



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

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4 March 2026

Consideration of funding proposals – Addendum IV

Funding proposal package for SAP069

Summary

This addendum contains the following six parts:

- a) A funding proposal titled "Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+";
- b) No-objection letter issued by the national designated authority(ies) or focal point(s);
- c) Secretariat's assessment;
- d) Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment;
- e) Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment; and
- f) Gender documentation.

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Simplified Approval Process Funding Proposal

Project/Programme title: *Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+.*

Country(ies): *Ecuador*

National Designated Authority(ies): *Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE).*

Accredited Entity: *Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – IICA.*

Date of first submission: *2025/10/20*

Date of current submission/
version number: *2026/29/01 V.4.2*



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Contents

Section A PROJECT / PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This section highlights some of the project's or programme's information for ease of access and concise explanation of the funding proposal.

Section B PROJECT / PROGRAMME DETAILS

This section focuses on describing the context of the project/programme, providing details of the project/programme including components, outputs and activities, and implementation arrangements.

Section C FINANCING INFORMATION

This section explains the financial instrument(s) and amount of funding requested from the GCF as well as co-financing leveraged for the project/programme. It also includes justification for requesting GCF funding and exit strategy.

Section D EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA

This section provides an overview of the expected alignment of the projects/programme with the GCF investment criteria: impact potential, paradigm shift, sustainable development, needs of recipients, country ownership, and efficiency and effectiveness.

Section E ANNEXES

This section provides a list of mandatory documents that should be submitted with the funding proposal as well as optional documents and references as deemed necessary to supplement the information provided in the funding proposal.

Notes to accredited entities on the use of the SAP funding proposal template

- The Simplified Approval Process Pilot Scheme (SAP) supports projects and programmes with a GCF contribution of up to USD 25 million with minimal to no environmental and social risks. Projects and programmes are eligible for SAP if they are ready for scaling up and have the potential for transformation, promoting a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development.
- This template is for the SAP funding proposals and is different from the funding proposal template under the standard project and programme cycle. Distinctive features of the SAP funding proposal template are:
 - *Simpler documents*: key documents have been simplified, and presented in a single, up-front list;
 - *Fewer pages*: A shorter form with significantly fewer pages. The total length of funding proposals should **not exceed 20 pages**, annexes can be used to provide details as necessary;
 - *Easier form-filling*: fewer questions and clearer guidance allows more concise and succinct responses for each sub-section, avoiding duplication of information.
- Accredited entities can either directly incorporate information into this proposal, or provide summary information in the proposal with cross-reference to other funding proposal documents such as project appraisal document, pre-feasibility studies, term sheet, legal due diligence report, etc.
- Submitted SAP Pilot Scheme funding proposals will be disclosed simultaneously with submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information which may not be disclosed pursuant to the [GCF Information Disclosure Policy](#).
- For more information on how to develop Funding Proposals under the SAP please refer to the [Simplified Approval Process \(SAP\) Funding proposal guidelines](#).

Please submit the completed form through the GCF Digital Proposal Submission Platform (DPS)

A. PROJECT/PROGRAMME SUMMARY					
A.1. Has this FP been submitted as a SAP CN before?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
A.2. Is the Environmental and Social Safeguards Category C or I-3?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
A.3. Project or programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Programme	A.4. Public or private sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public sector <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector	A.5. RfP	Not applicable
A.6. Result area(s)				GCF Contribution	Co-financers' contribution
	Mitigation total			<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy generation and access			<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport			<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities and industries and appliances			<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use			<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	Adaptation total			<u>Enter number</u> %	<u>Enter number</u> %
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities			47.9% %	0.5% %
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security			15.3% %	1.5% %
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment			21.0% %	25.1 %
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem and ecosystem services			15.8% %	72.9% %
A.7.1. Expected mitigation outcome <i>(Core indicator 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed / sequestered)</i>	Not Applicable (NA)		A.7.2 Expected adaptation outcome <i>(Core indicator 2: direct and indirect beneficiaries reached)</i>	<i>Indicate total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries</i>	
				<i>Indicate number of direct beneficiaries</i>	<i>Indicate number of indirect beneficiaries</i>
				347,482	630,377
				<i>Indicate % of direct beneficiaries vis-à-vis total population</i>	<i>Indicate % of indirect beneficiaries vis-à-vis total population</i>
				2.0%	3.7%
A.8.1. Total investment (GCF + co-finance)	Amount: \$35,667,034 USD		A.8.2 Total GCF funding requested (max USD 25M)	Amount: \$23,362,075 USD	
A.9. Type of financial instrument requested for the GCF funding	<i>Mark all that apply.</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantees <input type="checkbox"/> Others:				

A.10. Implementation period (months)	84 months	A.11. Total project/ programme lifespan (years)	20 years
A.12. Expected date of internal approval	2/27/2026	A.13. Has Readiness or PPF support been used to prepare this FP?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
A.14. Is this FP included in the entity work programme?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	A.15. Is this FP included in the country programme?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
A.16. Executing Entity information	<p>IICA is a specialized international organization in agriculture within the Inter-American System, established in 1942. Its mission is to support member countries in achieving agricultural development and rural well-being through technical cooperation. In this context, the Institute will also serve as an Executing Entity for the implementation of project activities.</p> <p>The Government of Ecuador acting through the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE); Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MAGP); National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI), and National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIAP). These institutions are co-financiers and have submitted a co-financing letter, thereby pledging their support (in kind) for the execution of the project.</p>		
A.17. Scalability and potential for transformation (max. 100 words)			
<p>Building on the successful outcomes of the FORECCSA project (2011–2018), FORECCSA+ broadens its scope to enhance climate resilience across 115 parishes in 11 provinces (see Table 22, Annex 2). The proposal scales up proven adaptation approaches, strengthens sustainable production systems, and fosters inclusive territorial governance. By integrating climate services, improving market access, and actively promoting the participation of women and youth, the project establishes enabling conditions for long-term replicability and sustainability. In doing so, it contributes to a paradigm shift that links climate change adaptation, food security, and social equity, while advancing resilient territorial development in the face of climate change impacts.</p>			
A.18. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach (max. 300 words)			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In Ecuador, the Food Sovereignty, Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (SAG) sector is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including a gradual increase in temperatures and altered rainfall patterns. These changes are projected to reduce agricultural productivity, increase food prices, and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations. Between 2000 and 2017, climate-related events caused losses equivalent to over 70% agricultural production in the coastal region and 23% in the highlands. Projections associated with the El Niño phenomenon anticipate longer droughts in the Central Highlands and more intense flooding in the Coastal and Southern Andean regions, further threatening food security, rural livelihoods, and the wellbeing of the general population. The FORECCSA+ project aims to reduce climate risks across 115 parishes in 11 provinces, directly benefiting 347,482 people and indirectly reaching an additional 630,377. Building on the successful experience of the FORECCSA project financed by the Adaptation Fund (2011–2018), this initiative scales up proven approaches and expands their transformative impacts on food security and climate resilience. The overall objective is to reduce climate risks in priority territories through the implementation of adaptation measures, the strengthening of production systems, and the consolidation of territorial governance mechanisms, with a strong emphasis on food security and gender equality. The project is structured around three interconnected components: (i) Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures; (ii) Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems; and (iii) Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas. 			

4. The project will directly benefit rural families by increasing adaptive capacity through the implementation of 10 adaptation measures that have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities. It will reduce socio-economic risks by strengthening local governance, integrating climate services, and promoting the access of women and other vulnerable groups to resources and decision-making processes. Expected measurable results include increased yields of priority crops such as soft maize, hard maize, beans, potatoes, sugarcane, and rice.
5. GCF support is critical to address existing barriers to scaling adaptation, including limited access to finance, technological gaps, weak local institutional capacity, and gender inequalities in land tenure and market participation.
6. Considering the social, economic, and environmental conditions of the target territories, along with the progressive impacts of climate change on rural livelihoods, the project requires a grant instrument. This modality is essential to enhance livelihoods, generate diversified incomes that reduce vulnerability, and increase adaptive capacity, thereby contributing directly to the achievement of both global and national climate commitments.

B. PROJECT/PROGRAMME DETAILS

B.1. Context and baseline (max. 500 words)

Climate vulnerabilities

7. Ecuador exhibits high vulnerability to climate change due to its geographical location, marked climate variability, and the social and economic conditions typical of a developing country. Climate projections for the period 2020 to 2050 predict a gradual increase in average temperature and greater irregularity in precipitation patterns. Extreme temperature increases are expected in the Coastal region and the Galápagos Islands, relative to thermal stability in the Andean region, and a trend toward drier conditions in the Amazon. These changes create a warmer and more unstable climate scenario, with increasingly irregular rainfall distribution across the country.
8. The rise in temperature and the alteration of the rainfall patterns have direct physical effects on productive systems, particularly on water availability, soil moisture, and crop development. The increase in evapotranspiration, along with heat stress, reduces the moisture needed for plant growth and increases the risk of biomass loss. This significantly affects agriculture, a strategic sector for food security, and for generating employment and income in rural areas, where small and medium-sized producers predominate.
9. In this context, climate risk studies carried out within the framework of the National Adaptation Plan identified that six crops of national importance to the country (rice, sugarcane, beans, soft maize, hard yellow maize, and potatoes) show a prevailing trend of biomass reduction under future climate scenarios, which could result in significant decreases in agricultural yields if timely adaptation measures are not implemented.
10. The results of these studies estimate projected economic losses by 2050 that show significant impacts. Rice cultivation presents the greatest economic impact, with annual losses exceeding USD 602 million, concentrated in Manabí and Guayas, in addition to smaller impacts in Santa Elena and Loja. Hard yellow corn, with losses exceeding USD 391 million annually, most significantly affecting Manabí, followed by Guayas, Loja, and Santa Elena. Soft corn would reflect losses of approximately USD 302 million annually, impacting Chimborazo, Azuay, and Pichincha most severely, along with additional effects in Cotopaxi, Imbabura, Bolívar, Tungurahua, Guayas, and Carchi. Bean cultivation would surpass USD 95 million annually in losses, with significant impacts in Imbabura and Carchi, as well as effects in Chimborazo, Bolívar, and Cotopaxi. Potatoes, on the other hand, would reach losses exceeding USD 91 million annually, especially in Chimborazo and Pichincha, along with impacts in Carchi and Cotopaxi. Finally, sugarcane would experience losses of around USD 10.3 million annually, in Guayas, in addition to minor impacts in Imbabura, Carchi, and Azuay. These losses would compromise access to food, reduce the income of rural households, and create significant macroeconomic effects on the country's Gross Domestic Product.
11. In the face of these risks, adaptation strategies that strengthen the resilience of production systems become essential. Among the options with the greatest potential are actions for the conservation and sustainable management of water resources, such as improved silvopastoral systems and proper management of organic fertilizers; sustainable soil and agricultural system management, including home gardens and the use of resilient seeds; resilient management of livestock activities, such as raising small animals; and strengthening climate services for decision-making, supported by timely agrometeorological information and early warning systems.
12. These measures help reduce losses, maintain production, and protect the livelihoods of those who depend directly on the countryside, especially small and medium rural producers, for whom agriculture is central to their food security and family economy.

From FORECCSA to FORECCSA+

13. The project "Strengthening the resilience of communities to the adverse effects of climate change with an emphasis on food security and gender considerations in the Jubones River basin and the province of Pichincha" (FORECCSA) was implemented between 2011 and 2018 with the objective of reducing community vulnerability to climate change impacts on food security management systems.
14. FORECCSA was financed by the Adaptation Fund, executed by the Ministry of Environment (MAE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGP), with support from the World Food Programme (WFP), and implemented in coordination with provincial, cantonal, and parish governments.

15. The project reached 240 communities across 42 parishes and 12 cantonal capitals in the Jubones River basin (provinces of Azuay, Loja, and El Oro) and in Pichincha (cantons of Cayambe and Pedro Moncayo), directly benefiting 19,356 people.
16. Key results included the implementation of nine adaptation typologies through 50 territorial interventions; 47 climate vulnerability and risk assessments; two early warning systems on climate risk and food security; the design of 49 local climate change adaptation plans; and the adoption of adaptation policies by 38 local governments.
17. A methodology was developed to integrate gender considerations into climate change adaptation and food security, drawing directly on the comprehensive Gender Assessment presented in Annex 4. This assessment applied the GCF's guidelines and methodological directives and was based on primary data collection with the target population, including participatory workshops for developing provincial problem trees, surveys, and interviews. The approach enabled an in-depth, intersectional analysis of the roles, activities, needs, and opportunities of each Priority Attention Group (PAG), ensuring that the design of interventions and expected results are grounded in robust evidence and tailored to address gender inequalities that influence climate vulnerability and food security.
18. The Final Evaluation Report assessed the degree of achievement of expected objectives, the effectiveness of processes, the utility of the monitoring system, sustainability risks, and the gender approach applied. The evaluation highlighted the project's contribution to strengthening community resilience to climate change, with an emphasis on food security and the effective integration of gender perspectives.
19. FORECCSA was one of Ecuador's most relevant climate change adaptation initiatives, emphasizing its participatory, decentralized, and territorially differentiated approach. Its implementation through local governments enabled resource mobilization, strengthened local capacities, and promoted climate governance closer to communities.
20. The project was distinguished by its ability to align adaptation measures with local priorities, particularly water access and food security, achieving broad social ownership through the combination of technical assessments and participatory community processes.
21. The EUROCLIMA+ regional report (2019) recognized FORECCSA as one of the most robust climate change adaptation initiatives in Latin America, underscoring its capacity to integrate sectoral approaches, coordinate with national policies, and strengthen decentralized autonomous governments. This external validation confirmed the legitimacy of the model and its potential as a replicable and scalable strategy for climate change adaptation.
22. Key lessons learned from FORECCSA that have been incorporated into this scaling-up proposal include: the development of participatory technical decision-making processes for project implementation; the updating of internal regulations defining the procedures of the management model among participating actors; the use of diverse mechanisms and tools that facilitated implementation; the incorporation of personnel with experience from the initial initiative to capitalize on their knowledge; the promotion of direct engagement between the project team and local populations; and the strengthening of inter-institutional coordination between MAATE, MAGP, and local governments.
23. These lessons provide a solid foundation for FORECCSA+ to reapply a proven methodology that increases awareness and knowledge of climate and food security risks in communities, while ensuring the ownership and implementation of adaptation measures that integrate a gender perspective.
24. The scaling-up of FORECCSA forms part of Ecuador's territorialization process, through which climate change adaptation measures will be implemented to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations, while also enhancing the institutional capacities of key actors to address the adverse impacts of climate change. Thus, the proposed FORECCSA+ initiative builds on the achievements and lessons learned from FORECCSA, scaling up its impacts to strengthen food security, gender equality, and resilience to climate change.

Adaptation Needs

25. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) integrates climate adaptation into sectoral and local development planning, identifying priority actions to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of Ecuador's social, economic, and environmental systems to the impacts of climate change.

26. FORECCSA+ directly contributes to the territorial scaling-up of sustainable adaptation actions and supports the implementation of the current NAP in the SAG sector. This proposal also incorporates adaptation measures for the SAG sector outlined in the Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (Tables 4, 5 & 6, Section A.3, Legal and Policy Framework, Annex 2).

Barriers and Challenges

27. The project seeks to address the following barriers and challenges that hinder the effective implementation of climate change adaptation practices in Ecuador's SAG sector:

28. Limited adaptation capacity. Climate change impacts aggravate existing economic and social inequalities in the prioritized territories, reducing the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations. At the same time, there is limited knowledge among beneficiaries about climate risks and the adaptation measures required, restricting their participation in climate management processes. Moreover, women, young people, and other priority groups face multiple structural constraints that limit their effective participation in the agricultural sector. These include insecure land tenure, particularly affecting women, restricted access to technical training, productive inputs, appropriate technologies, financing, and spaces for decision-making. Such conditions hinder both the implementation and the sustainability of adaptation measures.

29. Limited access to finance. Insufficient access to and knowledge of public and private financial mechanisms for adaptation represents a major obstacle to achieving transformative changes in agri-food systems.

30. Restricted access to markets. Due to persistent social and economic gaps, producers face difficulties in accessing formal markets, which limits fair and equitable commercialization of their products.

31. Technological gaps. The limited capacity of beneficiaries to access and use modern technologies for agricultural production hampers the adoption of adaptation measures. This is compounded by the lack of connection to agricultural innovation processes, perpetuating low-yield traditional systems and reducing opportunities to strengthen food security and adaptive capacity. In addition, gaps in knowledge and timely access to climate services reduce communities' ability to anticipate and respond to climate impacts, leading to higher crop losses and adverse effects on livelihoods.

32. Weak local institutional capacity and coordination. Local governments face important limitations in terms of policies, regulations, financial resources, and technical expertise to effectively implement climate adaptation measures in their territories. Additionally, opportunities for coordination between national and local institutions on climate change management remain limited, reducing efficiency and impact.

Complementary initiatives

33. Ecuador has launched important national programs aimed at managing climate change. These include the GEF 10818 project "Implementing Ecuador's Climate Transparency System 2023–2025," which is developing the National Climate Change Registry (RNCC) as a technical tool to monitor, report, and verify the implementation of climate policies and projects at the national and subnational levels, led by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Moreover, Ecuador is one of seven countries that will implement, starting in January 2026, the multinational project to promote early warnings for all (EW4All), which addresses the critical barriers that prevent the effective generation, dissemination, communication, and use of early warnings for climate change adaptation, preparedness, and response, through two general outcomes tailored to the specific needs of each country.

34. In addition, several ongoing initiatives generate strategic synergies with the FORECCSA+ project: a) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mountain Ecosystems; b) Promoting Integrated Landscape Management for Sustainable Livelihoods in the Ecuadorian Andes; c) Binational Adaptation Project; d) Andes Resilient to Climate Change; e) Regional Programme: Scaling up Ecosystem-based Adaptation Measures in Rural Latin America; and f) Setting Land Degradation Neutrality Targets and Restoring Degraded Landscapes in the Western Andes and Coastal Areas (Table 8, Section A.3, Legal and Policy Framework, Annex 2).

35. Together, these initiatives enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience to climate change, and reduce vulnerabilities across different regions of Ecuador. By complementing and aligning with these efforts, FORECCSA+ reinforces national strategies while ensuring greater coherence and territorial impact on climate adaptation actions.

B.2.1. Project/Programme description (max. 1,000 words)

36. The FORECCSA+ project is designed to reduce climate risks in prioritized territories by implementing adaptation measures, strengthening commercialization and market access, expanding financing opportunities, and reinforcing governance mechanisms that sustain climate action at the local level.
37. Thus, Theory of Change (TOC) (Figure 29, Section B.2, Theory of Change, Annex 2) shows that IF climate change adaptation measures are implemented, access to inclusive and sustainable financial mechanisms is improved, and governance instruments for climate management are strengthened, THEN climate risk will be reduced in priority areas and the adaptive capacity of beneficiary populations will be increased, promoting gender equality, social inclusion and sustainable livelihoods, BECAUSE these actions will improve the sustainable productivity of production systems, contributing to food security and increased economic income for the most vulnerable populations, in line with national policies and plans and the country's international commitments.
38. The parishes where the FORECCSA+ project will be implemented have been selected based on the results of risk studies conducted at the national level by the MAE, which are part of the technical process that supported the National Adaptation Plan (Section A.2, Climate risk analysis & Section C.1, Criteria for selecting territories, Table 22 for Selected Parishes, Annex 2).
39. After defining the project's target parishes, a stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted to identify, classify, and prioritize key actors in each of the 11 provinces (Azuay, Bolívar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Guayas, Loja, Imbabura, Manabí, Pichincha, and Santa Elena). This process analyzed stakeholders' roles, interests, levels of influence, as well as potential risks and opportunities associated with their participation. The results provide the basis for tailored engagement and relationship strategies to effectively scale up FORECCSA+ actions. (Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Annex 16).
40. For the final selection of farmers as direct beneficiaries, the following eligibility criteria are expected to be met (Section C.2, Beneficiary selection criteria, Annex 2): applicants must reside in the parishes covered by the programme, belong to local organizations or work independently, and have secure access to land through formal ownership or other recognized forms of tenure or use rights; at least one of the crops prioritized by the FORECCSA+ project must be among the three main crops of their agricultural production unit; applicants must also refrain from carrying out agricultural activities in protected areas, while the conservation of native vegetation at the farm level will be positively valued. In addition, they must commit to participating in the training programme, adopting at least two of the adaptation measures learned, collaborating in project monitoring, and sharing sustainable practices with other producers interested in replicating the experience. These criteria constitute the foundation for the selection of beneficiaries, however, during the project start-up phase, they will be further refined and operationalized through more detailed guidelines to ensure the accurate and equitable identification of participants, particularly those most vulnerable to climate change.
41. For the results described below, the project will have strategic partners such as the MAE, MAGP, INIAP and INAMHI, which will contribute resources in kind and technical capacities in the implementation of activities at the territorial level, in accordance with their institutional competencies. The MAE (GCF's NDA) will be involved in environmental management and climate governance issues; the MAGP in productive activities and food security; the INIAP in applied research; and the INAMHI in strengthening climate services. Local governments will also actively participate in project implementation as strategic territorial actors, making local infrastructure available for meetings and facilitating climate governance at the local level.
42. In addition, BanEcuador will support the implementation of the project through parallel financing, offering its differentiated credit lines (e.g. Super Rural Women's Credit, Rural Youth Credit, Agroviola Credit, Productive Youth Credit) to producers who voluntarily choose to access them. These loans are not used to finance project activities, nor are they part of the GCF-funded budget. Instead, they complement the project by providing beneficiaries with opportunities to strengthen and expand their productive activities under conditions adapted to their socioeconomic capacities. This coordination will enhance access to sustainable financing and promote the continuity of implemented adaptation measures, thereby contributing to long-term resilience and sustainability in the prioritized territories.
43. No disbursements will be made to the institutions mentioned for the implementation of the activities described. IICA, as an Accredited Entity, will be responsible for all contracts and for the procurement of the inputs necessary for the execution of the activities of the FORECCSA+ project.

44. The project is structured around three interlinked Outcomes:
45. Outcome 1. Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures.
46. Rural producers in Ecuador face recurrent climate variability, characterized by droughts, extreme rainfall, and temperature fluctuations, without access to local climate services that could support informed livelihood decisions. Outcome 1 addresses this gap by strengthening capacities through field schools that actively engage rural women and youth; by promoting the participatory design and implementation of adaptation measures tailored to local socio-environmental contexts; and by supporting applied research and technological innovation. These actions combine technical knowledge with ancestral wisdom, fostering ownership and relevance, while contributing directly to food security and to reducing gender gaps in climate change management.
47. Complementarily, Outcome 1 enhances access to climate information by strengthening hydrometeorological observation networks and developing user-oriented local climate services. Improved networks will generate reliable data to anticipate extreme events, while digital platforms will support the monitoring, analysis, and dissemination of agrometeorological information to producers and local governments. Together, capacity building, participatory adaptation measures, research initiatives, and climate services create a synergistic effect: enhanced skills, practical adaptation measures, and reliable information that reduce climate risk, stabilize agricultural production, and enable evidence-based decision-making for resilient livelihoods and food systems in the prioritized territories.
48. Output 1.1. Project beneficiaries implement climate change adaptation measures, contributing to food security.
49. Across Output 1.1, the project reinforces its focus on women and youth by ensuring that training, technical assistance, and research initiatives explicitly promote their leadership in rural entrepreneurship and innovation. These measures contribute not only to strengthened adaptive capacity but also to more diversified and climate-resilient rural economies.
50. Under Activity 1.1.1, the modular training programme will incorporate specific content on rural entrepreneurship, business development, and value-added opportunities linked to climate-resilient production systems. Modules on marketing strategies and financial education will be expanded to include business planning, basic accounting, cooperative models, and opportunities for linking adaptation measures to local value chains. This will enable beneficiaries, especially women and youth, to develop viable climate-resilient enterprises derived from the adaptation practices promoted by the project.
51. Through Activity 1.1.2, the design and implementation of adaptation measures will deliberately promote local innovation with entrepreneurial potential. Beneficiaries will be encouraged to propose and validate adaptation solutions that can evolve into micro-enterprises or service models, such as community-based irrigation management, climate-smart input production, or value-added processing that reduces food loss and waste. Technical assistance will include guidance on how adaptation measures can be transformed into income-generating initiatives aligned with territorial needs.
52. Under Activity 1.1.3, the applied research component will integrate research lines focused on innovation for rural MSMEs, prioritizing technologies, practices, and business models that can enhance climate resilience while creating local economic opportunities. Research findings will support the development of climate-resilient products and services suitable for small rural enterprises, fostering stronger links between scientific evidence, entrepreneurial initiatives, and territorial development.
53. Activity 1.1.1. Strengthen the capacities of project beneficiaries by promoting the active participation of rural women and young people: A comprehensive modular training programme will be designed and implemented through field schools (ECA), enabling 17,250 people to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for the effective implementation of climate change adaptation measures. Modules will address ecosystem conservation and restoration, sustainable agricultural production, recovery and application of ancestral practices, marketing strategies, and financial education, all with a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and social inclusion. In addition, capacity building in post-harvest handling, storage, and processing will be promoted, incorporating practices aimed at reducing food loss and waste in rural production chains. Training will be led by project staff in coordination with local institutions, ensuring that women and youth not only participate but also become active agents of climate action.

54. Building on lessons from FORECCSA I, the program will implement concrete gender-responsive measures to address women's time poverty and ensure their effective participation in field schools. Participation calls will be coordinated through local agricultural organizations, and training will be delivered locally with flexible schedules aligned to women's routines. Proven modalities from the previous phase will be applied, including on-site community sessions near participants' homes, short modular training blocks, peer-to-peer groups led by women promoters, and, when feasible, community support networks such as rotating childcare. These strategies have already demonstrated strong results in increasing women's attendance and continuity and will be systematically incorporated into FORECCSA+.
55. Activity 1.1.2. Design and implement climate change adaptation measures in priority territories: This activity will apply a structured and inclusive participatory process to identify, validate, and implement adaptation measures (listed in Table 9, Annex 2) tailored to the productive, socio-environmental and cultural conditions of each priority territory. Participation will be organized through local governance mechanisms, such as community committees, producer organizations, and local government technical units, ensuring the meaningful involvement of diverse groups, including women, youth, and Indigenous stakeholders where relevant. The design and prioritization of measures will build on and align with existing territorial planning instruments, as well as the territorial planning processes and governance structures strengthened under Activities 3.1.1 and 3.2.1. This alignment ensures coherence, prevents duplication, and strengthens long-term local ownership of adaptation actions.
56. Adaptation measures will integrate technical knowledge with local expertise, including ancestral practices, to ensure relevance, ownership, sustainability, and effective implementation. The active participation of rural women and youth will be prioritized to ensure that measures address their differentiated needs and contribute to closing gender gaps in adaptation management. Moreover, roles and responsibilities will be clearly defined: beneficiaries, understood as rural households, community groups, producer associations, and local institutions engaged in climate-sensitive productive activities, will co-implement the adaptation measures with technical support from the FORECCSA+ team. Local governments and community organizations will support the process through consultation, validation of activities, and participatory monitoring, ensuring that interventions align with territorial needs and can be sustained beyond the project's duration, without acting as Executing Entities. The project will provide the necessary materials and inputs for implementation, while communities and producer organizations will lead execution under a shared responsibility model that reinforces ownership and long-term sustainability.
57. Each participating community will implement at least two adaptation measures selected through a structured process that links local climate risks with appropriate responses. Participatory climate risk and vulnerability assessments will enable communities to identify the specific climate hazards they are experiencing and to prioritize measures that directly reduce exposure and/or vulnerability to those hazards, rather than addressing general development needs. For each selected measure, communities will articulate a clear adaptation pathway, specifying the climate hazard addressed, the vulnerability factor reduced, and the expected adaptation outcome, supported by standardized technical guidance and adaptation fact sheets. This adaptation logic will be operationalized through a results-based monitoring and evaluation system, with community-level baselines, targets and indicators used to track progress in reducing exposure and vulnerability over time. Furthermore, to ensure inclusivity, women and youth will not only participate in implementation but will also hold decision-making roles within participatory workshops and local committees. This will be supported through structured mechanisms such as minimum participation thresholds, targeted outreach, and leadership facilitation, ensuring that their needs, priorities, and knowledge meaningfully shape the adaptation solutions.
58. Activity 1.1.3. Promote research initiatives aimed at climate change management: In coordination with INIAP and others research centers, this activity will foster applied research that strengthens climate management. Research conducted will be aimed at generating technical evidence to validate, adjust, and optimize sustainable production practices that have been implemented. The results will serve as a basis for providing feedback on training processes and facilitating the adoption of adaptation measures by farmers. A total of 1,100 beneficiaries will have access to research initiatives, developed jointly with local governments, to strengthen the link between academia and territories.
59. Output 1.1 addresses the barrier of limited adaptation capacity (Activities 1.1.1–1.1.3).
60. Output 1.2. Project beneficiaries and local governments have technological tools for generating and accessing climate information.

61. Activity 1.2.1. Strengthening hydrometeorological observation networks in prioritized territories: This involves diagnosing, modernizing, and ensuring the sustainability of local observation networks; establishing preventive and corrective maintenance protocols with local participation; and ensuring reliable data flows to anticipate extreme events and guide decision-making. This process will include the acquisition and installation of sensors to form or upgrade hydrometeorological station networks, as well as the implementation of maintenance protocols with the participation of local stakeholders, ensuring community ownership and long-term sustainability. The observation networks will be strengthened in the 11 provincial governments covering the parishes prioritized by the project. The equipment purchased with GCF funds will be delivered to these institutions through memoranda of understanding to ensure its proper administration. With the capacity building provided by INAMHI, the provincial governments will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the equipment during and after the project intervention. This activity will be led by the project's climate change specialist in coordination with local governments and the INAMHI. The strengthened networks will ensure reliable and continuous data flows to support the consolidation of climate services developed under Activity 1.2.2.
62. Activity 1.2.2. Develop local climate services for accessing and monitoring climate information: A web platform will be developed by the information generated in Activity 1.2.1 and complementary sources. INAMHI will install the web platform on its servers and strengthen the capacities of local governments to feed it with reliable data, ensuring the generation and availability of accurate, timely, and sustainable climate information in the long term. The platform will generate practical recommendations for crop management and strategies to address climate variability and change. Information will be made easily accessible through mobile messaging or dedicated applications linked to the web platform. By embedding the platform within INAMHI's existing digital infrastructure and operational mandate, the project ensures institutional ownership and reduces dependence on external systems after project closure. This activity will benefit 40,226 people.
63. Output 1.2 addresses the barrier of technological gaps (Activities 1.1.1–1.1.2).
64. Outcome 2. Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems.
65. This component seeks to identify and address the financial gaps faced by beneficiaries. For financial institutions, it focuses on strengthening their capacity to design and deliver efficient and appropriate financing mechanisms. For beneficiaries, it emphasizes improving applied financial literacy, supporting farmers in translating financial education into practical action by accessing credit and other financial services. This includes facilitating access to clear, transparent, and actionable information on available financial options, thereby enabling informed decision-making and the effective adoption of climate change adaptation measures.
66. Access to financing mechanisms is a fundamental pillar, as it enables the adoption of the measures promoted by the FORECCSA+ project. To this end, financial education will be integrated into field schools. At the same time, the project will promote the upgrading of equipment and productive inputs to diversify and strengthen production systems, improving access to fair and differentiated markets.
67. This outcome places special emphasis on designing differentiated strategies for women and youth, while fostering collaboration with public and private actors and solidarity economy, ensuring an inclusive and participatory approach.
68. Output 2.1. Project beneficiaries gain access to sustainable financing mechanisms.
69. Output 2.1 aims to strengthen access to sustainable financing mechanisms for rural producers by addressing both the enabling conditions and the practical capacities required for beneficiaries to effectively access credit. The purpose of this output is not only to diagnose the financial landscape but also to convert this information into actionable guidance that enables beneficiaries to better navigate financial systems. To ensure inclusiveness, the territorial financial diagnosis will be fully participatory, involving local actors, institutions, and producer organizations in identifying financing needs, barriers, and opportunities. In addition, the project will map potential financiers, including banks, microfinance institutions, impact investors, and development finance actors, as well as relevant financial products suitable for bio-enterprises and certified farmers. This mapping will identify viable financing options and inform the design of tailored business models that generate sustainable and predictable cash flows capable of supporting long-term financing. Simultaneously, the project will coordinate with financial institutions to promote the development and offering of tailored, climate-responsive credit products, ensuring that the enabling environment becomes increasingly aligned with the needs of rural producers while facilitating their access to existing financing mechanisms.

70. The sustainability of access to finance beyond the project period is ensured through several mechanisms. First, all financial literacy and business-readiness skills transferred to producers during field schools remain with the beneficiaries, enabling continued engagement with financial institutions. Second, the project works directly with existing financial systems rather than creating parallel mechanisms, ensuring that credit opportunities remain available after project closure. Third, the coordination processes established between producer groups and financial institutions are expected to strengthen long-term institutional relationships, making climate-responsive financial products more accessible and widely offered. Finally, the integration of mapped financiers, suitable financial products, and viable business models will provide a clear pathway for sustainable, predictable, and long-term financing for rural producers.
71. Activity 2.1.1. Strengthen financial inclusion pathways for rural producers, with emphasis on women and youth: This activity will generate applied financial access intelligence to identify scalable opportunities for rural producers to access credit and other financial mechanisms. It will analyze financial barriers, eligibility conditions, and institutional requirements, and translate this information into actionable guidance that enables beneficiaries to navigate financial systems more effectively. The activity will also support engagement with financial institutions to promote tailored and climate-responsive financial products, helping reduce structural access gaps and catalyzing new financing flows for climate-resilient production.
72. Activity 2.1.2. Promote access to sustainable financing mechanisms for project beneficiaries: The project will strengthen the financial capacities of beneficiaries through field schools, so that they are aware of previously identified lines of credit and clearly understand the requirements and processes necessary to access them.
73. To address barriers related to women's land ownership and strengthen their access to financing, FORECCSA+ will implement preferential protocols in coordination with national and local authorities. In particular, the project will collaborate with MAGP to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Rural Women (ENMR) and Family and Peasant Agriculture, including joint actions to facilitate the issuance or extension of the Family Farming Certificate (AFC) for women participating in the project. The AFC is a key mechanism for formally recognizing women's contribution to agricultural production and enabling their access to differentiated credit lines. Complementarily, the project will promote agreements with municipalities to advance the formal recognition of women working on agricultural land, including alternative forms of tenure validation (e.g., co-responsibility, usufruct, community recognition), thereby reducing documentation barriers and supporting women's effective inclusion in project activities and financing mechanisms.
74. Furthermore, the credit lines that BanEcuador will promote through FORECCSA+, including the Super Rural Women's Credit, Rural Youth Credit, Agroviola Credit, and Productive Youth Credit, are specifically designed to strengthen agricultural production, rural enterprises, and the economic inclusion of women and young people. The project will coordinate directly with BanEcuador to facilitate access to these products for women beneficiaries and, importantly, to support the opening of individual bank accounts for women who currently lack formal financial access, enabling them to begin building their own credit history. FORECCSA+ will also strengthen coordination between producers and other financial institutions to reduce procedural barriers and improve access to financing. As part of this effort, eleven financial strengthening workshops, one per prioritized province, will be delivered for both beneficiaries and financial institutions.
75. Output 2.1 addresses the barrier of limited access to finance (Activities 2.1.1–2.1.2).
76. Output 2.2. Project beneficiaries strengthen their marketing capabilities by facilitating access to markets.
77. Activity 2.2.1. Strengthen productive systems using strategic market intelligence for climate-resilient production: This activity will generate strategic market intelligence, defined as the systematic use of applied market analysis to inform climate-resilient production and investment decisions, including data on value chains, demand trends, price dynamics, and buyer requirements for climate-adapted products in priority areas.
78. Under Activity 2.2.1, the project does not rely on a single pre-existing market analysis. Instead, it will develop a consolidated and adaptive market analysis, drawing on existing studies, national and local data sources, and targeted assessments carried out during implementation for the priority value chains and identified opportunities. Beneficiaries are expected to use this consolidated market intelligence to inform production choices, reduce market and climate risks, align products with verified demand, and guide investment and financing decisions.

79. Activity 2.2.2. Strengthen value-added bio-enterprises in priority territories: The beneficiaries of bio-enterprises will be micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which will receive financial support in the form of acquisitions (e.g. technological equipment for the processing of products derived from the implementation of sustainable actions, basic infrastructure to improve marketing, inputs for sustainable production, specialized technical assistance to strengthen commercial capacities, process innovation, tools for product marketing, among others), in order to strengthen their production systems. No money will be transferred to bio-enterprises. In the context of the FORECCSA+ project, bio-enterprises are micro, small, and medium-sized rural enterprises/productive initiatives that, in an inclusive manner and with the active participation of women and young people, promote the marketing of products derived from the implementation of climate change adaptation measures in sustainable agricultural production systems. These initiatives contribute to improving family incomes, strengthening resilience to climate impacts, and promoting local development in priority territories.
80. To ensure the proper use of the purchases and supplies delivered to the bio-enterprises, IICA will apply a "Conditional Use and Transfer Agreement." Under this agreement, all goods purchased with project resources will remain the property of IICA until the beneficiary demonstrates their correct use and compliance with the established commitments. Only after such verification will IICA authorize the definitive transfer of the goods.
81. These bio-enterprises will promote local solutions and innovations, focusing on sustainable and inclusive business models that generate added value. Special attention will be given to the participation of women and young people, promoting their leadership in rural entrepreneurship and in productive initiatives that are resilient to climate change. At least 60 to 66 bio-enterprises located in the intervention areas will be strengthened, and these will be defined through an open call for proposals based on selection criteria. It is expected to directly benefit 132 people.
82. Activity 2.2.3. Enhance the marketing and promotion of products in markets: Strengthened bio-enterprises will be linked to value-added markets through workshops designed to build commercial management capacities and promote differentiated products. In parallel, the activity will reinforce post-harvest handling, storage, and processing practices to ensure that products reach markets with higher quality and reduced losses. This includes promoting technologies and processes aimed at the reduction of food loss and food waste along rural value chains, thereby increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of beneficiary enterprises. Thirty-three workshops will be organized nationwide, with an estimated attendance of 200 people per province. These actions aim to boost productive supply and improve commercial linkages through communication strategies that promote fair and equitable marketing, ultimately increasing beneficiary income.
83. Output 2.2 addresses the barrier of restricted access to markets' technological gaps (Activities 2.2.1–2.2.3).
84. Outcome 3. Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas.
85. This component seeks to reinforce territorial planning instruments, strengthen the technical capacities of local government officials, and establish governance mechanisms that ensure long-term adaptation management. Training will be provided to officials from local governments in project intervention areas, preferably at the provincial level, responsible for planning, land use, environmental management, climate change, sustainable production, or related areas. In addition, technical assistance will be provided to support the integration of climate change criteria into Development and Land Use Plans and to strengthen governance mechanisms.
86. The updated instruments developed under Activity 3.1.2 will include strategic guidance for biodiversity management, forest conservation, and integrated landscape approaches, aligning them with national frameworks such as the National Adaptation Plan, National Biodiversity Strategy, and provincial zoning instruments. This ensures that climate-sensitive planning is linked to territorial priorities for sustainable natural resource management, enabling subnational governments to identify and promote investment opportunities in areas such as watershed restoration, agroecological corridors, sustainable forestry, and ecosystem rehabilitation.
87. The technical inputs and climate risk analyses generated under Activity 3.1.3 will provide evidence to support investment prioritization, such as identifying areas where adaptation measures enhance ecosystem services, reduce degradation, and strengthen productive landscapes. These studies will offer an analytical basis for channeling public budgets, incentives, and external financing toward nature-based solutions, sustainable production systems, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

88. The governance mechanisms established under Activity 3.2.1 will create multi-actor spaces capable of mobilizing and coordinating investments. These spaces will facilitate the alignment of project initiatives with existing investment programs and help identify opportunities for leveraging complementary financing for biodiversity conservation, forest protection, and landscape-level adaptation measures.
89. Finally, the knowledge management platforms and tools developed under Activity 3.3.2 will support sustainability by making technical documents, lessons learned, and good practices available to stakeholders, thereby enabling local governments and partners to design and justify sustainable investment proposals beyond the life of the project.
90. Through these combined actions, the strengthened planning instruments under Outcome 3 will not only integrate climate change criteria but also orient territorial investments toward sustainable, resilient, and biodiversity-positive development, contributing to long-term climate management and conservation outcomes.
91. Furthermore, under Outcome 3, the project will establish partnerships with local agricultural organizations led by women, previously mapped during project preparation, as well as with organizations specialized in gender and land rights to support the development of territorial, gender-responsive Land Use Plans. These partnerships will build existing national instruments, such as the Basic Guide for the Incorporation of Gender Perspective and Intersectionality in Decentralized Autonomous Governments developed by National Council for Gender Equality (CNIG) and the National Planning Secretariat (SENPLADES), ensuring alignment with the current regulatory framework. By integrating gender considerations into territorial planning processes, the project will help address structural barriers related to women's land tenure and use, thereby creating enabling conditions for their access to credit, markets, and productive assets. This approach strengthens local governance capacities and positions the Land Use Plans as strategic tools for advancing women's economic empowerment.
92. Output 3.1. Local governments strengthen their territorial policies that integrate climate change variables.
93. Activity 3.1.1. Strengthen the institutional capacities of local governments: This activity will build the capacities of local government officials in prioritized territories to develop or update Territorial Development and Planning Plans and/or climate management instruments that incorporate climate change variables. This will include gap analyses for climate-sensitive planning, technical inputs for policy integration, and training workshops. The project aims to strengthen the capacities of 330 officials.
94. During the capacity-building workshops, local government officials will be trained to identify climate-sensitive gaps in their territories and to translate these gaps into prioritized investment portfolios aligned with adaptation objectives. The technical inputs provided through this activity will support local governments in assessing investment needs associated with climate risks, ecosystem degradation, and vulnerabilities in productive systems, as well as identifying opportunities for sustainable investments in areas such as ecosystem restoration, water resource management, biodiversity conservation, and integrated landscape management. These inputs will also help align territorial planning instruments with existing public investment mechanisms and potential external financing sources. By integrating these elements into capacity-building processes, the updated territorial plans will not only incorporate climate criteria but also provide a clearer basis for mobilizing and directing investments toward climate-resilient and sustainable development priorities.
95. Activity 3.1.2. Update instruments that allow for the incorporation of climate change criteria into their territorial policies: Develop and/or update technical and regulatory instruments for territorial planning that incorporate climate change criteria, with a focus on adaptation, food security, gender equality, and inclusion. These instruments will serve as a basis for prioritizing the most vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change and defining response actions at the territorial level. They will also facilitate the mobilization and management of financing by providing decision-makers with strategic information that will enable them to direct investments to the areas and actions where they are most needed.
96. Activity 3.1.3. Evaluation and monitoring of the effectiveness of the implementation of adaptation measures that contribute to decision-making: Climate risk studies will be prepared to assess the effectiveness of implemented adaptation measures. Crop growth models, calibrated with local data, will simulate yields under current climate and projected precipitation and temperature scenarios for two-time horizons. Results will inform whether measures sustain or enhance productivity, while providing input for evidence-based decision-making. Two climate risk studies will be carried out in prioritized territories and shared with local governments, academia, and stakeholders.

97. Output 3.2. Local actors participate in governance mechanisms that facilitate the implementation and sustainability of the project.
98. Activity 3.2.1. Establish governance mechanisms that facilitate the implementation and sustainability of the project: Local governance mechanisms will be designed, coordinated, and strengthened with the participation of local government officials, institutions such as the MAE, MAGP, INAMHI, and INIAP, producers (including women and young people), and the project's technical staff. The actors described above will contribute in a participatory manner to defining the actions to be implemented by FORECCSA+ in each prioritized territory. These spaces will ensure that interventions are aligned with the priorities established in existing local governance instruments (Territorial Development Plans) and with the provisions of the National Adaptation Plan. The decisions, agreements, and priorities defined in these local governance spaces will be communicated to the project committees to ensure management aligned with the needs of the territory. Approximately 1.980 beneficiaries will take part in these governance spaces.
99. Output 3.3. Knowledge management mechanisms are in place to strengthen adaptation governance in priority territories.
100. Activity 3.3.1. Create spaces for experience exchange to inform decision-making: Seventeen capacity-building spaces will be established (six boot camps and eleven provincial exchanges), benefiting 900 participants, including local government officials.
101. Activity 3.3.2. Establish knowledge management mechanisms to promote adaptation to climate change: These will include M&E systems, virtual platforms, collaboration networks, educational materials, training modules, and communication tools. Technical documents compiling lessons learned, good practices, and successful cases will be developed to promote climate management and inform future actions.
102. Output 3.1-3.3 address the barrier of weak local institutional capacity and coordination (Activities 3.1.1–3.3.2).
103. With these actions, the scaling up proposed in FORECCSA+ responds to a new territorial and climatic situation. The current needs of producers and institutions require more in-depth interventions, based on new adaptation needs, updated technologies, more accurate climate information systems, and strengthened institutional capacities.
104. In Outcome 1, the scaling up is evident in the expanded adoption of adaptation measures in the territories, together with access to modern climate services, including digital platforms and warning systems that enable more timely decisions, risk reduction, and better-informed production planning. In Outcome 2, scaling up is reflected in the need to strengthen production systems that today face greater climate risks, more volatile prices, and markets that demand sustainable products, which require more robust interventions to ensure resilient livelihoods. In Outcome 3, scaling up responds to the growing demand from local governments for planning instruments that integrate climate change criteria and allow for the territorialization of adaptation actions in line with recent national policies. Overall, the project not only expands its geographic coverage, number of beneficiaries, and funding, but also evolves to respond to current challenges.
105. Women's participation is a strategic priority for FORECCSA+ and will be actively promoted across all components. According to official INEC data, in the prioritized provinces women represent approximately 40% of the economically active population engaged in agricultural activities, while men constitute the majority of the rural workforce (60%). This gap reflects structural factors such as the gender-based division of labor, unequal access to productive resources, and the persistence of traditional roles in local economies.
106. Against this backdrop, the project's target of reaching at least 30% female beneficiaries is both attainable and meaningful. It aligns with the current territorial context, characterized by dynamic and heterogeneous conditions, and represents a relevant benchmark that acknowledges existing structural constraints while promoting substantive progress toward gender inclusion.
107. In this sense, FORECCSA+ will implement targeted measures to reduce the structural barriers that limit rural women's participation and ensure their equitable access to financing, productive capital, and project benefits. Beneficiary selection criteria have been made more flexible to avoid excluding women who may lack land titles, formal credit history, or asset ownership, supported by tailored outreach strategies. Training and technical assistance will be delivered through gender-responsive field schools and modules adapted to women's schedules and caregiving responsibilities, using flexible hours, community-based activities, and methodologies that minimize additional workload. The program will also facilitate access to differentiated financing mechanisms through

simplified procedures, financial education, and support for preparing business plans, ensuring that women can effectively access the bio-enterprise financing window. Additionally, the project will promote women’s economic empowerment by strengthening leadership, supporting women-led productive initiatives, and fostering their active engagement in local governance spaces.

