern Tepehuán	1
27	Totonac	1
28	Triqui	2
29	Tseltal	9
30	Tzotzil	35
31	Zapotec	26
Total Speakers		287



Annex G

Impact of the Sembrando Vida program in Central America

Information presented at the ECOSOC Alliances Forum AMEXCID

Mexico in International Development Cooperation

Since the beginning of the current administration, a new paradigm of cooperation has been built as a government policy defined in the 2019–2024 National Development Plan. For the first time, Mexico directly implemented social projects in third countries, where it seeks to improve cooperation effectiveness with tangible and short-term results, through social welfare initiatives that directly reach the target population, skill-building and achieving a development multiplier effect in families and communities, such as the Sembrando Vida project.



Some aspects to highlight under this Sembrando Vida cooperation scheme are the following:

- Adaptation of projects to countries' needs
- Direct transfers
- Community building
- Financial inclusion
- Development of skills
- Environmental protection
- Food self-sufficiency



**Sembrando Vida
(Sowing Life)**

- Economic support⁸⁹
- Agricultural package
- Technical assistance



**Belize
(execution):**

- 2,000 men and women sowers
- 3 million dollars



**Honduras
(1st phase completed):**

- 10,000 men and women sowers
- 20 million dollars



**Cuba
(execution):**

- 5,000 men and women sowers
- 10 million dollars

⁸⁹ In the case of Cuba, economic support is not included.



Guatemala (execution):

- 14,000 men and women sowers
- 20 million dollars



Colombia (negotiation):

- 2,500 women sowers
- 1 million dollars



El Salvador (1st phase completed):

- 10,000 men and women sowers
- 15.5 million dollars



Venezuela (negotiation):

- 2,500 Seeders and seeders
- 1 million dollars

Sowing Life's results in El Salvador and Honduras

- **Crop diversification:** The planting of vegetables and fruit and/or timber trees increased over **150%**.
- **Increase in productivity:** Over **90%** of men and women sowers reported increased production, for self-consumption and trading of surpluses.
- **Economic independence:** Over **70%** of men and women sowers report increases in income. The demand for credits by agricultural subjects has decreased by more than **60%**.
- **Job creation:** men and women sowers report that they create jobs by hiring day laborers. In El Salvador, **21,256** indirect jobs have been created and in Honduras, **23,691**.
- **Family well-being:** Over **70%** of men and women sowers report that the increase in income improved their and their families' quality of life. Other aspects that improved were: housing and access to education.
- **Community integration:** Over **50%** of men and women sowers consider that the exchange of knowledge and good practices between neighbors is one of the main improvements in the community.
- **Migration preferences:** The change in intention to migrate shows a percentage reduction of **91%** in El Salvador and **87%** in Honduras.



4°

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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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<https://www.economia.gob.mx/secna2030/infvol/INVMX2024English.pdf>



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