108. Furthermore, project actions will not be implemented in ancestral territories, collectively owned areas, or areas declared as cultural heritage unless Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is obtained, in accordance with applicable national regulations and the GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards. Indigenous and mestizo populations are expected to participate in non-land-based activities, including capacity building, access to climate information services, and training. Their participation will be conducted in a manner that fully respects collective rights, traditional practices, and governance structures, using culturally appropriate engagement processes in line with GCF safeguards.

B.2.2. Outcome mapping to GCF results areas and co-benefits categorization

Outcome number	GCF Mitigation Results Area (MRA 1-4)				GCF Adaptation Results Area (ARA 1-4)			
	MRA 1 Energy generation and access	MRA 2 Low-emission transport	MRA 3 Building, cities, industries, appliances	MRA 4 Forestry and land use	ARA 1 Most vulnerable people and communities	ARA 2 Health, well-being, food, and water security	ARA 3 Infrastructure and built environment	ARA 4 Ecosystems and ecosystem services
Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority territories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

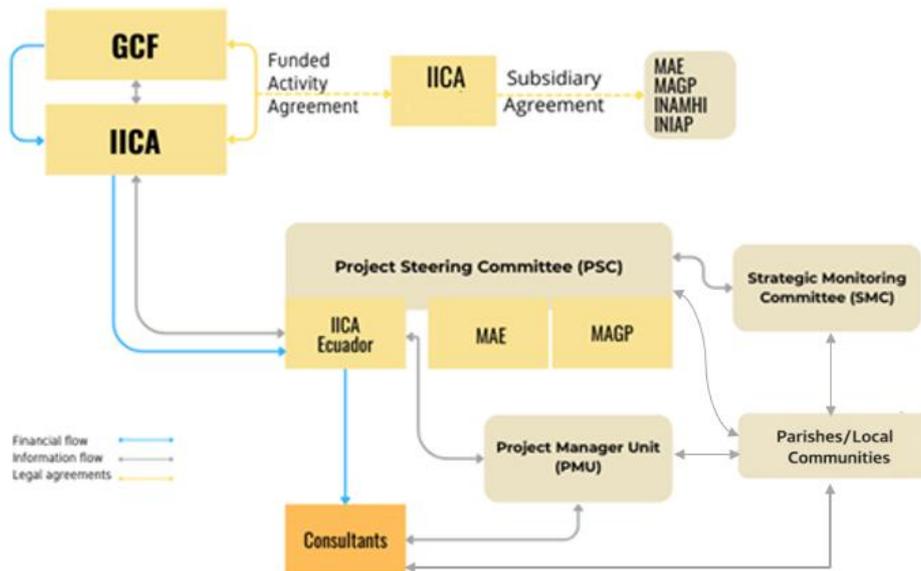
Co-benefit number	Co-benefit					
	Environmental	Social	Economic	Gender	Adaptation	Mitigation
Enhanced biodiversity conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Enhanced soil and water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Reduced CO ₂ emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B.3. Implementation / institutional arrangements (max. 750 words)

109. IICA, as Accredited Entity, will be responsible for the overall implementation of the project, including fiduciary and financial management, procurement of goods and services, monitoring, and reporting, all of which will be carried out by IICA's internal policies and procedures, as well as the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) and project-specific Funded Activity Agreement (FAA). signed with the GCF.
110. Among other functions, IICA will be responsible for developing a detailed work plan in line with the approved proposal, directing the execution and supervision of the grant, and managing the grant resources in accordance with fiduciary standards. Within the project's FAA, IICA Headquarters (HQ) is responsible for overall supervision and fiduciary compliance, coordination with the GCF, monitoring and evaluation, as well as reporting and disbursement requests. IICA Ecuador, as the country office, will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of project activities through contracts, in close collaboration with national partners. This includes effective monitoring of technical, administrative, and operational implementation.
111. Funds received from the GCF will be delivered directly to IICA (Headquarters). Through Headquarters, the funds will be delivered via a specific bank account to the IICA Ecuador office, which will then be able to manage these funds directly for the acquisition of equipment, materials, contracts, among other things, for the implementation of the project. The office is solely responsible for managing GCF funds; there are no cash transfer actions, as shown in the chart below. The Accredited Entity will put in place a set of formal agreements and contracts to ensure the effective execution of the Funded Activity and to define the roles, responsibilities, and compliance obligations of all parties involved.
112. For the implementation of the Funded Activity, the Accredited Entity will enter into legally binding agreements with MAE, MAGP, INAMHI and INIAP (the "Subsidiary Agreements"), each acting as a separate and independent legal entity of the Government of Ecuador. The Subsidiary Agreement will pass down all relevant GCF requirements to these institutions and define the scope of responsibilities, budget allocations, implementation conditions, and reporting obligations to ensure compliance with the requirements of the AMA and the FAA. The Subsidiary Agreement will also include provisions requiring MAE, MAGP, INAMHI, and INIAP to provide the expected cofinancing. It will specify the amount and modalities of MAE, MAGP, INAMHI and INIAP co-financing contributions, as well as the associated conditions, timelines, and reporting requirements, ensuring full alignment with the broader implementation framework of the Funded Activity and provide the basis for transparent monitoring of co-financing commitments.
113. In addition, IICA, acting as Executing Entity, will enter a series of implementation contracts with service providers, consultants, and suppliers to conduct technical assistance, capacity building, procurement, and other project-related activities. These contracts will be governed by applicable national procurement laws and will align with IICA's procurement procedures and oversight mechanisms to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability. None of the co-executing entities (MAE, MAGP, INIAP, and INAMHI) will administer project funds or enter into contracts with consultants, suppliers, or third parties using GCF resources. All contracting necessary for project implementation will be managed exclusively by IICA, in its capacity as Executing Agency and in accordance with the procurement procedures approved by the GCF and established in the Procurement Plan.
114. Thus, IICA, through its Representation in Ecuador, will contract consultancy firms to provide specialized short-term technical services required for the execution of specific FP activities, selecting them through competitive bidding processes. These firms will not act as project partners or assume implementation responsibilities; instead, they will support IICA and the co-executing entities by providing specific deliverables necessary to operationalize the project.
115. IICA Headquarters will support IICA's Office in Ecuador with administrative and technical staff, including a financial manager, accountants, administrative support, and national specialists on key areas of IICA. The Office in Ecuador will also have support, at request, from departments, divisions, and units at IICA's Headquarters, such as Project Management, Institutional Communication, Technical Cooperation/Climate Change, External and Institutional Relations, Financial Management, Programming and Budgeting, and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

116. The governance structure of the FORECCSA+ project is organized around three main bodies (Section C.5, Implementing Entities, Annex 2): the Steering Committee (SC), the Management Committee (MC), and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), supported by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Together, these bodies ensure strategic direction, inter-institutional coordination, and effective technical and financial execution. This governance architecture promotes transparency, accountability, and the efficient use of resources while ensuring alignment with national policies and international commitments. In addition, the TAC will establish a formal and permanent mechanism for participation, ensuring the regular involvement of representatives from other public institutions, Indigenous peoples and nationalities, civil society organizations, cooperation agencies, research institutes, and academia.

117. Next figure presents the Project Implementation Agreement, including financial and information flows.



118. The Steering Committee (SC) is the highest decision-making body of the Project and is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGP), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The SC is chaired by the MAE and includes IICA as the accredited entity to the Green Climate Fund. It is responsible for approving key management instruments such as the Annual Work Plan (AWP), budget, procurement plan, and programmatic tools; as well as for monitoring the achievement of targets, indicators, and safeguards. The decisions of the Steering Committee are binding on the Executing Entity (IICA), as they guide operational planning, inter-institutional coordination, and the implementation of project activities, in accordance with the guidelines and decisions approved by this governing body.

119. The Management Committee (MC) functions as the operational and technical coordination mechanism of the Project. It is responsible for supervising implementation and ensuring compliance with the decisions adopted by the Steering Committee. The Committee is composed of the National Project Directors from MAE and MAGP, an IICA representative, and the Project Coordinator of FORECCSA+, who serves as Secretary of the Committee. Its main functions include reviewing risks and priorities, monitoring indicators and targets, validating technical and financial reports, authorizing missions and contract renewals, and approving operational instruments prior to their submission to the Steering Committee. The decisions of the Management Committee are binding on the Executing Entity (IICA), as they guide the operational and technical coordination of the project and ensure compliance with the decisions adopted by the Steering Committee.

120. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) serves as the specialized technical and methodological advisory body of the Project, responsible for ensuring technical quality and methodological consistency of all implemented activities. It is composed of technical representatives from MAE, MAGP and IICA, and includes the Project coordinator as Technical Secretary. The TAC reviews progress, provides technical recommendations, assesses the quality of outputs, promotes coordination and synergies among institutions, and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and best practices. It also acts as a space for institutional and technical capacity strengthening within the governance framework of the Project.

121. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is the operational arm of the FORECCSA+ project, responsible for translating strategic and technical decisions into concrete actions. Under the direction of the Project Coordinator, the PIU coordinates technical, financial, and administrative implementation; prepares and updates the Annual Work Plan; supports actions related to procurement, contracts, and financial operations; and implements monitoring, evaluation, and safeguard systems in conjunction with the IICA Ecuador Office. The PIU also acts as the Technical Secretariat for all biannual technical committees, ensuring communication and coordination between the different levels of governance and the implementation units at the territorial level.
122. Together, this governance framework enables the FORECCSA+ project to maintain a strategic, coordinated, and transparent management structure, linking policy-level decision-making with technical implementation and methodological support. Its design ensures efficient administration of Green Climate Fund resources and promotes coherence between achieved results, national adaptation commitments, and international project management standards.
123. For the effective execution of the project, a set of formal agreements and contracts will be established to clearly define roles, responsibilities, and compliance obligations among all parties involved: i) a Subsidiary Agreement between IICA and MAE, IICA and MAGP, IICA and INAMHI, and IICA and INIAP. Each agreement will clearly pass down the GCF requirements, including co-financing commitments; it will also define budget allocations and conditions for implementation; ii) Implementation Contracts between IICA Ecuador and service providers, consultants, and suppliers to carry out project activities. These contracts will be governed by national procurement laws and aligned with IICA's procurement and oversight policies to ensure accountability and efficiency in project delivery.
124. In addition, the flow of funds will proceed from the GCF to IICA, which will retain full fiduciary responsibility for the use of the funds. IICA will disburse resources directly to its national office (i.e., IICA Ecuador) based on approved work plans and budgets. Neither MAE nor MAGP will receive any funds directly from IICA. Instead, IICA will be solely responsible for procuring all goods and services required under the project, in accordance with its institutional procurement policies and the approved procurement plan. This arrangement ensures full compliance with GCF fiduciary standards and allows for consistent oversight and accountability throughout the project implementation.

C. FINANCING INFORMATION

C.1. Total financing

(a) Requested GCF funding (i + ii + iii + iv + v + vi)		Total Amount: \$\$23,362,075 <u>Enter amount</u>		Currency: million USD (\$)			
GCF Financial Instrument		Amount	Currency	Tenor & grace	Pricing		
(i)	Senior loans						
(ii)	Subordinated loans						
(iii)	Equity						
(iv)	Guarantees						
(v)	Reimbursable grants						
(vi)	Grants	<u>\$23,362,075</u>	<u>million USD (\$)</u>				
(b) Co-financing information		Total amount		Currency			
		<u>12,304,959</u>		<u>million USD (\$)</u>			
Name of institution		Financial instrument	Amount	Currency	Tenor & Grace	Pricing	Seniority
<u>MAE</u>		<u>In kind</u>	<u>\$1,300,000</u>	<u>million USD (\$)</u>			

<u>MAGP</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>\$7,092,452</u>	<u>million USD</u> <u>(\$)</u>			
<u>INIAP</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>\$126,753</u>	<u>million USD</u> <u>(\$)</u>			
<u>INAMHI</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>\$2,633,754</u>	<u>million USD</u> <u>(\$)</u>			
<u>IICA</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>1,152,000</u>	<u>million USD</u> <u>(\$)</u>			
(c) Total investment (c) = (a)+(b)		Amount <u>\$35,667,034</u>		Currency <u>million USD (\$)</u>		
(d) Co-financing ratio (d) = (b)/(a)		<u>0.53</u>				
(e) Other financing arrangements for the project/programme (max ½ page)		<p>\$ 5,000,000.00 <i>BanEcuador will support the implementation of the project through parallel financing, offering its specific credit lines (e.g. Super Rural Women's Credit, Rural Youth Credit, Agrovioleta Credit, Productive Youth Credit) to producers who voluntarily choose to access them. These loans are not used to finance project activities, nor are they part of the GCF-funded budget.</i></p>				

C.2. Financing by component

Component	Output	Indicative cost	GCF financing		Co-financing		
			Amount million USD (\$)	Financial Instrument	Amount million USD (\$)	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions
<u>1. Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>18,031,256</u>	<u>16,394,295</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>1,636,961</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>MAE, MAGP, INIAP</u>
	<u>1.2</u>	<u>3,715,892</u>	<u>911,000</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>2,804,892</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>MAE, MAGP, INAMHI</u>
<u>2. Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>1,164,527</u>	<u>115,470</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>1,049,057</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>MAE, MAGP</u>
	<u>2.2</u>	<u>5,107,935</u>	<u>3,534,350</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>1,573,585</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>MAE, MAGP</u>
<u>3. Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas.</u>	<u>3.1</u>	<u>2,901,879</u>	<u>387,000</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>2,514,879</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>MAE, MAG, INIAP, INAMHI</u>
	<u>3.2</u>	<u>995,288</u>	<u>470,760</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>524,528</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>MAE, MAGP</u>
	<u>3.3</u>	<u>1,566,657</u>	<u>517,600</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>1,049,057</u>	<u>In kind</u>	<u>MAE, MAGP,</u>
<u>PMU</u>		<u>2,183,600</u>	<u>1,031,600</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>1,152,000</u>	<u>n kind</u>	<u>AE</u>
Indicative total cost (USD)		<u>35,667,034</u>	<u>\$23,362,075</u>		<u>12,304,959</u>		

C.3 Capacity Building and Technology development/transfer

If the project/programme is envisaged to support capacity building and technology development/transfer, please specify the total requested GCF amount for these activities respectively in this section.

C.3.1 Does GCF funding finance Capacity building activities?	Amount: 13,315,475 USD
C.3.2. Does GCF funding finance Technology development/transfer?	Amount: 10,046,600 USD

C.4. Justification for GCF funding request (max. 500 words)

125. The FORECCSA+ project supports rural communities in eleven provinces of Ecuador in their transition to climate-resilient development. The project focuses on reducing climate risks, enhancing adaptive capacity, and strengthening food security, with a strong emphasis on gender equality. It is aligned with the National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC 2012–2025), the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNA 2023–2027), and the Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2026–2035), reinforcing the integration of climate adaptation into territorial planning, sustainable production systems, and local governance processes.
126. The need for action is urgent: the prioritized territories face high to very high climate risks, particularly affecting strategic crops such as potatoes, hard yellow corn, soft corn, rice, beans, and sugarcane. These production systems are directly linked to the food security and nutrition of vulnerable populations, which are also affected by high rates of poverty and chronic child malnutrition. Without intervention, climate change impacts will exacerbate these vulnerabilities, leading to loss of livelihoods, weakening the resilience of local food systems, and increasing rural-to-urban migration.
127. Lessons from the FORECCSA project (2011–2018) demonstrated that adaptation measures, combined with technical assistance and community participation, directly reduce climate risk, strengthen adaptive capacity, and improve food security. The experience also showed that programmes based solely on financial resources, without capacity building, integration into territorial governance, or alignment with the community social fabric, fail to sustain long-term impacts. FORECCSA+ builds these lessons, scaling up to a national model that integrates training, implementation of validated adaptation measures, access to finance, inclusive markets, and multi-level governance mechanisms.
128. Inter-institutional cooperation is key. The project connects the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture with local governments, community organizations in priority territories, and academic institutions to ensure the design and implementation of contextually relevant and sustainable solutions. This institutional framework, combined with an intersectional approach, ensures that rural women and youth play a central role in implementing and sustaining adaptation measures.
129. GCF funding is essential. Budgetary constraints at both the local and national levels limit the capacity to implement or scale evidence-based adaptation measures. Without this support, rural communities would continue to rely on reactive strategies to droughts, floods, and frosts, with negative consequences for agricultural production, household incomes, and food security.
130. The requested funding represents the minimum necessary to provide technical assistance to beneficiaries, deploy climate monitoring systems, and strengthen value-added bio-enterprises. These investments are expected to generate social, environmental, and economic returns, reducing production losses and contributing to sustainable, resilient, and equitable territorial development. The project will also create the foundation for national-level scaling, replicating adaptation measures in additional provinces, advancing the adaptation goals of the NAP and NDC, and integrating climate change variables into local governments' Development and Land Use Plans.
131. In summary, GCF support will enable local experiences to contribute to the implementation of Ecuador's national climate change adaptation policy, ensuring sustainability, inclusion, and structural impacts on food security and sustainable development.

C.5. Exit strategy (max. 300 words)

132. The project's exit strategy is designed to ensure that outcomes are institutionalized, operationally sustained, and embedded in longer-term development and adaptation processes beyond project completion. Sustainability will be achieved through the progressive transfer of ownership, capacities, and responsibilities to national and local actors, structured around six mutually reinforcing pillars.
133. i) Partnerships and Multilevel Governance. Inter-institutional agreements with local governments and public institutions will embed project-supported adaptation measures into local development plans and sectoral mandates. These agreements define post-project responsibilities, performance targets, and budgetary commitments, ensuring continued operation, maintenance, and technical support after project closure.

134. ii) Capacity Building and Training-of-Trainers. A training-of-trainers approach implemented through field schools will ensure that technical knowledge and operational skills remain locally available. By strengthening public technical teams, extension agents, and community leaders as trainers, the project enables independent replication and scaling of adaptation measures without continued external assistance.
135. iii) Mainstreaming into Public Policy and Planning. Project results, tools, and lessons learned will be integrated into regulatory frameworks, local adaptation plans, and sectoral strategies. This mainstreaming process positions validated practices as technical references for future public programmes and climate investments, extending impact beyond the project lifecycle.
136. iv) Institutionalization of Innovation and Technologies. Climate information tools and the web-based platform will be formally adopted and operated by INAMHI and local governments. Their integration into existing climate monitoring and early warning systems ensures long-term functionality, institutional ownership, and sustained use.
137. v) Financial Sustainability and Continuity of Investments. The project supports the integration of climate-resilient actions into public planning processes while facilitating beneficiary access to appropriate financing mechanisms. This approach reduces reliance on project-based funding and enables the continuation of adaptation investments through public budgets, financial institutions, and market-based instruments.
138. vi) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL). The project's MEL system will be aligned with Ecuador's National Climate Change Registry (RNCC), ensuring that adaptation outcomes continue to be monitored, reported, and verified within national systems after project completion. This integration supports long-term accountability, learning, and policy feedback.
139. Together, these pillars provide a clear and credible exit pathway, ensuring that project impacts are sustained through institutional ownership, policy integration, and long-term financing mechanisms beyond the implementation period.

C.6. Financial management/procurement (max. 300 words)

140. IICA has established project monitoring protocols that comply with European Union and World Bank standards.
141. The Manual for the Management of External Resources guides the project's financial management. Additionally, the Procedures Manual for the Procurement of Goods and Services outline the regulations for procurement processes.
142. IICA conducts thorough due diligence for all co-financiers by applying a structured screening process grounded in its Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy (AFAC), Policy for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), and Policy on Prohibited Practices. These instruments require all partners to complete the "Know Your Client" (KYC) form, which collects verifiable information on legal identity, ownership, and the purpose of the partnership. This screening includes checks against international sanctions' lists and adverse media. The process ensures reputational integrity and helps prevent collaboration with entities that could undermine IICA's ethical and fiduciary standards. In higher-risk sectors or jurisdictions, IICA adopts enhanced due diligence procedures, including the verification of beneficial ownership structures, legal existence, and compliance records. Where applicable, contractual clauses explicitly mandate compliance with anti-money laundering and anti-corruption frameworks. The Legal and Administrative Units are authorized to suspend or reject partnerships that do not meet these thresholds, thereby safeguarding IICA's operations and reputation.
143. IICA applies a multi-stage due diligence process to all beneficiaries, with a strong focus on fraud risk mitigation, financial transparency, and alignment with project objectives. All beneficiaries are required to submit full disclosure of their legal structure, financial profile, and ultimate beneficial ownership, as established under the IICA's AML/CFT Policy. They must also provide supporting documentation regarding the source of funds and ownership and are subject to ongoing monitoring during the entire project lifecycle. Compliance is reinforced through contractual clauses, the application of KYC protocols, and procedures outlined in IICA's Procurement Manual. Risks associated with complex ownership structures or potential misuse of funds are addressed through binding legal instruments, continuous audit oversight, and the enforcement of IICA's Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy. The Internal Audit Unit conducts periodic reviews of beneficiary data and related transactions, while the Code of Ethics and the Policy on Prohibited Practices provide additional layers of governance. Ownership information is periodically reviewed and updated in response to risk alerts, regulatory changes, or external intelligence. IICA also ensures protection and confidentiality of whistleblowers through its dedicated policy. To date, no incidents of fraud or non-compliance related to beneficiaries or investees have been reported.

144. IICA applies robust due diligence procedures to all vendors and contractors, as established in its Procurement Manual. This process includes verification of legal registration, tax compliance, and exclusion from international sanctions or debarment lists. For recurrent needs, IICA designates “qualified suppliers” for a one-year period through a competitive selection process based on technical, financial, and ethical criteria. These suppliers are included in the Institute’s centralized database of approved vendors. Ownership information, including ultimate beneficial owners, is collected where applicable, with special attention to suppliers operating in high-risk sectors or jurisdictions. The Administrative Services Division is responsible for ongoing monitoring and periodic reassessment of supplier relationships. This includes annual performance reviews and targeted evaluations triggered by changes in ownership, performance issues, adverse media, or compliance concerns. Due diligence measures are adapted based on procurement risk levels and contract value, ensuring appropriate oversight across the project lifecycle. To uphold transparency and accountability, IICA submits an annual report to the Corporate Procurement Committee detailing the supplier’s selection process and validating the status of qualified vendors. All recurrent suppliers undergo integrity checks to ensure they are free from involvement in fraudulent or prohibited practices. These controls are essential to protecting institutional resources and ensuring that entrusted suppliers support IICA’s mission without reputational or financial risk.
145. IICA implements strict internal controls for all fund disbursements, both cash and in-kind, as outlined in its Financial Rules and Manual of Accounting and Financial Procedures. Every disbursement is subject to prior fund certification, dual authorization, and a clear segregation of roles between the requesting, certifying, and executing units. For high-risk disbursements, the Financial Management Division applies additional oversight, which may include approval of thresholds, conditional disbursement mechanisms, or the imposition of financial caps based on the instrument’s risk exposure. The accounting system supports these controls through fund accounting, allowing each transaction to be uniquely identified by source of financing, project, and object of expenditure.
146. IICA ensures full financial traceability through its integrated accounting system, SAP (Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing), which serves as IICA’s main platform for centralized resource management. Each disbursement is transparently mapped to a specific project activity, associated budget line, and accounting code, clearly identifying the purpose, recipient, and justification of the transaction. The dedicated Grants Management (GM) module enables detailed registration, tracking, and reporting of externally funded projects, ensuring accurate allocation of income and expenses by project. All records are maintained in accordance with the Financial Rules and international audit standards, guaranteeing transparent financial documentation throughout the project’s lifecycle.
147. SAP includes functional modules such as Fund Management, Finance, Treasury, and Fixed Assets, all operating under double-entry accounting principles and segregated by financing sources. In addition to system-based controls, IICA applies a solid regulatory framework, including its Internal Audit Manual, and policies on Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption, and AML/CFT, which define institutional responsibilities and guide both preventive and corrective actions. Controls include periodic reconciliations, cross-checks, automated alerts, and internal or external audits when risk indicators arise. As established in Rule 4.1.2 of the Financial Rules, the accounting system supports separate bookkeeping for each project, program, location, and object of expenditure, enabling robust accountability and compliance with fiduciary standards required.
148. To mitigate fraud, money laundering, and financial mismanagement, IICA applies a layered control structure aligned with its Anti-Fraud and AML/CFT policies. The system enables periodic reconciliation of transactions with the approved operational plan and budget, and provides flexible reporting by fund, project, unit, and donor source. Financial records are maintained according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and each fiscal year’s accounts are closed with audited financial statements. Staff members are held legally accountable for non-compliance, and recovery actions are triggered when disbursements are found to deviate from authorized use. These practices ensure risk-based compliance and financial transparency throughout the project’s lifecycle.
149. IICA implements traceability mechanisms to ensure that purchased goods and materials are used strictly for their intended purposes. These include asset tracking systems, delivery verification procedures, and alignment with technical cooperation products. Materials are recorded and labeled in inventory systems, and any deviation from approved use is reported for investigation by the Administrative Area and the Internal Audit Unit. To prevent misuse or unauthorized allocation, procurement contracts include clauses specifying acceptable use, oversight responsibilities, and penalties for noncompliance. Routine and unannounced inspections are conducted during implementation. When problems arise, follow-up actions are initiated, such as suspension of disbursements, contract review, or notifications to control bodies. Executing Entities will follow AE’s guidelines. In addition, IICA’s financial information will comply with internationally recognized standards, such as IFRS or US GAAP or their equivalents.

150. IICA schedules its independent audits based on the risk level and implementation phase of each project, as established in its Internal Audit Manual. These audits comply with international standards such as International Auditing Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and focus on verifying compliance with institutional, financial, and procurement regulations. The Internal Audit Unit prepares an Annual Work Plan that includes financial, operational, and performance audits aligned with the Institute's strategic and compliance objectives. In addition, each legal instrument or donor agreement may require specific audits, as well as mid-term and final evaluations, which are scheduled according to the project's implementation timeline and planning framework.
151. Audit results are presented to the Director General and reviewed by the Audit Review Committee (ARC), established in accordance with Article 100 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate. This committee is responsible for following up on audit recommendations, prioritizing findings based on severity and risk. A structured process is in place to track the implementation of corrective actions using measurable indicators such as compliance rates and the reduction of recurring findings. Furthermore, in accordance with Rule 5.9 of the Financial Rules, IICA procures external auditing services through a public tender every two years; since 2014, the firm Deloitte and Touche, S.A. has provided this service. This comprehensive audit and internal control framework ensure ongoing compliance risk assessment throughout the project's lifecycle.
152. The Delegation (Ecuador) will be responsible for managing the external resources during the different phases of the project cycle; contracts related to the hiring of staff and the acquisition of goods and services should comply with the applicable legal instrument and be signed, executed and closed out, solely by that instrument, and within its validity period; the Delegation must establish controls related to liquidity, technical progress, effective management of risks, and preparation and approval of technical and financial reports (for internal purposes and the counterpart); the Delegation will be responsible for planning in advance the process of selecting and engaging auditors and performing audits, funded with the project's resources; the Delegation should maintain a repository with the supporting documentation generated for the execution of the project, for purposes of review, auditing and evaluation; and the Delegation should monitor the execution of the project, in keeping with the timeframes and validity periods established in the legal instrument and its annexes, including advance planning and justification to the corresponding authorities of all addenda and amendments that may require the approval of the parties.
153. The Delegation and the PIU shall define the follow-up process that includes a breakdown of the activities and financial resources required by each component, specifying the results and impact indicators, as well as the products and expected outcomes; they will be responsible for defining the project action plan.
154. IICA has an online platform named Unified Institutional Management System (SUGI) that hosts all planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes.

D. EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA

D.1. Impact potential (max. 300 words)

155. The project estimates 347,482 direct beneficiaries (women/men \approx 30%/70% = 104,245/243,237) and 630,377 indirect beneficiaries (women/men \approx 51%/49% = 321,492/308,885) (Beneficiaries Calculation, Annex 15).
156. The direct beneficiaries include: 69,000 people participating in training programmes through fields schools (Activity 1.1.1); 227,215 people benefiting from climate change adaptation measures (Activity 1.1.2); 1,100 people accessing research lines to strengthen the sustainability of adaptation measures (Activity 1.1.3); 66 bio-enterprises receiving financing support, benefiting 132 people (Activity 2.2.2); 6,600 people participating in events to boost productive supply (Activity 2.2.3); 330 local government officials receiving specialized technical assistance to integrate climate change criteria into planning instruments (Activity 3.1.1); 1,980 people participating in governance workshops, and 900 participants in Bootcamps (Activity 3.3.1)
157. Increasing the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers and local institutions is a core adaptation benefit. Enhanced capacity allows stakeholders to make informed decisions and implement effective responses to climate variability and change. Extension services, participatory learning, and knowledge dissemination platforms strengthen producers' ability to assess climate risks, apply sustainable land management practices, and adopt resilient agroforestry systems. These improvements reduce reliance on external aid, support long-term planning, and foster adaptive behaviors essential for coping with future climate variability.

158. Increasing household income is another key adaptation benefit, particularly in vulnerable rural areas, as it improves smallholder farmers' ability to absorb and recover from climate-related shocks. In the context of FORECCSA+, income diversification through high-value perennial crops reduces dependence on climate-sensitive monocultures and enhances financial resilience. The additional and more stable income streams provided by agroforestry enable farmers to invest in adaptive practices and better manage unpredictable weather patterns.
159. Indirect beneficiaries were estimated based on the total rural population of the prioritized parishes. It is assumed that residents will benefit indirectly through ecosystem services, including food provision, soil conservation, improved water retention, pollination, enhanced biodiversity, and overall improvements in well-being and quality of life. Consequently, the project estimates 630,376 indirect beneficiaries.
160. The proposal contributes to the following target outcomes of the GCF Strategic Plan 2024–2027:
- T1. Ecuador is directly supported by GCF to advance the implementation of their NDCs, NAPs or LTS.
 - T2. DAEs: IICA will have approved one GCF funding proposal.
 - T3. CIEWS: The improvement of hydrometeorological systems envisaged in the project will strengthen the generation and availability of climate services, which in turn will contribute directly to the strengthening of improved early warning systems at the local level.
 - T4. Food: 347,483 direct beneficiaries adopt climate-resilient and low-emission agricultural practices, securing livelihoods and enhancing food system resilience.
 - T5. Ecosystems: 2,000 hectares of terrestrial areas restored or under sustainable management.
 - T9. Locally-led climate action: local actors maintain a strong involvement across the project cycle.
 - T10. Sixty-six bio-enterprises (MSMEs), will be strengthened through the incorporation of current technological solutions, the development of capacities for innovation, and the removal of barriers that limits their growth.

D.2. Paradigm shift potential (max. 300 words)

161. The scaling-up of the Adaptation Fund FORECCSA project goes beyond geographic expansion to additional parishes and communities; it also includes a substantive broadening of the types of support provided, the depth of technical assistance, and the outcomes to be achieved. While FORECCSA (2011-2018) focused primarily on community-level adaptation measures and ecosystem restoration, FORECCSA+ strengthens and expands these interventions by integrating market access, climate-responsive financial inclusion, digital climate services, and enhanced territorial planning, areas not previously addressed in the original project.
162. Thus, Outcome 2, which focuses on improving market access and strengthening climate-resilient bio-enterprises, is indeed a core component of this scaling-up strategy. This outcome seeks to translate community-level adaptation benefits into more sustainable, income-generating opportunities by improving post-harvest management, value addition, commercial skills, and linkages with differentiated markets.
163. Therefore, FORECCSA+ project will trigger a paradigm shift by demonstrating, at a national scale, how fragmented local interventions can evolve into a structured adaptation model grounded in climate justice, just transition, and intersectionality. Its overarching purpose is to replace reactive and low-sustainability approaches with a comprehensive framework that combines adaptation measures, strengthened production systems, and inclusive territorial governance, thereby ensuring food security and climate resilience in rural communities.
164. First, the project positions adaptation measures and climate monitoring systems as catalysts for resilience. It moves from isolated actions to structural mechanisms that enable the anticipation of climate risks, the reduction of vulnerabilities, and the formulation of evidence-based productive and territorial decisions. These measures are co-designed with beneficiaries, blending technical expertise with ancestral knowledge to ensure contextual relevance, ownership, and a differentiated approach that prioritizes rural women and youth.
165. Second, FORECCSA+ innovates within financial and productive frameworks by linking beneficiaries to financing mechanisms, value-added bio-enterprises, and market opportunities. This approach dismantles historical barriers to credit and market access, enabling small producers to integrate into sustainable value chains, diversify their income, and consolidate resilient livelihoods in the face of climate change impacts.

166. Third, the project strengthens participatory territorial governance by embedding adaptation into local governments' development and land-use plans, fostering inter-institutional coordination, and generating knowledge management mechanisms that guarantee sustainability and scalability. In doing so, the lessons learned from the FORECCSA project (2011–2018) are transformed into replicable public policies and a national benchmark for adaptation.
167. Overall, FORECCSA+ establishes a catalytic model for structural change in Ecuador, demonstrating the social, economic, and institutional viability of adaptation, while creating the conditions for scaling and replication across other vulnerable territories and sectors.

D.3. Sustainable development (max. 300 words)

168. The project incorporates the five principles of sustainable agriculture, productivity, natural resources conservation, improved livelihoods, resilience, and inclusive governance, and translates them into concrete benefits for the prioritized territories. Beyond its strong environmental contributions, FORECCSA+ also delivers significant socio-economic benefits that directly support the achievement of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).
169. The project strengthens income generation and economic stability for small-scale producers through diversified agroforestry systems that reduce dependence on a single crop and extend productive cycles throughout the year. By integrating perennial and annual species, the project increases on-farm productivity and creates new value-added opportunities (seedlings, timber, fruits, medicinal species), which enhance household resilience to price volatility and climate shocks. These livelihood gains are particularly relevant in rural areas with high levels of multidimensional poverty, where climate variability disproportionately affects production and income.
170. FORECCSA+ also enhances food security and nutrition by promoting diversified, climate-resilient production systems that improve the availability and stability of food at the household and community levels. Strengthened local capacities, through farmer field schools, technical assistance, and climate information services, ensure that producers are able to adopt sustainable practices, reduce losses, and make informed decisions under changing climatic conditions.
171. In addition, the project contributes to inclusive and decent economic opportunities, particularly for women and youth. By reducing entry barriers related to access to technologies, knowledge, and productive resources, FORECCSA+ fosters equitable participation in value chains and supports the creation of local green jobs linked to nurseries, restoration activities, and agroforestry management. These interventions help decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, aligning local development pathways with national climate and biodiversity priorities.
172. Furthermore, FORECCSA+ directly supports SDGs 12 (Responsible Production), 13 (Climate Action), and 15 (Life on Land) by promoting efficient and sustainable natural resource management, strengthening climate resilience, and restoring degraded landscapes. The adoption of agroforestry systems improves soil health, increases water infiltration, and enhances biodiversity, thereby reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems. At the same time, climate-adaptive practices and increased tree cover contribute to reductions and removals of greenhouse gas emissions, reinforce community preparedness for climate-related hazards, and advance national commitments under climate and biodiversity frameworks.
173. Thus, the implementation of climate change adaptation measures strengthened food security and incorporated a gender perspective, generating impacts aligned with several SDGs (Table 18, Annex 2), including poverty reduction, improved food availability and nutritional quality, strengthened working conditions and sustainable economic activities, promotion of responsible production practices, increasing resilience to climate change, and sustainable management of relevant ecosystems. In addition, the adaptation measures to be implemented in the FORECCSA+ project are designed to reduce climate risk in priority areas, increase the adaptive capacity of beneficiary populations, and promote gender equality, social inclusion, and sustainable livelihoods. In turn, these measures will mainly improve food security, reduce poverty, increase incomes, and expand food availability and diversity (Sustainable development and FORECCSA+. Section B.6. Social, economic, and environmental assessment).
174. The project also generates significant environmental, economic, and social co-benefits:

175. Biodiversity conservation: FORECCSA+ integrates native and ecologically important tree species with priority crops, enhancing habitat connectivity and structural complexity compared to monocultures or degraded pastures. This contributes to landscape-scale conservation in Ecuador's biodiversity hotspots.
176. Soil and water quality: Agroforestry systems improve soil structure, prevent erosion, increase organic matter, and promote nutrient cycling. Increased tree cover enhances water infiltration and reduces sediment runoff into local watersheds.
177. GHG emissions reduction: Project measures contribute to both reductions and removals of greenhouse gas emissions, directly supporting the Paris Agreement's global climate goal of keeping the rise in average temperature well below 2 °C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C.
178. The CO₂ emissions mitigation co-benefit is estimated at 154,557 tCO₂-eq (Calculation GHG, Annex 14), calculated using the Environmental Externalities Accounting Tool v9 (EX-ACT). Implementation of 2,000 hectares of agroforestry systems, establishment of 2,000 hectares of conservation areas, and improvements in agricultural practices will collectively contribute to emission reductions and carbon sequestration. These impacts result from reduced emissions due to sustainable production practices and ecosystem restoration, and from increased carbon storage in biomass and soils.

D.4. Needs of recipient (max. 300 words)

179. Agriculture contributes 7.9% to Ecuador's GDP and plays a crucial role in ensuring food sovereignty and generating employment, producing 94.84% of the food consumed by the Ecuadorian population.
180. The sector is predominantly concentrated in rural areas, where companies, associations, and family farms drive agricultural production and sustain local economies.
181. Family farming and agri-food systems are a cornerstone of food security and rural livelihoods, particularly in the eleven provinces prioritized by the FORECCSA+ project. These territories are highly exposed to droughts, frosts, floods, and erratic rainfall, directly impacting the productivity of strategic crops such as potatoes, rice, hard yellow corn, soft corn, and beans, which are essential to community diets. These climatic pressures, combined with structural limitations, contribute to chronic child malnutrition levels of up to 40% in provinces such as Chimborazo, exacerbating food insecurity among rural households.
182. The project's target groups face persistent poverty and territorial inequalities. In rural parishes of Bolívar, Manabí, and Cotopaxi, most of the population lives below the poverty line, with severe constraints on access to basic services and productive opportunities. Women, who represent up to 40% of the agricultural workforce, encounter barriers in land tenure, access to credit, and participation in decision-making, while rural youth lack formal employment opportunities, driving migration and weakening generational renewal in the sector.
183. Structural barriers further restrict adaptation capacity, including low awareness of climate risks, limited access to finance and formal markets, scarce availability of technologies, and weak institutional capacities at the local government level. In addition, national and local budgets remain insufficient to sustain adaptation investments at the required scale, while existing rural financial instruments fail to match the socio-economic realities of smallholder farmers.
184. Ecuador ranks 125th out of 187 countries in the ND-GAIN Index (2025), which measures vulnerability and adaptive capacity to climate change. This reflects both the urgent need for action and the country's significant investment gap in climate preparedness and resilience.
185. In this context, GCF support is essential to overcome structural and financial barriers, and to promote integrated climate change adaptation in Ecuador. FORECCSA+ responds directly to these needs by providing training, validated adaptation measures, access to financing, inclusion in sustainable markets, and strengthened territorial governance—ensuring a structural and sustainable impact on food security and climate resilience.
186. The support needs of Ecuador's agricultural sector to implement the First NDC are estimated at USD 47.1 million, primarily for adaptation actions in agriculture.
187. The total economic losses projected to 2050 for the crops prioritized by the FORECCSA+ project amount to USD 1,493,726,225 (Table 20, Annex 2).

D.5. Country ownership (max. 500 words)

188. The FORECCSA+ project is fully aligned with and contributes to the implementation of Ecuador's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2025–2036). Adaptation in the agricultural sector is essential to safeguard food security and rural livelihoods by promoting sustainable production systems capable of withstanding climate variability and change. The integration of climate change adaptation into planning processes, policies, and development strategies is key to ensuring the sustainability and continuity of project measures.
189. In line with the NAP for the SAG sector, the project will expand the coverage of technified parcel irrigation systems, strengthen productive and financial infrastructure for agricultural activities, and promote the use of organic fertilizers as the main fertilization practice in family farming, complementing fertilization with compost, biofertilizers, vermiculture, and bokashi. It will also provide technical assistance to local governments to update their development and land-use plans, incorporating climate change criteria through soil suitability assessments and climate risk analyses. Through the field schools, local producers will be trained in implementing validated adaptation measures, while women farmers and female heads of household, identified as priority attention groups, will receive climate-resilient seeds to improve their adaptive capacity and strengthen food security.
190. The project also advances Ecuador's Second NDC (2025–2036) by addressing climate risks that threaten agricultural yields. FORECCSA+ will expand climate-smart, efficient, and sustainable irrigation systems in priority territories; promote nutritionally valuable crops using sustainable practices such as agrobiodiversity, crop rotation, and sustainable land management, reinforcing food sovereignty; and institutionalize processes for the adoption of efficient and resilient agricultural production systems. In line with the Second NDC, the project incorporates gender and intergenerational approaches across its design and implementation.
191. FORECCSA+ will also be coordinated with other national policies, including the National Restoration Plan, the REDD+ Ecuador Action Plan led by the Ministry of the Environment, and the "Hands for the Field" 2025–2034 Public Policy promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture. During its participatory design stage, the project convened 11 technical workshops in the prioritized provinces, collecting input from institutional stakeholders and reinforcing its territorial and inclusive approach. A total of 201 participants contributed, representing national and local government institutions, NGOs, and academia.
192. The Ministry of the Environment is the institution responsible for climate change policy in Ecuador. As the country's NDA to the GCF, it will lead to coordination and ensure policy alignment during project implementation.
193. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), a specialized international organization of the Inter-American System, will serve as the project's Accredited Entity. In line with its mission to promote agricultural development and rural well-being through technical cooperation, IICA will oversee execution and provide institutional backing for FORECCSA+.

D.6. Efficiency and effectiveness

D.6.1. Estimated cost per t CO ₂ eq, defined as total investment cost / expected lifetime emission reductions (Mitigation and Cross-cutting)	(a) Total project financing	US\$ NA
	(b) Requested GCF amount	US\$ NA
	(c) Expected lifetime emission reductions	
	(d) Estimated cost per tCO ₂ eq (d = a / c)	
	(e) Estimated GCF cost per tCO ₂ eq removed (e = b / c)	
D.6.2. Expected volume of finance to be leveraged by the proposed project/programme and as a result of the Fund's financing, disaggregated by public and private sources (Mitigation and Cross-cutting)	(f) Total finance leveraged	US\$ NA
	(g) Public source finance leveraged	US\$ -
	(h) Private source finance leveraged	US\$ -
	(i) Total Leverage ratio (i = f / b)	-
	(j) Public source leverage ratio (j = g / b)	-
	(k) Private source leverage ratio (k = h / b)	-

D.6.3. Describe how the financial structure is adequate and reasonable in order to achieve the proposal's objective(s), including addressing existing bottlenecks and/or barriers; providing the minimum concessionality; and without crowding out private and other public investment. (max. 500 words)

194. There is evidence that the proposed adaptation measures are technically and economically feasible in Ecuador (Section B.7. Economic viability, Annex 2).
195. To assess and rate the effectiveness of the FORECCSA project (2011–2018), the report *FORECCSA Project: Final Evaluation Ecuador 2011–2018* was prepared, analyzing three key dimensions: the achievement of goals, the early results of the measures implemented, and the beneficiaries' own assessment of outcomes.
196. The Evaluation Report confirmed the project's effectiveness, documenting the implementation of 86 adaptation actions. These included community irrigation systems (35% of all measures), family gardens (19%), parcel irrigation (13%), and water source protection (10%) (Table 7, Annex 2). Collectively, these actions contributed to improved food security, productive diversification, and enhanced access to water resources.
197. In terms of community irrigation, significant progress was observed. The share of users with water available every two to three days increased from 1.3% in 2016 to 6.6% in 2018. Among community irrigation beneficiaries cultivating vegetables, the proportion rose from 54% in 2016 to 81% in 2018.
198. Parcel irrigation also showed marked improvements. Families with one to two hours of parcel irrigation increased from 21% (2016) to 32% (2018). At baseline, 58% of parcel irrigation beneficiaries reported insufficient water availability; by 2018, this figure had dropped to 45%. These improvements are largely attributable to the strengthening and optimization of existing community irrigation systems and the expansion of sprinkler irrigation on beneficiary plots.
199. For family gardens, irrigation coverage rose from 58% in 2016 to 68% in 2018, with sprinkler use increasing from 32% to 42% in the same period. In terms of production, the share of families cultivating vegetables two or more times per year grew from 45% in 2016 to 76% in 2018. The number of species cultivated also increased, from 26 to 33, with notable growth in lettuce, cabbage, beetroot, and carrots. Importantly, the proportion of garden produce destined for sale doubled from 11% to 20%, generating higher household incomes, while self-consumption increased from 60% to 97%, significantly strengthening food security.
200. In relation to water source protection, the percentage of beneficiaries without any physical or biological protection of their water sources decreased sharply, from 27% in 2016 to 10% in 2018. At the same time, water quality improved by 19%, with 69% of beneficiaries reporting good-quality water for crops by the end of the project.

E. ANNEXES

E.1. Mandatory annexes

- Annex 1 NDA No-objection Letter(s)
- Annex 2 Pre-feasibility (or feasibility) study
- Annex 2a Logical Framework
- Annex 2b Timetable
- Annex 3 Budget plan that provides breakdown by type of expense including AE fees
- Annex 4 Gender assessment and action plan
- Annex 5 Co-financing commitment letter if applicable
- Annex 6 Term sheet including a detailed disbursement schedule and, if applicable, repayment schedule
- Annex 7 Risk assessment and management
- Annex 8 Procurement plan model
- Annex 9a Legal Due Diligence (regulation, taxation, and insurance)
- Annex 9b Legal Opinion/Certificate of Internal Approvals
- Annex 9c Executing Entities Due Diligence

E.2. Other annexes to be submitted when applicable/requested

- Annex 10 Economic and/or financial analysis
(mandatory for private-sector proposals)
- Annex 11 Appraisal, due diligence or evaluation report for proposals based on up-scaling or replicating a pilot project
- Annex 12 Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP)
- Annex 13 Operations manual for EDA projects
- Annex 14 Assessment of GHG emission reductions
- Annex 15 Calculation of Beneficiaries
- Annex 16 Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Annex 17 Indigenous People Report

***** Please note that a funding proposal will be considered complete only upon receipt of all the applicable supporting documents. *****

To: The Green Climate Fund (“GCF”)

Quito, December 18th, 2025

Re: No-objection letter in respect of the funding proposal titled “Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+” submitted by IICA the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Dear Madam, Sir,

We refer to the funding proposal titled “Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+” in Ecuador submitted by IICA to us on September 22th, 2025 the “**Proposal**”.

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of Ms. Jéssica Stefanía Gallegos Yaruquí, the national designated authority of Ecuador.

Pursuant to GCF Decisions B.08/10, B.37/22, and B.41/02, the content of which we acknowledge to have reviewed, in my capacity as representative of the national designated authority, we hereby communicate our no-objection to the Proposal.

By communicating our no-objection, it is implied that:

- (a) The government of Ecuador has no-objection to the Proposal; and
- (b) The Proposal is in conformity with the national priorities, strategies and plans of Ecuador.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the Proposal has been duly followed.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we expect IICA to take the necessary measures to ensure that the project as described in the Proposal is implemented in a manner consistent with applicable national laws.

We acknowledge that this letter will be made publicly available on the GCF website.

Kind regards,



Jéssica Stefanía Gallegos Yaruquí
Undersecretary of Climate Change
National Designated Authority
Ecuador

Secretariat's assessment of SAP069

Proposal name:	Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+
Accredited entity:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Country:	Ecuador
Project/programme size:	Small

1. The Secretariat has assessed this funding proposal against the GCF investment criteria and its consistency with GCF safeguards and policies. This proposal is recommended to the Board for approval. The Board may wish to consider approving this funding proposal in accordance with the term sheet agreed between the Secretariat and the accredited entity (AE) and, if considered appropriate, subject to the conditions set out in annex II to document GCF/B.44/02.

I. Secretariat's assessment of the funding proposal against the investment criteria

Investment criteria	Does the proposal meet the requirements of the GCF investment criteria?	Strengths/Main points of caution (optional)
Impact potential	Yes	The project scores medium to high under this GCF investment criterion. It aims to reduce climate risks across 115 parishes in 11 provinces, directly benefiting 347,482 people (30% women) and reaching an additional 630,377 indirect beneficiaries. As an adaptation-focused initiative, it is expected to generate results across all four GCF adaptation results areas.

		<p>Building on the successful project “Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador” (FORECCSA) financed by the Adaptation Fund (2011–2018), the proposed initiative, titled “Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador” (FORECCSA+), scales up proven adaptation approaches, expanding their transformative effects on food security, social inclusion and resilient territorial development. Lessons learned from the earlier intervention have been fully integrated into the project’s design. The project also introduces new elements, such as strengthened market access, financial inclusion of beneficiaries, digital climate services and improved territorial planning, which were not part of the first project and significantly enhance the potential impact of FORECCSA+.</p> <p>The project demonstrates strong characteristics of locally led climate action by building on territorial adaptation planning, strengthening local governance mechanisms and enabling local actors to co-design, implement and maintain adaptation measures.</p> <p>The project presents a coherent package of solutions that directly respond to identified climate vulnerabilities and are well placed to address the targeted climate risks as well as the barriers identified.</p> <p>It is fully feasible within the national context and aligns closely with the country’s priorities. It builds on methodologies and tools that have already demonstrated strong impact in Ecuador through the FORECCSA project.</p>
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		<p>While the interventions are well quantified and phased in a technically robust manner, the causal pathways between activities and results could be articulated more clearly.</p> <p>The proposed activities and implementation arrangements are detailed, technically sound and designed to address the barriers and gaps identified during project formulation. The project also incorporates strong mechanisms to sustain climate impacts and co-benefits beyond implementation, including strengthened national institutional capacities, improved governance arrangements at the territorial level, sustainable production systems and better access to markets. These systemic improvements provide a solid basis for the long-term sustainability of results.</p> <p><i>Main points of caution</i></p> <p>Part of the project's outcomes rely on capacity-building through training programmes, and its impact will therefore depend on the sustained engagement and participation of beneficiaries. Nonetheless, it incorporates lessons learned from the first phase (FORECCSA), and the AE undertook extensive stakeholder mapping and consultations during project preparation to ensure strong ownership, alignment with local needs and long-term relevance.</p>
<p>Paradigm shift potential</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The project demonstrates medium to high paradigm shift potential. The project is a scale-up of the above-mentioned highly successful Adaptation Fund initiative, which demonstrated effective, evidence-based adaptation approaches and strengthened inclusive territorial governance.</p>

		<p>The project positions adaptation measures and climate monitoring systems as catalysts for resilience. It shifts from isolated interventions to structural mechanisms that support climate-risk anticipation, vulnerability reduction, and evidence-based productive and territorial decision-making. The adaptation measures are co-designed with beneficiaries, integrating technical expertise with ancestral knowledge to ensure relevance, strong ownership and a differentiated approach that prioritizes rural women and youth.</p> <p>While FORECCSA (2011–2018) focused primarily on community-level adaptation measures and ecosystem restoration, FORECCSA+ enhances and expands these interventions by integrating market access and financial inclusion, digital climate services and improved territorial planning. Outcome 2, which targets improved market access and climate-resilient bio-enterprises, is central to this scaling-up strategy. It seeks to translate community-level adaptation gains into sustainable, income-generating opportunities by strengthening post-harvest management, promoting value addition, enhancing commercial skills and facilitating linkages to differentiated markets. A key feature includes improving access to credit, particularly for women and the local private sector, through a parallel financing partnership with the public development bank BanEcuador.</p> <p>FORECCSA+ innovates by linking financial inclusion with productive strengthening. By connecting beneficiaries to financial mechanisms, value-added bio-enterprises and structured market opportunities, the project tackles persistent barriers to credit and market integration. This enables small producers to diversify their income, integrate into sustainable value chains and build more resilient livelihoods in the face of climate change.</p> <p>The project also establishes strong enabling conditions for long-term replicability and sustainability. It provides a catalytic model for structural</p>
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		<p>change in Ecuador, demonstrating the social, economic and institutional viability of adaptation, and creating the foundation for further scaling and replication across other vulnerable territories and sectors.</p> <p><i>Main points of caution</i></p> <p>BanEcuador’s role and contributions to the project remain those of a parallel financier, formalized through a memorandum of understanding with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), given that the accreditation scope of the AE is limited to project management. While the project directly strengthens beneficiaries, particularly bio-enterprises, through capacity-building activities, the credit lines offered by BanEcuador fall outside the project’s formal outcomes. Although this does not pose a risk to the project’s successful implementation, the paradigm shift potential could be affected if the parallel financing is not sustained. Nonetheless, there is evidence that other national financial institutions may also be interested in serving the project’s beneficiaries, which could mitigate risks to sustainability and scalability.</p>
<p>Sustainable development potential</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The project generates significant environmental, economic and social co-benefits and as such the project demonstrates high sustainable development potential. It contributes directly to several Sustainable Development Goals: 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero hunger), 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action) and 15 (Life on land).</p> <p>The project strengthens income generation and economic stability for small-scale producers by promoting diversified agroforestry systems that reduce dependence on single crops. By integrating perennial and annual species, it extends productive cycles throughout the year and increases on-farm</p>

		<p>productivity. These systems also create new value-added opportunities, such as seedlings, timber, fruits and medicinal species, that enhance household resilience to price volatility and climate shocks.</p> <p>FORECCSA+ further improves food security and nutrition by supporting diversified, climate-resilient production systems at the household and community level. Strengthened local capacities – through Farmer Field Schools, technical assistance and climate information services – enable producers to adopt sustainable practices, reduce losses and make informed decisions under changing climatic conditions.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project promotes inclusive economic opportunities by reducing barriers related to technology, knowledge and productive resources. By fostering participation in value chains and generating green jobs in nurseries, restoration and agroforestry management, it supports resilient and environmentally sustainable local development. In addition, the project enhances farmers’ capacity to access markets and credit lines, strengthening financial inclusion and improving the long-term resilience of beneficiary livelihoods.</p> <p>In addition to the climate impact adaptation potential, the investments are expected to deliver additional significant climate mitigation co-benefits. The direct mitigation impact of the project is estimated at 154,557 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, calculated using EX-ACT, the Environmental Externalities Accounting Tool developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The project will also generate environmental benefits, including enhanced biodiversity conservation through the use of native and ecologically important tree species with priority crops. Other benefits include enhanced soil and water quality as the proposed agroforestry systems would improve soil</p>
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		<p>structure, prevent erosion, increase organic matter and promote nutrient cycling. FORECCSA+ directly promotes efficient and sustainable natural resource management and supports the restoration of degraded landscapes. The adoption of agroforestry systems improves soil health, enhances water infiltration and increases biodiversity, thereby reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems. At the same time, climate-adaptive practices and expanded tree cover contribute to both reductions in and removals of greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen community preparedness for climate-related hazards and advance national commitments under climate and biodiversity frameworks.</p>
<p>Needs of the recipient</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The project scores high in this criterion. Agriculture contributes 7.9% to Ecuador’s gross domestic product and produces nearly 95% of the food consumed nationally, making it essential for food security and rural employment. However, the sector is also facing losses equivalent to more than 70% of agricultural production in the coastal region and 23% in the highlands due to climate-related events between 2000 and 2017.</p> <p>Family farming dominates the sector, especially in the 11 provinces targeted by FORECCSA+, where communities are highly exposed to droughts, frosts, floods and erratic rainfall that threaten key staple crops. These climate impacts, combined with structural limitations, worsen food insecurity and contribute to chronic child malnutrition levels reaching up to 40% in some areas.</p> <p>Rural populations in provinces such as Bolívar, Manabí, and Cotopaxi face persistent poverty, limited access to services and restricted productive opportunities. Women encounter barriers to land ownership, credit and decision-making, while youth face unemployment and migration pressures. Adaptation capacity is further constrained by low climate-risk awareness,</p>

		<p>limited access to finance and technology, weak local institutional capacities and insufficient public budgets to sustain adaptation efforts at scale.</p> <p>The project will directly benefit rural families by increasing adaptive capacity through the implementation of 10 adaptation measures that have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. It will reduce socioeconomic risks by strengthening local governance, integrating climate services and promoting the access of women and other vulnerable groups to resources and decision-making processes.</p>
<p>Country ownership</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The project scores very high on country ownership. It was initially presented to the Secretariat by Ecuador’s national designated authority, following a GCF call to identify successful Adaptation Fund projects suitable for scaling up. In response, the national designated authority engaged the AE, and together they developed this proposal as an expansion of a highly successful initiative, in line with the request by the Government of Ecuador.</p> <p>The project goes well beyond the original intervention by expanding its geographic coverage, integrating new components such as market access, climate-responsive financial inclusion, digital climate services and enhanced territorial planning. It also brings together a unique partnership of public institutions, each contributing distinctive technical expertise and governmental mandates. This collaborative approach strengthens alignment with national policies and strategies and supports long-term sustainability. The four public institutions involved (Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE); Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MAGP); National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI), and National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIAP)) have committed in-kind co-financing to the project.</p>

		<p>During project preparation, the AE further strengthened the proposal by securing a national financial institution as a parallel financier, leveraging USD 5 million in loans. The project will enhance market access and improve the creditworthiness of beneficiaries, thereby increasing their ability to access these financial resources.</p> <p><i>Main points of caution</i></p> <p>While the project's partnership structure offers important advantages, the number of legal agreements required for implementation may introduce complexity and delay the execution of activities. In addition, the project's reliance on governmental institutions for key implementation roles could slow progress and pose risks to the timely and successful completion of the project.</p>
<p>Efficiency and effectiveness</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The project is assessed as having a medium level of efficiency and effectiveness against the GCF investment criteria. While it leverages a significant amount of co-financing from national institutions, as well as parallel financing, overall cost-effectiveness remains moderate. This is reflected in the cost per direct and indirect beneficiary of USD 67.23 and USD 37 respectively. In addition, efficiency is considered medium owing to the relatively long implementation period of seven years and the complexity associated with coordinating a large partnership involving four national institutions.</p> <p>The project addresses the major financial barrier in access to finance by leveraging parallel financing from BanEcuador through the provision of preferential or concessional lending to project beneficiaries. The pre-feasibility study clarifies that this financing would not follow BanEcuador's business as usual lending practices. In particular, key constraints associated with</p>

		<p>conventional credit – such as high interest rates, stringent collateral requirements and short tenors – are expected to be alleviated under the proposed parallel financing structure.</p> <p>Beyond the proposed parallel financing from BanEcuador, the project would be further strengthened by more clearly substantiating the sustainable financing mechanism (output 2.1). This could include mapping potential financiers and relevant financial products for bio-enterprises and certified farmers, as well as articulating viable business models that generate sustainable and predictable cash flows capable of supporting long-term financing.</p> <p>One of the key financial risks relates to borrower creditworthiness. End-borrowers, including smallholders, cooperatives and bio-enterprises, often have limited or weak credit histories and volatile income streams, which may constrain their ability to service debt on a sustained basis. To mitigate this risk, the project should closely monitor the financial performance of beneficiaries over time and systematically report on access to finance outcomes, including loan uptake, and repayment performance.</p>
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II. Secretariat’s assessment of the funding proposal’s consistency with GCF safeguards and policies

Consistency with GCF safeguards and policies	Secretariat’s assessment of the proposal	Remarks (Strengths/Points of caution)
Environmental and social safeguards, including the Indigenous Peoples Policy	Consistent	Environmental and social risk category: the FORECCSA+ funding proposal package presented by IICA is assigned categorization C in accordance with the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy and the International Finance

		<p>Corporation Performance Standards. The outcome of the risk screening based on the International Finance Corporation Performance Standards indicated minimal (low) to non-existent environmental and social risks. The project seeks to enhance climate resilience across 115 parishes in 11 provinces of Ecuador by implementing targeted adaptation measures, strengthening productive systems and improving governance frameworks. Risk screening was based on proposed project activities that will involve scaling up community-based climate adaptation measures such as agroecological practices, crop diversification and water management without causing significant socioenvironmental impacts on ecosystems or local communities. These interventions are considered to have low environmental and social risks, while envisaged interventions are highly beneficial and will strengthen resilience and food security. Based on the scope of the project, which includes small-scale, low-impact interventions and capacity-building activities, an initial assessment of environmental and social risks determined that the overall risk level of the project is category C. The Secretariat agrees with this categorization and confirms that the risk category is within the safeguards risk accreditation level of the AE and consistent with the requirement of the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy. An environmental and social action plan (ESAP) has been shared as part of the funding proposal, describing measures that will be implemented to identify, manage and mitigate the potential environmental and social risks associated with the FORECCSA+ project.</p> <p>Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources: the implementation of several adaptation measures in the various territories are expected to generate multiple benefits for the livelihoods of the participants. However, there are potential risks associated with the disturbance of local ecosystems and water sources, and with reforestation and landscape restoration, which may result in the potential introduction of non-native species</p>
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		<p>(invasive species) and alteration of primary habitats and ecologically sensitive areas. The ESAP proposes mitigation measures to effectively manage these risks.</p> <p>Labour and employment: during project implementation, there are potential risks associated with temporary and migrant workers in the production of priority agricultural produce. These work activities will be linked to the seasonal harvest of potatoes, corn and sugar cane, during which seasonal, casual or family workers will be employed depending on labour requirements. Issues of child labour and other types of potentially poor working conditions may arise, but IICA has committed to the application of all necessary protocols with its staff, contractors and partners to comply with all the requirements to labour and employment standards, as well as all applicable international and national labour conventions and instruments.</p> <p>Efficient use of resources and pollution prevention: the project will ensure the efficient use of resources, especially for the design and implementation of territorial adaptation measures related to access to and provision of water for community or smallholder irrigation, water for human consumption and protection of water sources. Efficient water use technologies will support community irrigation that will focus on lining existing canals and installing conduits to reduce losses. These interventions will optimize water use, enhance dry-season availability and strengthen climate resilience. Field Schools will provide training on safe, efficient management of pressurized irrigation systems.</p> <p>Cultural heritage: initial screening has shown that the project will not intrude in areas that are designated as cultural heritage sites. However, the project team will maintain inter-institutional coordination with the National Institute of Cultural Heritage to share geographical information on the prioritized areas so</p>
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		<p>as not to implement project actions that affect or impact cultural heritage. Furthermore, a simplified chance find procedure has been added as part of the ESAP.</p> <p>Grievance redress mechanism (GRM): grievance redress on the project will adopt the existing IICA Management Complaints Mechanism. For this purpose, the project will rely on the IICA mechanism, which will serve as the project’s GRM, ensuring that concerns are received, documented and resolved in a transparent, timely and culturally appropriate manner.</p> <p>GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy & ESS7 (Indigenous Peoples): consistently with the overall environmental and social categorization as a category C project, the funding proposal activities are assessed to have low risk for Indigenous Peoples as per the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. The project includes a detailed explanation of its approach to Indigenous Peoples; it will exclude activities affecting people living in voluntary isolation, as well as those impinging on the lands owned, or claimed under adjudication, by Indigenous Peoples without their consent. Indigenous Peoples were engaged as part of a preparatory survey, and detailed consultation processes will take place prior to implementation to inform the design of localized activities, with due consideration for the integration of traditional knowledge. Indigenous representatives will participate directly in the project’s governance structure through a technical advisory committee, as well as in the complaint and redress management mechanism. In line with their roles and functions, the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group is available to provide advice to the AE and executing entities. In line with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, the GCF Indigenous Peoples focal point will be available for assistance at any stage, including before a claim has been made.</p>
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		<p>Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH): the GCF revised Environmental and Social Policy adopted by decision B.BM-2021/18 requires safeguarding from SEAH in GCF-financed activities. The AE provided SEAH safeguarding in its submission to this funding proposal. The project includes activities that involve engaging with community members. SEAH issues may also arise among project workers. The context of gender-based violence is described in the gender assessment from the survey that was conducted. Risk factors include lack of awareness of non-physical forms of gender-based violence, the seasonal labour influx characteristic of priority agricultural production chains, as well as remote and rural project sites where access to external support may be limited. Additionally, rural and mountainous communities with entrenched patriarchal norms and male-dominated institutional environments also create unequal power relations that may negatively affect women. SEAH risks are included in the ESAP with corresponding mitigation measures which include having a code of conduct for project staff in the project management unit and other key actors identified, training on SEAH prevention for personnel, community awareness campaigns and engaging local women's organizations, trusted community leaders and existing networks in the promotion of reporting of SEAH cases. Secure, confidential and accessible channels will be established for reporting concerns or complaints related to SEAH through the AE institutional-level GRM. Elements of the GRM incorporating a survivor-centred and gender-sensitive approach are outlined in the ESAP. The ESAP includes contact details for the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism, which will also be available to receive and respond to SEAH-related grievances. The implementation of SEAH mitigation measures will be monitored and indicators are described in the ESAP and included in the gender action plan (GAP). Progress in SEAH prevention and response will be reported to GCF and periodic summaries will also be shared with relevant stakeholders.</p>
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<p>Gender policy</p>	<p>Consistent</p>	<p>The AE provided a gender assessment and action plan with the funding proposal and complies with the requirements of the GCF Updated Gender Policy. The gender assessment analyses gender-related issues faced by women in the project areas as well as their root causes and effects using information gathered from stakeholder engagement undertaken during the preparation of the project. The gender assessment highlights women's limited access to resources such as land, credit, technical assistance, technologies and decision-making, which in turn restricts their ability to implement adaptation measures and develop resilience to climate change impacts. Furthermore, power relations and traditional gender roles marked by patriarchal patterns reinforce the subordination of women, especially in family and community contexts. Stakeholder engagement also points to vulnerable groups such as female heads of households without financial support in the project area. In addition, ethnicity may also be a factor that increases vulnerability to climate change impacts. There are certain issues that are not discussed in the gender assessment although they are included in the GAP; for example, access to climate information by women and men and how this impacts decision-making for agricultural production.</p> <p>The project has been designed to allow access to agricultural resources. The GAP includes targets for access to finance for bio-enterprise activities to address issues related to access to finance and climate information, improve their productive capacity and consequently increase their climate resilience. The project offers opportunities to strengthen the empowerment of women through participation at events where they can promote their local products. Furthermore, the project creates spaces for participation in leadership and decision-making for women on adaptation activities in their communities and addresses restrictions to decision-making at the community level. The AE is</p>
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		<p>advised to include sex-disaggregated targets in the GAP for vulnerable groups identified in the gender assessment such as female-headed households. Additionally, qualitative or impact indicators can be added to the GAP to accompany quantitative ones.</p>
<p>Risks</p>	<p>Consistent</p>	<p>The project is implemented under a centralized fiduciary model in which IICA retains full responsibility for the management and use of GCF resources, supported by a grant-only structure, no direct transfers to government counterparts, and reliance on established institutional systems that provide a strong foundation for financial integrity and oversight. Although procurement-intensive activities, multiple vendors and beneficiaries, and geographically dispersed field operations introduce inherent risks related to ML/TF, fraud, and other prohibited practices, these are mitigated through IICA’s comprehensive, risk-based compliance framework aligned with GCF and international standards, including counterparty due diligence and KYC, sanctions and adverse media screening, robust procurement and disbursement controls with segregation of duties and audit trails, internal and external audits, staff training, and accessible whistleblower mechanisms. Taken together, the control environment and mitigation measures are consistent with GCF expectations for projects of this nature and complexity.</p> <p>From a technical perspective, the AE has adequately integrated risk management into the project design. The proposal presents a solid engagement framework, establishing institutional mechanisms to ensure continuity, ownership by key actors, and resilience to political risks over the medium and long term. The project design also includes risk management measures focused primarily on safeguarding project staff, strengthening local governance, and ensuring the safe and effective participation of beneficiaries.</p>

<p>Fiduciary</p>	<p>Consistent</p>	<p>IICA, as AE, will be responsible for the overall implementation of the project, including fiduciary and financial management, procurement of goods and services, monitoring and reporting, all of which will be carried out by IICA internal policies and procedures, as well as the accreditation master agreement (AMA) and project-specific funded activity agreement signed with GCF.</p> <p>IICA schedules its independent audits based on the risk level and implementation phase of each project, as established in its Internal Audit Manual. These audits comply with international standards such as the International Auditing Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards, and focus on verifying compliance with institutional, financial and procurement regulations.</p>
<p>Results monitoring and reporting</p>	<p>Consistent</p>	<p>Overall, the quality of results monitoring and reporting for the funding proposal is assessed as acceptable. As an adaptation initiative, the project aims to generate a range of adaptation results across all four GCF adaptation results areas. An estimated 347,482 direct beneficiaries and 630,377 indirect beneficiaries are expected to receive various adaptation benefits, together accounting for approximately 5.7 per cent of the country's total population.</p> <p>The intervention logic of the Theory of Change is clear and identifies relevant outcome- and output-level changes resulting from the project. However, there remains scope for further improvement in future projects, particularly in more comprehensively articulating the causal relationships between activities and results.</p>

		<p>The logical framework includes relevant GCF core and supplementary indicators, and it is commendable that a range of means of verification has been established to support data verification and triangulation. Project-specific indicators have also been well defined, supported by appropriate means of verification and methodologies. It would be important to collect credible ex post results data during the project implementation to measure genuine changes of the project.</p>
<p>Legal assessment</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>The legal arrangements for the project will be based on the accreditation master agreement between GCF and the Accredited Entity which has been signed and is effective (the “AMA”). Consequently, they will consist of a project-specific funded activity agreement which incorporates the AMA.</p> <p>The Accredited Entity has not provided a legal opinion/certificate confirming that it has obtained all internal approvals and it has the capacity and authority to implement the project.</p> <p>The proposed project will be implemented in Republic of Ecuador (the “Host Country”), country in which GCF is not provided with privileges and immunities. This means that, amongst other things, GCF is not protected against litigation or expropriation in this Host Country, which risks need to be further assessed. Moreover, the ability of GCF to undertake redress activities and/or investigations in the Host Country may be hindered due to the absence of privileges and immunities for relevant GCF personnel.</p> <p>Therefore, it is recommended that the Board considers whether disbursements of GCF proceeds should only be made after GCF has obtained satisfactory protection against litigation and expropriation in the Host Country, or has been provided with appropriate privileges and immunities for GCF and its personnel.</p>

		<p>GCF does not hold industrial property protection for its combined logo (sphere with the words “Green Climate Fund”) in the Host Country. This means that, while industrial property protection is pending, (i) GCF’s combined logo could be used by other entities or individuals (including those seeking to impersonate GCF) and (ii) there could be legal claims by entities or individuals asserting their protected trademark, opposing GCF using its combined logo in the country. In both cases, this may lead to reputational risk.</p> <p>Clause 10.02(a)(iv) of the AMA requires the Accredited Entity to seek appropriate remedies under the relevant Subsidiary Agreement for breach, non-performance or default by an Executing Entity. Such remedies would typically include the Accredited Entity relying on the dispute resolution provisions in the Subsidiary Agreement to enforce its rights against the Executing Entity. In this regard, the Accredited Entity has informed GCF that as is customary in all its project agreements, the Subsidiary Agreements with the Government of Ecuador acting through the Ministry of Environment and Energy (“MAE”); Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (“MAGP”); National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (“INAMHI”) and National Institute for Agricultural Research (“INIAP”) will not include binding dispute resolution provisions. This gives rise to a risk that the Accredited Entity will not be able to enforce the terms of the Subsidiary Agreements against MAE, MAGP, INAMGHI and/or INIAP.</p> <p>Under the risk appetite statement adopted by the Board in decision B.40/17, GCF has moderate risk tolerance for such legal risks which should be carefully managed and mitigated to reduce the likelihood and/or impact. To mitigate the likelihood of risk described above, it has been agreed that the Accredited Entity will provide legal opinions covering the enforceability of each Subsidiary Agreement against MAE, MAGP, INAMGHI and INIAP respectively.</p>
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		<p>In addition, to mitigate the impact of that risk, it has also been agreed with the Accredited Entity that if any MAE, MAGP, INAMGHI and/or INIAP fails to perform any obligation under the relevant Subsidiary Agreement(s), the Accredited Entity will promptly inform GCF and take all necessary measures to ensure MAE, MAGP, INAMGHI and/or INIAP's compliance with the relevant Subsidiary Agreement(s). If MAE, MAGP, INAMGHI and/or INIAP has not cured the relevant non-compliance within 30 days of GCF being notified, the Accredited Entity will promptly submit a restructuring proposal in respect of the project for GCF's consideration, which may include removal of MAE, MAGP, INAMGHI and/or INIAP as an executing entity and/or cancellation of any uncommitted GCF proceeds. Finally, the Accredited Entity has explained that it has put in place institutional mechanisms to allow it to enforce the terms of the Subsidiary Agreements in the absence of binding dispute resolution provisions, including structured internal oversight, graduated enforcement measures and amicable settlement processes.</p> <p>To address the matters raised in this section and facilitate prompt implementation of the project, it is recommended that any approval by the Board is made subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Submission by the Accredited Entity to GCF of a certificate or legal opinion, in form and substance satisfactory to the GCF Secretariat, within 120 days after Board approval, confirming that the Accredited Entity has obtained all final internal approvals needed by it and has the capacity and authority to implement the proposed project;(b) Signature of the funded activity agreement in a form and substance satisfactory to the GCF Secretariat within 180 days from the date of Board approval, or the date the Accredited Entity has provided a
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		<p>certificate or legal opinion confirming that it has obtained all final internal approvals, whichever is later; and</p> <p>(c) Completion of the legal due diligence to the satisfaction of the GCF Secretariat, including with respect to the matters raised in paragraphs 6-8 above, prior to the signature of the funded activity agreement.</p>
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Independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment of SAP069

Proposal name:	Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+
Accredited entity:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Country:	Ecuador
Project/programme size:	Small

I. Assessment of the independent Technical Advisory Panel

1.1 Overview

1. This funding proposal¹ for a small-sized adaptation project in environmental and social safeguards category C is submitted through the simplified approval process (SAP) by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), a regional direct access entity, as the accredited entity (AE). IICA is also the sole executing entity (EE) for the GCF funding, with the Government of Ecuador as EE on in-kind co-finance through the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGP), the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI) and the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIAP). The total cost of the funding proposal is USD 35.7 million, of which USD 23.4 million is proposed as GCF finance. The project implementation period is 7 years, while benefits are calculated over a lifespan of 20 years.

2. The overall objective is to reduce climate risks in priority territories through the implementation of adaptation measures, the strengthening of production systems and the consolidation of territorial governance mechanisms, with a strong emphasis on food security and gender equality. The project scales up an Adaptation Fund project (2011–2018), “Enhancing Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change on Food Security in the Pichincha Province and the Jubones River Basin”, and broadens the original geographical scope to 115 parishes in 11 provinces identified as having high and very high climate risk: Coast (Manabí, Guayas, Santa Elena), Northern Highlands (Imbabura, Carchi, Pichincha), Central Highlands (Bolívar, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi) and Southern Highlands (Azuay, Loja). This can be seen as a positive example of complementarity and coherence between GCF and the Adaptation Fund.

3. Annex 11 to the funding proposal provides technical and strategic justification for the scaling up of the original project through the SAP modality, based on evidence generated in previous evaluations,² independent studies and complementary documentation on good adaptation practices in Latin America. The proposed project, titled “Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador” (FORECCSA+), scales up proven adaptation

¹ This assessment is based on the funding proposal package received by the independent Technical Advisory Panel on 19 December 2025.

² <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/60FinalEvaluationEcuadorFORECCSAfinal.pdf> and https://adaptationaltitude.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/final_report_food_security-ecuador.pdf.

approaches, actively promoting the participation of women and youth; improves producers' access to climate information, finance and markets; and integrates climate change into local government planning, strengthening enabling conditions for long-term replicability and sustainability.

4. The project is structured around three interconnected components with the following intended outcomes: (i) reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures; (ii) gained access to markets by strengthening production systems; and (iii) strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas. The 10 key adaptation measures are discussed in section 1.2 below.

5. The project involves the components of work shown in table 1.³

Table 1: Structure of the FORECCSA+ project

Component	Outputs	GCF funding (USD)	Co-finance (USD)
Outcome 1. Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures	Output 1.1. Project beneficiaries implement climate change adaptation measures, contributing to food security	16 394 295	1 636 961
	Output 1.2. Project beneficiaries and local governments have technological tools for generating and accessing climate information	3 715 892	911 000
Outcome 2. Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems	Output 2.1. Project beneficiaries gain access to sustainable financing mechanisms	115 470	1 049 057
	Output 2.2. Project beneficiaries strengthen their marketing capabilities by facilitating access to markets	3 534 350	1 573 585
Outcome 3. Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas	Output 3.1 Local governments strengthen their territorial policies that integrate climate change variables	387 000	2 514 879
	Output 3.2 Local actors participate in governance mechanisms that facilitate the implementation and sustainability of the project	460 760	524 528
	Output 3.3. Knowledge management mechanisms are in place to strengthen adaptation governance in priority territories	517 600	1 049 057

1.2 Impact potential

Scale: N/A

6. The project targets all four of the GCF results areas for adaptation, aiming to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable people and communities; health and well-being, and food and water security; infrastructure and built environment; and ecosystems and ecosystem services.

³ As well as allocations for monitoring and evaluation and project management costs.

7. **Climate change risk and impacts.** The funding proposal (with details outlined in the feasibility study contained in annex 2) traces the historical evidence of a gradual increase in temperatures and altered rainfall patterns, with more intense downpours and longer dry spells, in the western half of Ecuador, where the bulk of staple crops are grown. Between 2000 and 2017, climate-related events caused losses equivalent to over 70 per cent of agricultural production in the coastal region and 23 per cent in the highlands. The AE shows how the Government of Ecuador has used climate models to project trends in temperature and rainfall for the period 2020 to 2050, expected to lead to reduced agricultural productivity and increasing food prices that will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations. Projections associated with the El Niño phenomenon anticipate longer droughts in the Central Highlands and more intense flooding in the Coastal and Southern Andean regions, further threatening food security, rural livelihoods and the well-being of the general population.

8. The feasibility study (annex 2, section A.2) draws on work done for Ecuador's national adaptation plan, which models and maps the impact of various climate scenarios on yields of priority crops, and combines this with spatial analysis of socioeconomic vulnerability to climate change using a composite indicator (31 variables grouped in six dimensions). The combined results, mapping integrated climate risk across Ecuador, served as the basis for defining the provinces and parishes prioritized in the FORECCSA+ project, with the solid methodology providing a high level of confidence in the potential of the project's geographical focus to achieve maximum impact.

9. **Adaptation impact.** The project aims to enhance the resilience of 977,859 people in total, including direct and indirect beneficiaries. The 347,482 direct beneficiaries, of whom 30 per cent will be women, will receive support to farming activities, as well as post-harvest access to markets and finance for bio-enterprises (in seedlings, timber, fruits and medicinal species), leading to enhanced and diversified income streams. This includes people participating in field schools, training events and knowledge platforms, and local government officials receiving support to integrate climate change criteria into planning instruments. The remainder of the population of the prioritized parishes, a further 630,377 individuals, of whom 51 per cent are female, are expected to benefit indirectly from the project – through ecosystem services, including food provision, soil conservation, improved water retention, pollination services, enhanced biodiversity and overall improvements in well-being and quality of life.

10. The project tackles barriers to scaling adaptation, including limited access to finance, technological gaps, weak local institutional capacity, and gender inequalities in land tenure and market participation. It aims to directly benefit rural families by increasing adaptive capacity through the implementation of 10 climate adaptation measures that have also demonstrated effectiveness in reducing social and economic vulnerabilities. It will reduce socioeconomic risks by strengthening local governance, integrating climate services and promoting the access of women and other vulnerable groups to resources and decision-making processes. Expected measurable results include increased yields of priority crops such as soft maize, hard maize, beans, potatoes, sugar cane and rice. The selection of farmer beneficiaries will be based on a clear and well-thought-out set of criteria (shown in section C.2 of the feasibility study), and will include female-headed households.

11. **Adaptation logic.** The adaptation logic of the 10 measures to be supported through the project is explained in general terms in relation to climate change and climate variability, but is not spelt out in the funding proposal in relation to specific climate hazards. The AE outlined the causal links clearly in response to a query from the independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP), as follows:⁴

⁴ Written questions from the iTAP with IICA responses (12 January 2026), now captured in version 4.1 of the feasibility study contained in annex 2 to the funding proposal.

- (a) **Protection and restoration of water sources** reduces exposure to drought by safeguarding recharge areas and improving regulation of water flows. Fencing springs and restoring native vegetation in recharge zones also reduces sedimentation, pollution and degradation exacerbated by extreme rainfall, while increasing water retention during dry periods;
- (b) **Silvopastoral systems** with trees and forage shrubs integrated into pastures reduce livestock exposure to heat stress, improve soil moisture retention and enhance ecosystem services that buffer climate variability. Trees regulate microclimates, reduce evapotranspiration and stabilize forage availability during dry spells;
- (c) **Community irrigation** from family and community reservoirs increases adaptive capacity by storing water during periods of availability and ensuring regulated distribution during dry seasons. Reducing water losses and improving management decreases dependence on rainfall and buffers agricultural systems against climate variability;
- (d) **Improved drinking water infrastructure** reduces vulnerability to climate-induced health risks by ensuring households' continuous access to safe water, even when flooding increases contamination risks;
- (e) **Strengthening climate services**, including hydrometeorological monitoring, reduces exposure to climate hazards by improving anticipatory capacity. Timely forecasts, alerts and agroclimatic recommendations enable producers and communities to adjust planting, irrigation and risk management decisions in response to climate signals;
- (f) **Organic fertilizer use** improves soil structure, organic matter content and water-holding capacity, reducing sensitivity of crops to rainfall variability and dry spells. Local production of biological inputs reduces dependency on external inputs that are vulnerable to climate and market shocks;
- (g) **Diversified family gardens** reduce vulnerability by spreading climate risk across multiple crops and plant strata, creating microclimates that buffer extreme temperatures and rainfall variability. Integration of trees improves water retention and soil fertility;
- (h) **Resistant seeds**, including drought-tolerant and locally adapted varieties, reduces exposure to water stress and stabilizes yields under variable climatic conditions. Conservation of local and ancestral seeds preserves genetic diversity critical for long-term adaptation;
- (i) **Improved management of small livestock** increases adaptive capacity by diversifying livelihoods and enhancing productivity under variable climatic conditions. Small animals are also more adaptable to climate stress than cattle; and
- (j) **Efficient sprinkler and drip irrigation** systems reduce sensitivity to rainfall variability and drought by optimizing water use at plot level, conserving soil moisture, and also help to prevent erosion during intense rainfall events.

12. In response to a query from the iTAP, the AE explained that communities selecting from the above-mentioned measures will be engaged in "a structured process that links local climate risks with appropriate responses. Participatory climate risk and vulnerability assessments will enable male- and female-headed farm households to identify the specific climate hazards they are experiencing and to prioritize measures that directly reduce exposure and/or vulnerability to those hazards. For each selected measure, farmers will articulate a clear adaptation pathway, specifying the climate hazard addressed, the vulnerability factor reduced and the expected adaptation outcome, supported by standardized technical guidance and adaptation fact sheets. This will be operationalized through a results-based monitoring and evaluation system, with

community-level baselines, targets and indicators used to track progress in reducing exposure and vulnerability over time.”⁵ This practical and detailed approach is welcomed by the iTAP.

13. **Access to finance and markets.** output 2.1 includes activities to analyse financial markets and barriers and produce “actionable guidance that enables beneficiaries to navigate financial systems more effectively” (para. 71), and field schools will be conducted to highlight opportunities and explain how to access them. Engagement with financial institutions will promote tailored and climate-responsive financial products, and existing products of BanEcuador (a local development finance institution) will be promoted (see section 1.7 below). A powerful intervention will be made through MAGP to facilitate issuance or extension of the Family Farming Certificate for women participating in the project, as a support mechanism for accessing loans, which is an important starting point. The project will also promote agreements with municipalities to advance the formal recognition of women working on agricultural land, including alternative forms of tenure validation (e.g. co-responsibility, usufruct, community recognition), thereby reducing documentation barriers and supporting women’s effective inclusion in project activities and financing mechanisms.

14. Output 2.2 includes activities designed to enhance market access, conducting market intelligence to analyse value chains, demand trends, price dynamics and buyer requirements. This analysis “will guide producers and bio-enterprises toward viable climate adapted products with greater commercial positioning”. Without actual support to aggregation or direct negotiation of offtake agreements, however, it seems likely that this activity will have limited success. An additional activity will provide more targeted support in the form of purchasing basic infrastructure and equipment for over 60 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the bio- or agri-processing sectors, providing specialized technical assistance and encouraging the involvement of women and youth. An innovative element here is the use of a conditional use and transfer agreement, under the terms of which all goods purchased with project resources will remain the property of IICA “until the beneficiary demonstrates their correct use and compliance with the established commitments” (para. 80), after which ownership will be transferred. It is not stated whether these commitments will include operation and maintenance costs, a weakness addressed in section 1.3 below.

15. A third activity will run a total of 33 workshops with the bio- and agri-enterprises to build capacity on post-harvest handling, storage and processing practices that, if implemented, would ensure that products reach markets with higher quality and reduced losses. The strategy for helping the enterprises access markets once again seems weak – “Strengthened bio-enterprises will be linked to value-added markets through workshops designed to build commercial management capacities and promote differentiated products.” It is hoped that the technical assistance service providers will be able to take this support to a level that actually sees results in matches made with buyers and supply chain agreements signed.

16. The iTAP assesses the impact potential of the project as medium to high.

1.3 Paradigm shift potential

Scale: N/A

17. The project aims to contribute to a paradigm shift that links climate change adaptation, food security and social equity, while advancing resilient territorial development in the face of climate change impacts. According to the funding proposal (para. 164) the project “will trigger a paradigm shift by demonstrating, at a national scale, how fragmented local interventions can evolve into a structured adaptation model grounded in climate justice, just transition, and intersectionality. Its overarching purpose is to replace reactive and low-sustainability

⁵ Written questions from the iTAP with IICA responses (12 January 2026).

approaches with a comprehensive framework that combines adaptation measures, strengthened production systems, and inclusive territorial governance, thereby ensuring food security and climate resilience in rural communities.”

18. **Sustaining and scaling.** The funding proposal suggests that scaling up is evident in outcome 1, in the expanded adoption of adaptation measures in the territories, together with access to modern climate services; in outcome 2, in efforts to strengthen production systems to withstand climate risks and market shocks; and in outcome 3, in strengthening the institutional capacities of local governments – supporting them in developing or updating territorial development and planning plans and/or climate management instruments that incorporate climate change variables, and in developing or updating technical and regulatory instruments for planning and resource mobilization. It remains to be seen whether this kind of general capacity development, apparently mostly through workshops (covering 330 local government officials) will be sufficient to lead to concrete plans that are accompanied by committed funds from municipal budgets to undertake further adaptation measures.

19. Fieldwork conducted during an ex post evaluation (2022) of the original FORECCSA project, conducted by the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund (AF-TERG), found that partial ownership and lack of maintenance of assets, as well as few resources for partnerships, negatively affected the sustainability of outcomes. These issues have been addressed in the FORECCSA+ project design in two ways: firstly, a partnership is in place with BanEcuador to unlock further resources; secondly, activity 2.2.2 ensures that productive assets are transferred to the enterprises, but only once they demonstrate readiness (see section 1.2 above). On the issue of post-project operation and maintenance responsibilities and costs, the project is generally weak. The Outcome 1 activity on hydrometeorological equipment does state that “the provincial governments will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the equipment during and after the project intervention”; however, this should be dealt with explicitly and in detail in the context of all the farming equipment, irrigation systems and processing infrastructure to be procured in outcome 2.

20. **Knowledge-sharing.** The project includes a dedicated output in component 3 on knowledge management, including live knowledge exchanges and virtual platforms. Important data will be generated by monitoring the effectiveness of new adaptation measures, and fed into these processes. Climate risk studies will be prepared to assess the effectiveness of the measures. Crop growth models, calibrated with local data, will simulate yields under current climate and projected precipitation and temperature scenarios for two time horizons. Results will indicate whether measures sustain or enhance productivity, while providing input for evidence-based decision-making. Two climate risk studies will be carried out in prioritized territories and shared with local governments, academia and stakeholders. The iTAP welcomes this kind of work, which will not only improve project results, but also contribute to the global evidence base for adaptation in the agriculture sector.

21. In a sense, the main scaling up here lies in the broadening from the original FORECCSA to the wider scope of the proposed FORECCSA+, that is, from just 2 to 11 climate change vulnerable agriculture provinces. This is acknowledged in paragraph 159 of the funding proposal, which states that “the scaling-up of the Adaptation Fund FORECCSA project goes beyond geographic expansion to additional parishes and communities; it also includes a substantive broadening of the types of support provided, the depth of technical assistance, and the outcomes to be achieved.” This is true, but the real challenge may lie in sustaining and scaling up the results of FORECCSA+ post-GCF investment – broadening and deepening adaptive capacity to the point where rural communities across Ecuador have become prosperous and truly resilient even in the face of evolving climate hazards.

22. Based on the above, the paradigm shift potential of the project is assessed as medium.

1.4 Sustainable development potential

Scale: N/A

23. The proposed project is designed to generate sustainable development co-benefits beyond its primary climate adaptation objectives, contributing directly to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 15 (Life on land), in addition to SDG 13 (Climate action). Specific co-benefits anticipated from project interventions are discussed below.

24. **Mitigation co-benefits.** Calculations of mitigation potential were done by the AE, using the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' EX-ACT Tool (Environmental eXternalities ACcounting Tool).⁶ The approach and methodologies used are clearly described in annex 22 to the funding proposal, justifying the estimate that the project's adaptation interventions could also lead to a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 154,557 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, over six years of implementation and one capitalization year, compared with a 'without project' scenario, by means of reduced agricultural emissions, efficiency in input use and enhanced carbon sequestration. This is to be achieved through:

- (a) Dedicating 1,000 hectares of conservation areas to the protection of water sources and strategic ecosystems, sequestering carbon through afforestation or reforestation;
- (b) Putting 2,000 hectares of pasture and cropland under improved practices related to the implementation of climate-smart agriculture measures and sustainable soil management (reduced tillage, legume rotations, organic fertilizers replacing synthetic ones, intermittent rice irrigation instead of flooded paddies), with fewer emissions than business as usual methods; and
- (c) Putting 2,000 hectares of degraded land under agroforestry systems that integrate trees, crops and silvopastoral practices to enhance carbon sequestration as well as productive resilience.

25. It is noted that annex 22 recommends that the project implement a robust measurement, reporting and verification system that tracks the actual results, and that these should be integrated into Ecuador's national reporting systems against nationally determined contribution targets. This is welcomed by the iTAP as best practice, even though the project's mitigation impact is presented as a co-benefit rather than a core result.

26. **Environmental co-benefits.** Indigenous and ecologically important tree species will be integrated into agroforestry systems with priority crops, enhancing habitat connectivity and structural complexity compared with monocultures or degraded pastures, and contributing to landscape-scale biodiversity conservation. Agroforestry systems will also improve soil structure, prevent erosion, increase organic matter and promote nutrient cycling. Increased tree cover will enhance water infiltration and reduce sediment run-off into local watersheds.

27. **Socioeconomic benefits.** The project aims to reduce entry barriers related to access to technologies, knowledge and productive resources, strengthening income generation and economic stability for small-scale producers through diversified agroforestry systems that reduce dependence on a single crop and extend productive cycles throughout the year. By integrating perennial and annual species, the project increases on-farm productivity and creates

⁶ This tool, formerly known as the Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool, provides users with a consistent approach to estimate and track the impacts of agricultural interventions on greenhouse gas emissions, enabling the estimation of emission reductions or removals in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector, in accordance with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reporting guidelines.

new value-added opportunities (seedlings, timber, fruits, medicinal species), which enhance household resilience to price volatility and climate shocks. These livelihood gains are particularly relevant in rural areas with high levels of multidimensional poverty, where climate variability disproportionately affects production and income.

28. **Gender benefits.** Women's participation is a strategic priority for FORECCSA+ and will be actively promoted across all components. In a context where gender-based division of labour, unequal access to productive resources and the persistence of traditional roles in local economies are inescapable realities, the iTAP agrees that the project's target of reaching at least 30 per cent female beneficiaries is realistic, and can encourage the opening of new space for women's empowerment. Beneficiary selection criteria have been made flexible to avoid excluding women who may lack land titles, formal credit history or asset ownership, and tailored outreach strategies will encourage women to participate. Training and technical assistance will be delivered through gender-responsive field schools and modules adapted to women's schedules and care-giving responsibilities, using flexible hours, community-based activities and methodologies that minimize additional workload. The project aims to strengthen women's leadership, support women-led productive initiatives and foster women's active engagement in local governance spaces.

29. The iTAP assesses the sustainable development potential of the project as high.

1.5 Needs of the recipient

Scale: N/A

30. Although Ecuador is an upper middle-income country, the country ranks high on the Gini coefficient (45),⁷ indicating a high level of income disparity. An estimated 27 per cent of the population still live in poverty, rising to 46 per cent in rural provinces.⁸ The funding proposal makes a case for the needs of Ecuador and of the target populations, and the importance of maximum concessionality in the form of grant funding. It points to Ecuador's ranking at 125 out of 187 countries in the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Country Index (2025), which measures vulnerability and adaptive capacity to climate change, indicating an urgent need for action and the country's significant investment gap in climate preparedness and resilience.

31. Family farming and agri-food systems are a cornerstone of food security and rural livelihoods, particularly in the 11 provinces prioritized by the FORECCSA+ project. These territories are highly exposed to droughts, frosts, floods and erratic rainfall, directly impacting the productivity of strategic crops such as potatoes, rice, hard yellow corn, soft corn and beans, which are essential to community diets. These climatic pressures, combined with structural limitations, contribute to chronic child malnutrition levels of up to 40 per cent in provinces such as Chimborazo, exacerbating food insecurity among rural households. Total economic losses projected to 2050 for the crops prioritized by the FORECCSA+ project amount to USD 1.5 trillion (table 20, annex 2).

32. The project's target groups face persistent poverty and territorial inequalities. In the rural parishes of Bolívar, Manabí and Cotopaxi, most of the population live below the poverty line, with severe constraints on access to basic services and productive opportunities. Women, who represent up to 40 per cent of the agricultural workforce, encounter barriers to land tenure, access to credit and participation in decision-making, while rural youth lack formal employment opportunities, driving migration and weakening generational renewal in the

⁷ According to this analysis, Ecuador is the 24th most unequal country in the world; see <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country#top-10-countries-with-the-highest-gini-coefficients--world-bank>.

⁸ <https://borgenproject.org/poverty-eradication-in-ecuador/>.

sector. National and local budgets remain insufficient to sustain adaptation investments at the required scale, while existing rural financial instruments fail to match the socioeconomic realities of smallholder farmers. In this context, GCF support is essential to overcome structural and financial barriers, and to promote integrated climate change adaptation in Ecuador.

33. Overall, based on the above, the needs of the recipients are rated as medium to high.

1.6 Country ownership

Scale: N/A

34. **Policy and strategy alignment.** The proposed project's approach to enhancing climate resilience across 115 vulnerable parishes is consistent with Ecuador's climate change priorities, as expressed in its National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2023–2027) and second nationally determined contribution (2026–2036). It supports implementation of the new nationally determined contribution by addressing climate risks that threaten agricultural yields, expanding efficient irrigation systems in priority territories; promoting nutritionally valuable crops using sustainable practices such as agrobiodiversity, crop rotation and sustainable land management, reinforcing food sovereignty; and incorporating gender and intergenerational approaches across its design and implementation.

35. In line with a sector-specific national adaptation plan for the food sovereignty, agriculture, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries sector, the project will expand the coverage of precision irrigation systems, strengthen productive and financial infrastructure for agricultural activities and promote the use of compost, biofertilizers, vermiculture and bokashi. It will also provide technical assistance to local governments to update their development and land-use plans, conduct soil suitability assessments and climate risk analyses and train local producers in implementing adaptation measures. Other relevant policies that will be addressed are the National Climate Change Strategy (2012–2025), the National Restoration Plan, the Action Plan REDD+ Ecuador "Forests for Good Living" (2016-2025) and the "Hands for the Field" (2025-2034) public policy promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

36. **Engagement with stakeholders.** After defining the project's target parishes, a stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted to identify, classify and prioritize key actors in each of the 11 provinces (Azuay, Bolívar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Guayas, Loja, Imbabura, Manabí, Pichincha and Santa Elena), providing the basis for tailored engagement and relationship strategies. The design of the proposed project incorporates inputs gathered through 11 technical workshops, collecting input from institutional stakeholders and reinforcing the territorial and inclusive approach. A total of 201 participants contributed, representing national and local government institutions, non-governmental organizations and academia (see details in stakeholder engagement plan, annex 16).

37. An Indigenous Peoples Report, included as annex 17 to the funding proposal, seems well prepared and identifies potential benefits, risks and mitigation measures. In response to a question from the iTAP, the AE clarified that although project actions will not be implemented in ancestral territories, collectively owned areas or areas declared as cultural heritage unless free, prior and informed consent is obtained, in accordance with applicable national regulations and GCF environmental and social safeguards, "indigenous and mestizo populations are expected to participate in non-land-based activities, including capacity building, access to climate information services, and training. Their participation will be conducted in a manner that fully respects collective rights, traditional practices, and governance structures, using culturally appropriate engagement processes in line with GCF safeguards."⁹ Specific consultations with

⁹ Written questions from the iTAP with IICA responses (12 January 2026).

organizations representing the interests of Indigenous Peoples are not mentioned in the funding proposal, Indigenous Peoples Report or stakeholder engagement plan.¹⁰

38. **Capacity of key entities.** The AE proposing the project is IICA, backed by MAE as the institution responsible for climate change policy in Ecuador and the country's national designated authority to GCF. IICA is a specialized international organization within the Inter-American System, established in 1942 with the mission of supporting member countries in achieving agricultural development and rural well-being through technical cooperation. IICA has been accredited as a GCF regional direct access entity since 2021 and, although this was not mentioned in the funding proposal, had a project in Brazil approved at the forty-third meeting of the Board (B.43).¹¹

39. IICA will also serve as the sole EE for the implementation of project activities financed by GCF. The two roles are distinguished as follows in the funding proposal: "IICA Headquarters will act as the Accredited Entity, and will be responsible for overall supervision and fiduciary compliance, coordination with the GCF, monitoring and evaluation, as well as reporting and disbursement requests. IICA Ecuador, as the country office, will act as Executing Entity, and will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of project activities through contracts, in close collaboration with national partners. This includes effective monitoring of technical, administrative, and operational implementation." The iTAP notes the importance of maintaining a firewall between these parts of the organization, since there is potential for a structural conflict of interest whenever an AE also takes an EE role (being both "player" and "referee").

40. Playing the role of EE for its own co-finance will be the Government of Ecuador, acting through MAE, MAGP, INAMHI and INIAP. These institutions will contribute resources in kind and technical capacity in the implementation of activities at the territorial level, and three of the four¹² have submitted a co-financing letter, pledging support for the execution of the project.

41. MAE will lead coordination and ensure policy alignment during project implementation, and will chair the project Steering Committee, which will also include representatives of MAGP and IICA. MAE will be involved in environmental management and climate governance issues; MAGP in productive activities and food security; INIAP in applied research; and INAMHI in strengthening climate services. Local governments will also actively participate in project implementation as strategic territorial actors, making local infrastructure available for meetings and facilitating climate governance at the local level. This engagement is well aligned with their mandates and helps to ensure that the project goals are mainstreamed into government functioning.

42. Country ownership of the project is thus seen to be medium to high.

1.7 Efficiency and effectiveness

Scale: N/A

43. The proposed project in the SAP modality will cost USD 35 667 034 in total, of which USD 23 362 075 is GCF finance and USD 12 304 959 is in-kind co-finance from the Government of Ecuador and IICA. The GCF cost per direct beneficiary is USD 67 per capita, and the GCF cost per beneficiary, including indirect beneficiaries, is a modest USD 24 per capita.

44. It is hoped that parallel co-finance worth USD 5 million will materialize during project implementation in the form of concessional loans with long tenors and flexible collateral

¹⁰ There is one reference to an organization included in mapping in Bolívar titled "The Indigenous Self-Employed Workers of Musullacta", in Guaranda canton.

¹¹ SAP 061 "Mitigation and adaptation to climate change under agroforestry systems in cocoa production in the Amazon and Atlantic Forest biomes".

¹² The MAE letter is missing from the package submitted to the iTAP on 19 December 2025.

arrangements to be taken by producers who wish to expand productive activities and continue adaptation measures, through BanEcuador. Such loans will not be provided with GCF funds (the AE is not accredited for on-lending and blending) but by linking potential borrowers to BanEcuador, which already offers products designed to strengthen agricultural production, rural enterprises, and the economic inclusion of women and young people – including the super rural women's credit, rural youth credit, AgroVioleta credit and productive youth credit. Whether or not the promotion of these credit lines and the financial training to be provided will be sufficient to overcome the many obstacles to small-scale farmers taking loans remains to be seen.

45. Since this is a SAP modality project, an economic and financial analysis is not required, and has not been conducted. The funding proposal builds an argument for the proposed project's efficiency and effectiveness around evidence from the original World Food Programme FORECCSA project financed by the Adaptation Fund, which this SAP project scales up, demonstrating that the proposed adaptation measures are technically and economically feasible in Ecuador (section B.7, Economic viability, annex 2). To assess and rate the effectiveness of the FORECCSA project (2011–2018), the report *FORECCSA Project: Final Evaluation Ecuador 2011–2018*¹³ was prepared, analysing three key dimensions: the achievement of goals, the early results of the measures implemented and the beneficiaries' own assessment of outcomes.

46. The evaluation report confirmed the project's effectiveness, documenting the implementation of 86 adaptation actions. These included community irrigation systems (35 per cent of all measures), family gardens (19 per cent), parcel irrigation (13 per cent) and water source protection (10 per cent) (table 7, annex 2). Collectively, these actions contributed to improved food security, productive diversification and enhanced access to water resources. These results are highlighted by IICA as the basis for continuing with the approach, since it has been demonstrated to be efficient and effective.

¹³ See footnote 2 above.

Table 2: FORECCSA+ project typologies

Typology implemented	Effectiveness of the typology	Observation
Community irrigation	The number of users who had access to water every two or three days rose from 1.3% (base year 2016) to 6.6% (in 2018).	The improvement is attributed to the strengthening and optimization of existing community irrigation systems, as well as the expansion of sprinkler irrigation systems on beneficiary plots.
	The increase in beneficiaries growing vegetables with community irrigation rose from 54% (base year 2016) to 81% (in 2018).	
Parcel irrigation	The number of families with one to two hours of plot irrigation increased from 21% (base year 2016) to 32% (in 2018).	
	Fifty-eight percent of beneficiaries of plot irrigation reported that water availability was insufficient (base year 2016), this percentage fell to 45 per cent (in 2018).	
Family gardens	58% of family garden beneficiaries had irrigation systems (base year 2016). At the end of the project (in 2018), this percentage increased to 68%. Complementarily, the use of sprinkler systems increased from 32% to 42% in the same period.	
	Vegetable production increased due to a higher number of annual harvests. Forty-five per cent cultivated two or more times a year (base year 2016). At the end of the project, this percentage rose to 76 per cent (in 2018).	
Protection of water sources	27% of beneficiaries stated that there was no physical or biological protection of their water sources (base year 2016). At the end of the project, this percentage fell to 10% (in 2018).	
	Water quality increased by 19% (base year 2016). At the end of the project, 69% of beneficiaries had good quality water for their crops (in 2018).	
Improvements in production	The number of species cultivated increased from 26 to 33, with increases in all of them, particularly lettuce, cabbage, beetroot, and carrots.	This increase had two significant effects: (1) higher income from a greater proportion of production destined for the market (based on significantly higher production); and (2) an increase in self-consumption of garden produce, which rose from 60% (base year 2016) to 97% (in 2018).

Source: Table 21 from the feasibility study contained in annex 2 to the funding proposal

47. On the issue of food security, it is noted that the term “food security” is not defined in the funding proposal, but generally seems to be equated with staple crop productivity. The project logical framework (annex 2a) includes a key indicator that all the direct beneficiaries “improve their productivity, enhancing their capacity to achieve food security”, with project surveys to measure the status of food security, applying the methodology of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale. The iTAP welcomes this explicit monitoring of food security impacts on households, and hopes that FORECCSA+, with its emphasis on accessible concessional finance for expanding on-farm investments, and project post-harvest investments in reducing food loss and spoilage, will achieve a stronger result than the original FORECCSA project, the ex post evaluation of which by the AF-TERG found that in Cochapata and Nabón cantons, “the investments were not large enough to allow noticeable improvement of food production or consumption”.¹⁴

48. In order to ensure efficiency, it will be important to avoid overlap with GCF FP258 “Multi-country Project Advancing Early Warnings for All (EW4All)”, which was approved at B.41 and is being implemented through the United Nations Development Programme in seven countries including Ecuador. Output 1.2. of the proposed FORECCSA+ project aims to strengthen

¹⁴ <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Ex-Post-Evaluation-Ecuador-final-ed-1.pdf>.

hydrometeorological observation networks in 11 provincial governments into which the target parishes fall, with capacity-building provided by INAMHI. Sensors will be installed to form or upgrade hydrometeorological station networks, provincial governments trained to feed in data, and maintenance protocols developed with the participation of local stakeholders. A web platform will be created within the INAMHI existing digital infrastructure and used to generate practical advisories, to be made easily accessible through mobile messaging or dedicated applications. The scope of the two projects should be clarified between INAMHI, IICA and the United Nations Development Programme in order to avoid any duplication and maximize synergy.

49. The project's overall efficiency and effectiveness is rated as medium.

II. Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel

50. The iTAP believes that the FORECCSA+ project will make a significant contribution to reducing the vulnerability and exposure of farming communities and their crops to climate change hazards in Ecuador's vulnerable western provinces, through the implementation of adaptation measures, the strengthening of production systems, and the consolidation of territorial governance mechanisms.

51. The iTAP recommends that the Board approve this funding proposal.

Response from the accredited entity to the independent Technical Advisory Panel's assessment (SAP069)

Proposal name:	Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+
Accredited entity:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Country/(ies):	Ecuador
Project/programme size:	Small

Impact potential

IICA fully supports iTAP's assessment that the project demonstrates medium to high impact potential, as the robust climate risk analysis and clearly articulated adaptation pathways provide a strong technical foundation. At the same time, IICA acknowledges the observation that certain market access activities may appear insufficiently developed and will therefore strengthen this component by intensifying efforts to facilitate concrete buyer engagement and supply chain agreements, while systematically tracking how these actions translate into effective commercial linkages and measurable results.

Paradigm shift potential

IICA acknowledges the medium rating of the project's paradigm-shifting potential and reaffirms its commitment to strengthening and clearly defining operation and maintenance responsibilities across all productive and hydrometeorological assets, thereby securing sustained ownership and ensuring long-term budgetary commitments.

Sustainable development potential

IICA fully endorses iTAP's high rating of the project's sustainable development potential. FORECCSA+ is designed to deliver measurable mitigation, environmental, socioeconomic, and gender co-benefits alongside its core adaptation objectives. These integrated results strengthen the project's contribution to multiple SDGs and ensure inclusive, climate-resilient rural development over the long term.

Needs of the recipient

IICA fully endorses the assessment that recipient needs are medium to high. The project directly addresses structural barriers faced by smallholder farmers, women, and youth in prioritized provinces, where food insecurity and malnutrition remain pressing challenges. By tackling climate risks to strategic crops and enhancing adaptive capacity, FORECCSA+ provides a concrete and scalable response to urgent territorial demands, contributing to long-term resilience, strengthened food security, and inclusive rural development.

Country ownership

IICA fully endorses the assessment that the project reflects medium to high levels of country ownership. The initiative is strategically aligned with Ecuador's national climate and agricultural policies and is being implemented in close coordination with MAE, MAGP, INAMHI, and INIAP, thereby ensuring robust institutional support. Active engagement with local governments further strengthens the territorial anchoring of the project. In addition, IICA reaffirms its commitment to upholding a clear and transparent functional separation between its roles as Accredited Entity and Executing Entity.

Efficiency and effectiveness

IICA fully endorses iTAP's medium rating of efficiency and effectiveness. The Institute underscores the importance of strengthening coordination with the United Nations Development Programme and relevant national institutions to prevent overlap with EW4All and to ensure strong complementarity in hydrometeorological investments. Moreover, a clear and operational definition of food security will be integrated into the monitoring and evaluation framework, aligned with the Food Insecurity Experience Scale methodology. This will enable consistent measurement of household-level outcomes and reinforce the evidence base for assessing project impact.

Overall remarks from the independent Technical Advisory Panel:

We express our appreciation to iTAP for its thorough review and valuable recommendations.

Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+

ANNEX 4: Gender Assessment

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IICA ECUADOR

NOVEMBER 2025

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1. Introduction

In 2023, Ecuador's Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), prepared a Concept Note for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the aim of securing climate finance to reduce the vulnerability of the population and their livelihoods, both productive and natural, in areas previously identified as priorities based on the results of climate risk studies included in the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan¹.

Against this backdrop, IICA, as accredited entity to the GCF (AE) and the entity selected by the National Designated Authority (NDA) to execute the process, is currently in the process of preparing the Financing Proposal and its Annexes, with the aim of scaling up the project "Strengthening the Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations" – FORECCSA.

Between 2011 and 2018, as part of this project, specific actions were implemented to strengthen climate resilience in four provinces of the Jubones River basin (Azuay, Loja and El Oro provinces) and in the cantons of Cayambe and Pedro Moncayo in the province of Pichincha, directly benefiting 19,356 people.

In this new scaling-up phase, the implementation is planned to be expanded to 115 parishes in eleven provinces to consolidate a territorial climate adaptation strategy that incorporates gender, environmental sustainability, and social equity approaches. The strategic interventions planned for the project include:

- **Outcome 1.** Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures.
- **Outcome 2.** Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems.
- **Outcome 3.** Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas.

Through these three outcomes, the implementation of project actions will be guided by the principle of agro-productive inclusion of women and young people in the prioritized territories, especially in terms of access to different resources such as technical assistance, training and awareness-raising, sustainable agricultural inputs and equipment as part of adaptation measures, access to markets for their products, and greater participation in decision-making about their livelihoods.

In this regard, IICA and the FORECCSA+ project will frame their actions within the principles and requirements of the GCF Gender Policy,² both at the institutional level and in the current project design process. Therefore, IICA will dedicate the necessary financial, human, and other resources, as appropriate, to comply with the principles and requirements of the GCF Gender Policy.

¹ MAATE. (2023). Ecuador's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2022-2027). Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE). Quito, Ecuador.

² Green Climate Fund. (2019). Gender policy (B.24/12). Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4ve4fm97>

In addition, IICA will apply its Gender Equality Policy³ at the level of the project's technical team, since it is mandatory within the workplace and applies to each and every person directly linked to the Institute, whether as part of its staff or as part of entities that have a consulting, internship, professional residency, supply, associated personnel or strategic partnership contract, among others, in all Member States and at Headquarters, with whom IICA interacts in order to fulfil its mission. Similarly, at the project level, IICA Ecuador will be responsible for supporting the implementation of the FORECCSA+ Gender Action Plan (GAP), as well as reporting on its results, including the generation and use of sex-disaggregated data and qualitative data.

Finally, within the framework of the GCF Gender Policy, in the current preparation phase of the FORECCSA+ project, this Annex includes gender assessment and analysis, together with the gender action plan at the project level. Annex 4 covers a gender context analysis at the national and provincial levels, including the most up-to-date data available, as well as an analysis of primary information on the main socio-cultural factors in the prioritized territories, which are exacerbated by climate change and aggravate gender inequality in rural Ecuador.

2. Objectives:

2.1. General Objective:

The gender analysis of the FORECCSA+ project aims to identify and analyze the structural inequalities that hinder the role of women in the implementation of several types of climate change adaptation measures in the 115 prioritized parishes in 11 provinces of Ecuador. This study will address gender roles and gaps, problems and barriers faced by women in the agricultural sector, as well as the power relations established in the participating populations at the territorial level.

This comprehensive diagnosis will aim to show the relationships between potential female and male participants in the project in terms of access to all types of agricultural resources, such as land tenure, agricultural inputs, financing mechanisms, training, and decision-making, in order to identify knowledge, opportunities, and capacities that can be used by those implementing adaptation measures to strengthen their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change on their food security.

2.2. Specific Objectives:

- a) To understand the social, economic, and political factors underlying gender inequality exacerbated by climate change, as well as the potential contribution of women and men in the prioritized territories to adapt and improve their resilience.

³ Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) (2024). Gender Equality Policy. Retrieved from: <https://hdl.handle.net/11324/23081>.

- b) Identify the multiple vulnerability factors that exist among the population groups participating in the project, which contribute to gender inequality.
- c) Conduct a gender assessment based on the identification of gaps, problems, vulnerabilities, and capacities, with an emphasis on priority attention groups (GAP)⁴ at the level of the prioritized territories.

3. Methodology

The methodology applied in this gender analysis followed the guidelines and directives of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)⁵, which was complemented by practical, territory-oriented tools based on the qualitative descriptive method and the quantitative method, recognizing their gender sensitivity and their ability to capture the social and cultural dynamics that affect men and women in relation to climate change adaptation.

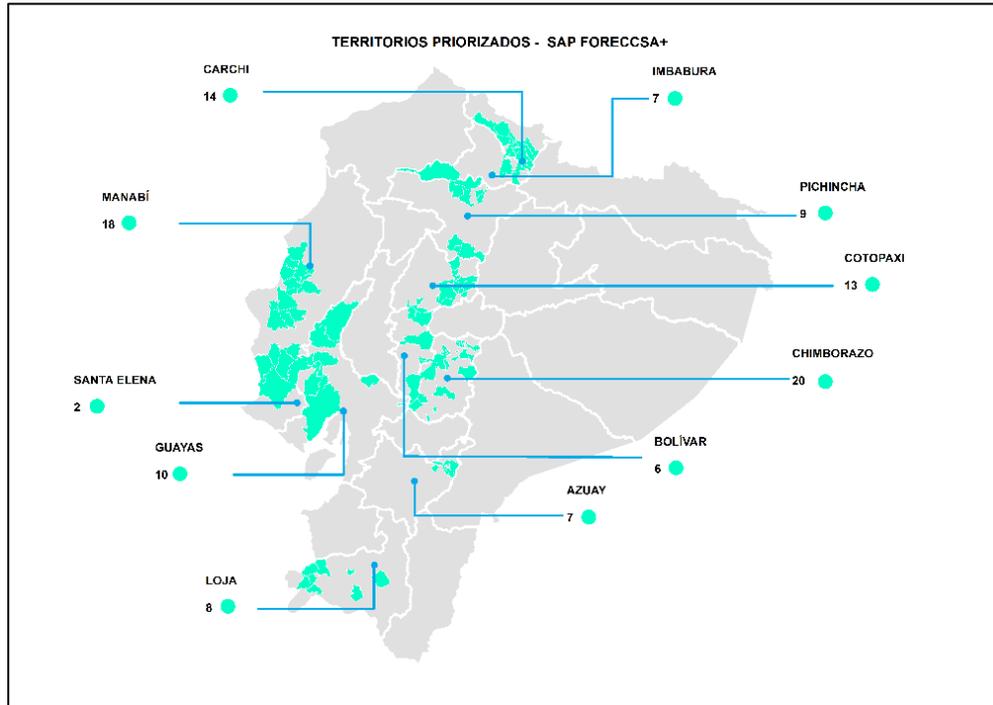
This comprehensive approach will enable analysis of the roles, activities, needs, and opportunities of each Priority Attention Group (GAP) involved in the project's operation, as well as their impact on gender equality from an intersectional perspective. Based on the project theme (food security) and the concept note approved by the GCF, priority has been given to PWGs of women and young people in rural areas of the intervention territories for their involvement in the implementation of adaptation measures. However, implementing adaptation measures at the local/community level generates concrete benefits for the entire family unit of the participants, so a baseline survey of the project should be conducted that considers these aspects in the demographic analysis of the participating/beneficiary population.

The following figure shows the intervention area in the 115 parishes prioritized for the implementation of the project actions in eleven provinces nationwide:

⁴ Priority Attention Groups (GAP) in Ecuador are defined primarily by the provisions of Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador (2008). This article states that the State must provide priority and specialised attention, both in the public and private spheres, to certain vulnerable groups.

⁵ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>

Figure 1: Map of prioritized parishes by province SAP FORECCSA+



3.1. Dialogue between Gender and Sustainability

Adapted to the sociocultural context of the Ecuadorian highlands and coast, this study establishes an interdisciplinary dialogue between gender theory and everyday life. In this regard, based on the guidelines for mainstreaming gender in GCF projects, through 11 participatory assessments using problem trees (one per province), surveys (with a representative sample of the prioritized parishes) and semi-structured interviews with key informants, the perceptions, experiences and relationships of potential project participants, both women and men, were investigated with regard to gender gaps, vulnerabilities and opportunities for implementing adaptation measures for food security, ensuring that the initiative strengthens local gender equity and generates a positive environmental impact in each territory. regarding gender gaps, vulnerabilities, and opportunities to implement adaptation measures for food security, ensuring that the initiative strengthens local gender equity and generates a positive environmental impact in each territory.

3.2. Impact and Application

The methodology made it possible to evaluate the differentiated impacts of the project through the application of information gathering tools, using an "intersectionality" approach to establish a comprehensive analytical framework to address *"different forms of discrimination and oppression based on the combination of multiple social identities, such as gender, race, social class, sexual orientation, etc. In the context of climate change, intersectionality helps to understand how these factors intertwine to affect diverse groups unequally, exacerbating the vulnerability of the most marginalized"*⁶.

Therefore, the tools will analyze:

- How the implementation of the project can reduce gender inequality gaps at the provincial level.
- The role of each GAP in the implementation of measures and its relationship to access to resources and opportunities.
- Perceptions of gender equality among the populations involved and how these may influence project implementation.

At the age group level, in Ecuador, the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) divides the population into several age groups for statistical purposes. These groups can be broad, such as youth (0-19 years), young adults (20-39 years), middle-aged adults (40-59 years), and older adults (60 years and older). More detailed classifications can also be found, such as those used in the 2022 Census, which analyses the population by more specific age ranges (five-year age groups, 2022 Census, INEC).

This approach will ensure that the project meets the social equity and sustainability criteria required by the Green Climate Fund, promoting an inclusive solution tailored to local needs. In this regard, priority will be given to rural women in the prioritized provinces, their empowerment and involvement throughout the project development process. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), there are fifty-eight million rural women who play a strategic role in ensuring the food and nutritional security of their families, as do rural women in the rest of the world (Balbo, 2019) and (IICA, 2023).

⁶ Rigon, A. (2025). A review of intersectionality and climate change and the potential of intersectional participatory methods and storytelling to co-produce climate justice. *Climate and Development*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2025.2477105>.

3.3. Instruments and techniques used.

The following research techniques or instruments, tailored to the project's climate adaptation approach for food security, will be used for this study:

- a) Problem tree at the provincial level
- b) Online survey at the parish level

The proposed research techniques or tools were used to collect primary information specific to the Gender Analysis. In order to visualise the type of information required by the GCF and the specific tool used to obtain it, the following is presented:

Table 1: Details of research techniques used according to GCF variable – SAP FORECCSA+

Variable	Question	Secondary information	Problem Tree	Survey
What is the context?	What demographic data broken down by gender and income, including the percentage of female-headed households, is available?	X		X
	What are the main sources of livelihood and income for women and men?	X		X
	What are the needs and priorities in the specific sector(s) that the planned intervention will target? Are the needs and priorities of men and women different?	X		X
	What impacts are men and women experiencing due to specific climate risks?		X	X
	What is the legal situation of women?			X
	What are the common beliefs, values and stereotypes related to gender?		X	X
	What are the income and wage levels of women and men?	X		
Who has what?	What is the level of education of boys and girls?	X		X
	What is the situation regarding land tenure and resource use? Who controls access to land or own it? Do women have rights to land and other resources and productive assets?	X	X	X
	What are the principal areas of household expenditure?	X		
	Do men and women have bank accounts? Have they received loans?	X		
	Do men and women have mobile phones, access to radio, newspapers, and television?	X		
	Do men and women have access to extension services, training programmes, etc.?	X		X
	What is the division of labor between men and women, young and old, including in the specific sector(s) of intervention?	X		X
Who does what?				

Who decides?	How do men and women participate in the formal and informal economy?	X		
	Who manages the household and cares for children and/or the elderly?	X		X
	How much time is spent on domestic and care tasks?	X		X
	What crops do men and women grow?	X		X
	Who controls/manages/makes decisions about household resources, assets, and finances? Do women participate in household decision-making?		X	X
	How do men and women participate in community decision-making and in the political sphere in general?			X
	Do men/women belong to cooperatives or other types of economic, political, or social organizations?	X		X
Who benefits	Will the services/products of the proposed interventions be accessible and benefit both men and women?			X
	Will the proposed interventions increase the income of men and women?			X
	Will the proposed interventions cause an increase/decrease in the workload of women (and men)?			X
	Are there provisions to support women's productive and reproductive tasks, including unpaid domestic and care work?			X

Each technique/tool is described in detail below:

a) Problem Tree at the provincial level:

Objective:

Define the causal chain in which the problem of access to productive resources by women living in the areas prioritised by the project is embedded, which will inevitably lead to the identification of gender-specific causes, effects and impacts.

Development:

As recommended by the GCF⁷, the causes and effects of gender inequalities in local contexts should be identified, with the aim of "defining the causal chain in which the central problem is embedded. It helps to find solutions by visually tracing the causes and effects surrounding a problem, and the links between them. The core problem does not need to be focused on women or gender, but the gender analysis carried out so far will inevitably lead to the identification of gender-specific causes, effects and impacts."

⁷ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>.

Furthermore, according to this same GCF Guide, the results of the gender analysis, based on the information and data collected together with the Stakeholder Mapping, are synthesised in a "*gender narrative*", which constitutes the basic component of the "Gender Diagnosis or Assessment". The gender analysis and the narrative it produces typically uncover and describe the issues, gaps, and problems that project interventions will address. A problem tree analysis helps to clearly define the core problem and its causes and effects (GCF, 2017).

Therefore, this exercise will be carried out through participatory workshops organised with key stakeholders: women and men specialists from provincial and municipal decentralised autonomous governments (GAD), NGOs and academia in each of the 11 priority provinces. The gender issue tree at the provincial level will be drawn up in each provincial workshop following the methodology detailed in *Annex 1*.

b) Structured online survey with key stakeholders

Objective:

To collect input and information on gaps, problems and opportunities related to gender equality, agricultural production and food security, in order to understand gender roles and power relations in the territories prioritised by the project.

Development:

The surveys will be administered online with multiple-choice questions on food security, gaps, vulnerabilities and capacities. The forms will be accessible via mobile phone and computer, using the GoogleForms platform, and can be answered anonymously.

The first batch of survey forms will be sent out after the provincial workshops, with support provided by the focal points of each provincial GAD and remotely. The target population for the survey is leaders and representatives of local productive organisations and associations. The survey form template is presented in *Annex 2* of the document.

Indicator matrix of the survey

The survey will include multiple-choice questions to collect information to support indicators organized into four variables with five components, based on the three outcomes set out by the project:

- 1. Gaps:** Information on gender gaps in access to land tenure in priority territories; information on perceptions of gender and ethnic inequalities; and information on practices that devalue women's participation in decision-making.

2. **Problems and vulnerabilities:** This includes the indicators suggested by the GCF Guide for each GCF outcome area and identify vulnerabilities (demographic structure and impacts) and capacities for change (women's roles in a sector, institutional frameworks, and existing policies) specific to climate change adaptation.⁸
3. **Capacities for change:** Similarly, the indicators suggested by the GCF Guide are included for each GCF outcome area and to identify vulnerabilities (demographic structure and impacts) and capacities for change (roles of women in a sector, institutional frameworks, and existing policies) specific to climate change adaptation.
4. **Physical Autonomy:** Explore information organized into indicators on knowledge of gender-based violence (GBV) and ways in which violence affects productivity based on the project theme. Having this information available in the Gender Assessment is a specific GCF requirement for SAP processes.

Based on these variables, the survey questions will explore the relationships between gender, climate change, production, and food security to identify the intersections that deepen gender gaps.

Table 2: Matrix of Gender Indicators from the Survey of the Population of FORECCSA+ Priority Parishes

VARIABLE	COMPONENT	Gender Indicators according to the results of the FORECCSA+ Project		
		Outcome 1: Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures	Outcome 2: Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems.	Outcome 3: Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas.
Gaps	Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training	Percentage of people surveyed according to association of ideas on the relationship between access to and control of land/financing/technology/training and food security	Percentage of respondents who consider that there are no inequalities in access to and control of land, credit, technology, and training between men and women (with cultural relevance)	Percentage of respondents who express ideas that devalue women's participation in decision-making (in different areas)
Problems and Vulnerabilities	Climate Adaptation	Proportion and number of women among vulnerable population groups and communities	Proportion and number of women most exposed to food insecurity	Proportion and number of women who lack access to adequate productive infrastructure (irrigation, collection centers, inputs, etc.)
Capacities for change	Local potential	Roles of women in prioritized communities	Roles of women in prioritized communities	Role of women in the design and maintenance of productive infrastructure

⁸ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>.

Physical autonomy	How violence affects productivity and political participation	Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about power relations: man/woman (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge	Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of power relations men/women (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge practices regarding power relations for decision-making in food security
	Gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents according to associations of ideas about gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge gender-based violence behaviors (both to highlight it as a social problem and to justify it through normalization).

4. Gender context in Ecuador

The World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index⁹ analyses the division of resources and opportunities between men and women in 146 countries. This index measures the relative gaps between men and women in four dimensions: economic participation and opportunities, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. This year, Ecuador ranks 25th in the 2025 Global Gender Gap Index, with a score of 0.77 (on a scale of 0 to 1, where 1 represents total parity), representing notable progress in health and education; however, inequalities persist in economic participation, especially in access to employment.

In this index, the country shows outstanding performance in education (0.99) and health (0.97), where it has practically closed the gender gap. However, challenges remain in the other two dimensions. In economic participation, Ecuador scores 0.68 and ranks 78th globally, reflecting inequalities in access to employment, income, and economic leadership. The gap in political empowerment is even wider, reflected in a score of just 0.43, the lowest of the four pillars of the index, indicating that female representation in decision-making positions remains limited, despite the reforms adopted in recent years across the political system.

Currently in Ecuador, women continue to face barriers to entering the labor market on equal terms. Many are concentrated in low-productivity sectors, earn less than men and face an overload of unpaid work, especially in the home. In addition, women in the country achieve similar or even higher levels of education than men. However, their participation in the labor market remains lower. According to the 2024 annual edition of the National Survey on Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment (ENEMDU), only 52% of women were part of the labor force, compared to 77% of men¹⁰.

⁹ World Economic Forum (2025). Global Gender Gap Report 2025. ISBN-13: 978-2-940631-89-6. The report and an interactive data platform are available at <https://www.weforum.org/publications/gender-gap-report-2025/>

¹⁰ <https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-2024/>

This gap reflects enormous untapped economic potential, since if it were completely closed, the country's GDP could increase by up to 17%, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) report "Tackling the Gender Gap in Ecuador's Labor Market"¹¹. According to this report, the gap is not explained by a lack of qualifications, but by structural and cultural barriers that limit women's professional integration. Among the most relevant are traditional gender roles that place them as the main caregivers in the home, as well as limited access to public childcare and eldercare services. In addition, women who do manage to enter the labor market do so under conditions that are unfavorable. In April 2025, less than 30% of women had adequate employment, i.e., with remuneration equal to or above the minimum wage and full-time hours (INEC).

On the other hand, many women perform unpaid work or work reduced hours, in informal sectors. In this regard, INEC data indicate that Ecuadorian women devote 31 hours per week to unpaid work, compared to 11.3 hours for men, which exacerbates gender inequality in Ecuador.

Another expression of latent inequality in the country is the wage gap, as women earn on average 23% less than men, twice the gap observed in countries such as Brazil, Mexico, or the United States, according to figures from the World Economic Forum. This difference is explained, in part, by the low presence of women in technical and scientific fields, which tend to offer better remuneration. Only one-third of women graduate in technical fields, compared to 70% of men.

In terms of institutional frameworks for gender equality in Ecuador, the National Council for Gender Equality (CNIG) is the institution responsible for ensuring the full enforcement and exercise of the rights of women and people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic and in international human rights instruments. In addition, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights¹² operates in the country as part of the executive branch, whose mission is "to work to guarantee and promote human rights through public policies of prevention, care and redress; to promote greater equality for those who are disadvantaged due to discrimination, vulnerability and violence" (MMDDHH, 2024). It should be noted that a change in the name and expansion of the functions of the MMDH could occur soon.

Although Ecuadorian society has some of the most advanced legislation on human rights and the recognition of equality without discrimination, deep structural gaps of inequality based on gender and sexual orientation persist (CNIG, 2022). This is visible at the international level in data such as the Gender and Social Institutions Index (SIGI) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in whose 2023 measurement Ecuador obtained a score of 17, This indicates a comparatively very low level of institutional gender inequality in all categories included: discrimination in the family, restricted physical integrity, restricted access to productive and financial resources, and restricted civil liberties.

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¹² The Ministry of Women and Human Rights (MMDH) was merged with the Ministry of Government in Ecuador, according to Executive Decree 60 of 15 August 2025, signed by President Daniel Noboa.

In this regard, there are hardly any legal differences between men and women in Ecuador. According to the World Bank's "Women, Business and the Law" report (2023), Ecuador is one of the countries in the world and in the region with the fewest gender differences in legislation. Although this indicator reflects the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the country's main city (Quito), the country scored 84.9 out of 100. This reflects equality in laws on restrictions on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's remuneration, restrictions related to marriage, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting women's pensions. However, about laws affecting women's work after having children and limitations on women starting and running a business, Ecuador could consider reforms to improve women's legal equality (World Bank, 2023).

On the other hand, in terms of political participation in local elections by gender in Ecuador, women's participation is higher than that of men, as women's turnout is three points higher than men's in the last three local elections: 2009, 2014 and 2019 (CNE, 2022). Furthermore, women's participation as voters in the 2019 sectional elections is higher among those living in rural areas: it exceeds that of urban women by four points and that of urban men by seven points (CNE, 2022).

However, in the 2021 general elections, women's representation as presidential candidates was 6.3%. Likewise, because of the 2021 general elections, there are 137 members of the National Assembly, of whom fifty-two are women and eighty-five are men, meaning that women account for 38% of the Assembly (CNE, 2022).

Similarly, there are structural gender gaps related to poverty, access to education and employment among the Ecuadorian population, which directly influence relations between men and women. For example, illiteracy rates are higher among people living in poverty and extreme poverty. The data show slightly higher values among women. However, in rural areas, functional illiteracy among women is almost seven points higher than among men, and about four times higher than among urban women. INEC, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (ENEMDU, 2024).

Furthermore, in Ecuador, two-thirds of people in unpaid employment and two-thirds of the economically "inactive" population are women. Fifty-two per cent of women of working age are in the labor market, while the percentage of men is 76.9 per cent. This highlights a gap in access to paid work for women. Furthermore, women are at a disadvantage in terms of access to the labor market, as only 23.9% of women nationwide have adequate employment. INEC, Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment (ENEMDU, 2024).

The main indicators compiled that summarize and illustrate gender gaps in the country are shown below:

Table 3: Gender Indicators for Ecuador for the period 2024–2025

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Country</i>
<i>Female labor force (% of total labor force)</i>	37.2
<i>Adequate/full employment at the national level – Women</i>	23.9
<i>Unemployment at national level – Women</i>	6.7
<i>Population not part of the EAP by sex – Women Housewives</i>	37.0
<i>Labor income gap (average between men and women)</i>	15.3
<i>Population living in poverty by gender National - Women</i>	33.1
<i>Population living in extreme poverty by gender National - Women</i>	15.1
<i>Population living in poverty by gender, urban - Women</i>	23.9
<i>Population living in extreme poverty by gender, urban - Women</i>	8.2
<i>Population living in poverty by gender Rural - Women</i>	47.4
<i>Population living in extreme poverty by gender Rural - Women</i>	72.1
<i>Total weekly working hours (paid and unpaid) - Women</i>	77:39
<i>Total unpaid working time - Women</i>	31:49
<i>Total time spent on domestic work within the household - Women</i>	24:06
<i>Total time spent caring for children under 12, sick people and people with disabilities in the home - Women</i>	8:56
<i>Proportion of women graduating from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programmes, % tertiary education</i>	29.2
<i>Lower secondary education completion rate, women (% of relevant age group)</i>	105.0
<i>Lower secondary completion rate, males (% of relevant age group)</i>	99.7
<i>Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15–19)</i>	77.8
<i>Proportion of women aged 15 and over who have experienced some form of gender-based violence (physical, psychological, sexual, and/or patrimonial) throughout their lives</i>	64.9
<i>Vulnerable employment (unpaid family workers and self-employed workers), women (% of female employment) (ILO modelled estimate)</i>	58.3
<i>Vulnerable employment (unpaid family workers and self-employed workers), men (% of male employment) (ILO modelled estimate)</i>	41.6
<i>Adults with an account at a financial institution or through a mobile money provider, women (% of population aged 15+)</i>	58.0
<i>Adults who have an account with a financial institution or through a mobile money provider, males (% of population aged 15+)</i>	70.6

**In relation to secondary school completion, a number greater than 100 reflects late entry of students and an age above the relevant age group.*

Sources: World Bank, 2024. National Council for Gender Equality, 2023. UN Women, 2024

4.1. Legal framework for gender equality in Ecuador

According to the IMF report (2025), Ecuador has made notable progress towards a more egalitarian legal and regulatory framework. In this regard, the approval of the Violet Economy Law (2023) is noteworthy, which, according to the IMF, *"represents a crucial step in addressing inequalities in the labor market" by removing barriers that have historically limited women's participation.* This regulation, for example, requires all companies with more than fifty employees to submit an Equality Plan every four years. In addition, it promotes the prevention of sexual harassment, flexible working hours, equal pay, shared parental leave and the provision of childcare services, among other provisions.

Table 4: Ecuador's Gender Regulatory Framework

Date	Legislation	Details
2018	Comprehensive Organic Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women	Comprehensive measures for prevention, protection, and redress for victims. Specialized judicial units to address gender-based violence. Intersectoral coordination of care protocols is required.
2019	Reform of the Democracy Code	50% gender parity in the lists of candidates for the Assembly by 2025. Presidential tickets must be composed of men and women. Sanctions against political gender violence.
2023	Violet Economy Law	Plans for the prevention of sexual harassment and equality in companies. Flexible working hours, equal pay, shared parental leave and childcare services. Mandatory inclusion of women on boards of directors and tax incentives for hiring.
2023	Organic Law on the Right to Human Care	Maternity, paternity, and care leave that supports genders equally. Provides childcare centers and breastfeeding rooms in workplaces. Promotes share responsibility for care and protect against discrimination in care.
2024	Organic Law for Equal Pay between Women and Men	Requires equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender. Establishes a system to monitor and enforce equal pay. Establishes penalties for non-compliance.

Source: Official Register and International Monetary Fund (En Primicias, 2025).

4.2. Gender and Climate Change Policy Instruments

The main public policy instruments on gender and climate change currently in force in Ecuador are the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (PAGCC, 2024) implemented by the MAATE, and the National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women (ENAMR, 2021) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

Ecuador's *Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (PAGCC)*¹³ is a strategy that seeks to integrate gender needs into the country's climate change management and climate policy, with the aim of ensuring more equitable and inclusive climate action. It was developed in a participatory manner by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), the National Council for Gender Equality (CNIG) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with resources from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and in support of Ecuador's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which covers the period 2020-2025 and contemplates the second NDC (2025-2030).

Main objectives:

- Integrate a gender perspective: Ensure that gender is considered in all actions and programmes related to climate change in the country.
- Promote participation: Involve the population, especially women and other vulnerable groups, to ensure that their real needs are considered in climate management.
- Strengthen resilience: Contribute to the climate resilience of communities through policies and actions that recognize diversity and promote adaptation.

Key components:

- Gap diagnosis: An initial diagnosis was conducted to identify information gaps and specific needs related to gender and climate change in Ecuador.
- Roadmap: A roadmap was established to guide future phases of the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan.
- Synergy between policies: Seeks to improve coordination and synergy between climate change and gender equality strategies in Ecuador.
- Framework for action: The plan serves as a tool to guide key institutions and actors in planning climate change projects and programmes with a gender focus.

On the other hand, the *Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women in Ecuador*¹⁴, promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), seeks to promote gender equality, empowerment, and productive development for rural women. This is achieved through access to financing, technical and technological training, and the opening of direct marketing channels, thus highlighting their key role in family farming and food security in the country.

¹³ [https://iucn.org/es/resources/herramienta-de-conservacion/plan-de-accion-de-genero-y-cambio-climatico-ecuador-pagcc#:~:text=Conservation%20tool-Plan%20de%20Acci%C3%B3n%20de%20G%C3%A9nero%20y%20Cambio%20Clim%C3%A1tico%20Ecuador%20\(PAGcc,para%20el%20Desarrollo%20\(AECID\).&text=Esta%20pol%C3%ADtica%20posiciona%20al%20Ecuador,Igualdad%20de%20G%C3%A9nero%20\(ANIG](https://iucn.org/es/resources/herramienta-de-conservacion/plan-de-accion-de-genero-y-cambio-climatico-ecuador-pagcc#:~:text=Conservation%20tool-Plan%20de%20Acci%C3%B3n%20de%20G%C3%A9nero%20y%20Cambio%20Clim%C3%A1tico%20Ecuador%20(PAGcc,para%20el%20Desarrollo%20(AECID).&text=Esta%20pol%C3%ADtica%20posiciona%20al%20Ecuador,Igualdad%20de%20G%C3%A9nero%20(ANIG)

¹⁴ See: <https://ecuador.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/%E2%80%9CEstrategia%20Nacional%20Agropecuaria%20para%20Mujeres%20Rurales%20ENAMR%E2%80%9D.pdf>

Main objectives:

- Strengthen the public and political participation of rural women by including them in decision-making.
- Improve access to education, literacy, technology, technical and higher education to boost their employment.
- Ensure food security and health for rural families, with an emphasis on vulnerable women.
- Promote equitable access to natural resources such as water and agrobiodiversity and increase their climate resilience.

Areas of Action:

- Facilitate access to financial resources: The fund seeks to strengthen agricultural producers, especially small and medium-sized ones, with specialized credit.
- Provide technical assistance and training: Workshops, learning communities and advice are offered to improve agricultural practices and production management.
- Promoting marketing: Women are linked to alternative sales channels, such as the Family Farming Seal (AFC) and the AgroTienda Ecuador strategy.
- Fostering organization and leadership: Support is provided for associative work and the development of decision-making skills at the community and national levels.

Key results:

- Visibility and attention: The strategy has enabled more rural women to access MAG services.
- Registration and seals: The registration of women in the Family Farming Registry and the obtaining of the AFC Seal has been promoted.
- Training and well-being: Thousands of women have been trained in learning communities and access to services such as irrigation and drainage has been improved.
- Marketing and empowerment: More than 40,000 food baskets have been marketed directly, promoting the empowerment of women producers.

Within the framework of the implementation of the FORECCSA+ project's Gender Action Plan, the importance of coordinating the project's actions with existing provincial regulatory and policy frameworks on gender equality is recognized. These policies, although heterogeneous in their scope and territorial application, offer key opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions. For example, in the province of Pichincha, the Provincial Ordinance on Equality, Prevention and Eradication of Gender Violence of the Provincial GAD () is a robust instrument that promotes affirmative measures to eradicate discrimination and foster equality between men, women and LGBTI+ persons, including the prevention and care of gender violence. This ordinance will be a fundamental operational framework for the project's actions in this province, especially in relation to the implementation of safeguard protocols and the promotion of female leadership in climate adaptation processes.

In other provinces such as Guayas and Cotopaxi, the project will align with provincial strategies that, although different in their formulation, share common objectives of equity and participation. In Guayas, provincial and cantonal public policies aimed at promoting gender equality and women's political participation will enable the coordination of project actions with local actors and strengthen inclusive governance. In Cotopaxi, the Provincial Agenda for Women and Climate Change¹⁵ , developed in a participatory manner by women's organizations, LGBTIQ+ groups and social actors, represents a strategic reference point for the empowerment of rural women in climate adaptation processes. The implementation of the FORECCSA+ project will benefit from these local agendas and policies, generating synergies that enhance social, environmental, and economic co-benefits for women in participating rural communities.

5. Results obtained

5.1. Provincial problem trees

Based on the GCF Guide, it will be understood that the "problem tree analysis" defines the causal chain in which the central problem is embedded. It helps to find solutions by visually tracing the causes and effects surrounding a problem, and the links between them. The central problem does not need to be focused on women or gender, but the gender analysis conducted so far will inevitably lead to the identification of gender-specific causes, effects, and impacts"¹⁶ . At the operational level, the technical consulting team surveyed problem trees in each of the eleven provinces to obtain up-to-date information from the perspective of key actors who will be involved in the implementation of the project.

¹⁵ Decentralised Autonomous Provincial Government of Cotopaxi (GADPC), CARE Ecuador, Maquita Foundation. (2023) "Women's Agenda on Climate Change – Cotopaxi". Rural Andean Women.

¹⁶ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>.

What are the main obstacles and barriers faced by women in rural areas of your province in accessing productive resources fully and equitably and participating in climate change adaptation solutions?

The answer to this knowledge question will be linked to the climate change situation, or the problems exacerbated by climate change that require attention, or the central problem faced by women in rural areas of the province. It is important to note that there are many potential problems or starting points.¹⁷

5.1.1. Carchi

Carchi Problem Tree:

Root Causes	Sexist is caused by cultural, historical, and social factors. Traditional gender roles	Socio-economic problems	Limited access to education	Excessive workload
Causes	Limited participation in decision-making	Migration of young women to large cities	Low level of leadership, especially in irrigation boards	Lack of interest in participating in institutional activities
Problem	The situation of rural women in the province of Carchi is marked by unequal roles resulting from structural sexist, which is evident in aspects such as the fact that most land is owned by men and women are dedicated to small farms, estates, or plots.			
Immediate effects	They do not make decisions regarding the family economy; sexist in areas of economic interest such as potato cultivation and livestock farming	Inability to acquire large tracts of productive land	Only personal initiatives due to low level of leadership	Women are the ones who generate work on farms and in orchards
Effects	Transfer of submission to future women, psychological damage	Rural sector without generational change in women's	Greater incidence of women on small plots or farms	Women strengthen the family economy

¹⁷ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>. (pp37).

5.1.2. Imbabura

Problem Tree Imbabura:

Root causes	Patriarchal culture	Type of education	Type of production	
Causes	Gender roles influenced by culture	Lack of education focused on the territory	Women excluded from productive resources	
Problem	In rural areas of the province, the problem is defined as a situation characterized by sexism, classism and racism, which is reflected in women bearing a double burden that prevents or restricts their access to credit, inputs, land, decision-making related to productivity, their livelihoods and the home.			
Immediate effects	Greater responsibilities in the home and with the family	Wage discrimination and workload	Limited access to land and property ownership, training, and other productive resources	Teenage pregnancy
Effects	Lack of empathy for women's needs	Economic dependence, wage inequality	Limited participation in decision-making at all levels	

5.1.3. Cotopaxi

Cotopaxi Problem Tree:

Root causes	Poverty	Lack of education, low school enrolment	Political violence	Weak public policies
Causes	Family values, alcoholism, ideology	Ignorance of rights leads to their violation	Limited access to decision-making spaces	Lack of awareness of rights
Problem	In rural areas of the province of Cotopaxi, women face various restrictions and obstacles to fully accessing productive resources: lack of livelihoods, gender roles and stereotypes, work overload, racism, and limited social participation, among the main ones.			
Immediate Effects	Migration	Economic Dependency	Non-participation in decision-making	Early pregnancy
Effects	Disintegration of the family unit	Lack of resources for production	Exclusion from decision-making spaces	

5.1.4. Chimborazo

Chimborazo Problem Tree:

Root causes	Historical cultural structure It is cultural, found in the mindset of people who continue to discriminate based on social, economic, or ethnic status.	Sexist Power Structures	Poverty	Normalization and naturalization of violence against women
Causes	Cultural, social, customs	Discriminatory norms, Inadequate public policies	Lack of education, burden of unpaid domestic and care work	Resignation and submission of many women
Problem	Women in rural areas of the province of Chimborazo experience various gaps and restrictions in terms of full access to productive resources, exacerbated by a macho culture that promotes gender roles, unpaid work, and gender-based violence.			
Immediate effects	Inferiority complex	Discrimination	Low self-esteem, low self-worth	Normalization of problems
Effects	Conformity with the situation, frustration	Invisibility of the role	Social inequalities, family overload, lack of awareness of its multifunctionality	Femicide, GBV

5.1.5. Bolívar:

Problem Tree Bolívar:

Root causes	Low education	Historical cultural pattern (sexist)	Social paradigms	Economic Dependency
Causes	Lack of access to resources	Lack of decision-making	Pre-established roles	Low visibility of women's economic role
Problem	In rural areas of Bolívar province, women's role in production is invisible due to historical cultural patterns of sexist and lack of access to education.			
Immediate effects	Poor child nutrition	Deterioration in health	Frustration	Personal, productive, and professional stagnation
Effects	Malnutrition	Increase in poverty	Exclusion	

5.1.6. Loja

Problem Tree Loja

Root causes	Cultural sexist, cultural heritage	Structural gender inequality	Poverty	Education
Causes	Traditional definition of roles	Economic dependence	Women do not own property	Lack of opportunities and employment
Problem	The participatory workshop identified factors that directly influence the limitations and gaps experienced by rural women in the province of Loja, such as lack of access to financing, technical training, productive assets, formal employment, and decision-making.			
Immediate effects	Poor organization in terms of land productivity; women are not involved in social change	Frustration	Lack of economic resources	Loss of potential skills and talents / little participation in decision-making
Effects	Exclusion	Cycles of violence	Social relegation	Social limitation

5.1.7. Azuay

Problem Tree Azuay:

Root causes	Patriarchy, cultural and religious norms, limited education	Capitalist system	Migration	Weather
Causes	Patriarchal traditions, policies only for men	Lack of access to education	Lack of opportunities	Lack of appreciation for work
Problem	In the province of Azuay, several key factors were identified that determine the limitations and gaps faced by rural women, such as lack of access to information and technology, land ownership and training, and social participation; a situation exacerbated by sexist and gender-based violence.			
Immediate effects	Devaluation of women	Work overload	Limited opportunities and inequality	Lack of motivation to participate in projects
Effects	Invisibility of women, violation of rights	Impact on physical and mental health, educational and professional exclusion	Increased gender gaps	Greater risk of poverty

5.1.8. Manabí

Manabí Problem Tree

Root causes	Historical land ownership in the hands of men	Double workload	Structural inequalities	
Causes	Lack of access to land tenure for women	Limited participation in productive projects or training opportunities	Gender inequality	Women's differing interest in diverse types of crops
Problem	The problem faced by rural women in Manabí, as identified in the workshop, is related to the lack of opportunities for women in production, despite the existence of productive schools exclusively for women. However, sexism is evident in the limitations placed on women's access to productive resources.			
Immediate effects	Limited access to productive credit	Lack of planned spaces for women's participation.	Division of administrative tasks and heavy labor	Variable effects depending on the sector; women can be involved in the entire value chain.
Effects	Limited access to credit	Restricted decision-making spaces, few young people participating		

5.1.9. Santa Elena

Problem Tree Santa Elena:

Root causes	Ancestral conception of individual property ownership in the hands of men	Limited access to decision-making spaces	Lack of education	
Causes	Lack of access to land tenure for women	Lack of local recognition of women	Lack of access to family planning	
Problem	At the rural level in the province, it was identified that the main problem for women is their poorly paid work due to cultural factors and barriers, which affects family production.			
Immediate effects	Women at the beginning of the value chain	They have little time to participate	Little participation in training	
Effects	Greater vulnerability of women	Exclusion from decision-making spaces	Low level of education	

5.1.10. Guayas

Problem Tree Guayas:

Root causes	Sexual division of labor	Double workload for women		
Causes	There are several factors that prevent women from engaging in productive activities	Little dedication to training or other areas due to their role in the home		
Problem	As a result of this exercise, several factors were identified that limit rural women's full access to productive resources in the province of Guayas, such as limited recognition in production chains, low access to productive credit, limited land tenure, and low or no wages.			
Immediate effects	Although credit is now more widely available, women have little access to it	Although women's participation has increased in recent years, it remains restricted in productive activities.		
Effects	Low dedication to productive activities, only for self-subsistence or family consumption	Limited time for participation in activities outside the home		

5.1.11. Pichincha

Pichincha Problem Tree:

Root causes	Structural causes such as global capitalism, patriarchy, slavery, extractive practices in remote areas and the expropriation of resources	Lack of access to education, low school enrolment in rural areas	Lack of access to land and other productive resources	
Causes	Sexism and traditional roles, lack of opportunities to hold management positions	Lack of sexual and reproductive education. Cultural stereotypes that influence perceptions of mechanization and technification as male tasks; Gender gaps in technical education	No associativity, food insecurity	
Problem	In Pichincha, this exercise identified a problem based on structural causes that is evident, on the one hand, in women's lack of access to productive and decision-making spaces, as well as a marked role for women linked to the home and therefore removed from productive activities, which has multiple effects.			
Immediate effects	Low participation of women in governance: few women in management positions	Few women in leadership positions have little time for their own ventures due to their responsibilities in the home	Lack of their own income for their development, lack of access to money or savings accounts	
Effects	Perpetuation of inequality	Low level of formal education	Persistence of rural poverty	

As a result of this exercise carried out in the provincial participatory workshops, one of the main aspects that was identified as a feature shared by all provinces in relation to the situation of gaps and limitations for women in rural areas has to do with a type of structural sexism based on historical cultural principles in both the highlands and the coast.

In addition, women are recognized as the breadwinners of the family economy and have a direct impact on small-scale production on family farms or vegetable gardens. This is linked to their traditional role in rural households, which is marked by the management of family care, particularly food preparation. This role is reinforced in some provinces due to the migration of young men from the countryside to the city, for economic reasons.

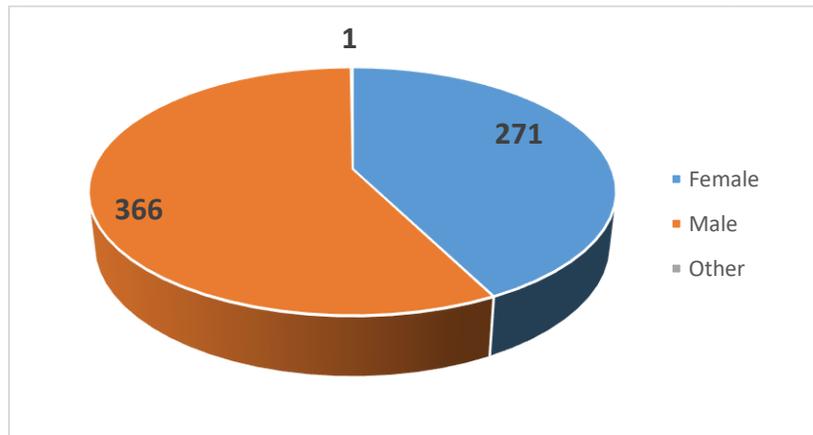
This highlighted from the outset the existence of structural gaps recognized as part of the root causes of the problem of the exclusion of rural women in all provinces, related to inequalities and customs learned through a deficient education system to which few women in rural areas have access.

While in some province’s restrictions on women's access to credit were evident, in others it was noted that women producers are recognized for their good reputation for repaying their loans on time and that some alternatives for accessing credit are currently available, such as "savings boxes".

5.2. Parish-level survey

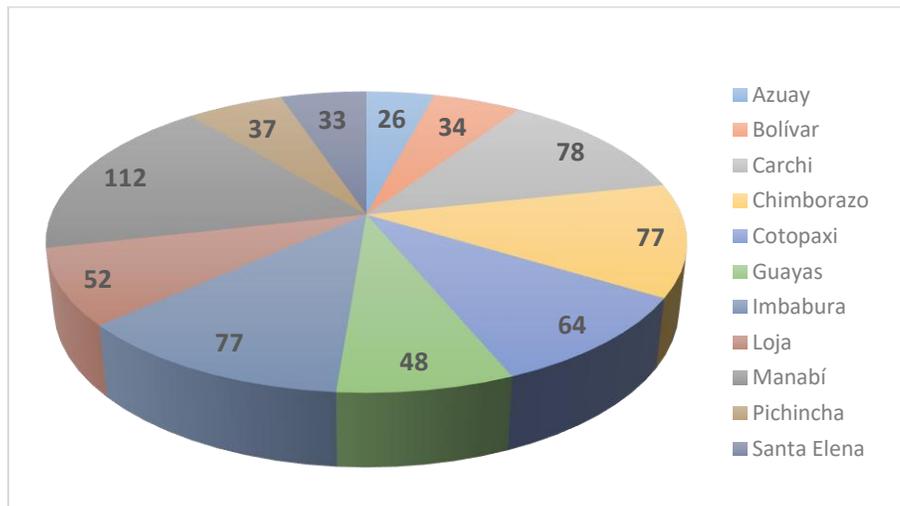
The survey, which was designed to collect primary data for the study, was reviewed and validated by the AE team based on the matrix of indicators and variables described in the methodology. The survey was sent out in August 2025 through a coordinated effort by IICA to the focal points of the provincial GADs and the MAG technical teams in the field. The survey was open for a total of three weeks and received a total of 638 responses to the online form, distributed as follows:

Figure 2: Gender composition of respondents to the FORECCSA+ project survey



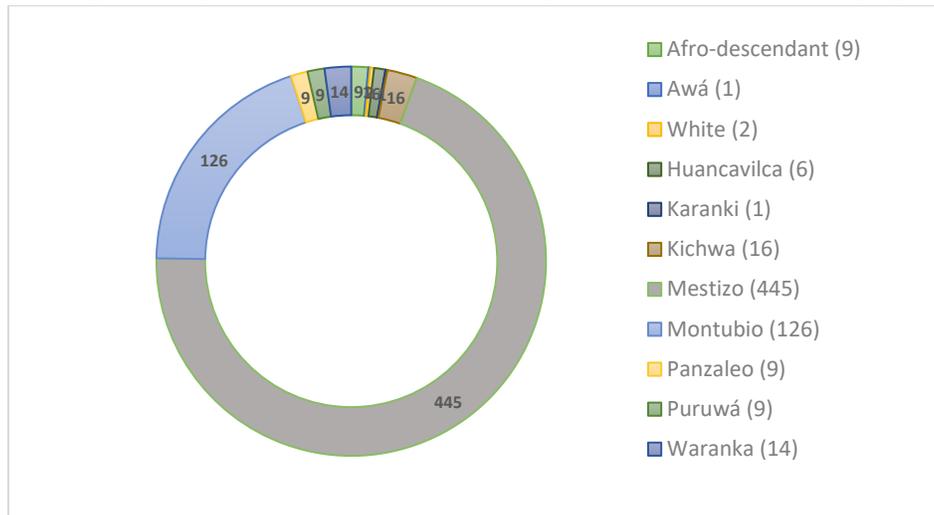
This gender distribution of the population that responded to the survey shows that 63 per cent of responses came from men and 46 per cent from women. On the other hand, in terms of the distribution by province of the responses collected (Figure 3), Manabí stands out as the province of origin of most of the responses received (112), followed by responses from the province of Carchi (78), as well as responses received from the provinces of Imbabura (77) and Chimborazo (77) mainly. However, the final survey data recorded the participation of the population from all eleven provinces and 115 parishes prioritized by the project.

Figure 3: Population surveyed by province



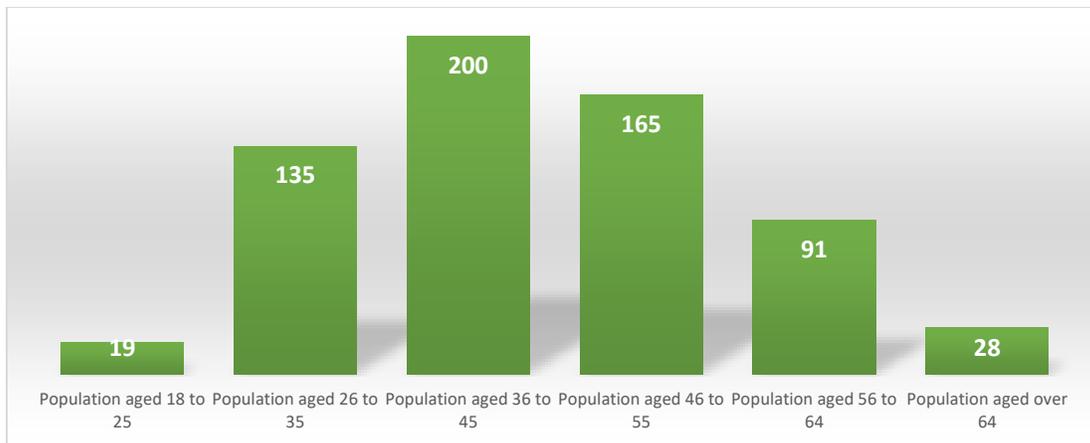
As part of the composition of the population that responded to the survey, the results show that in terms of ethnic self-definition, most people identified themselves as mestizos (445), followed by montubios (126) and Kichwas (16). This is noteworthy since the project maintains its risk category C and will apply the safeguards established in the Social and Environmental Action Plan (SEAP) for project activities related to Indigenous peoples and nationalities.

Figure 4: Composition by ethnic self-identification of respondents to the FORECCSA+ project survey



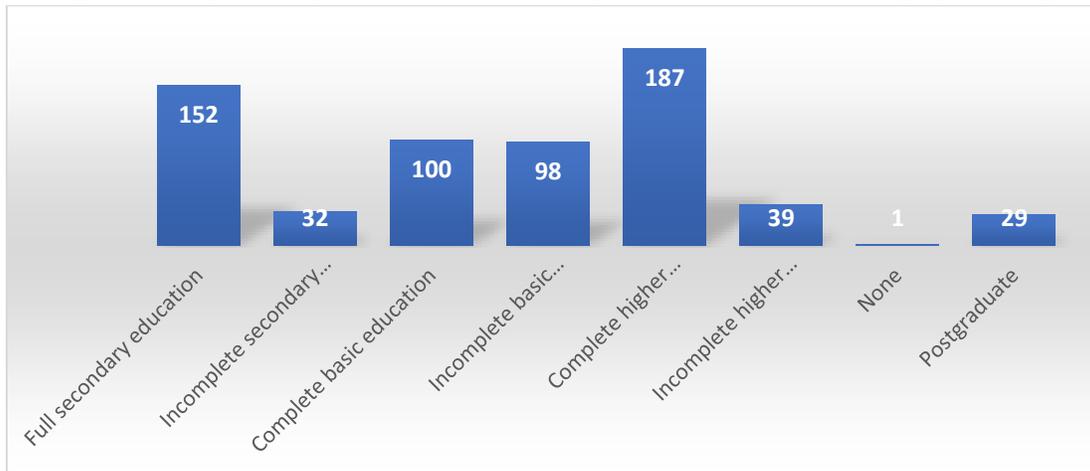
As part of this initial analysis of the population that responded to the project survey in the prioritized territories, it is important to mention that the population that registered the most responses is between 36 and 45 years of age (200), followed by the 46 to 55 age group (165), which together represent 57% of the total responses received.

Figure 5: Composition by age group of respondents to the FORECCSA+ project survey



In terms of the highest level of education attained by the population that responded to the survey, it is worth noting that the groups with a complete higher education (187) and a completed secondary education (157) account for most respondents.

Figure 6: Composition by level of education of respondents to the FORECCSA+ project survey



At the level of the survey questions that correspond to gender indicators established based on the project results. The results are presented based on these indicators established in the evaluation methodology: Table 2 (Page 13).

Variable: Gaps

Component: Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training

Indicator 1: Percentage of respondents according to their association of ideas about the relationship between access to and control of land/financing/technology/training and food security

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training	Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas on the relationship between access and control to land/financing/technology/training and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women and men have equal opportunities to access information and knowledge in agricultural production: 84.4%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access land: 84.4%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access financing for agricultural production: 83.8%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access technology for agricultural production: 84.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women and men have equal opportunities to access information and knowledge in agricultural production: 83.3%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access land: 81.5%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access financing for agricultural production: 81.5%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access technology for agricultural production: 80.1%.

According to the results, 83.3% of women and 84.4% of men state that both women and men have equal opportunities to access information and knowledge in agricultural production. However, 15.5% of men and 16.6% of women stated that there are not equal opportunities to access not only information and knowledge in agricultural production, but also to access land, financing, and technology in agricultural activities.

Indicator 2: *Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge the existence or non-existence of inequalities between men/women; ethnic groups; age groups, in access to land, financing, technology and training.*

Inequalities between men and women

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Access to and control over land, finance, technology, and training	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge the existence or non-existence of inequalities between men/women; ethnic groups; age groups, in access to land, financing, technology and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men own more land than women: 65.8%. - Men are the ones who decide on the family's money/resources: 51.6%. - Men are the ones who can take on debt, request loans for agricultural production or planting: 46.7%. - Men are the ones who decide on the tools and technologies used in agriculture: 63%. - Men are the ones who must be trained: 30%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men own more land than women: 66%. - Men are the ones who decide on the family's money/resources: 45.3%. - Men are the ones who can take on debt, apply for loans for agricultural production or planting: 36.9%. - Men are the ones who decide on the tools and technologies used in agriculture: 56%. - Men are the ones who need training: 22.5%.

Globally, there is a clear male bias in land rights. With few exceptions, women have rights to less land than men and to land of lower quality (ILC, 2020). In Ecuador, this reality is replicated in rural areas, and the parishes prioritized by the project are no exception. The survey results show that 65.8% of men and 66% of women believe it is a fact that men own more land than women.

In addition, more than half of the men indicated that they are the ones who decide on the family's money and resources, while 45.3% of women agreed with this statement. These types of inequalities are accentuated by the fact that 63% of men and 56% of women indicated that men are the ones who decide on the tools and technologies used in agriculture. However, when asked whether only men should receive training, 30% of men and 22.5% of women agreed, while the vast majority disagreed, highlighting the need to include women in capacity-building processes.

Ethnic inequalities

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge the existence or non-existence of inequalities between men/women; ethnic groups; age groups, in access to land, financing, technology and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous people/Afro-descendants/Montubios do not have the same amount of land as mestizos: 36.6%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same number of resources or money as mestizos: 38.5%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to apply for loans for agricultural production: 70%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to access tools and technology: 71.5%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios understand less than mestizos in training courses: 34.4%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous people / Afro-descendants / Montubios do not have the same amount of land as mestizos: 39.8%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same amount of resources or money as mestizos: 45%. - Indigenous people/Afro-descendants/Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to apply for loans for agricultural production: 69%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to access tools and technology: 72.3%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios understand less than mestizos in training courses: 35%.

In the case of the question on ethnic inequalities, the results show that around 40% of all men and women agreed that Indigenous peoples and nationalities do not have the same amount of land or resources as the mestizo population. This gap in access to resources is complemented by the statements of an average of 70% of women and men who agreed that the population of Indigenous peoples and nationalities has fewer opportunities than the mestizo population to apply for loans for agricultural production and to access tools and technology.

Indicator R3: *Percentage of respondents who express ideas that devalue women's participation in decision-making (in different areas)*

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Access to and control of land, finance, technology, and training	Percentage of respondents who express ideas that devalue women's participation in decision-making (in different areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's participation in community/parish activities must be with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children. 30.8%. - If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is because what she is saying is not important 18.5%. - If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is usually necessary to clarify her ideas. 38.5%. - Women should not speak in assemblies unless they are alone 29.7%. - Interrupting a woman when she is speaking in public is violence. 62.2%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's participation in community/parish activities must be done with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children. 30.6%. - If a woman is speaking at an assembly and a man interrupts her, it is because what she is saying is not important 27.3%. - If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is usually necessary to clarify her ideas 35%. - Women should not speak in assemblies unless they are alone 25%. - Interrupting a woman when she is speaking in public is violence. 67.8%.

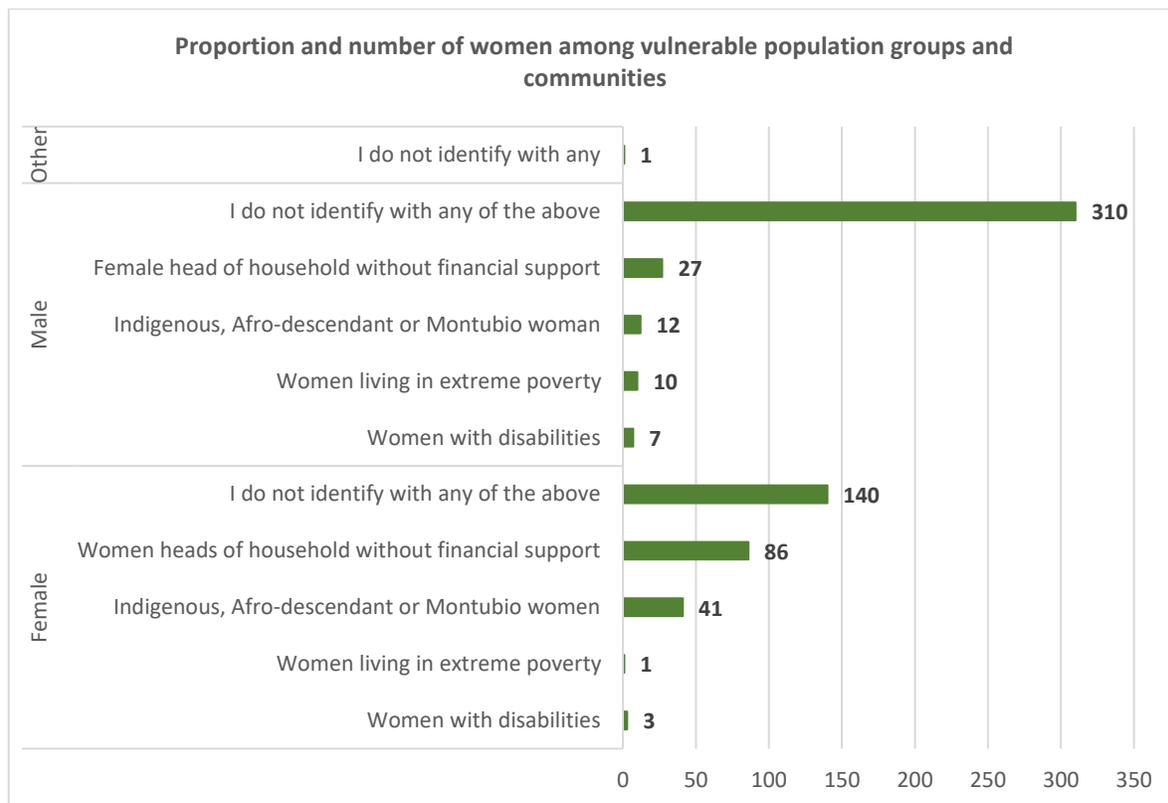
In the results, a considerable percentage of men (30.8%) and women (30.6%) stated that women should participate in community activities with the consent of a man (husband, partner, or father). Furthermore, it is striking that 27.3% of women believe that if a man interrupts a woman in an assembly, it is because "what she is saying is not important". Despite this, a significant percentage of respondents (61.9% of women and 71.4% of men) also stated that interrupting a woman when she is speaking in public is violence.

Variable: Problems and Vulnerabilities

Component: Climate Adaptation

Indicator R1: Proportion and number of women among vulnerable population groups and communities

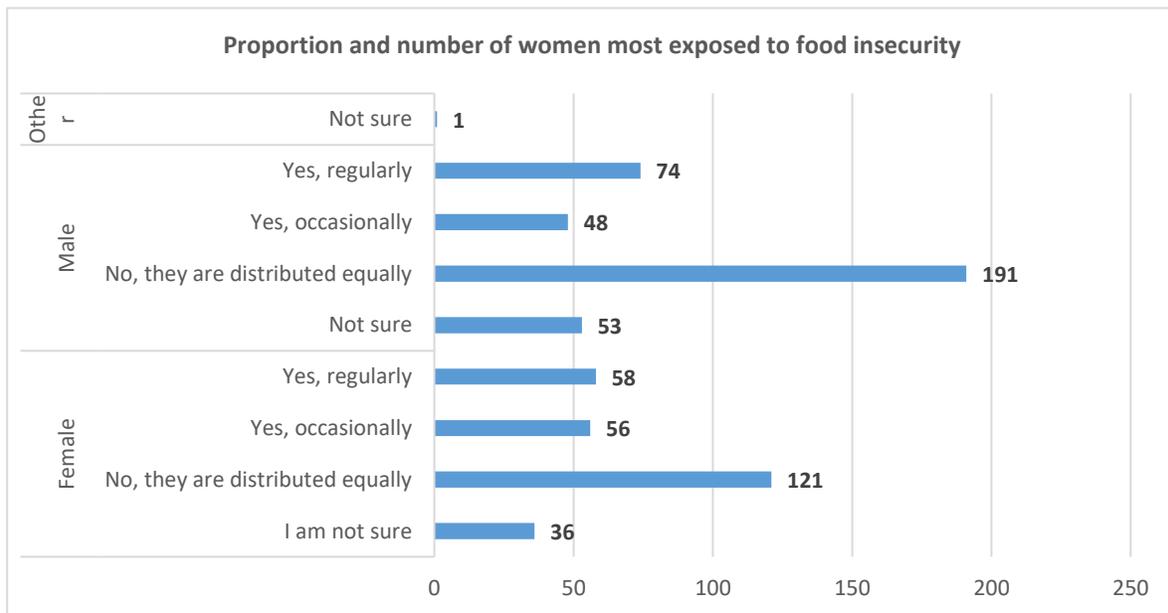
The indicators for the variable "problems and vulnerabilities" considered in this study correspond to those included in the GCF guide for mainstreaming gender in its funded projects (GCF, 2022). These indicators of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change were developed by each GCF result area to collect this information prior to project implementation. Indicator R1 of this variable corresponds to the GCF's outcome area: "most vulnerable people and communities".



The results show that 31% of the women who responded to the survey self-identified as female heads of household without financial support. Although the majority of women stated that they did not belong to a specific vulnerability group (51.6%), almost half of the total indicated that they were female heads of household without financial support (31%), indigenous women, women of African descent or montubias () (15%). It is noteworthy that, although this question was directed at women and most men responded that they did not identify with any of the vulnerability groups listed, they did fill in some of the vulnerability group categories listed in the question based on their perceptions.

Indicator R2: Proportion and number of women most exposed to food insecurity

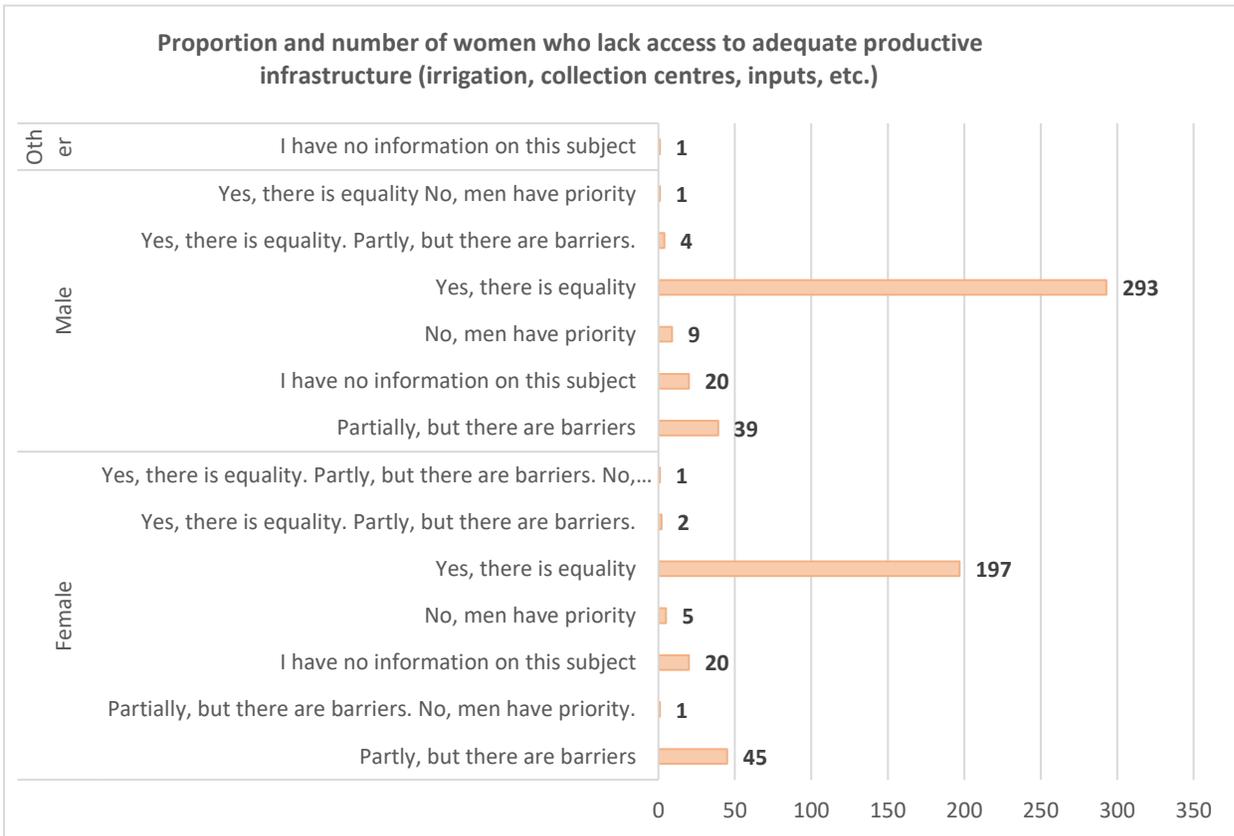
Similarly, this adaptation indicator was taken from the GCF guide for the vulnerabilities section. Indicator R2 for this component corresponds to the GCF area: "Health and well-being, and food and water security". For this reason and considering the project's substantial focus on adaptation actions for food security in the territories, the indicator was adjusted to "exposure to food insecurity".



The survey question was aimed at finding out whether women in households in the area eat less or lower quality food than other members when there is a food shortage. Fifty-two per cent of men and 44.6 per cent of women responded that food is distributed equally in times of scarcity. However, 20.2% of men and 21% of women surveyed responded that women do eat less or lower quality food than men in times of scarcity.

Indicator R3: Proportion and number of women who lack access to adequate productive infrastructure (irrigation, collection centers, inputs, etc.)

This indicator, included in the survey for the variable of vulnerabilities and problems faced by women in the intervention area, points to the GCF's results area: "Infrastructure and built environment". In the survey, this indicator was adjusted to a question referring to the socio-organisational agro-productive context of the rural area of the country, and to ascertain perceptions regarding women's access to productive infrastructure such as irrigation, collection centres, inputs, etc.



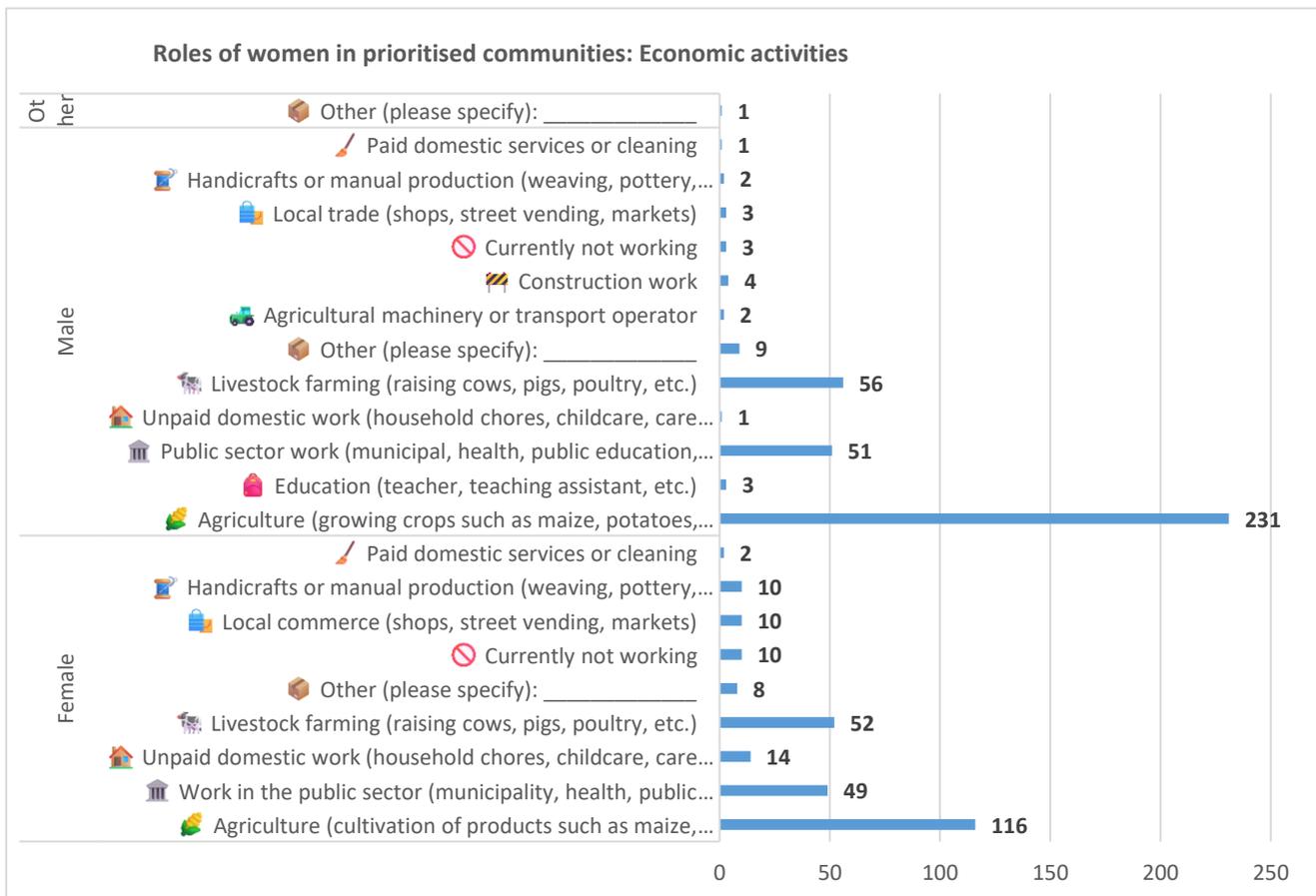
The results show that, although the majority of men (80%) and women (72.6%) surveyed consider that there is equality in access to productive infrastructure, there is a percentage of women (16.6%) and men (10.6%) who consider that there are barriers to be overcome in order for women to have free and full access to this type of infrastructure.

Variable: Capacities for Change

Component: Local Potential

Indicator R1: Roles of women in prioritized communities

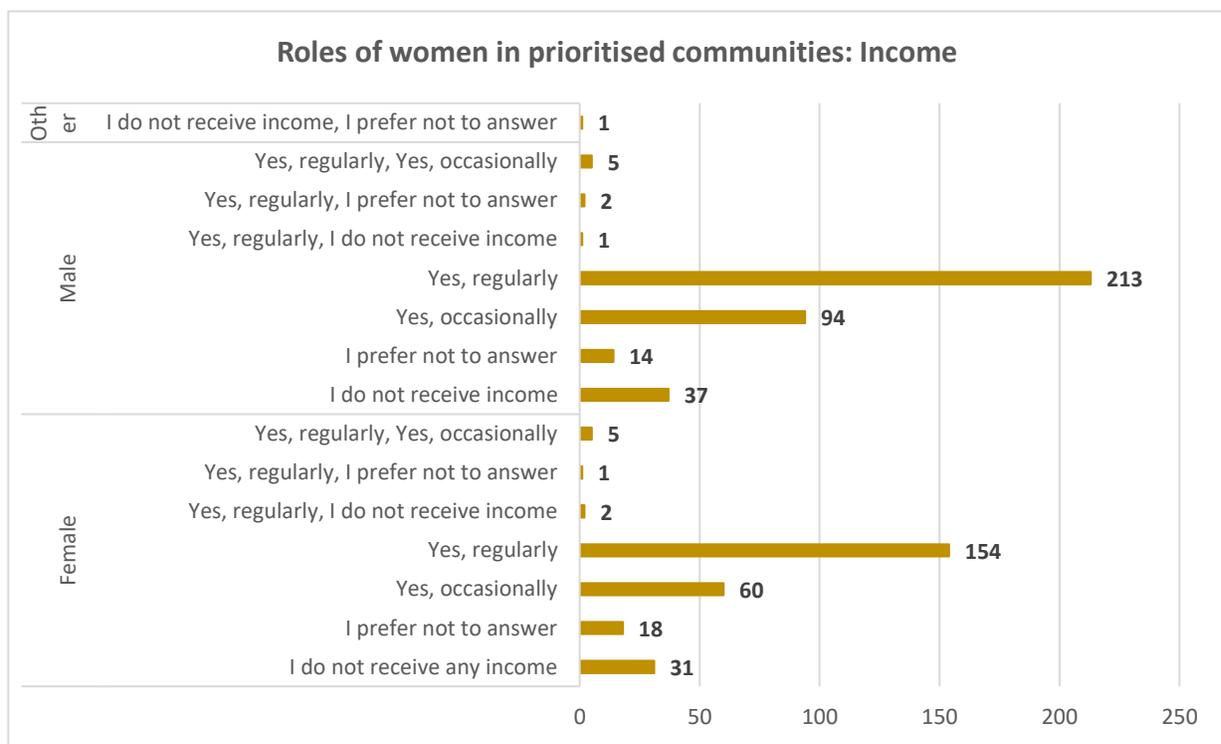
This group of indicators was also extracted from the GCF Guide (Pp 31 - GCF, 2017), so the variable as such responds to this classification in terms of the definition of "capacities for change: the role of women in a sector, existing policies and institutional frameworks". In this regard, the survey questions for this variable were contextualised in order to identify the profile of women in the intervention area in terms of their capacities, occupations, income and agricultural production experience.



The information obtained from the survey shows that the main economic activity of men (64%) and women (42.8%) surveyed is agriculture. The second main economic activity identified is livestock farming, which employs 15.3% of men and 19% of women. It is noteworthy that the third main economic activity identified in the survey is work in the public sector for both men and women.

Likewise, the results show that only 5% of women reported engaging in unpaid domestic work, and there is also a greater diversification of economic activities among the women surveyed, who reported engaging in handicrafts or manual production and local trade. This information should be further explored in the project baseline in order to obtain detailed and up-to-date information on the economic activities of women living and working in the project intervention area. However, precisely in order to broaden the scope of the characterisation of the profile of rural women participating in the project, another indicator of women's roles was included in the survey in order to obtain data on the economic remuneration for the activities carried out by women and to analyse the results in comparison with the responses of men:

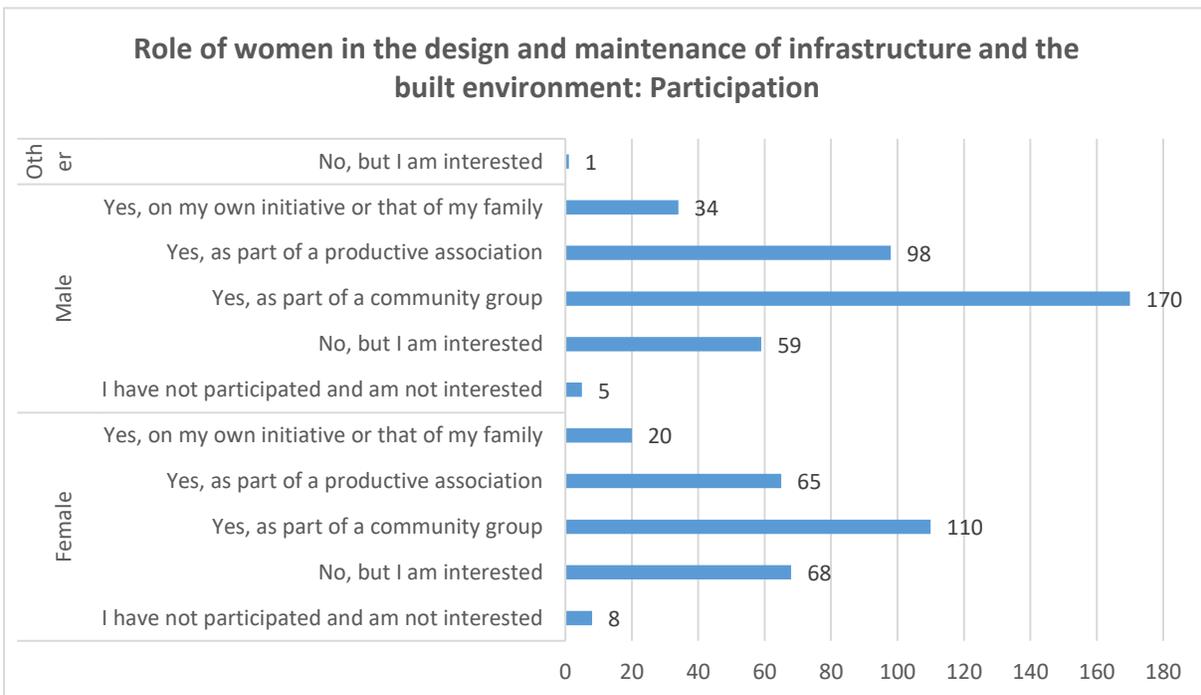
Indicator R2: Women's roles in priority communities



In the case of the results of this survey question, it can be seen that more than half of men (58%) and women (56.8%) stated that they regularly receive income for their work activities. In this regard, 22% of women and 25.6% of men responded that they do receive income, albeit occasionally. It is noteworthy that 10% of men and 11% of women stated that they did not receive income or remuneration for their work.

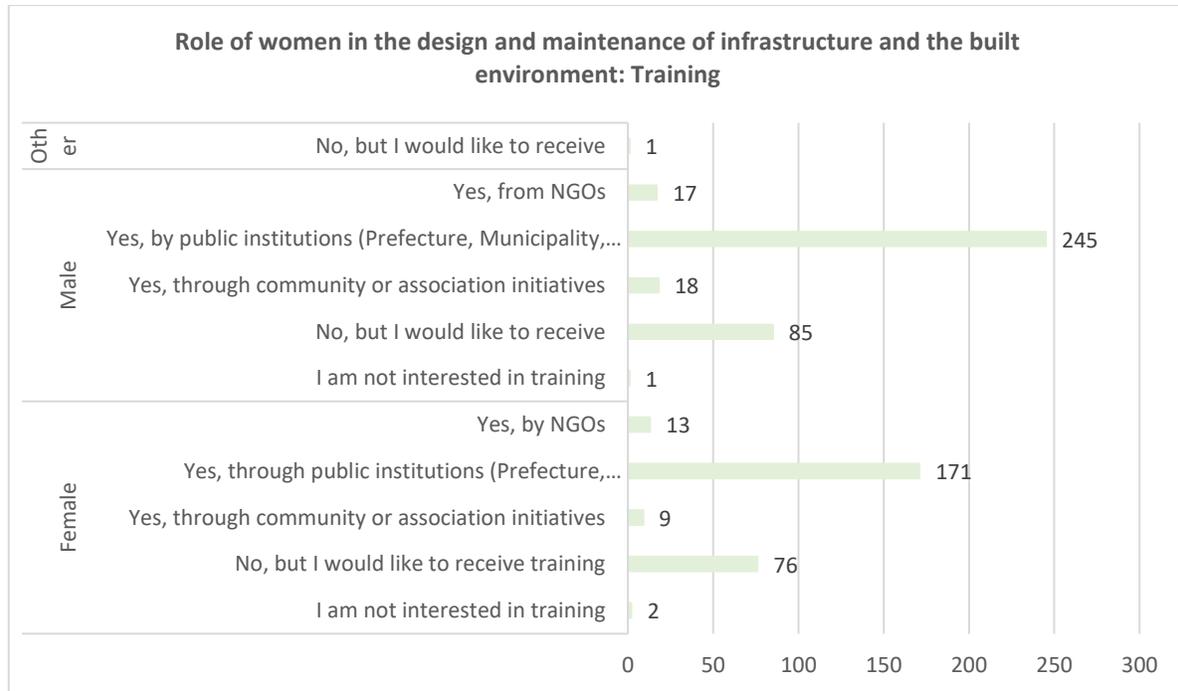
Indicator R3: Role of women in the design and maintenance of infrastructure and the built environment

This is another indicator focused on the GCF's result area: Infrastructure and built environment. The survey question was designed to investigate, on the one hand, the planning and design capabilities of agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation systems or collection centres and, on the other hand, whether people in the area have participated in training on the design and maintenance of agricultural infrastructure. The results obtained are presented below in the summary graph:



The data obtained shows that 64.5% of the women surveyed have participated in the planning and design of agro-productive infrastructure, both as part of community groups and productive associations, which in many places are one and the same. In addition, 24% of women stated that they have participated in these activities on their own initiative or that of their families, and 25% of women responded that although they have not participated in these activities before, they are interested in doing so.

In addition, the results compiled through the second question of the survey, which comprises indicator R3 on capacities for change, are as follows:



The responses obtained from men and women show, on the one hand, that people in the area do have knowledge related to the design and maintenance of agricultural infrastructure and that they have received training on the subject from public institutions for the most part: 63% of women and 66.9% of men of the total. However, it is noteworthy that 28% of women and 23.2% of men stated that they had not received training on this subject but would like to participate in such training.

This assessment of the indicator as a whole is important to consider when conducting the baseline analysis at the start of the project, as it will be a starting point for the level of interest of women and men in participating in the project's activities, which will be particularly useful for the strategy of engaging with the population of associations and communities at the local level.

Variable: Physical Autonomy

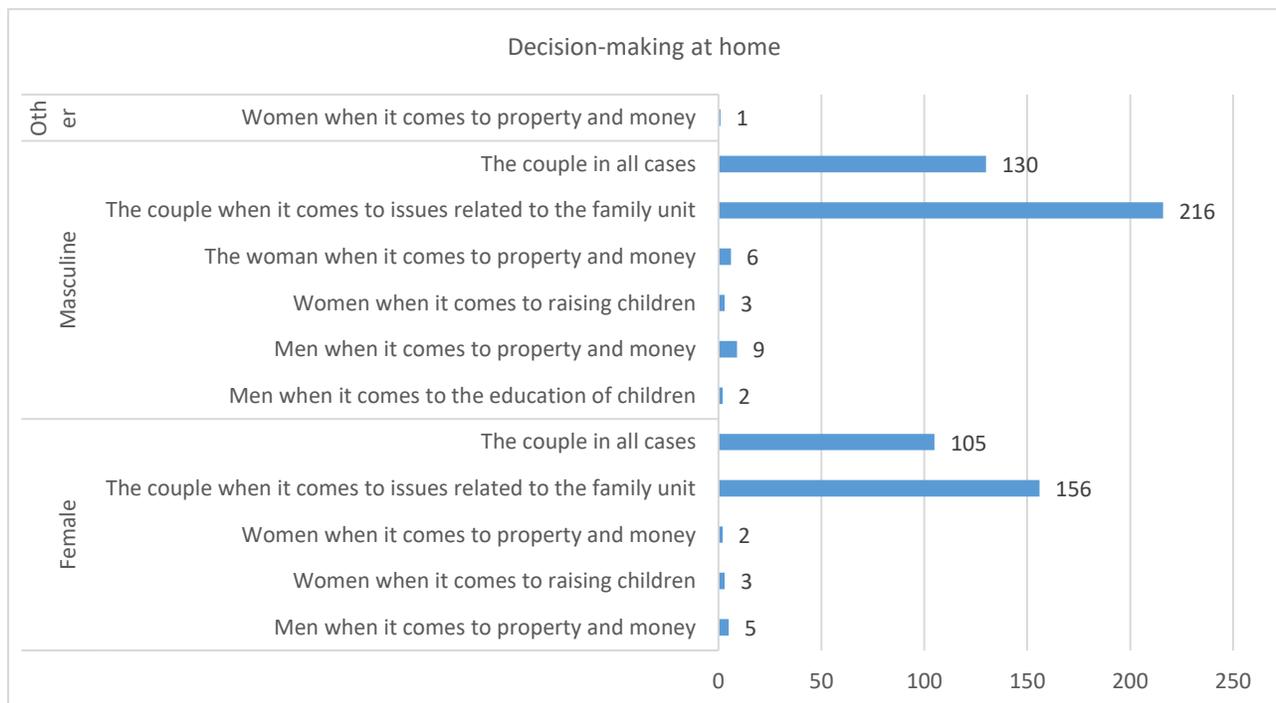
Component: How violence affects productivity and political participation

Indicator R1: Percentage of people surveyed according to association of ideas about power relations: man/woman (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
How violence affects productivity and political participation	Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about power relations: man/woman (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men know more about managing the natural environment and have more knowledge than women: 45%. - Men are better trained than women for agricultural tasks: 49.4%. - Men are the ones who should decide on agricultural production: 31.9%. - Women are responsible for household care tasks: 54.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men know more about managing the natural environment and have more knowledge than women: 35.7%. - Men are better trained than women for agricultural tasks: 45%. - Men should make decisions about agricultural production: 28%. - Women are responsible for household care tasks: 61.6%.

These results show that 35.7% of women and 45% of men indicated that men have more knowledge than women in terms of environmental management, and a slightly higher proportion of men (49.4%) and women (45%) stated that men are better trained for agricultural tasks. These data are complemented by the statement of 61.6% of women and 54.6% of men who indicated that women are responsible for household care tasks.

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of gender power relations (with cultural relevance); technical/empirical knowledge



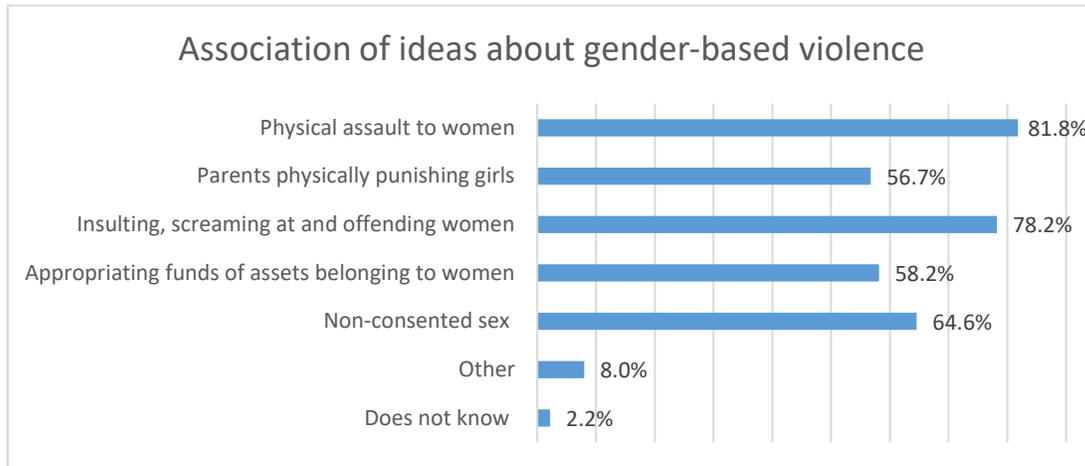
In this particular indicator, the question about decision-making within the household obtained more than 50% of both men and women who considered that it is the couple who should make decisions about the family. Specific responses about men's and women's decisions on different topics obtained less than 10% in all cases.

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
How violence affects productivity and political participation	Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of male/female power relations (with cultural relevance); technical/empirical knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's participation in community activities must be done with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children: 29.2%. - The man has authority in the family: 44.8%. - Decisions in the community should be made by consensus between men and women because they are equally important: 87.7% - If it is necessary to coordinate actions in the community, we talk to the men because they are the authority in the family and the community: 47.5%. - Decisions about food security should be made by those who have studied and have technical knowledge: 45%. - One of the problems of food insecurity is the ignorance and lack of education of "rural people": 62.8%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's participation in community activities must be done with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children: 25.4%. - Men have authority in the family: 31.7%. - Decisions in the community should be made by consensus between men and women because they are equally important: 85.2% - If it is necessary to coordinate actions in the community, we talk to the men because they are the authority in the family and the community: 38.7%. - Decisions about food security should be made by those who have studied and have technical knowledge: 40.2%. - One of the problems of food insecurity is the ignorance and lack of education of "rural people": 64.5%.

Component: Gender-based violence

Indicator R1: Percentage of people surveyed according to their association of ideas about gender-based violence.

This indicator was included to ascertain the level of knowledge about gender-based violence among the potential participants in the project. The survey results reinforce widely recognized public perceptions of gender-based violence (GBV) within Ecuador. Overall, the combined results for men and women showed that 81.8% of respondents associate GBV with a man hitting a woman. Then, 78.2% of people said that GBV corresponds to insulting, shouting at, and offending women. This was followed by 64.6% of respondents who stated that GBV is having sexual relations without the woman's consent. The responses provided by men and women are summarized in the following chart:



These figures align closely with national data: Ecuador’s Institute of Statistics (INEC) and UN Women report that approximately 60–65 % of women experience physical, emotional, or sexual violence during their lifetime, and 8 % report intimate partner violence in the prior 12 months. Moreover, UN Women notes that about two-thirds of women in Ecuador have been victims of some form of violence. Although responses from male and female participants generally reflect similar patterns, slight gender-specific differences emerged: women more frequently reported recognizing psychological and sexual violence, whereas men more often emphasized physical violence.

This suggests a persistent gap in awareness of non-physical forms of GBV—despite the legal recognition and ongoing policy efforts under Ecuador’s 2018 Organic Law on Violence Against Women. Overall, the findings underscore a high baseline understanding of overt forms of GBV among potential project participants, while highlighting the need for targeted sensitization around subtler forms like coercion, emotional abuse, and lack of consent.

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about gender-based violence

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of gender-based violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no specific violence against women; what happens is that women are very exaggerated and whiny: 19.1%. - It is normal for men to raise their voices and hit objects during arguments with their partners; this is not violence. It is in the nature of men to be strong, and they must demonstrate this: 13.11%. - A woman must prioritize keeping the family together, even if her husband shouts at her or hits her, because the family is the fundamental nucleus of society: 21.3%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no specific violence against women; what happens is that women are very exaggerated and whiny: 17.7%. - It is normal for men to raise their voices and hit objects during arguments with their partners; this is not violence, it is in the nature of men to be strong, and they must demonstrate this: 11.8%. - A woman should prioritize keeping the family together, even if her husband shouts at her or hits her, because the family is the fundamental nucleus of society: 13%.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women must obey their husbands; this is what God commands: 25.1%. - Violence against women is more common in poor families with lower levels of education: 52.4%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women must obey their husbands; it is God's command: 14.7%. - Violence against women is more common in poor families with lower levels of education: 51.6%.
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Although, in general terms, less than 20% of respondents do not identify the existence of gender-based violence, when reviewing each of the aspects investigated, it is clear 25.1% of men and 14.7% of women indicated that women must obey their husbands. Additionally, more men (19.1%) than women (17.7%) stated that there is no specific violence against women, but rather that "women are very exaggerated and whiny." Finally, a higher percentage of men than women answered affirmatively to two key questions:

- ✓ A woman should prioritize keeping the family together, even if her husband shouts at her or hits her, because the family is the fundamental nucleus of society.
- ✓ It is normal for men to raise their voices and hit objects during arguments with their partners; this is not violence, it is in the nature of men to be strong, and they must demonstrate this.

These results highlight the presence of sexist attitudes in around 20-25% of men who responded affirmatively to the subordination of married women to their partners and a relative normalisation of types of violence against women. In addition, it is noteworthy that for more than half of the women (51.6%) and men (52.4%) surveyed, violence against women is related to families living in poverty and with lower levels of education.

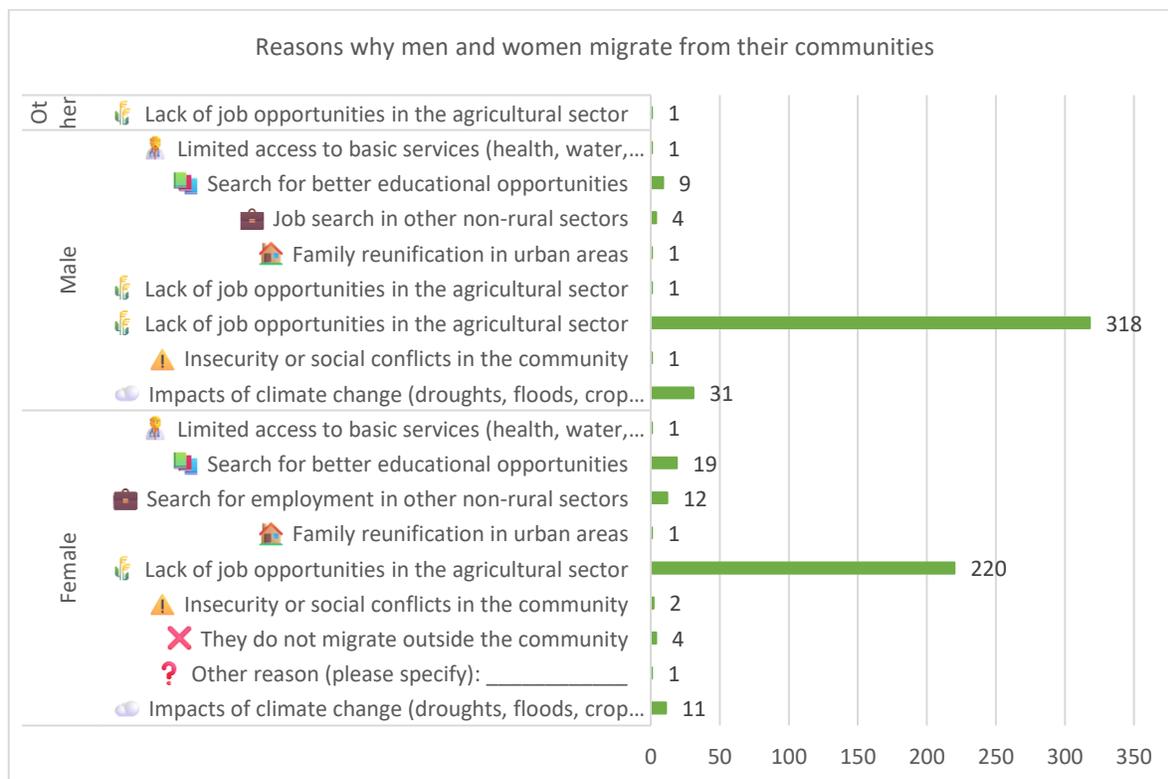
Indicator R3: Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge gender-based violence behaviours

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge gender-based violence behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is normal/natural for men to hit women: 4%. - It is normal/natural for parents to hit girls: 6%. - It is not violence to insult and offend women: 53.5%. - Money and property should be managed by men: 12.8%. - It is women's obligation to have sex with their partner, even if they do not want to: 4.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is normal/natural for men to hit women: 3%. - It is normal/natural for parents to hit girls: 6%. - Insulting and offending women is not violence: 54.9%. - Money and property should be managed by men: 4.4%. - It is the duty of women to have sexual relations with their partner, even if they do not want to: 3.3%.

The results obtained in indicator R3 of the gender-based violence component show that although less than 5% of women and men responded that it is not normal to hit women and for parents to hit girls, at the same time, more than 50% of women and men indicated that insulting and offending women is not violence. It is also evident that less than 5% of women agreed with the statement that money and property should be managed by men, compared to 12.8% of men who agreed with this statement.

Component: Mobility and Climate Change

Indicator R1: Percentage of people surveyed according to reasons for migrating from communities in the area of influence.



The migration of young people from rural areas to urban centers in Ecuador is a structural dynamic driven by the search for more stable and better-paid job opportunities. This trend has intensified in recent decades, particularly affecting men and women between the ages of 15 and 29, who face significant limitations in their home territories, such as restricted access to higher education, decent employment, and basic services (Fernandez, 2019). In this study, this reality is reflected in the results of indicator R1 of the mobility and climate change variable, since 86.8% of men and 81.1% of women responded that the main reason for young women and men to migrate from their communities is the lack of job opportunities in the agricultural sector.

Despite having higher levels of education than previous generations, rural youth are forced to migrate due to the precarious nature of agricultural work and the lack of local economic alternatives. This phenomenon has led to a growing disintegration of rural social fabric, deepening poverty in the countryside and contributing to disorderly urban expansion. Furthermore, migration is becoming a strategy for social mobility, albeit with uncertain results, especially for young women who face additional barriers related to gender systems and family expectations (Peraza de Aparicio, 2021).

5.3. Opportunities identified

Women gain access to agricultural resources

A key opportunity to strengthen the empowerment of women in rural areas is to ensure equitable access to productive assets, including land, machinery, agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilisers, bio-inputs) and appropriate technologies. The creation of technical assistance networks and the active inclusion of women in fairs, local marketing circuits and public procurement processes contribute to improving their economic visibility and participation in markets. It is also essential to facilitate access to financial services tailored to their needs, such as bank accounts, loans with adequate guarantees, digital payments and community revolving funds, recognising the structural barriers they face. The provision of light machinery, such as electric pruning shears and small-scale equipment, can also be decisive in increasing their participation in agricultural and field activities.

Capacities for change

During the gender assessment carried out in the project's intervention area, key capacities and potential for empowerment were identified among rural women, particularly those with experience in agricultural activities. Their traditional knowledge of resilient agricultural practices, combined with a high willingness to participate in agricultural production initiatives, represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen their role in climate change adaptation. These women not only play a central role in the food security of their households, but also show openness to processes of technical capacity building and community organisation. The project will be able to catalyse these capacities through actions that promote their leadership, access to productive resources and active participation in decision-making, thus contributing to transformative adaptation with a gender focus.

Climate adaptation with a generational approach

The FORECCSA+ project is proposed as a strategic intervention to reverse the dynamics of rural youth migration by strengthening agricultural production chains that are resilient to climate change. Through the implementation of adaptation measures and sustainable technologies in all prioritised parishes, the project seeks to increase the sustainability of key crops such as maize, potatoes, rice, sugar cane and beans. These actions will improve the profitability of local agricultural systems, strengthen livelihoods and encourage young men and women to put down roots in the area. By integrating adaptive practices such as efficient water management, the use of climate-stress-resistant seeds and access to inclusive markets, FORECCSA+ promotes a low-emission and resilient rural development model that recognises the transformative potential of young people as key agents in the transition to sustainable agri-food systems.

Local female empowerment

The FORECCSA+ project recognizes the strategic role of rural women in the climate resilience of territories and has prioritized their participation in capacity-building processes aimed at implementing adaptation measures on family farms and in local communities. Through field schools, practical workshops and certified training, the technical and organizational empowerment of rural women, female heads of household and rural youth will be promoted, facilitating their access to knowledge and adaptive tools. The topics covered will include agroforestry systems, community and small-scale irrigation, good agricultural and environmental practices, pest management with organic inputs, climate change, food security, and gender equality. These training processes will not only strengthen the capacity to respond to extreme weather events but will also contribute to the transformation of traditional roles, promoting gender equality and the sustainability of local agricultural production systems.

Opportunity to close gender gaps in rural climate adaptation

The gender assessment carried out within the framework of the FORECCSA+ project identified significant gaps in terms of equality, evidenced by the persistence of patriarchal attitudes in approximately 20–25% of the men surveyed, who expressed agreement with the subordination of married women to their partners, as well as a worrying normalization of various forms of gender-based violence. This situation represents a critical opportunity to integrate gender-transformative approaches into climate adaptation processes. The project envisages the implementation of training on rights, gender equality, new masculinities and intersectionality, aimed at strengthening local capacities for the planning and implementation of resilient and inclusive adaptation measures. In addition, specific protocols will be established to prevent abuse, sexual harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence during the implementation of the project. These actions will not only contribute to reducing structural social vulnerabilities but will also generate co-benefits in terms of community cohesion, inclusive governance, and the sustainability of climate interventions.

6. Conclusions

- Persistence of structural gender inequalities: In the 115 prioritized rural parishes, persistent inequalities were identified in women's access to formal education, decent employment, and access to agricultural resources, which limits their participation in climate adaptation and food security processes.
- Barriers in the agricultural sector: Women in the prioritized areas face multiple obstacles in accessing land, credit, technical assistance, and adaptive technologies, which restricts their ability to implement adaptation measures and develop resilient bio-enterprises.
- Power relations and traditional gender roles: Participatory diagnoses and problem trees reveal that power relations in the territories are marked by patriarchal patterns that reinforce the subordination of women, especially in family and community contexts.
- Normalization of sexist attitudes: The survey showed that between 20–25% of the men surveyed express attitudes that justify the subordination of married women and minimize forms of gender-based violence, which represents a risk to the safe and inclusive implementation of the project.
- Opportunity for social transformation: These gaps represent a strategic opportunity for the project to promote social transformation processes through training in rights, gender equality, new masculinities, and intersectionality, strengthening the leadership and empowerment of rural women.
- Potential for climate and social co-benefits: Strengthening women's capacities to implement adaptation measures, access diversified markets, and adapt their livelihoods to climate change will contribute to improving families' food and nutritional security, generating co-benefits in terms of reducing their workload, improving family income, and increasing participation in decision-making spaces.
- Need for specific safeguards: The FORECCSA+ project will implement specific protocols in the Environmental and Social Action Plans (ESAP) and Gender Action Plans (GAP) to prevent abuse, sexual harassment and gender-based violence, which is essential to ensure a safe and equitable environment during the implementation of the project in the field, in line with the standards of the Green Climate Fund.

7. Recommendations

- *Mainstream the intersectional approach in project implementation:* Ensure that all project activities incorporate gender equity criteria, including the participation of women in capacity building, design and implementation of measures, and improved market access.
- *Strengthen capacities with a gender-transformative approach:* As part of the Gender Action Plan, implement training programmes on rights, leadership, new masculinities, intersectionality, and climate adaptation, prioritizing women from agricultural associations and rural youth, to promote their empowerment and economic autonomy.
- *Design and implement mechanisms for equitable access to agricultural resources:* Establish inclusive criteria for field school programmes, incentive allocation, and calls for bio-enterprises, ensuring that women are given priority in the distribution and allocation of project resources.
- *Establish protocols for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence:* Develop and institutionalize clear protocols to prevent harassment, abuse, and gender-based violence during project implementation, including safe reporting channels, response mechanisms, and coordination with local protection services.
- *Promote women-led bio-enterprises:* Facilitate the development of climate change-resilient bio-enterprises through technical assistance, access to diversified markets, business management training, and support in marketing processes with a focus on the solidarity economy.
- *Monitor gender indicators and co-benefits of adaptation:* Incorporate specific indicators into the project monitoring system to assess progress in reducing gender gaps, empowering women, improving livelihoods and community resilience to climate change.
- *Promote inter-institutional partnerships for the sustainability of results:* Coordinate with local governments, women's organizations, educational institutions, and actors in the agricultural sector to ensure the sustainability of gender actions undertaken beyond the project's life cycle.

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9. Appendices:

Appendix 1: Problem Tree Methodology for Gender Analysis

Target Groups for the Workshops:

Male and female specialists from the eleven provincial GADs, as well as from NGOs and local universities related to the project's themes.

Workshop Dates and Provinces:

24-25 June 2025: Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, and Bolívar

30 June to 3 July 2025: Imbabura, Carchi, Manabí, Guayas, Santa Elena, Loja, and Azuay.

Materials:

- Three-colour cardstock cards
- Markers in different colours
- A0 printout of the problem tree
- PPT

Workshop schedule:

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
30 min 8:30 to 9:00	Registration and arrival of participants	IICA
5 min 9:00	Welcome by the institutional delegates	GAD, MAATE, IICA
15 min 9:05 – 9:20	Dynamics of the workshop participants' presentations	IICA
25 min 9:20 – 9:45	Background on the scaling up of the FORECCSA project and objectives Strategic of intervention	IICA
60 min 9:45 – 11:00	Territorial of initiatives/projects and strategic prioritization of actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mapping of initiatives/projects implemented in the territory. ● Mapping of key chains/crops/products ● Prioritization of measures for pre-identified adaptation measures 	IICA
15 min 11:00 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Refreshments 	IICA

45 min 11:15 – 12:00	Identification and Prioritization of provincial actors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping and strategic analysis of provincial actors • Classification of actors by type and level of influence 	IICA
45 min 12:00 – 12:45	Gender analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory diagnosis • Participatory of gender at the territorial level • Presentation of the gender survey and explanation of its methodological objective 	IICA
30 min 12:45 – 13:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Plenary 	IICA, participants workshop participants
15 min 13:15 – 13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements, next steps and closing of the workshop 	IICA, workshop participants of the workshop
13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch 	IICA

Steps taken:

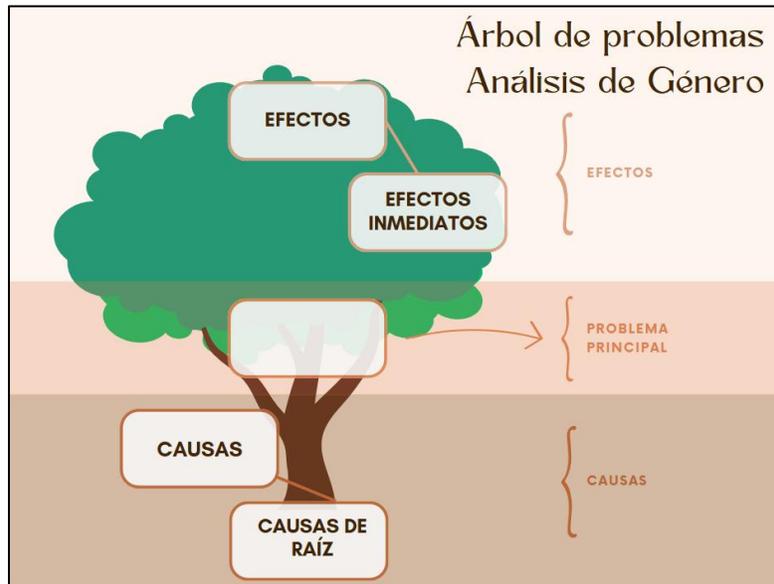
- 1) Explanation of the problem tree methodology applied to the relationship between gender and climate change. Introduce the dynamics of the exercise and each step to be followed, the materials to be used and the estimated time for the exercise. For this, the PPT will be used with a practical example of a problem tree.
- 2) Knowledge question for the audience:

What are the main obstacles and barriers that women in rural areas of your province face in gaining full and equitable access to productive resources and participating in climate change adaptation solutions?

The answers to this knowledge question will be linked to the climate change situation, or the problems exacerbated by climate change that require attention, or the central problem faced by women in rural areas of the province. It is important to note that there are many potential problems or starting points.¹⁸

- 3) Generate debate and define the problem in plenary with the A0 printout of the problem tree:

¹⁸ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewiz>. (pp37).



- 4) Two working groups will then be organised: 1) to work on the causes and root causes of the problem, and 2) to work on the consequences or effects and immediate effects of the defined problem. For the group work, coloured cards will be handed out to women and men, along with markers. This exercise will take 20 minutes.
- 5) Once the time is up, each group will appoint a representative to present their work to the whole group. Each group representative will be asked to include the information in the problem tree by placing the cardboard cards distributed for the exercise on it. This exercise will take 15 minutes.
- 6) The problem tree for each province will be shared with all participants after it has been systematised.

Annex 2: Form for collecting information on gender at the provincial level

In 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), prepared a Concept Note addressed to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the aim of securing resources to reduce the vulnerability of communities in priority areas, in accordance with the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Within this framework, IICA, as an agency accredited by the GCF and selected by the National Designated Authority (NDA), is preparing a financing proposal to implement the project "Strengthening the Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations – FORECCSA+".

This form consists of two parts, both of which must be completed. **The first part** identifies key institutions and organizations in the territories where the FORECCSA+ project is likely to be implemented. **The second part** collects information on gender and climate change in terms of gaps, vulnerabilities and opportunities related to gender equality, agricultural production, climate adaptation, and food security at the territorial level.

PART 2. GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE FORECCSA+ PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Welcome to the evaluation questionnaire on the Gender and Climate Change Approach within the framework of the FORECCSA+ Project, an initiative led by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), in coordination with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) as the implementing entity, and with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

🗣️ What is the purpose of the questionnaire?

This questionnaire aims to gather input and information on gaps, problems and opportunities related to gender equality, agricultural production, and food security, to understand gender roles and power relations in the territories prioritized by the project.

The information gathered will be key to formulating strategies that strengthen the participation of rural people, promoting more sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient production.

🕒 Estimated duration:
Approximately 15 minutes.

🔒 Confidentiality

Your responses will be used exclusively for the technical analysis of the project, ensuring the confidentiality and anonymity of participants at all times.

👤 Your participation is key!

If you are part of an agricultural production organization in your province, your contribution is essential to the success of the project. We also invite you to share this questionnaire with others in the sector to broaden the scope and representativeness of the information collected.

? Need help or have questions?

You can contact us through the following channels:

✉ Email: edison.calderon.consultor@iica.int

☎ WhatsApp: 0987378138

1 - General information

Province _____ District _____ Parish/community: _____

Organización/entidad _____

Gender of respondent: female __ male__ prefer not to say__ other__

Ethnic self-identification:

White

Mestizo(a)

Kichwa

Awá

Huancavilca

Karanki

Cayambi

Panzaleo

Natabuela

Puruwá

Kañari

Waranka

Montubio

Afro-descendant

Age group:

Population aged 18 to 25

Population aged 26 to 35

Population aged 36 to 45

Population aged 46 to 55

Population aged 56 to 64

Population aged over 64

Marital status of the respondent:

Single ___ Married ___ Widowed ___ Divorced ___ Cohabiting ___

Has children Yes ___ No ___

What is the highest level of education you have attained? (single answer option):

None

Incomplete basic education

Complete basic education

Incomplete secondary education

Complete secondary education

Incomplete higher education

Complete higher education

Postgraduate

Description of survey questions based on each variable, component, and project outcome:

Variable: Gaps

Component: Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training

Indicator R1: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about the relationship between access to and control of land/financing/technology/training and food security

1. Question: Answer yes or no to the following statements related to access and control of land, financing, access to technology (machinery, seeds), access to training and food security:

- b) Women and men have equal opportunities to access information and knowledge in agricultural production (yes/no)
- c) Women and men have equal opportunities to access land (yes/no)
- d) Women and men have equal opportunities to access financing for agricultural production (yes/no)
- e) Women and men have equal opportunities to access technology for agricultural production (yes/no)

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge the existence or non-existence of inequalities between men/women; ethnic groups; age groups, in access to land, financing, technology and training.

10. Question: Answer yes or no to the following options:

Inequalities between men and women

- a) Men have more land than women (yes/no)
- b) Men are the ones who decide on the family's money/resources (yes/no)
- c) Men are the ones who can take on debt and request loans for agricultural production and planting (yes/no)
- d) Men decide on the tools and technologies used in agriculture (yes/no)
- e) Men are the ones who must be trained (yes/no)

11. Question: Answer yes or no to the following options:

Ethnic inequalities

- a) Indigenous people / people of African descent / Montubios do not have the same amount of land as mestizos (yes/no)
- b) Indigenous people/Afro-descendants/Montubios do not have the same amount of resources or money as mestizos (yes/no)
- c) Indigenous people / people of African descent / Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to apply for loans for agricultural production (yes/no)
- d) Indigenous people / people of African descent / Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to access tools and technology (yes/no)
- e) Indigenous people/Afro-descendants/Montubios understand less than mestizos in training sessions (yes/no)

Indicator R3: Percentage of respondents who express ideas that devalue women's participation in decision-making (in different areas)

12. Question: What is your perception of the participation of men and women? Yes or No:

- a) Women's participation in community/parish activities must be done with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children. (yes/no)
- b) If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is because what she is saying is not important (yes/no)
- c) If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is usually necessary to clarify her ideas (yes/no)
- d) Women should not speak in assemblies unless they are alone (yes/no)
- e) Interrupting a woman when she is speaking in public is violence (yes/no)

Variable: Problems and Vulnerabilities

Component: Climate Adaptation

Indicator R1: Proportion and number of women among vulnerable population groups and communities

13. Question: Do you identify as part of any of the following vulnerable groups?

- a) Female head of household without financial support
- b) Indigenous, Afro-descendant or Montubia woman
- c) Woman with a disability
- d) Women living in extreme poverty
- e) Migrant or displaced woman
- f) I do not identify with any of the above

Indicator R2: Proportion and number of women with greater exposure to food insecurity

14. Question: Do women in your household eat less or eat food of lower quality than other members when there is a food shortage?

- a) Yes, regularly
- b) Yes, occasionally
- c) No, it is distributed equally
- d) I am not sure

Indicator R3: Proportion and number of women who lack access to adequate productive infrastructure (irrigation, collection centers, inputs, etc.)

15. Question: In your association or organization, do women have equal access to productive infrastructure such as irrigation, collection centers, inputs, etc. as men?

- a) Yes, there is equality
- b) Partially, but there are barriers
- c) No, men have priority
- d) I do not have information on this topic

Variable: Capacities for Change

Component: Local Potential

Indicator R1: Women's roles in prioritized communities

16. Question: What is the main economic activity you carry out within your community?

- a) Agriculture or livestock farming
- b) Local commerce (shop, market)
- c) Paid work outside the home
- d) Own business (handicrafts, local products)

- e) Unpaid work at home or on the farm
- f) Other

Indicator R2: Women's roles in prioritized communities

17. Question: Do you receive any income for the activities you do?

- a) Yes, regularly
- b) Yes, occasionally
- c) I do not receive any income
- d) I prefer not to answer

Indicator R3: Role of women in the design and maintenance of infrastructure and the built environment

18. Question: Have you participated in the planning or design of productive infrastructure in your community (irrigation systems, access roads, collection centers, etc.)?

- Yes, as part of a community group
- Yes, as part of a productive association
- Yes, on my own initiative or that of my family
- No, but I am interested
- I have not participated and am not interested

19. Question: Have you received training on topics related to the design or maintenance of productive infrastructure?

- Yes, by public institutions (Prefecture, Municipality, MAG)
- Yes, by NGOs
- Yes, by community or association initiatives
- No, but I would like to receive training
- I am not interested in receiving training

Variable: Physical Autonomy

Component: How violence affects productivity and political participation

Indicator R1: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about power relations: man/woman (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge

20. Question: Answer true or false for the following statements (multiple answers possible)

- a) Men know more about managing the natural environment and have more knowledge than women (true/false)
- b) Men are better trained than women for agricultural tasks (true/false)
- c) Men should decide on agricultural production (true/false)
- d) Women are responsible for household care tasks (true/false)

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of gender power relations (with cultural relevance); technical/empirical knowledge.

21. Question: Who do you think should make decisions in the home? (multiple answer options):

- a) The couple when it comes to issues related to the family unit
- b) The man when it comes to property and money
- c) The woman when it comes to property and money
- d) The woman when it comes to raising children
- e) The man when it comes to the children's education
- f) For the couple in all cases

22. Question: Choose Yes or No according to your perception (multiple answer options):

- a) Women's participation in community activities must be with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children (yes/no)
- b) The man has authority in the family (yes/no)
- c) Decisions in the community should be made by consensus between men and women because they are equally important (yes/no)
- d) If it is necessary to coordinate actions in the community, we talk to the men because they are the authority in the family and the community (yes/no).
- e) Decisions about food security should be made by those who have studied and have technical knowledge (yes/no).
- f) One of the problems of food insecurity is the ignorance and lack of education of "rural people" (yes/no)

Indicator R3: Percentage of respondents according to the extent to which they judge practices regarding power relations in decision-making on food security.

23. Question: Answer yes or no to the following behaviors:

- a) The man's decisions about what products are grown or produced are the ones that must be followed in the family (yes/no)
- b) The head of the household decides what food is bought or sold (yes/no)
- c) Women must ensure that the family is fed with the resources and/or money given to them by their husband/partner (yes/no)
- d) Not everyone in the family needs to eat the same amount; men and boys eat more than women and girls (yes/no)

Component: Gender-based violence

Indicator R1: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about gender-based violence

- 24. Question:** Answer true or false for the following statements (multiple answers possible)
- a) Men know more about managing the natural environment; they have more knowledge than women (true/false)
 - b) Men are better trained than women for agricultural tasks (true/false)
 - c) Men should decide on agricultural production (true/false)
 - d) Women are responsible for household care tasks (true/false)

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about gender-based violence

- 25. Question:** Do you believe that (multiple answer options):
- a) There is no specific violence against women; it is just that women are very exaggerated and whiny (yes/no)
 - b) It is normal for men to raise their voices and hit objects during arguments with their partners; this is not violence, it is in the nature of men to be strong, and they must demonstrate this (yes/no)
 - c) A woman should prioritize keeping the family together, even if her husband shouts at her or hits her, because the family is the fundamental nucleus of society (yes/no)
 - d) Women must obey their husbands; it is God's command (yes/no).
 - e) Violence against women is more common in poor families with lower levels of education.

Indicator R3: Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge gender-based violence behaviors.

- 26. Question:** Answer yes or no to the following behaviors (multiple answer options; none = zero affirmative answers; 1 affirmative answer = low; 2 affirmative answers = medium; 3 or 4 affirmative answers = high):
- a) It is normal/natural for men to hit women (yes/no)
 - b) It is normal/natural for parents to hit girls (yes/no)
 - c) It is not violence to insult and offend women (yes/no)
 - d) Money and property should be managed by men (yes/no)
 - e) It is the duty of women to have sexual relations with their partner, even if they do not want to (yes/no)

Variable: (In)Mobility and Climate Change

- 27. Question:** Where you live, what do you consider to be the main reason young women and men migrate away from their community or parish? (multiple answer options):

- a) Lack of job opportunities in the agricultural sector
- b) Impacts of climate change (droughts, floods, crop losses, etc.)
- c) Search for better educational opportunities.
- d) Search for employment in other non-rural sectors.
- e) Family reunification in urban areas
- f) Limited access to basic services (health, water, energy, transport)
- g) Insecurity or social conflicts in the community
- h) Other reason (please specify): _____
- i) They do not migrate outside the community.

Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador – FORECCSA+

Annex 4: Gender Action Plan

Prepared by:

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IICA ECUADOR
DECEMBER 2025

IMPACT STATEMENT:
 The FORECCSA+ project will contribute to strengthening climate resilience and food security in rural communities in 115 parishes across the country by implementing climate change adaptation measures that systematically integrate gender-responsive approaches. By embedding gender considerations throughout its design and implementation, the project will generate transformative and sustainable impacts that will improve the livelihoods of women, particularly engaged in agricultural associations and organizations. These impacts will strengthen women leadership, economic empowerment, and active participation in land management. In this way, FORECCSA+ will close structural gender gaps by facilitating rural women's access to resources, capacity building, productive assets and climate-resilient technologies, fostering more equitable and resilient territories.

RESULT STATEMENT:
 As a result of the implementation of the FORECCSA+ project, at least 104,245 rural women (equivalent to 30% of 347,482 direct beneficiaries) will have strengthened their knowledge, skills and capacities to cope with the effects of climate change, improve their food security and actively participate in decision-making processes within their communities. It is expected that these women, who are members of agricultural associations and organizations, will adopt resilient agricultural practices, diversify their livelihoods and access technical and financial resources that will enable them to improve their economic autonomy. In addition, a positive change in community attitudes towards gender equality is expected, evidenced by greater inclusion of women in local leadership spaces and territorial planning.

Outcome 1: Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures.

Output 1.1: Project beneficiaries implement climate change adaptation measures, contributing to food security.

ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS AND TARGETS	TIME	RESPONSIBLE	BUDGET
<p>Activity 1.1.1 Strengthen the capacities of project beneficiaries by promoting the active participation of rural women and young people.</p> <p>Baseline activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Socio-economic assessment of women working in agriculture in priority sectors (potatoes, hard and soft corn, rice, sugar cane, and beans), with variables such as land tenure, occupation, access to credit and markets, among others. - Socio-economic assessment of female heads of household in the prioritized parishes - List of types of adaptation measures in which women from prioritized parishes are most interested in participating. - Reference data on updated rates of women's access to credit and financing for agricultural production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of women heads of household and percentage of other vulnerable groups identified by intervention parish (115) • Number of women (and men) registered for the project's field schools (ECAS) • X% of female-headed households involved in the production of prioritized items in each project area. • Number and percentage of small-scale producers of priority commodities in each project area • Number of women involved in the value chains of priority commodities in the project areas. • Rate of access by women to financing for the cultivation of priority commodities in priority parishes <p>*Baselines established and targets summited in Q1-Q2.</p>	<p>M1 – M6</p>	<p>Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>

<p>Activity 1.1.1 Strengthen the capacities of project beneficiaries by promoting the active participation of rural women and young people.</p> <p>Activities for ECAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train rural women and men producers in the training cycles of the Field Schools (ECAs) with the aim of implementing the types of adaptation measures. - Prioritize access for women and young people to all project capacity-building processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BENEFICIARIOS DIRECTOS - - MEDIO TÉRMINO - TOTAL: 104,245 - %Mujeres (30%): 31,273 - % Hombres (70%): 72,971 - - - FINAL PROYECTO - TOTAL: 347,482 - %Mujeres (30%): 104,244 - % Hombres (70%): 243,237 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of rural women (and men) producers trained in Field Schools (ECAs) • Number of women and young agricultural producers who have participated in all the project's capacity-building processes. <p>Final target: 5,175 women/12,075 men rural producers participating in ECAs during four training cycles.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2: 1,380 women /3,220 men Y3: 1,380 women /3,220 men Y4: 1,380 women /3,220 men Y5: 1,035 women /2,415 men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of trained women who adopt at least one of climate change adaptation measures. <p>Final target: 90% women/ 90% men of trained people implemented at least one climate change adaptation measures.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y3: 80% Y4: 85% Y5: 85% Y6: 90%</p>	<p>Y2 – Y5</p>	<p>Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+</p>	<p>\$872,000</p>
<p>Activity 1.1.-3.3 GBV/SEAH Risk Mitigation</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>The project applies IICA's SEAH Policy and a zero-tolerance Code of Conduct for all staff and partners, supported by a dedicated Gender Specialist. Mandatory SEAH training and basic awareness measures are integrated into all project and community activities. A confidential, survivor-centered complaint mechanism (CCM) ensures safe reporting and referral to specialized services. SEAH risk screening and field supervision protocols are applied to ensure safe interactions in rural implementation areas.</p> <p>* SEAH's risk mitigation measures are detailed in the project's Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) in Annex 12.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring a full-time Gender Specialist throughout the project. • Percentage of project staff, partners, and community facilitators trained on GBV/SEAH. <p>Final target: 100% of project staff, partners, and community facilitators trained on GBV/SEAH.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y1: 100% Y2: 100% Y3: 100% Y4: 100% Y5: 100% Y6: 100% Y7: 100%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of project staff and partners signed and complied with the SEAH Code of Conduct. <p>Final target: 100% of project staff and partners signed and complied with the SEAH Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>Y1-Y7</p>	<p>Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+</p>	

	<p>Milestone per year: Y1: 100% Y2: 100% Y3: 100% Y4: 100% Y5: 100% Y6: 100% Y7: 100%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of women surveyed report awareness of CMM. Number of women reporting incidents through the CMM. <p>Final target: 100% of women surveyed report awareness o CMM.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y1: 100% Y2: 100% Y3: 100% Y4: 100% Y5: 100% Y6: 100% Y7: 100%</p>			
<p>Activity 1.1.2. Design and implement climate change adaptation measures in priority territories.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and involve women, especially female heads of household, and young people in the implementation of adaptation measures to protect water sources and water for consumption in priority areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of women and young people benefiting from the implementation of climate change adaptation measures in priority areas. <p>Final target: 68,164 women / 159,050 men benefiting from the implementation of climate change adaptation measures.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2: 8,250 women/ 19,250 men Y3: 15,000 women /35,000 men Y4: 15,000 women / 35,000 men Y5: 15,000 women /35,000 men Y6: 14,914 women /34,800 men</p>	Y2 – Y6	Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+	\$2,292,000
<p>Activity 1.1.3. Promote research initiatives aimed at climate change management.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the involvement of women and young students, teachers, thesis writers, and the productive sector in research initiatives promoted within the framework of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of women participating in research initiatives generated within the framework of the project. <p>Final target: 330 women/ 770 men benefiting from research initiatives.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2: 80 women /190 men Y3: 80 women / 190 men Y4: 80 women /190 men Y5: 90 women / 200 men</p>	Y2 – Y5	Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+ Partner higher education institutions	\$155,000
<p>Output 1.2: Project beneficiaries and local governments have technological tools for generating and accessing climate information.</p>				

ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS AND TARGETS	TIME	RESPONSIBLE	BUDGET
<p>Activity 1.2.1. Strengthening hydrometeorological observation networks in prioritized territories.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involve women and young people in activities to strengthen hydrometeorological observation networks in priority areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women and young people participating in activities to strengthen hydrometeorological observation networks in priority areas <p>Final target: 150 women /350 men participating in activities to strengthen hydrometeorological observation networks in prioritized territories.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2: 30 women /70 men Y3: 30 women /70 men Y4: 45 women /105 men Y5: 45 women /105 men</p>	Y2 – Y5	Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+	\$52,000
<p>Activity 1.2.2. Develop local climate services for accessing and monitoring climate information.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote access by women and young people in priority areas to timely, high-quality climate information and data because of strengthening hydrometeorological observation networks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women accessing climate information through the strengthening of hydrometeorological observation networks <p>Final target: 8,000 women /8,000 men access climate information through the strengthening of hydrometeorological observation networks.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2: 500 women /500 men Y3: 1,500 women /1500 men Y4: 2,000 women /2,000 men Y5: 2,000 women /2,000 men Y6: 2,000 women /2,000 men</p>	Y2 – Y6	Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+	\$137,000
<p>Outcome 2: Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems.</p>				
<p>Output 2.1: Project beneficiaries gain access to sustainable financing mechanisms.</p>				
ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS AND TARGETS	TIME	RESPONSIBLE	BUDGET
<p>Activity 2.1.2. Promote access to sustainable financing mechanisms for project beneficiaries.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the participation of women and young people in workshops for producers and public and private financial institutions on agricultural financing mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women who have participated in workshops organized by producers and public and private financial institutions on agricultural financing mechanisms. <p>Final target: 660 women /1,540 men who have participated in workshops organized by producers and public and private financial institutions on agricultural financing mechanisms.</p>	Y2 – Y3	Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+	\$10,000

	<p>Milestone per year: Y2: 330 women /770 men Y3: 330 women /770 men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of women that participated in financing mechanism consultations and obtain a loan. <p>Final target: 50% women/ 50% men of people who participate in financing mechanism consultations who obtain a loan.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y3: 50% Y4: 50%</p>			
<p>Output 2.2: Project beneficiaries strengthen their marketing capabilities by facilitating access to markets.</p>				
ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS AND TARGETS	TIME	RESPONSIBLE	BUDGET
<p>Activity 2.2.2. Strengthen value-added bio-enterprises in prioritized territories.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the inclusion of women and young people in the selection criteria for bio-enterprises for strengthening and financial incentives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of women and young people who gain access to strengthening their productive capacity through project financing support. <p>Final target: 30 women/30 men in bio-enterprises gain access to strengthening their productive capacity through project investment funds.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2: 5 women /5 men Y3: 5 women/5 men Y4: 10 women /5 men Y5: 10 women /10 men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of women that participated in bio-enterprise activities supported by the project and increased their income. <p>Final target: 90% women/ 90% men of people who received financial support for their bio-enterprise activities increased their income</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y6: 90%</p>	Y2 – Y5	Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+	\$594,000

<p>Activity 2.2.3. Enhance the marketing and promotion of products in markets.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the participation of women and young people in events and workshops promoting their local offerings with differentiated products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women and young people who strengthen their capacities through events and workshops promoting their local offerings with differentiated products. <p>Final target: 1,980 women/4,620 men strengthening their capacities through events and workshops promoting their local offerings with differentiated products.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2: 300 women /700 men Y3: 450 women/1,050 men Y4: 600 women /1,400 men Y5: 630 women /1,470 men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of women that participated in promotion’s activities and increased their offer of buyers. <p>Final target: 90% women/ 90% men of people who participated in promotion’s activities and increased their offer of buyers.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y3: 80% Y4: 85% Y5: 85% Y6: 90%</p>	<p>Y2 – Y5</p>	<p>Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+</p>	<p>\$64,000</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas.</p>				
<p>Output 3.1: Local governments strengthen their territorial policies that integrate climate change variables.</p>				
ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS AND TARGETS	TIME	RESPONSIBLE	BUDGET
<p>Activity 3.1.1. Strengthen the institutional capacities of local governments.</p> <p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the participation of women civil servants from local governments (GADs) in capacity-building processes for the implementation of climate change criteria in their territorial policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of female local government officials (GADs) who strengthen their capacities for the implementation of climate change criteria in their territorial policies. <p>Final target: 66 female /154 men local government officials (GADs) strengthening their capacities to implement climate change criteria in their territorial policies.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2:16 women /37 men Y3:16 women /37 men Y4:17 women /40 men Y5:17 women /40 men</p>	<p>Y2 – Y5</p>	<p>Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+</p>	<p>\$12,000</p>

Output 3.2: Local actors participate in governance mechanisms that facilitate the implementation and sustainability of the project.

ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS AND TARGETS	TIME	RESPONSIBLE	BUDGET
<p>Activity 3.2.1. Establish governance mechanisms that facilitate the implementation and sustainability of the project.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the participation of women civil servants from local governments (GAD) in governance mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women participating in territorial governance spaces. <p>Final target: 594 women /1,386 men participating in territorial governance spaces.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y2:148 women /346 men Y3:148 women /346 men Y4:149 women /347 men Y5:149 women /347 men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of women that participated in governance spaces and have leadership roles within local adaptation committees or producer organizations. <p>Final target: 80% women/ 80% men of people who participated in governance spaces and have leadership roles</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y3: 70% Y4: 75% Y5: 75% Y6: 80%</p>	Y2 – Y5	Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+	\$56,000

Output 3.3: Knowledge management mechanisms are in place to strengthen adaptation governance in priority territories.

ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS AND TARGETS	TIME	RESPONSIBLE	BUDGET
<p>Activity 3.3.1. Create spaces for the exchange of experiences to strengthen decision-making.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the participation of women and young people in capacity-building spaces, including the creation of boot camps and provincial experience exchanges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women participating in spaces for sharing experiences that enable them to make decisions on the implementation of adaptation measures. <p>Final target: 270 women /630 men participating in territorial governance spaces.</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y5: 135 women /315 men Y6: 135 women /315 men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of women that participated in spaces of decisions and reporting increased decision-making power in productive or community climate-adaptation activities. 	Y5 – Y6	Gender Specialist IICA – PMU FORECCSA+	\$42,000

	<p>Final target: 90% women/ 90% men of people who in spaces of decisions and reported an increase in their decision-making power</p> <p>Milestone per year: Y5: 90% Y6: 90%</p>			
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Strengthening Community Resilience to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations in Priority Areas of Ecuador - FORECCSA+

ANNEX 4: Gender Assessment

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1. Introduction

In 2023, Ecuador's Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), prepared a Concept Note for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the aim of securing climate finance to reduce the vulnerability of the population and their livelihoods, both productive and natural, in areas previously identified as priorities based on the results of climate risk studies included in the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan¹.

Against this backdrop, IICA, as accredited entity to the GCF (AE) and the entity selected by the National Designated Authority (NDA) to execute the process, is currently in the process of preparing the Financing Proposal and its Annexes, with the aim of scaling up the project "Strengthening the Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations" – FORECCSA.

Between 2011 and 2018, as part of this project, specific actions were implemented to strengthen climate resilience in four provinces of the Jubones River basin (Azuay, Loja and El Oro provinces) and in the cantons of Cayambe and Pedro Moncayo in the province of Pichincha, directly benefiting 19,356 people.

In this new scaling-up phase, the implementation is planned to be expanded to 115 parishes in eleven provinces to consolidate a territorial climate adaptation strategy that incorporates gender, environmental sustainability, and social equity approaches. The strategic interventions planned for the project include:

- **Outcome 1.** Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures.
- **Outcome 2.** Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems.
- **Outcome 3.** Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas.

Through these three outcomes, the implementation of project actions will be guided by the principle of agro-productive inclusion of women and young people in the prioritized territories, especially in terms of access to different resources such as technical assistance, training and awareness-raising, sustainable agricultural inputs and equipment as part of adaptation measures, access to markets for their products, and greater participation in decision-making about their livelihoods.

In this regard, IICA and the FORECCSA+ project will frame their actions within the principles and requirements of the GCF Gender Policy,² both at the institutional level and in the current project design process. Therefore, IICA will dedicate the necessary financial, human, and other resources, as appropriate, to comply with the principles and requirements of the GCF Gender Policy.

¹ MAATE. (2023). Ecuador's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2022-2027). Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE). Quito, Ecuador.

² Green Climate Fund. (2019). Gender policy (B.24/12). Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4ve4fm97>

In addition, IICA will apply its Gender Equality Policy³ at the level of the project's technical team, since it is mandatory within the workplace and applies to each and every person directly linked to the Institute, whether as part of its staff or as part of entities that have a consulting, internship, professional residency, supply, associated personnel or strategic partnership contract, among others, in all Member States and at Headquarters, with whom IICA interacts in order to fulfil its mission. Similarly, at the project level, IICA Ecuador will be responsible for supporting the implementation of the FORECCSA+ Gender Action Plan (GAP), as well as reporting on its results, including the generation and use of sex-disaggregated data and qualitative data.

Finally, within the framework of the GCF Gender Policy, in the current preparation phase of the FORECCSA+ project, this Annex includes gender assessment and analysis, together with the gender action plan at the project level. Annex 4 covers a gender context analysis at the national and provincial levels, including the most up-to-date data available, as well as an analysis of primary information on the main socio-cultural factors in the prioritized territories, which are exacerbated by climate change and aggravate gender inequality in rural Ecuador.

2. Objectives:

2.1. General Objective:

The gender analysis of the FORECCSA+ project aims to identify and analyze the structural inequalities that hinder the role of women in the implementation of several types of climate change adaptation measures in the 115 prioritized parishes in 11 provinces of Ecuador. This study will address gender roles and gaps, problems and barriers faced by women in the agricultural sector, as well as the power relations established in the participating populations at the territorial level.

This comprehensive diagnosis will aim to show the relationships between potential female and male participants in the project in terms of access to all types of agricultural resources, such as land tenure, agricultural inputs, financing mechanisms, training, and decision-making, in order to identify knowledge, opportunities, and capacities that can be used by those implementing adaptation measures to strengthen their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change on their food security.

2.2. Specific Objectives:

- a) To understand the social, economic, and political factors underlying gender inequality exacerbated by climate change, as well as the potential contribution of women and men in the prioritized territories to adapt and improve their resilience.

³ Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) (2024). Gender Equality Policy. Retrieved from: <https://hdl.handle.net/11324/23081>.

- b) Identify the multiple vulnerability factors that exist among the population groups participating in the project, which contribute to gender inequality.
- c) Conduct a gender assessment based on the identification of gaps, problems, vulnerabilities, and capacities, with an emphasis on priority attention groups (GAP)⁴ at the level of the prioritized territories.

3. Methodology

The methodology applied in this gender analysis followed the guidelines and directives of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)⁵, which was complemented by practical, territory-oriented tools based on the qualitative descriptive method and the quantitative method, recognizing their gender sensitivity and their ability to capture the social and cultural dynamics that affect men and women in relation to climate change adaptation.

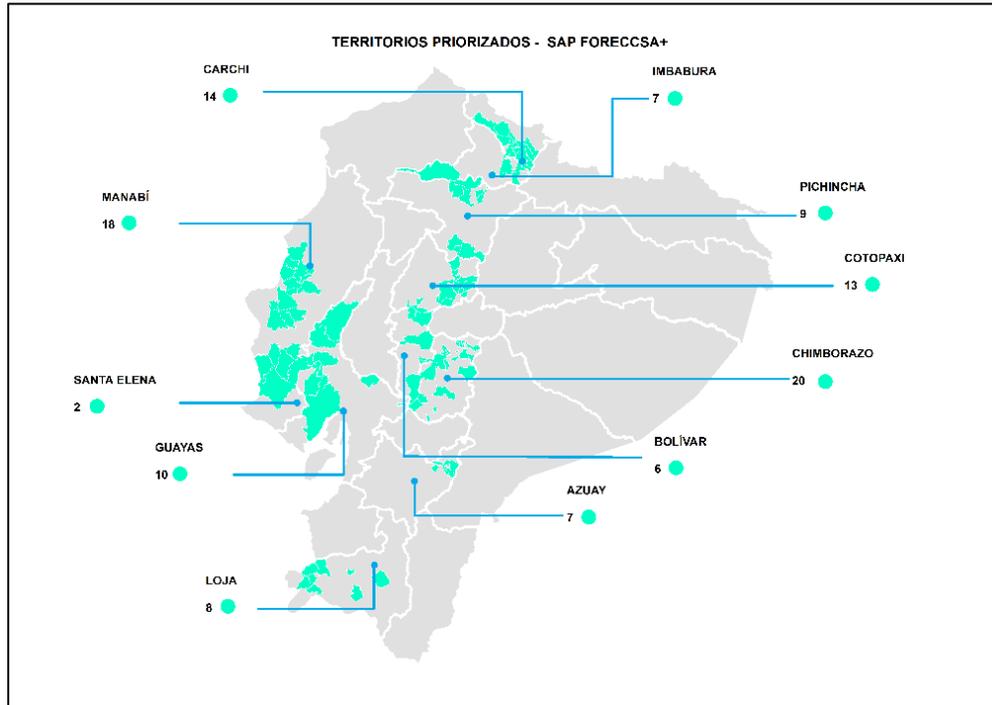
This comprehensive approach will enable analysis of the roles, activities, needs, and opportunities of each Priority Attention Group (GAP) involved in the project's operation, as well as their impact on gender equality from an intersectional perspective. Based on the project theme (food security) and the concept note approved by the GCF, priority has been given to PWGs of women and young people in rural areas of the intervention territories for their involvement in the implementation of adaptation measures. However, implementing adaptation measures at the local/community level generates concrete benefits for the entire family unit of the participants, so a baseline survey of the project should be conducted that considers these aspects in the demographic analysis of the participating/beneficiary population.

The following figure shows the intervention area in the 115 parishes prioritized for the implementation of the project actions in eleven provinces nationwide:

⁴ Priority Attention Groups (GAP) in Ecuador are defined primarily by the provisions of Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador (2008). This article states that the State must provide priority and specialised attention, both in the public and private spheres, to certain vulnerable groups.

⁵ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>

Figure 1: Map of prioritized parishes by province SAP FORECCSA+



3.1. Dialogue between Gender and Sustainability

Adapted to the sociocultural context of the Ecuadorian highlands and coast, this study establishes an interdisciplinary dialogue between gender theory and everyday life. In this regard, based on the guidelines for mainstreaming gender in GCF projects, through 11 participatory assessments using problem trees (one per province), surveys (with a representative sample of the prioritized parishes) and semi-structured interviews with key informants, the perceptions, experiences and relationships of potential project participants, both women and men, were investigated with regard to gender gaps, vulnerabilities and opportunities for implementing adaptation measures for food security, ensuring that the initiative strengthens local gender equity and generates a positive environmental impact in each territory. regarding gender gaps, vulnerabilities, and opportunities to implement adaptation measures for food security, ensuring that the initiative strengthens local gender equity and generates a positive environmental impact in each territory.

3.2. Impact and Application

The methodology made it possible to evaluate the differentiated impacts of the project through the application of information gathering tools, using an "intersectionality" approach to establish a comprehensive analytical framework to address *"different forms of discrimination and oppression based on the combination of multiple social identities, such as gender, race, social class, sexual orientation, etc. In the context of climate change, intersectionality helps to understand how these factors intertwine to affect diverse groups unequally, exacerbating the vulnerability of the most marginalized"*⁶.

Therefore, the tools will analyze:

- How the implementation of the project can reduce gender inequality gaps at the provincial level.
- The role of each GAP in the implementation of measures and its relationship to access to resources and opportunities.
- Perceptions of gender equality among the populations involved and how these may influence project implementation.

At the age group level, in Ecuador, the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) divides the population into several age groups for statistical purposes. These groups can be broad, such as youth (0-19 years), young adults (20-39 years), middle-aged adults (40-59 years), and older adults (60 years and older). More detailed classifications can also be found, such as those used in the 2022 Census, which analyses the population by more specific age ranges (five-year age groups, 2022 Census, INEC).

This approach will ensure that the project meets the social equity and sustainability criteria required by the Green Climate Fund, promoting an inclusive solution tailored to local needs. In this regard, priority will be given to rural women in the prioritized provinces, their empowerment and involvement throughout the project development process. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), there are fifty-eight million rural women who play a strategic role in ensuring the food and nutritional security of their families, as do rural women in the rest of the world (Balbo, 2019) and (IICA, 2023).

⁶ Rigon, A. (2025). A review of intersectionality and climate change and the potential of intersectional participatory methods and storytelling to co-produce climate justice. *Climate and Development*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2025.2477105>.

3.3. Instruments and techniques used.

The following research techniques or instruments, tailored to the project's climate adaptation approach for food security, will be used for this study:

- a) Problem tree at the provincial level
- b) Online survey at the parish level

The proposed research techniques or tools were used to collect primary information specific to the Gender Analysis. In order to visualise the type of information required by the GCF and the specific tool used to obtain it, the following is presented:

Table 1: Details of research techniques used according to GCF variable – SAP FORECCSA+

Variable	Question	Secondary information	Problem Tree	Survey
What is the context?	What demographic data broken down by gender and income, including the percentage of female-headed households, is available?	X		X
	What are the main sources of livelihood and income for women and men?	X		X
	What are the needs and priorities in the specific sector(s) that the planned intervention will target? Are the needs and priorities of men and women different?	X		X
	What impacts are men and women experiencing due to specific climate risks?		X	X
	What is the legal situation of women?			X
	What are the common beliefs, values and stereotypes related to gender?		X	X
	What are the income and wage levels of women and men?	X		
Who has what?	What is the level of education of boys and girls?	X		X
	What is the situation regarding land tenure and resource use? Who controls access to land or own it? Do women have rights to land and other resources and productive assets?	X	X	X
	What are the principal areas of household expenditure?	X		
	Do men and women have bank accounts? Have they received loans?	X		
	Do men and women have mobile phones, access to radio, newspapers, and television?	X		
	Do men and women have access to extension services, training programmes, etc.?	X		X
	What is the division of labor between men and women, young and old, including in the specific sector(s) of intervention?	X		X

Who decides?	How do men and women participate in the formal and informal economy?	X		
	Who manages the household and cares for children and/or the elderly?	X		X
	How much time is spent on domestic and care tasks?	X		X
	What crops do men and women grow?	X		X
	Who controls/manages/makes decisions about household resources, assets, and finances? Do women participate in household decision-making?		X	X
Who benefits	How do men and women participate in community decision-making and in the political sphere in general?			X
	Do men/women belong to cooperatives or other types of economic, political, or social organizations?	X		X
	Will the services/products of the proposed interventions be accessible and benefit both men and women?			X
	Will the proposed interventions increase the income of men and women?			X
	Will the proposed interventions cause an increase/decrease in the workload of women (and men)?			X
	Are there provisions to support women's productive and reproductive tasks, including unpaid domestic and care work?			X

Each technique/tool is described in detail below:

a) Problem Tree at the provincial level:

Objective:

Define the causal chain in which the problem of access to productive resources by women living in the areas prioritised by the project is embedded, which will inevitably lead to the identification of gender-specific causes, effects and impacts.

Development:

As recommended by the GCF⁷, the causes and effects of gender inequalities in local contexts should be identified, with the aim of "defining the causal chain in which the central problem is embedded. It helps to find solutions by visually tracing the causes and effects surrounding a problem, and the links between them. The core problem does not need to be focused on women or gender, but the gender analysis carried out so far will inevitably lead to the identification of gender-specific causes, effects and impacts."

⁷ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>.

Furthermore, according to this same GCF Guide, the results of the gender analysis, based on the information and data collected together with the Stakeholder Mapping, are synthesised in a "*gender narrative*", which constitutes the basic component of the "Gender Diagnosis or Assessment". The gender analysis and the narrative it produces typically uncover and describe the issues, gaps, and problems that project interventions will address. A problem tree analysis helps to clearly define the core problem and its causes and effects (GCF, 2017).

Therefore, this exercise will be carried out through participatory workshops organised with key stakeholders: women and men specialists from provincial and municipal decentralised autonomous governments (GAD), NGOs and academia in each of the 11 priority provinces. The gender issue tree at the provincial level will be drawn up in each provincial workshop following the methodology detailed in *Annex 1*.

b) Structured online survey with key stakeholders

Objective:

To collect input and information on gaps, problems and opportunities related to gender equality, agricultural production and food security, in order to understand gender roles and power relations in the territories prioritised by the project.

Development:

The surveys will be administered online with multiple-choice questions on food security, gaps, vulnerabilities and capacities. The forms will be accessible via mobile phone and computer, using the GoogleForms platform, and can be answered anonymously.

The first batch of survey forms will be sent out after the provincial workshops, with support provided by the focal points of each provincial GAD and remotely. The target population for the survey is leaders and representatives of local productive organisations and associations. The survey form template is presented in *Annex 2* of the document.

Indicator matrix of the survey

The survey will include multiple-choice questions to collect information to support indicators organized into four variables with five components, based on the three outcomes set out by the project:

- 1. Gaps:** Information on gender gaps in access to land tenure in priority territories; information on perceptions of gender and ethnic inequalities; and information on practices that devalue women's participation in decision-making.

2. **Problems and vulnerabilities:** This includes the indicators suggested by the GCF Guide for each GCF outcome area and identify vulnerabilities (demographic structure and impacts) and capacities for change (women's roles in a sector, institutional frameworks, and existing policies) specific to climate change adaptation.⁸
3. **Capacities for change:** Similarly, the indicators suggested by the GCF Guide are included for each GCF outcome area and to identify vulnerabilities (demographic structure and impacts) and capacities for change (roles of women in a sector, institutional frameworks, and existing policies) specific to climate change adaptation.
4. **Physical Autonomy:** Explore information organized into indicators on knowledge of gender-based violence (GBV) and ways in which violence affects productivity based on the project theme. Having this information available in the Gender Assessment is a specific GCF requirement for SAP processes.

Based on these variables, the survey questions will explore the relationships between gender, climate change, production, and food security to identify the intersections that deepen gender gaps.

Table 2: Matrix of Gender Indicators from the Survey of the Population of FORECCSA+ Priority Parishes

VARIABLE	COMPONENT	Gender Indicators according to the results of the FORECCSA+ Project		
		Outcome 1: Reduced climate risk through the implementation of climate change adaptation measures	Outcome 2: Gained access to markets by strengthening production systems.	Outcome 3: Strengthened governance mechanisms in priority areas.
Gaps	Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training	Percentage of people surveyed according to association of ideas on the relationship between access to and control of land/financing/technology/training and food security	Percentage of respondents who consider that there are no inequalities in access to and control of land, credit, technology, and training between men and women (with cultural relevance)	Percentage of respondents who express ideas that devalue women's participation in decision-making (in different areas)
Problems and Vulnerabilities	Climate Adaptation	Proportion and number of women among vulnerable population groups and communities	Proportion and number of women most exposed to food insecurity	Proportion and number of women who lack access to adequate productive infrastructure (irrigation, collection centers, inputs, etc.)
Capacities for change	Local potential	Roles of women in prioritized communities	Roles of women in prioritized communities	Role of women in the design and maintenance of productive infrastructure

⁸ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>.

Physical autonomy	How violence affects productivity and political participation	Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about power relations: man/woman (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge	Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of power relations men/women (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge practices regarding power relations for decision-making in food security
	Gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents according to associations of ideas about gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge gender-based violence behaviors (both to highlight it as a social problem and to justify it through normalization).

4. Gender context in Ecuador

The World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index⁹ analyses the division of resources and opportunities between men and women in 146 countries. This index measures the relative gaps between men and women in four dimensions: economic participation and opportunities, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. This year, Ecuador ranks 25th in the 2025 Global Gender Gap Index, with a score of 0.77 (on a scale of 0 to 1, where 1 represents total parity), representing notable progress in health and education; however, inequalities persist in economic participation, especially in access to employment.

In this index, the country shows outstanding performance in education (0.99) and health (0.97), where it has practically closed the gender gap. However, challenges remain in the other two dimensions. In economic participation, Ecuador scores 0.68 and ranks 78th globally, reflecting inequalities in access to employment, income, and economic leadership. The gap in political empowerment is even wider, reflected in a score of just 0.43, the lowest of the four pillars of the index, indicating that female representation in decision-making positions remains limited, despite the reforms adopted in recent years across the political system.

Currently in Ecuador, women continue to face barriers to entering the labor market on equal terms. Many are concentrated in low-productivity sectors, earn less than men and face an overload of unpaid work, especially in the home. In addition, women in the country achieve similar or even higher levels of education than men. However, their participation in the labor market remains lower. According to the 2024 annual edition of the National Survey on Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment (ENEMDU), only 52% of women were part of the labor force, compared to 77% of men¹⁰.

⁹ World Economic Forum (2025). Global Gender Gap Report 2025. ISBN-13: 978-2-940631-89-6. The report and an interactive data platform are available at <https://www.weforum.org/publications/gender-gap-report-2025/>

¹⁰ <https://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-2024/>

This gap reflects enormous untapped economic potential, since if it were completely closed, the country's GDP could increase by up to 17%, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) report "Tackling the Gender Gap in Ecuador's Labor Market"¹¹. According to this report, the gap is not explained by a lack of qualifications, but by structural and cultural barriers that limit women's professional integration. Among the most relevant are traditional gender roles that place them as the main caregivers in the home, as well as limited access to public childcare and eldercare services. In addition, women who do manage to enter the labor market do so under conditions that are unfavorable. In April 2025, less than 30% of women had adequate employment, i.e., with remuneration equal to or above the minimum wage and full-time hours (INEC).

On the other hand, many women perform unpaid work or work reduced hours, in informal sectors. In this regard, INEC data indicate that Ecuadorian women devote 31 hours per week to unpaid work, compared to 11.3 hours for men, which exacerbates gender inequality in Ecuador.

Another expression of latent inequality in the country is the wage gap, as women earn on average 23% less than men, twice the gap observed in countries such as Brazil, Mexico, or the United States, according to figures from the World Economic Forum. This difference is explained, in part, by the low presence of women in technical and scientific fields, which tend to offer better remuneration. Only one-third of women graduate in technical fields, compared to 70% of men.

In terms of institutional frameworks for gender equality in Ecuador, the National Council for Gender Equality (CNIG) is the institution responsible for ensuring the full enforcement and exercise of the rights of women and people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic and in international human rights instruments. In addition, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights¹² operates in the country as part of the executive branch, whose mission is "to work to guarantee and promote human rights through public policies of prevention, care and redress; to promote greater equality for those who are disadvantaged due to discrimination, vulnerability and violence" (MMDDHH, 2024). It should be noted that a change in the name and expansion of the functions of the MMDH could occur soon.

Although Ecuadorian society has some of the most advanced legislation on human rights and the recognition of equality without discrimination, deep structural gaps of inequality based on gender and sexual orientation persist (CNIG, 2022). This is visible at the international level in data such as the Gender and Social Institutions Index (SIGI) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in whose 2023 measurement Ecuador obtained a score of 17. This indicates a comparatively very low level of institutional gender inequality in all categories included: discrimination in the family, restricted physical integrity, restricted access to productive and financial resources, and restricted civil liberties.

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¹² The Ministry of Women and Human Rights (MMDH) was merged with the Ministry of Government in Ecuador, according to Executive Decree 60 of 15 August 2025, signed by President Daniel Noboa.

In this regard, there are hardly any legal differences between men and women in Ecuador. According to the World Bank's "Women, Business and the Law" report (2023), Ecuador is one of the countries in the world and in the region with the fewest gender differences in legislation. Although this indicator reflects the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the country's main city (Quito), the country scored 84.9 out of 100. This reflects equality in laws on restrictions on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's remuneration, restrictions related to marriage, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting women's pensions. However, about laws affecting women's work after having children and limitations on women starting and running a business, Ecuador could consider reforms to improve women's legal equality (World Bank, 2023).

On the other hand, in terms of political participation in local elections by gender in Ecuador, women's participation is higher than that of men, as women's turnout is three points higher than men's in the last three local elections: 2009, 2014 and 2019 (CNE, 2022). Furthermore, women's participation as voters in the 2019 sectional elections is higher among those living in rural areas: it exceeds that of urban women by four points and that of urban men by seven points (CNE, 2022).

However, in the 2021 general elections, women's representation as presidential candidates was 6.3%. Likewise, because of the 2021 general elections, there are 137 members of the National Assembly, of whom fifty-two are women and eighty-five are men, meaning that women account for 38% of the Assembly (CNE, 2022).

Similarly, there are structural gender gaps related to poverty, access to education and employment among the Ecuadorian population, which directly influence relations between men and women. For example, illiteracy rates are higher among people living in poverty and extreme poverty. The data show slightly higher values among women. However, in rural areas, functional illiteracy among women is almost seven points higher than among men, and about four times higher than among urban women. INEC, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (ENEMDU, 2024).

Furthermore, in Ecuador, two-thirds of people in unpaid employment and two-thirds of the economically "inactive" population are women. Fifty-two per cent of women of working age are in the labor market, while the percentage of men is 76.9 per cent. This highlights a gap in access to paid work for women. Furthermore, women are at a disadvantage in terms of access to the labor market, as only 23.9% of women nationwide have adequate employment. INEC, Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment (ENEMDU, 2024).

The main indicators compiled that summarize and illustrate gender gaps in the country are shown below:

Table 3: Gender Indicators for Ecuador for the period 2024–2025

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Country</i>
<i>Female labor force (% of total labor force)</i>	37.2
<i>Adequate/full employment at the national level – Women</i>	23.9
<i>Unemployment at national level – Women</i>	6.7
<i>Population not part of the EAP by sex – Women Housewives</i>	37.0
<i>Labor income gap (average between men and women)</i>	15.3
<i>Population living in poverty by gender National - Women</i>	33.1
<i>Population living in extreme poverty by gender National - Women</i>	15.1
<i>Population living in poverty by gender, urban - Women</i>	23.9
<i>Population living in extreme poverty by gender, urban - Women</i>	8.2
<i>Population living in poverty by gender Rural - Women</i>	47.4
<i>Population living in extreme poverty by gender Rural - Women</i>	72.1
<i>Total weekly working hours (paid and unpaid) - Women</i>	77:39
<i>Total unpaid working time - Women</i>	31:49
<i>Total time spent on domestic work within the household - Women</i>	24:06
<i>Total time spent caring for children under 12, sick people and people with disabilities in the home - Women</i>	8:56
<i>Proportion of women graduating from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programmes, % tertiary education</i>	29.2
<i>Lower secondary education completion rate, women (% of relevant age group)</i>	105.0
<i>Lower secondary completion rate, males (% of relevant age group)</i>	99.7
<i>Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15–19)</i>	77.8
<i>Proportion of women aged 15 and over who have experienced some form of gender-based violence (physical, psychological, sexual, and/or patrimonial) throughout their lives</i>	64.9
<i>Vulnerable employment (unpaid family workers and self-employed workers), women (% of female employment) (ILO modelled estimate)</i>	58.3
<i>Vulnerable employment (unpaid family workers and self-employed workers), men (% of male employment) (ILO modelled estimate)</i>	41.6
<i>Adults with an account at a financial institution or through a mobile money provider, women (% of population aged 15+)</i>	58.0
<i>Adults who have an account with a financial institution or through a mobile money provider, males (% of population aged 15+)</i>	70.6

**In relation to secondary school completion, a number greater than 100 reflects late entry of students and an age above the relevant age group.*

Sources: World Bank, 2024. National Council for Gender Equality, 2023. UN Women, 2024

4.1. Legal framework for gender equality in Ecuador

According to the IMF report (2025), Ecuador has made notable progress towards a more egalitarian legal and regulatory framework. In this regard, the approval of the Violet Economy Law (2023) is noteworthy, which, according to the IMF, *"represents a crucial step in addressing inequalities in the labor market" by removing barriers that have historically limited women's participation.* This regulation, for example, requires all companies with more than fifty employees to submit an Equality Plan every four years. In addition, it promotes the prevention of sexual harassment, flexible working hours, equal pay, shared parental leave and the provision of childcare services, among other provisions.

Table 4: Ecuador's Gender Regulatory Framework

Date	Legislation	Details
2018	Comprehensive Organic Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women	Comprehensive measures for prevention, protection, and redress for victims. Specialized judicial units to address gender-based violence. Intersectoral coordination of care protocols is required.
2019	Reform of the Democracy Code	50% gender parity in the lists of candidates for the Assembly by 2025. Presidential tickets must be composed of men and women. Sanctions against political gender violence.
2023	Violet Economy Law	Plans for the prevention of sexual harassment and equality in companies. Flexible working hours, equal pay, shared parental leave and childcare services. Mandatory inclusion of women on boards of directors and tax incentives for hiring.
2023	Organic Law on the Right to Human Care	Maternity, paternity, and care leave that supports genders equally. Provides childcare centers and breastfeeding rooms in workplaces. Promotes share responsibility for care and protect against discrimination in care.
2024	Organic Law for Equal Pay between Women and Men	Requires equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender. Establishes a system to monitor and enforce equal pay. Establishes penalties for non-compliance.

Source: Official Register and International Monetary Fund (En Primicias, 2025).

4.2. Gender and Climate Change Policy Instruments

The main public policy instruments on gender and climate change currently in force in Ecuador are the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (PAGCC, 2024) implemented by the MAATE, and the National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women (ENAMR, 2021) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

Ecuador's *Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (PAGCC)*¹³ is a strategy that seeks to integrate gender needs into the country's climate change management and climate policy, with the aim of ensuring more equitable and inclusive climate action. It was developed in a participatory manner by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), the National Council for Gender Equality (CNIG) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with resources from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and in support of Ecuador's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which covers the period 2020-2025 and contemplates the second NDC (2025-2030).

Main objectives:

- Integrate a gender perspective: Ensure that gender is considered in all actions and programmes related to climate change in the country.
- Promote participation: Involve the population, especially women and other vulnerable groups, to ensure that their real needs are considered in climate management.
- Strengthen resilience: Contribute to the climate resilience of communities through policies and actions that recognize diversity and promote adaptation.

Key components:

- Gap diagnosis: An initial diagnosis was conducted to identify information gaps and specific needs related to gender and climate change in Ecuador.
- Roadmap: A roadmap was established to guide future phases of the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan.
- Synergy between policies: Seeks to improve coordination and synergy between climate change and gender equality strategies in Ecuador.
- Framework for action: The plan serves as a tool to guide key institutions and actors in planning climate change projects and programmes with a gender focus.

On the other hand, the *Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women in Ecuador*¹⁴, promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), seeks to promote gender equality, empowerment, and productive development for rural women. This is achieved through access to financing, technical and technological training, and the opening of direct marketing channels, thus highlighting their key role in family farming and food security in the country.

¹³ [https://iucn.org/es/resources/herramienta-de-conservacion/plan-de-accion-de-genero-y-cambio-climatico-ecuador-pagcc#:~:text=Conservation%20tool-Plan%20de%20Acci%C3%B3n%20de%20G%C3%A9nero%20y%20Cambio%20Clim%C3%A1tico%20Ecuador%20\(PAGcc,para%20el%20Desarrollo%20\(AECID\).&text=Esta%20pol%C3%ADtica%20posiciona%20al%20Ecuador,Igualdad%20de%20G%C3%A9nero%20\(ANIG](https://iucn.org/es/resources/herramienta-de-conservacion/plan-de-accion-de-genero-y-cambio-climatico-ecuador-pagcc#:~:text=Conservation%20tool-Plan%20de%20Acci%C3%B3n%20de%20G%C3%A9nero%20y%20Cambio%20Clim%C3%A1tico%20Ecuador%20(PAGcc,para%20el%20Desarrollo%20(AECID).&text=Esta%20pol%C3%ADtica%20posiciona%20al%20Ecuador,Igualdad%20de%20G%C3%A9nero%20(ANIG)

¹⁴ See: <https://ecuador.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/%E2%80%9CEstrategia%20Nacional%20Agropecuaria%20para%20Mujeres%20Rurales%20ENAMR%E2%80%9D.pdf>

Main objectives:

- Strengthen the public and political participation of rural women by including them in decision-making.
- Improve access to education, literacy, technology, technical and higher education to boost their employment.
- Ensure food security and health for rural families, with an emphasis on vulnerable women.
- Promote equitable access to natural resources such as water and agrobiodiversity and increase their climate resilience.

Areas of Action:

- Facilitate access to financial resources: The fund seeks to strengthen agricultural producers, especially small and medium-sized ones, with specialized credit.
- Provide technical assistance and training: Workshops, learning communities and advice are offered to improve agricultural practices and production management.
- Promoting marketing: Women are linked to alternative sales channels, such as the Family Farming Seal (AFC) and the AgroTienda Ecuador strategy.
- Fostering organization and leadership: Support is provided for associative work and the development of decision-making skills at the community and national levels.

Key results:

- Visibility and attention: The strategy has enabled more rural women to access MAG services.
- Registration and seals: The registration of women in the Family Farming Registry and the obtaining of the AFC Seal has been promoted.
- Training and well-being: Thousands of women have been trained in learning communities and access to services such as irrigation and drainage has been improved.
- Marketing and empowerment: More than 40,000 food baskets have been marketed directly, promoting the empowerment of women producers.

Within the framework of the implementation of the FORECCSA+ project's Gender Action Plan, the importance of coordinating the project's actions with existing provincial regulatory and policy frameworks on gender equality is recognized. These policies, although heterogeneous in their scope and territorial application, offer key opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions. For example, in the province of Pichincha, the Provincial Ordinance on Equality, Prevention and Eradication of Gender Violence of the Provincial GAD () is a robust instrument that promotes affirmative measures to eradicate discrimination and foster equality between men, women and LGBTI+ persons, including the prevention and care of gender violence. This ordinance will be a fundamental operational framework for the project's actions in this province, especially in relation to the implementation of safeguard protocols and the promotion of female leadership in climate adaptation processes.

In other provinces such as Guayas and Cotopaxi, the project will align with provincial strategies that, although different in their formulation, share common objectives of equity and participation. In Guayas, provincial and cantonal public policies aimed at promoting gender equality and women's political participation will enable the coordination of project actions with local actors and strengthen inclusive governance. In Cotopaxi, the Provincial Agenda for Women and Climate Change¹⁵ , developed in a participatory manner by women's organizations, LGBTIQ+ groups and social actors, represents a strategic reference point for the empowerment of rural women in climate adaptation processes. The implementation of the FORECCSA+ project will benefit from these local agendas and policies, generating synergies that enhance social, environmental, and economic co-benefits for women in participating rural communities.

5. Results obtained

5.1. Provincial problem trees

Based on the GCF Guide, it will be understood that the "problem tree analysis" defines the causal chain in which the central problem is embedded. It helps to find solutions by visually tracing the causes and effects surrounding a problem, and the links between them. The central problem does not need to be focused on women or gender, but the gender analysis conducted so far will inevitably lead to the identification of gender-specific causes, effects, and impacts"¹⁶ . At the operational level, the technical consulting team surveyed problem trees in each of the eleven provinces to obtain up-to-date information from the perspective of key actors who will be involved in the implementation of the project.

¹⁵ Decentralised Autonomous Provincial Government of Cotopaxi (GADPC), CARE Ecuador, Maquita Foundation. (2023) "Women's Agenda on Climate Change – Cotopaxi". Rural Andean Women.

¹⁶ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>.

What are the main obstacles and barriers faced by women in rural areas of your province in accessing productive resources fully and equitably and participating in climate change adaptation solutions?

The answer to this knowledge question will be linked to the climate change situation, or the problems exacerbated by climate change that require attention, or the central problem faced by women in rural areas of the province. It is important to note that there are many potential problems or starting points.¹⁷

5.1.1. Carchi

Carchi Problem Tree:

Root Causes	Sexist is caused by cultural, historical, and social factors. Traditional gender roles	Socio-economic problems	Limited access to education	Excessive workload
Causes	Limited participation in decision-making	Migration of young women to large cities	Low level of leadership, especially in irrigation boards	Lack of interest in participating in institutional activities
Problem	The situation of rural women in the province of Carchi is marked by unequal roles resulting from structural sexist, which is evident in aspects such as the fact that most land is owned by men and women are dedicated to small farms, estates, or plots.			
Immediate effects	They do not make decisions regarding the family economy; sexist in areas of economic interest such as potato cultivation and livestock farming	Inability to acquire large tracts of productive land	Only personal initiatives due to low level of leadership	Women are the ones who generate work on farms and in orchards
Effects	Transfer of submission to future women, psychological damage	Rural sector without generational change in women's	Greater incidence of women on small plots or farms	Women strengthen the family economy

¹⁷ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewjz>. (pp37).

5.1.2. Imbabura

Problem Tree Imbabura:

Root causes	Patriarchal culture	Type of education	Type of production	
Causes	Gender roles influenced by culture	Lack of education focused on the territory	Women excluded from productive resources	
Problem	In rural areas of the province, the problem is defined as a situation characterized by sexism, classism and racism, which is reflected in women bearing a double burden that prevents or restricts their access to credit, inputs, land, decision-making related to productivity, their livelihoods and the home.			
Immediate effects	Greater responsibilities in the home and with the family	Wage discrimination and workload	Limited access to land and property ownership, training, and other productive resources	Teenage pregnancy
Effects	Lack of empathy for women's needs	Economic dependence, wage inequality	Limited participation in decision-making at all levels	

5.1.3. Cotopaxi

Cotopaxi Problem Tree:

Root causes	Poverty	Lack of education, low school enrolment	Political violence	Weak public policies
Causes	Family values, alcoholism, ideology	Ignorance of rights leads to their violation	Limited access to decision-making spaces	Lack of awareness of rights
Problem	In rural areas of the province of Cotopaxi, women face various restrictions and obstacles to fully accessing productive resources: lack of livelihoods, gender roles and stereotypes, work overload, racism, and limited social participation, among the main ones.			
Immediate Effects	Migration	Economic Dependency	Non-participation in decision-making	Early pregnancy
Effects	Disintegration of the family unit	Lack of resources for production	Exclusion from decision-making spaces	

5.1.4. Chimborazo

Chimborazo Problem Tree:

Root causes	Historical cultural structure It is cultural, found in the mindset of people who continue to discriminate based on social, economic, or ethnic status.	Sexist Power Structures	Poverty	Normalization and naturalization of violence against women
Causes	Cultural, social, customs	Discriminatory norms, Inadequate public policies	Lack of education, burden of unpaid domestic and care work	Resignation and submission of many women
Problem	Women in rural areas of the province of Chimborazo experience various gaps and restrictions in terms of full access to productive resources, exacerbated by a macho culture that promotes gender roles, unpaid work, and gender-based violence.			
Immediate effects	Inferiority complex	Discrimination	Low self-esteem, low self-worth	Normalization of problems
Effects	Conformity with the situation, frustration	Invisibility of the role	Social inequalities, family overload, lack of awareness of its multifunctionality	Femicide, GBV

5.1.5. Bolívar:

Problem Tree Bolívar:

Root causes	Low education	Historical cultural pattern (sexist)	Social paradigms	Economic Dependency
Causes	Lack of access to resources	Lack of decision-making	Pre-established roles	Low visibility of women's economic role
Problem	In rural areas of Bolívar province, women's role in production is invisible due to historical cultural patterns of sexist and lack of access to education.			
Immediate effects	Poor child nutrition	Deterioration in health	Frustration	Personal, productive, and professional stagnation
Effects	Malnutrition	Increase in poverty	Exclusion	

5.1.6. Loja

Problem Tree Loja

Root causes	Cultural sexist, cultural heritage	Structural gender inequality	Poverty	Education
Causes	Traditional definition of roles	Economic dependence	Women do not own property	Lack of opportunities and employment
Problem	The participatory workshop identified factors that directly influence the limitations and gaps experienced by rural women in the province of Loja, such as lack of access to financing, technical training, productive assets, formal employment, and decision-making.			
Immediate effects	Poor organization in terms of land productivity; women are not involved in social change	Frustration	Lack of economic resources	Loss of potential skills and talents / little participation in decision-making
Effects	Exclusion	Cycles of violence	Social relegation	Social limitation

5.1.7. Azuay

Problem Tree Azuay:

Root causes	Patriarchy, cultural and religious norms, limited education	Capitalist system	Migration	Weather
Causes	Patriarchal traditions, policies only for men	Lack of access to education	Lack of opportunities	Lack of appreciation for work
Problem	In the province of Azuay, several key factors were identified that determine the limitations and gaps faced by rural women, such as lack of access to information and technology, land ownership and training, and social participation; a situation exacerbated by sexist and gender-based violence.			
Immediate effects	Devaluation of women	Work overload	Limited opportunities and inequality	Lack of motivation to participate in projects
Effects	Invisibility of women, violation of rights	Impact on physical and mental health, educational and professional exclusion	Increased gender gaps	Greater risk of poverty

5.1.8. Manabí

Manabí Problem Tree

Root causes	Historical land ownership in the hands of men	Double workload	Structural inequalities	
Causes	Lack of access to land tenure for women	Limited participation in productive projects or training opportunities	Gender inequality	Women's differing interest in diverse types of crops
Problem	The problem faced by rural women in Manabí, as identified in the workshop, is related to the lack of opportunities for women in production, despite the existence of productive schools exclusively for women. However, sexism is evident in the limitations placed on women's access to productive resources.			
Immediate effects	Limited access to productive credit	Lack of planned spaces for women's participation.	Division of administrative tasks and heavy labor	Variable effects depending on the sector; women can be involved in the entire value chain.
Effects	Limited access to credit	Restricted decision-making spaces, few young people participating		

5.1.9. Santa Elena

Problem Tree Santa Elena:

Root causes	Ancestral conception of individual property ownership in the hands of men	Limited access to decision-making spaces	Lack of education	
Causes	Lack of access to land tenure for women	Lack of local recognition of women	Lack of access to family planning	
Problem	At the rural level in the province, it was identified that the main problem for women is their poorly paid work due to cultural factors and barriers, which affects family production.			
Immediate effects	Women at the beginning of the value chain	They have little time to participate	Little participation in training	
Effects	Greater vulnerability of women	Exclusion from decision-making spaces	Low level of education	

5.1.10. Guayas

Problem Tree Guayas:

Root causes	Sexual division of labor	Double workload for women		
Causes	There are several factors that prevent women from engaging in productive activities	Little dedication to training or other areas due to their role in the home		
Problem	As a result of this exercise, several factors were identified that limit rural women's full access to productive resources in the province of Guayas, such as limited recognition in production chains, low access to productive credit, limited land tenure, and low or no wages.			
Immediate effects	Although credit is now more widely available, women have little access to it	Although women's participation has increased in recent years, it remains restricted in productive activities.		
Effects	Low dedication to productive activities, only for self-subsistence or family consumption	Limited time for participation in activities outside the home		

5.1.11. Pichincha

Pichincha Problem Tree:

Root causes	Structural causes such as global capitalism, patriarchy, slavery, extractive practices in remote areas and the expropriation of resources	Lack of access to education, low school enrolment in rural areas	Lack of access to land and other productive resources	
Causes	Sexism and traditional roles, lack of opportunities to hold management positions	Lack of sexual and reproductive education. Cultural stereotypes that influence perceptions of mechanization and technification as male tasks; Gender gaps in technical education	No associativity, food insecurity	
Problem	In Pichincha, this exercise identified a problem based on structural causes that is evident, on the one hand, in women's lack of access to productive and decision-making spaces, as well as a marked role for women linked to the home and therefore removed from productive activities, which has multiple effects.			
Immediate effects	Low participation of women in governance: few women in management positions	Few women in leadership positions have little time for their own ventures due to their responsibilities in the home	Lack of their own income for their development, lack of access to money or savings accounts	
Effects	Perpetuation of inequality	Low level of formal education	Persistence of rural poverty	

As a result of this exercise carried out in the provincial participatory workshops, one of the main aspects that was identified as a feature shared by all provinces in relation to the situation of gaps and limitations for women in rural areas has to do with a type of structural sexism based on historical cultural principles in both the highlands and the coast.

In addition, women are recognized as the breadwinners of the family economy and have a direct impact on small-scale production on family farms or vegetable gardens. This is linked to their traditional role in rural households, which is marked by the management of family care, particularly food preparation. This role is reinforced in some provinces due to the migration of young men from the countryside to the city, for economic reasons.

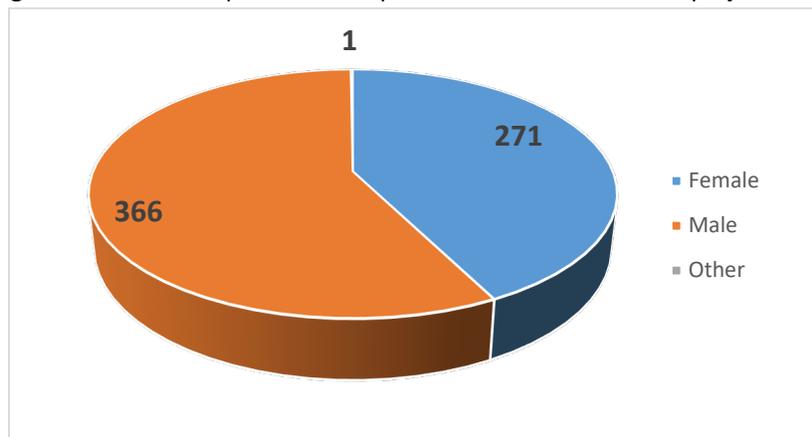
This highlighted from the outset the existence of structural gaps recognized as part of the root causes of the problem of the exclusion of rural women in all provinces, related to inequalities and customs learned through a deficient education system to which few women in rural areas have access.

While in some province’s restrictions on women's access to credit were evident, in others it was noted that women producers are recognized for their good reputation for repaying their loans on time and that some alternatives for accessing credit are currently available, such as "savings boxes".

5.2. Parish-level survey

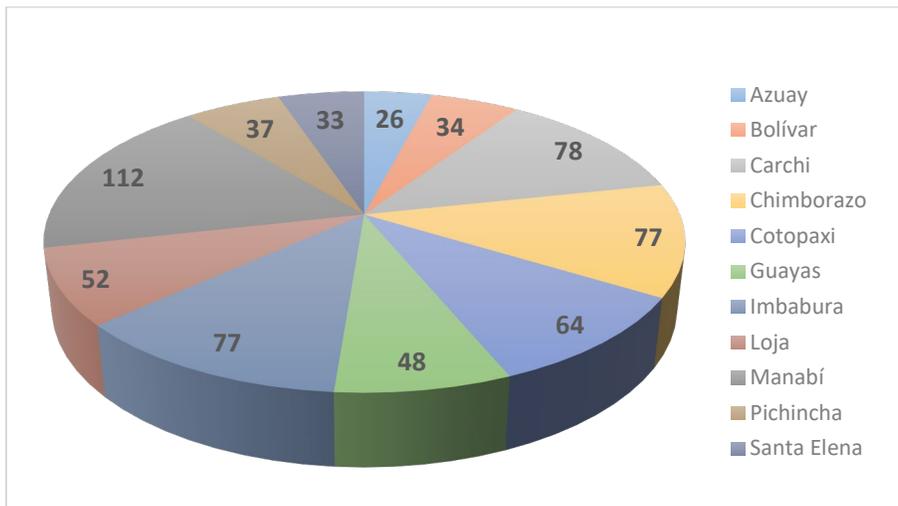
The survey, which was designed to collect primary data for the study, was reviewed and validated by the AE team based on the matrix of indicators and variables described in the methodology. The survey was sent out in August 2025 through a coordinated effort by IICA to the focal points of the provincial GADs and the MAG technical teams in the field. The survey was open for a total of three weeks and received a total of 638 responses to the online form, distributed as follows:

Figure 2: Gender composition of respondents to the FORECCSA+ project survey



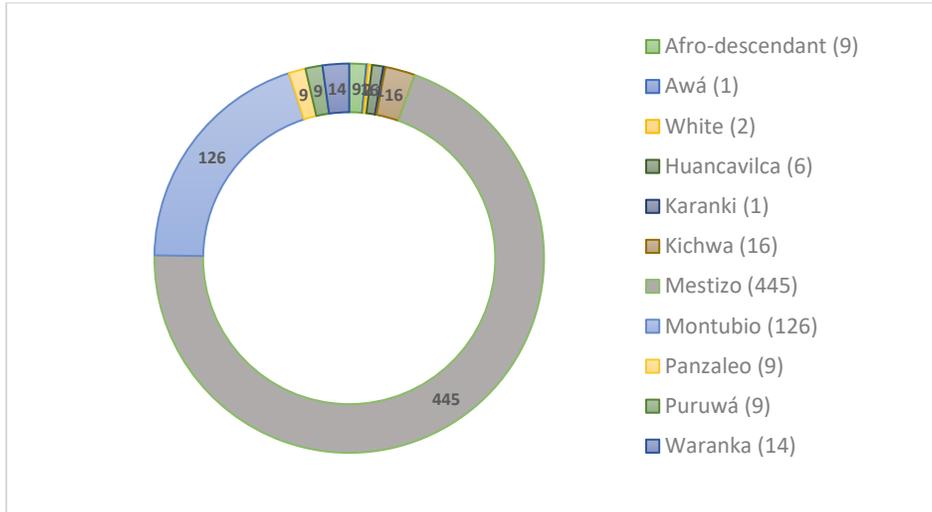
This gender distribution of the population that responded to the survey shows that 63 per cent of responses came from men and 46 per cent from women. On the other hand, in terms of the distribution by province of the responses collected (Figure 3), Manabí stands out as the province of origin of most of the responses received (112), followed by responses from the province of Carchi (78), as well as responses received from the provinces of Imbabura (77) and Chimborazo (77) mainly. However, the final survey data recorded the participation of the population from all eleven provinces and 115 parishes prioritized by the project.

Figure 3: Population surveyed by province



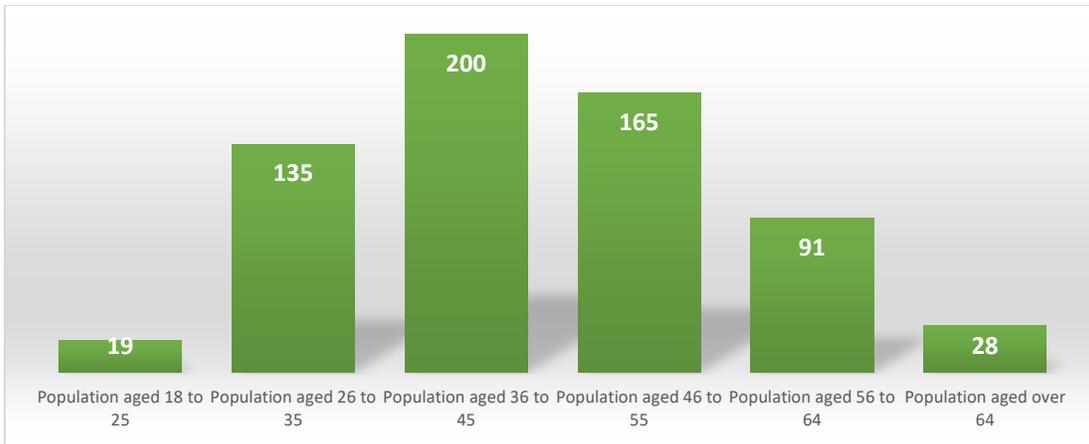
As part of the composition of the population that responded to the survey, the results show that in terms of ethnic self-definition, most people identified themselves as mestizos (445), followed by montubios (126) and Kichwas (16). This is noteworthy since the project maintains its risk category C and will apply the safeguards established in the Social and Environmental Action Plan (SEAP) for project activities related to Indigenous peoples and nationalities.

Figure 4: Composition by ethnic self-identification of respondents to the FORECCSA+ project survey



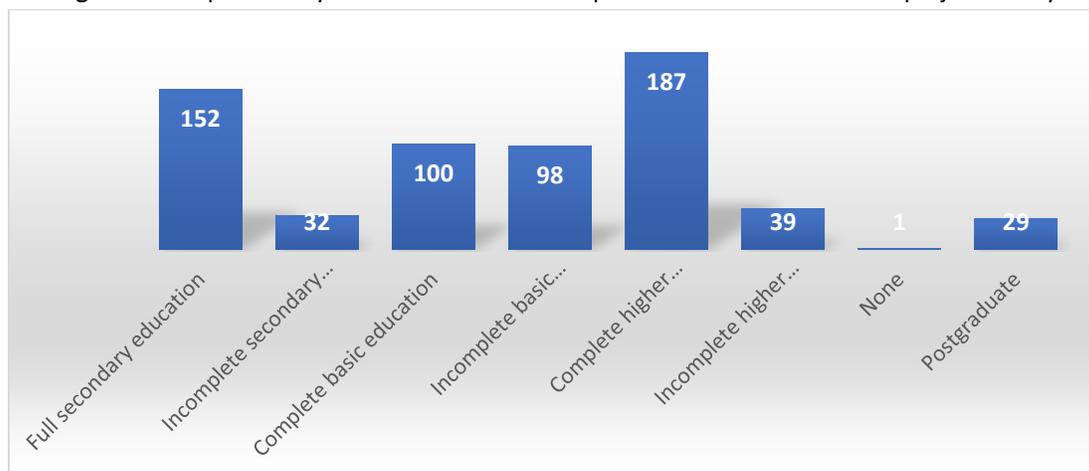
As part of this initial analysis of the population that responded to the project survey in the prioritized territories, it is important to mention that the population that registered the most responses is between 36 and 45 years of age (200), followed by the 46 to 55 age group (165), which together represent 57% of the total responses received.

Figure 5: Composition by age group of respondents to the FORECCSA+ project survey



In terms of the highest level of education attained by the population that responded to the survey, it is worth noting that the groups with a complete higher education (187) and a completed secondary education (157) account for most respondents.

Figure 6: Composition by level of education of respondents to the FORECCSA+ project survey



At the level of the survey questions that correspond to gender indicators established based on the project results. The results are presented based on these indicators established in the evaluation methodology: Table 2 (Page 13).

Variable: Gaps

Component: Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training

Indicator 1: Percentage of respondents according to their association of ideas about the relationship between access to and control of land/financing/technology/training and food security

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training	Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas on the relationship between access and control to land/financing/technology/training and food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women and men have equal opportunities to access information and knowledge in agricultural production: 84.4%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access land: 84.4%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access financing for agricultural production: 83.8%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access technology for agricultural production: 84.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women and men have equal opportunities to access information and knowledge in agricultural production: 83.3%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access land: 81.5%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access financing for agricultural production: 81.5%. - Women and men have equal opportunities to access technology for agricultural production: 80.1%.

According to the results, 83.3% of women and 84.4% of men state that both women and men have equal opportunities to access information and knowledge in agricultural production. However, 15.5% of men and 16.6% of women stated that there are not equal opportunities to access not only information and knowledge in agricultural production, but also to access land, financing, and technology in agricultural activities.

Indicator 2: *Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge the existence or non-existence of inequalities between men/women; ethnic groups; age groups, in access to land, financing, technology and training.*

Inequalities between men and women

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Access to and control over land, finance, technology, and training	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge the existence or non-existence of inequalities between men/women; ethnic groups; age groups, in access to land, financing, technology and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men own more land than women: 65.8%. - Men are the ones who decide on the family's money/resources: 51.6%. - Men are the ones who can take on debt, request loans for agricultural production or planting: 46.7%. - Men are the ones who decide on the tools and technologies used in agriculture: 63%. - Men are the ones who must be trained: 30%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men own more land than women: 66%. - Men are the ones who decide on the family's money/resources: 45.3%. - Men are the ones who can take on debt, apply for loans for agricultural production or planting: 36.9%. - Men are the ones who decide on the tools and technologies used in agriculture: 56%. - Men are the ones who need training: 22.5%.

Globally, there is a clear male bias in land rights. With few exceptions, women have rights to less land than men and to land of lower quality (ILC, 2020). In Ecuador, this reality is replicated in rural areas, and the parishes prioritized by the project are no exception. The survey results show that 65.8% of men and 66% of women believe it is a fact that men own more land than women.

In addition, more than half of the men indicated that they are the ones who decide on the family's money and resources, while 45.3% of women agreed with this statement. These types of inequalities are accentuated by the fact that 63% of men and 56% of women indicated that men are the ones who decide on the tools and technologies used in agriculture. However, when asked whether only men should receive training, 30% of men and 22.5% of women agreed, while the vast majority disagreed, highlighting the need to include women in capacity-building processes.

Ethnic inequalities

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge the existence or non-existence of inequalities between men/women; ethnic groups; age groups, in access to land, financing, technology and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous people/Afro-descendants/Montubios do not have the same amount of land as mestizos: 36.6%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same number of resources or money as mestizos: 38.5%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to apply for loans for agricultural production: 70%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to access tools and technology: 71.5%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios understand less than mestizos in training courses: 34.4%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous people / Afro-descendants / Montubios do not have the same amount of land as mestizos: 39.8%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same amount of resources or money as mestizos: 45%. - Indigenous people/Afro-descendants/Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to apply for loans for agricultural production: 69%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to access tools and technology: 72.3%. - Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, and Montubios understand less than mestizos in training courses: 35%.

In the case of the question on ethnic inequalities, the results show that around 40% of all men and women agreed that Indigenous peoples and nationalities do not have the same amount of land or resources as the mestizo population. This gap in access to resources is complemented by the statements of an average of 70% of women and men who agreed that the population of Indigenous peoples and nationalities has fewer opportunities than the mestizo population to apply for loans for agricultural production and to access tools and technology.

Indicator R3: *Percentage of respondents who express ideas that devalue women's participation in decision-making (in different areas)*

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Access to and control of land, finance, technology, and training	Percentage of respondents who express ideas that devalue women's participation in decision-making (in different areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's participation in community/parish activities must be with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children. 30.8%. - If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is because what she is saying is not important 18.5%. - If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is usually necessary to clarify her ideas. 38.5%. - Women should not speak in assemblies unless they are alone 29.7%. - Interrupting a woman when she is speaking in public is violence. 62.2%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's participation in community/parish activities must be done with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children. 30.6%. - If a woman is speaking at an assembly and a man interrupts her, it is because what she is saying is not important 27.3%. - If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is usually necessary to clarify her ideas 35%. - Women should not speak in assemblies unless they are alone 25%. - Interrupting a woman when she is speaking in public is violence. 67.8%.

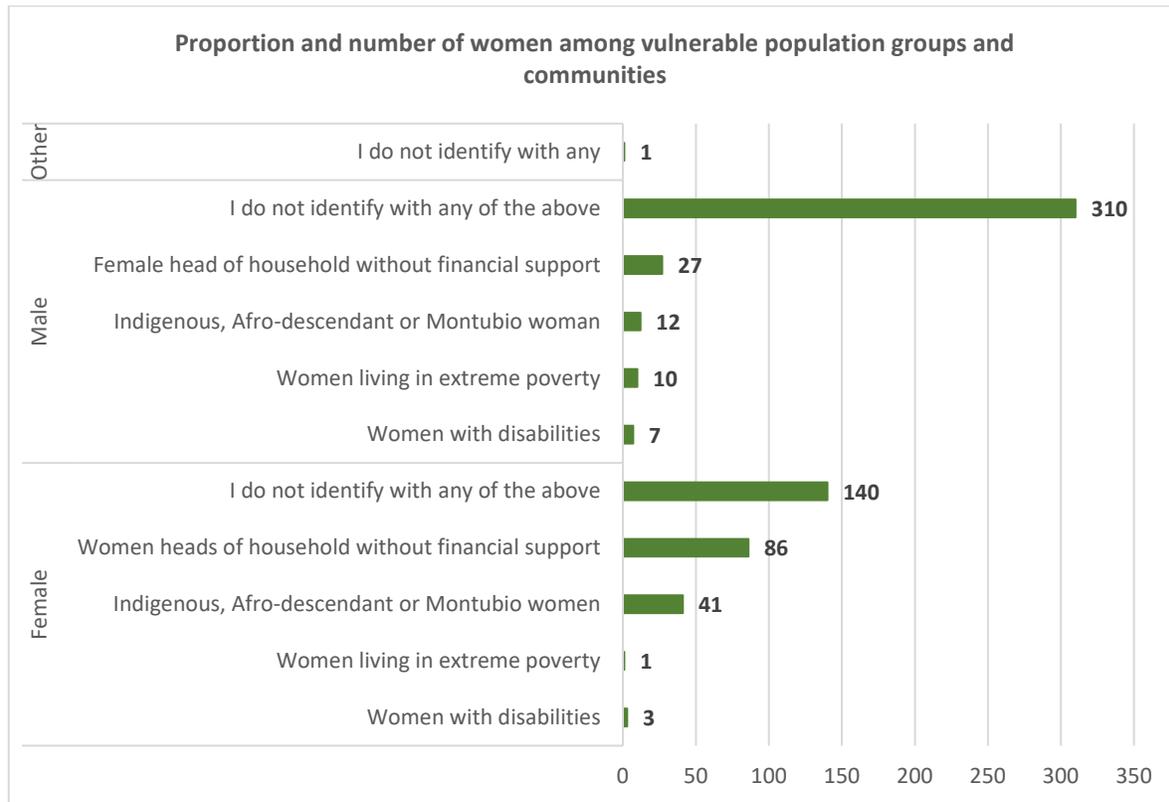
In the results, a considerable percentage of men (30.8%) and women (30.6%) stated that women should participate in community activities with the consent of a man (husband, partner, or father). Furthermore, it is striking that 27.3% of women believe that if a man interrupts a woman in an assembly, it is because "what she is saying is not important". Despite this, a significant percentage of respondents (61.9% of women and 71.4% of men) also stated that interrupting a woman when she is speaking in public is violence.

Variable: Problems and Vulnerabilities

Component: Climate Adaptation

Indicator R1: Proportion and number of women among vulnerable population groups and communities

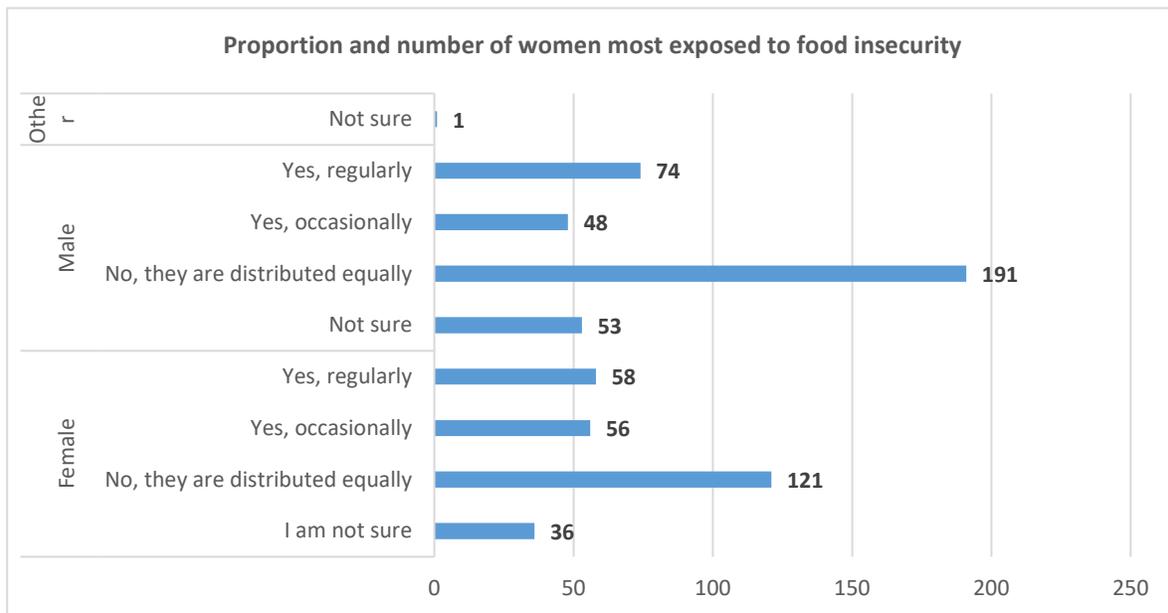
The indicators for the variable "problems and vulnerabilities" considered in this study correspond to those included in the GCF guide for mainstreaming gender in its funded projects (GCF, 2022). These indicators of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change were developed by each GCF result area to collect this information prior to project implementation. Indicator R1 of this variable corresponds to the GCF's outcome area: "most vulnerable people and communities".



The results show that 31% of the women who responded to the survey self-identified as female heads of household without financial support. Although the majority of women stated that they did not belong to a specific vulnerability group (51.6%), almost half of the total indicated that they were female heads of household without financial support (31%), indigenous women, women of African descent or montubias () (15%). It is noteworthy that, although this question was directed at women and most men responded that they did not identify with any of the vulnerability groups listed, they did fill in some of the vulnerability group categories listed in the question based on their perceptions.

Indicator R2: Proportion and number of women most exposed to food insecurity

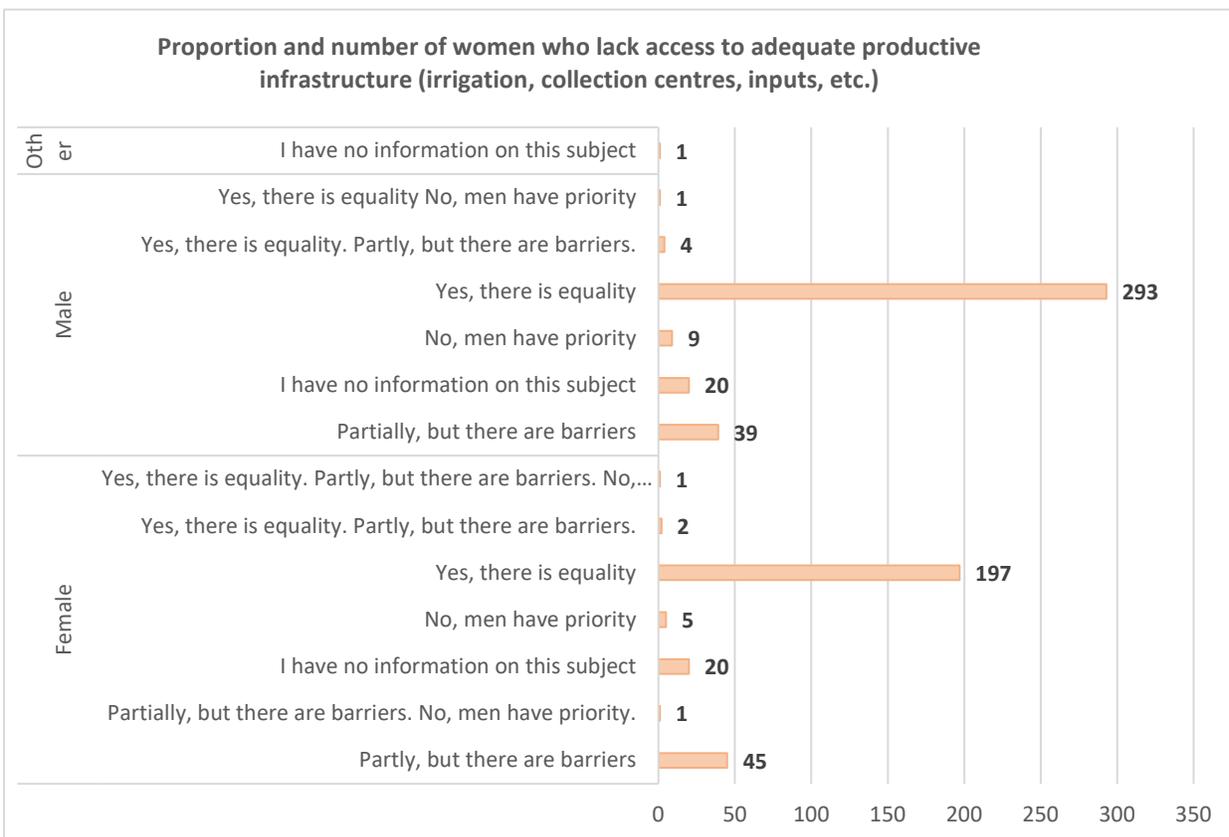
Similarly, this adaptation indicator was taken from the GCF guide for the vulnerabilities section. Indicator R2 for this component corresponds to the GCF area: "Health and well-being, and food and water security". For this reason and considering the project's substantial focus on adaptation actions for food security in the territories, the indicator was adjusted to "exposure to food insecurity".



The survey question was aimed at finding out whether women in households in the area eat less or lower quality food than other members when there is a food shortage. Fifty-two per cent of men and 44.6 per cent of women responded that food is distributed equally in times of scarcity. However, 20.2% of men and 21% of women surveyed responded that women do eat less or lower quality food than men in times of scarcity.

Indicator R3: Proportion and number of women who lack access to adequate productive infrastructure (irrigation, collection centers, inputs, etc.)

This indicator, included in the survey for the variable of vulnerabilities and problems faced by women in the intervention area, points to the GCF's results area: "Infrastructure and built environment". In the survey, this indicator was adjusted to a question referring to the socio-organisational agro-productive context of the rural area of the country, and to ascertain perceptions regarding women's access to productive infrastructure such as irrigation, collection centres, inputs, etc.



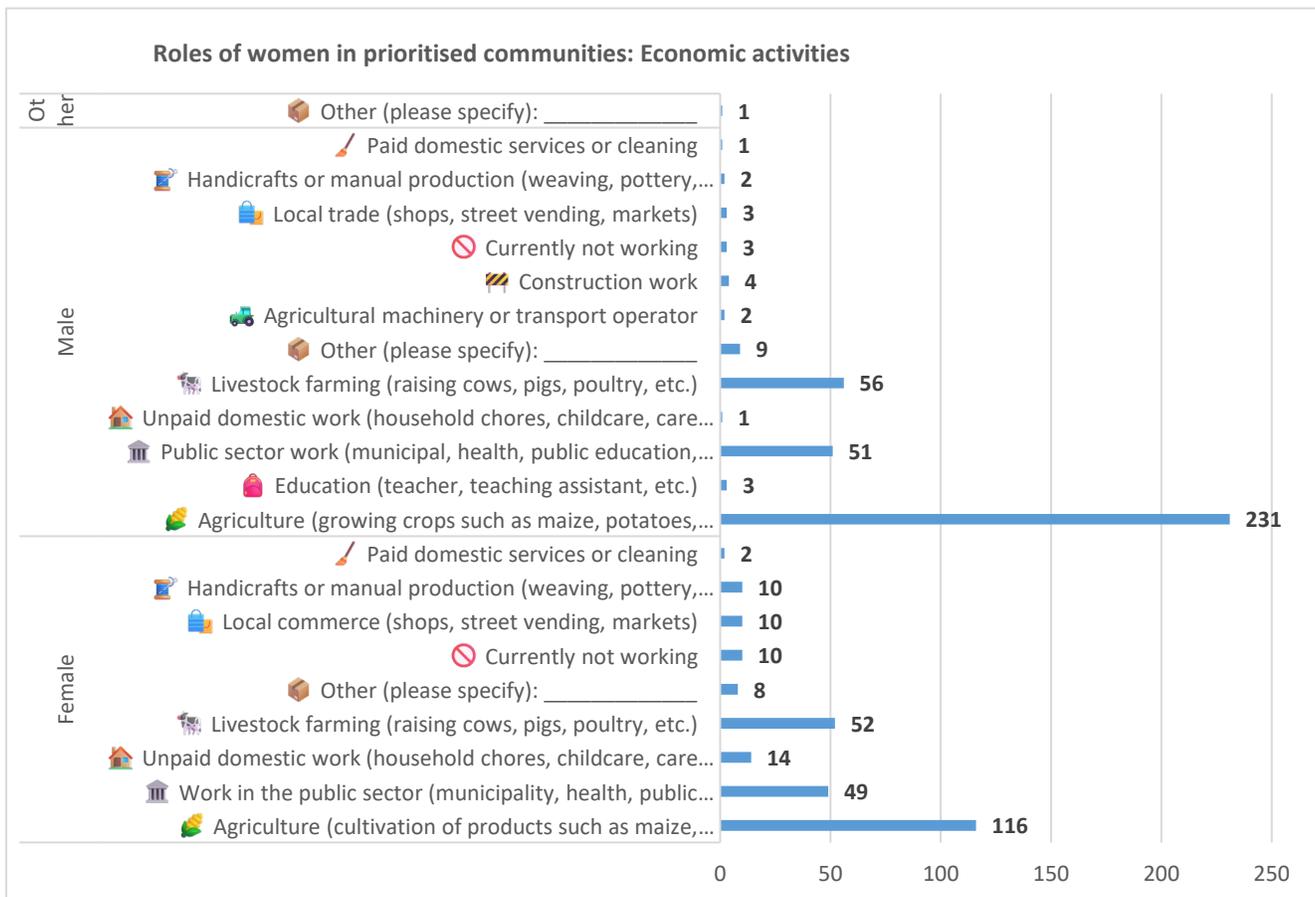
The results show that, although the majority of men (80%) and women (72.6%) surveyed consider that there is equality in access to productive infrastructure, there is a percentage of women (16.6%) and men (10.6%) who consider that there are barriers to be overcome in order for women to have free and full access to this type of infrastructure.

Variable: Capacities for Change

Component: Local Potential

Indicator R1: Roles of women in prioritized communities

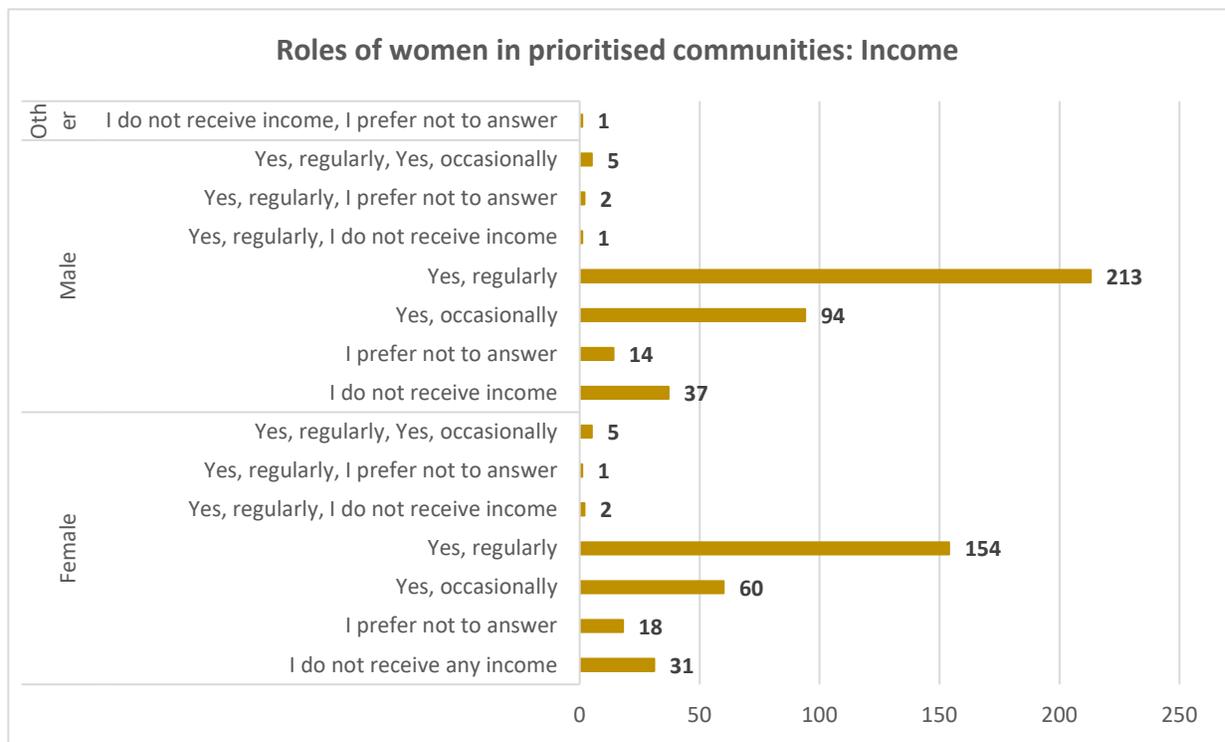
This group of indicators was also extracted from the GCF Guide (Pp 31 - GCF, 2017), so the variable as such responds to this classification in terms of the definition of "capacities for change: the role of women in a sector, existing policies and institutional frameworks". In this regard, the survey questions for this variable were contextualised in order to identify the profile of women in the intervention area in terms of their capacities, occupations, income and agricultural production experience.



The information obtained from the survey shows that the main economic activity of men (64%) and women (42.8%) surveyed is agriculture. The second main economic activity identified is livestock farming, which employs 15.3% of men and 19% of women. It is noteworthy that the third main economic activity identified in the survey is work in the public sector for both men and women.

Likewise, the results show that only 5% of women reported engaging in unpaid domestic work, and there is also a greater diversification of economic activities among the women surveyed, who reported engaging in handicrafts or manual production and local trade. This information should be further explored in the project baseline in order to obtain detailed and up-to-date information on the economic activities of women living and working in the project intervention area. However, precisely in order to broaden the scope of the characterisation of the profile of rural women participating in the project, another indicator of women's roles was included in the survey in order to obtain data on the economic remuneration for the activities carried out by women and to analyse the results in comparison with the responses of men:

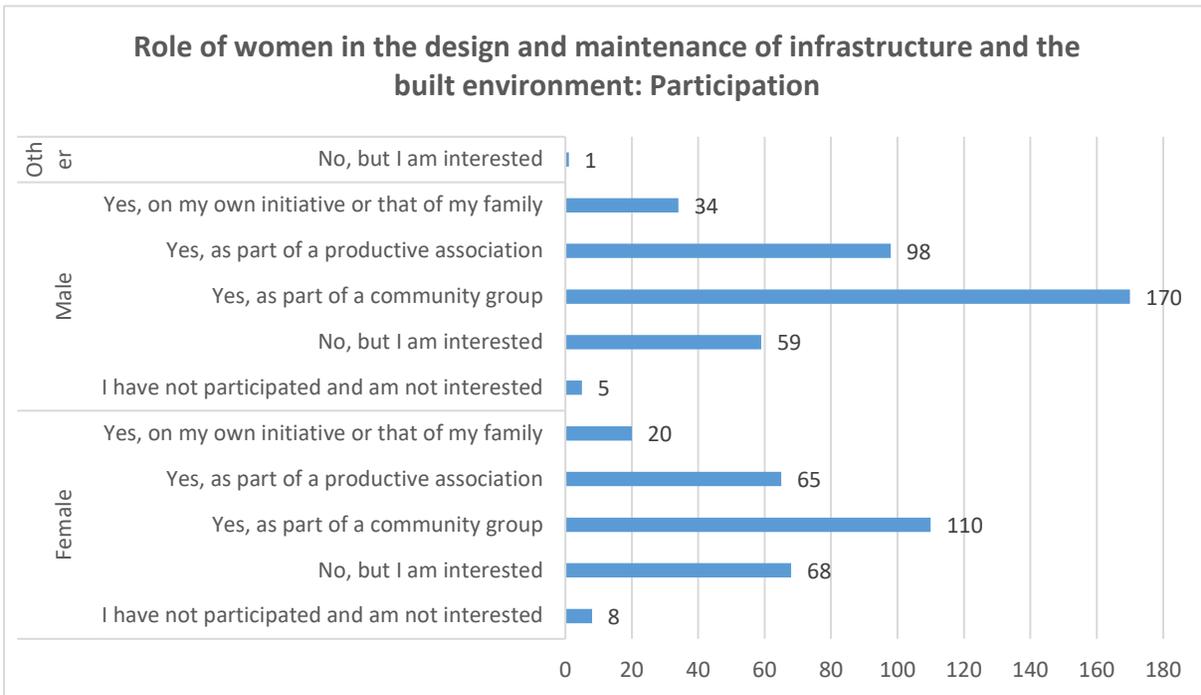
Indicator R2: Women's roles in priority communities



In the case of the results of this survey question, it can be seen that more than half of men (58%) and women (56.8%) stated that they regularly receive income for their work activities. In this regard, 22% of women and 25.6% of men responded that they do receive income, albeit occasionally. It is noteworthy that 10% of men and 11% of women stated that they did not receive income or remuneration for their work.

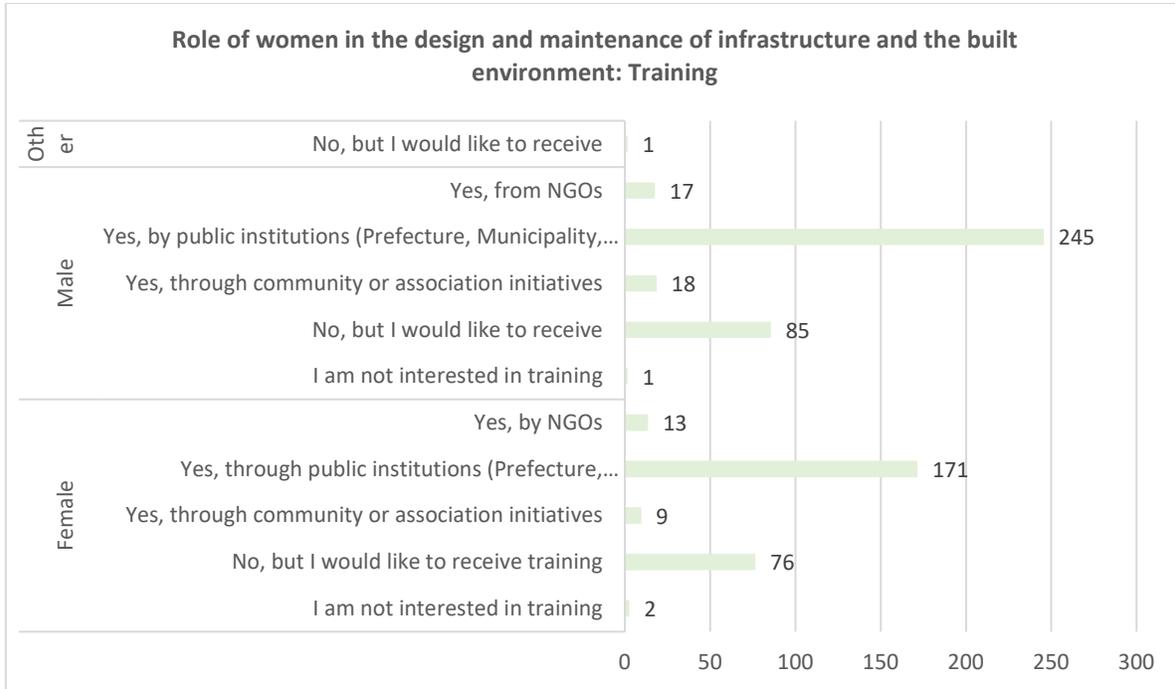
Indicator R3: Role of women in the design and maintenance of infrastructure and the built environment

This is another indicator focused on the GCF's result area: Infrastructure and built environment. The survey question was designed to investigate, on the one hand, the planning and design capabilities of agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation systems or collection centres and, on the other hand, whether people in the area have participated in training on the design and maintenance of agricultural infrastructure. The results obtained are presented below in the summary graph:



The data obtained shows that 64.5% of the women surveyed have participated in the planning and design of agro-productive infrastructure, both as part of community groups and productive associations, which in many places are one and the same. In addition, 24% of women stated that they have participated in these activities on their own initiative or that of their families, and 25% of women responded that although they have not participated in these activities before, they are interested in doing so.

In addition, the results compiled through the second question of the survey, which comprises indicator R3 on capacities for change, are as follows:



The responses obtained from men and women show, on the one hand, that people in the area do have knowledge related to the design and maintenance of agricultural infrastructure and that they have received training on the subject from public institutions for the most part: 63% of women and 66.9% of men of the total. However, it is noteworthy that 28% of women and 23.2% of men stated that they had not received training on this subject but would like to participate in such training.

This assessment of the indicator as a whole is important to consider when conducting the baseline analysis at the start of the project, as it will be a starting point for the level of interest of women and men in participating in the project's activities, which will be particularly useful for the strategy of engaging with the population of associations and communities at the local level.

Variable: Physical Autonomy

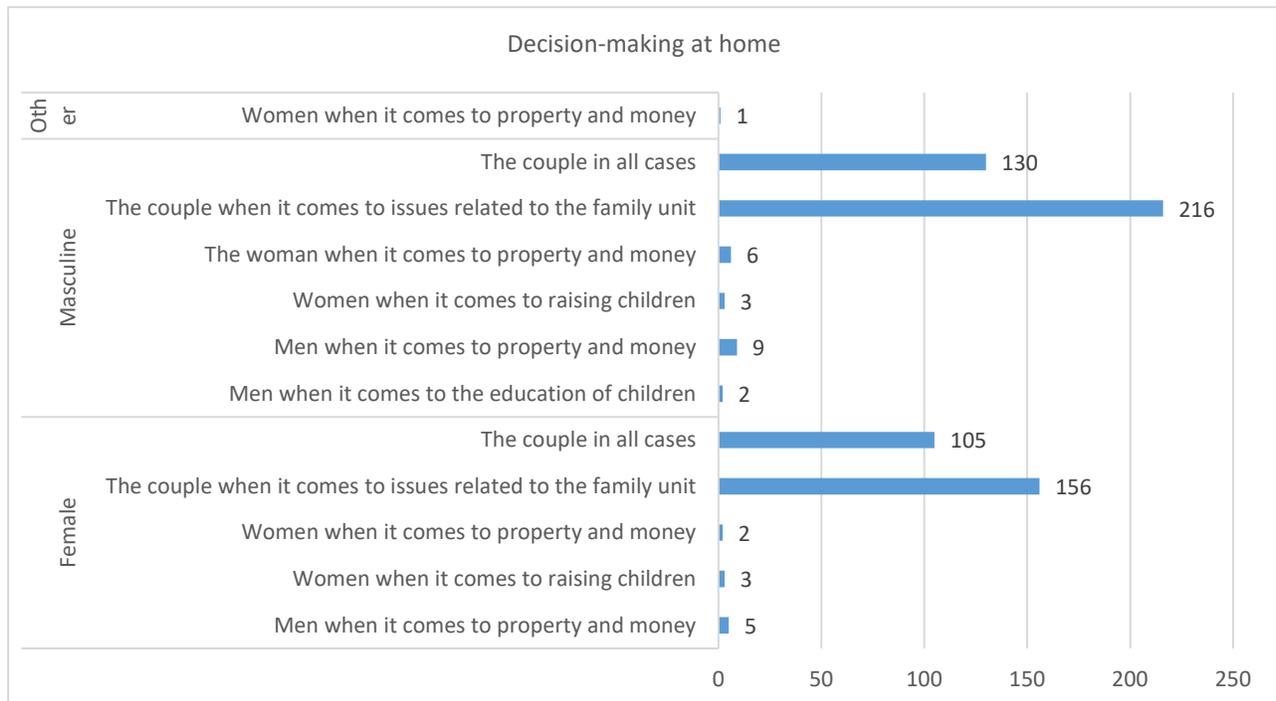
Component: How violence affects productivity and political participation

Indicator R1: Percentage of people surveyed according to association of ideas about power relations: man/woman (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
How violence affects productivity and political participation	Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about power relations: man/woman (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men know more about managing the natural environment and have more knowledge than women: 45%. - Men are better trained than women for agricultural tasks: 49.4%. - Men are the ones who should decide on agricultural production: 31.9%. - Women are responsible for household care tasks: 54.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men know more about managing the natural environment and have more knowledge than women: 35.7%. - Men are better trained than women for agricultural tasks: 45%. - Men should make decisions about agricultural production: 28%. - Women are responsible for household care tasks: 61.6%.

These results show that 35.7% of women and 45% of men indicated that men have more knowledge than women in terms of environmental management, and a slightly higher proportion of men (49.4%) and women (45%) stated that men are better trained for agricultural tasks. These data are complemented by the statement of 61.6% of women and 54.6% of men who indicated that women are responsible for household care tasks.

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of gender power relations (with cultural relevance); technical/empirical knowledge



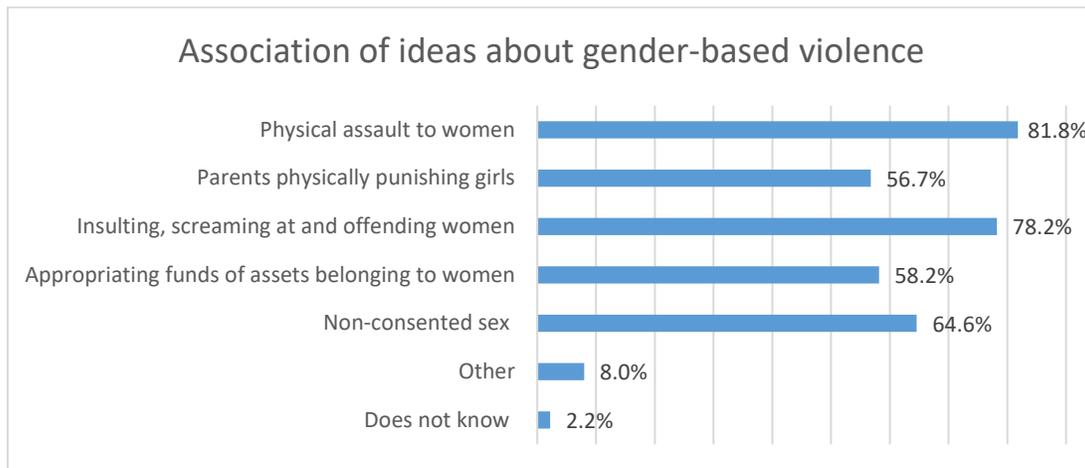
In this particular indicator, the question about decision-making within the household obtained more than 50% of both men and women who considered that it is the couple who should make decisions about the family. Specific responses about men's and women's decisions on different topics obtained less than 10% in all cases.

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
How violence affects productivity and political participation	Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of male/female power relations (with cultural relevance); technical/empirical knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's participation in community activities must be done with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children: 29.2%. - The man has authority in the family: 44.8%. - Decisions in the community should be made by consensus between men and women because they are equally important: 87.7% - If it is necessary to coordinate actions in the community, we talk to the men because they are the authority in the family and the community: 47.5%. - Decisions about food security should be made by those who have studied and have technical knowledge: 45%. - One of the problems of food insecurity is the ignorance and lack of education of "rural people": 62.8%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's participation in community activities must be done with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children: 25.4%. - Men have authority in the family: 31.7%. - Decisions in the community should be made by consensus between men and women because they are equally important: 85.2% - If it is necessary to coordinate actions in the community, we talk to the men because they are the authority in the family and the community: 38.7%. - Decisions about food security should be made by those who have studied and have technical knowledge: 40.2%. - One of the problems of food insecurity is the ignorance and lack of education of "rural people": 64.5%.

Component: Gender-based violence

Indicator R1: Percentage of people surveyed according to their association of ideas about gender-based violence.

This indicator was included to ascertain the level of knowledge about gender-based violence among the potential participants in the project. The survey results reinforce widely recognized public perceptions of gender-based violence (GBV) within Ecuador. Overall, the combined results for men and women showed that 81.8% of respondents associate GBV with a man hitting a woman. Then, 78.2% of people said that GBV corresponds to insulting, shouting at, and offending women. This was followed by 64.6% of respondents who stated that GBV is having sexual relations without the woman's consent. The responses provided by men and women are summarized in the following chart:



These figures align closely with national data: Ecuador’s Institute of Statistics (INEC) and UN Women report that approximately 60–65 % of women experience physical, emotional, or sexual violence during their lifetime, and 8 % report intimate partner violence in the prior 12 months. Moreover, UN Women notes that about two-thirds of women in Ecuador have been victims of some form of violence. Although responses from male and female participants generally reflect similar patterns, slight gender-specific differences emerged: women more frequently reported recognizing psychological and sexual violence, whereas men more often emphasized physical violence.

This suggests a persistent gap in awareness of non-physical forms of GBV—despite the legal recognition and ongoing policy efforts under Ecuador’s 2018 Organic Law on Violence Against Women. Overall, the findings underscore a high baseline understanding of overt forms of GBV among potential project participants, while highlighting the need for targeted sensitization around subtler forms like coercion, emotional abuse, and lack of consent.

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about gender-based violence

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of gender-based violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no specific violence against women; what happens is that women are very exaggerated and whiny: 19.1%. - It is normal for men to raise their voices and hit objects during arguments with their partners; this is not violence. It is in the nature of men to be strong, and they must demonstrate this: 13.11%. - A woman must prioritize keeping the family together, even if her husband shouts at her or hits her, because the family is the fundamental nucleus of society: 21.3%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no specific violence against women; what happens is that women are very exaggerated and whiny: 17.7%. - It is normal for men to raise their voices and hit objects during arguments with their partners; this is not violence, it is in the nature of men to be strong, and they must demonstrate this: 11.8%. - A woman should prioritize keeping the family together, even if her husband shouts at her or hits her, because the family is the fundamental nucleus of society: 13%.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women must obey their husbands; this is what God commands: 25.1%. - Violence against women is more common in poor families with lower levels of education: 52.4%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women must obey their husbands; it is God's command: 14.7%. - Violence against women is more common in poor families with lower levels of education: 51.6%.
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Although, in general terms, less than 20% of respondents do not identify the existence of gender-based violence, when reviewing each of the aspects investigated, it is clear 25.1% of men and 14.7% of women indicated that women must obey their husbands. Additionally, more men (19.1%) than women (17.7%) stated that there is no specific violence against women, but rather that "women are very exaggerated and whiny." Finally, a higher percentage of men than women answered affirmatively to two key questions:

- ✓ A woman should prioritize keeping the family together, even if her husband shouts at her or hits her, because the family is the fundamental nucleus of society.
- ✓ It is normal for men to raise their voices and hit objects during arguments with their partners; this is not violence, it is in the nature of men to be strong, and they must demonstrate this.

These results highlight the presence of sexist attitudes in around 20-25% of men who responded affirmatively to the subordination of married women to their partners and a relative normalisation of types of violence against women. In addition, it is noteworthy that for more than half of the women (51.6%) and men (52.4%) surveyed, violence against women is related to families living in poverty and with lower levels of education.

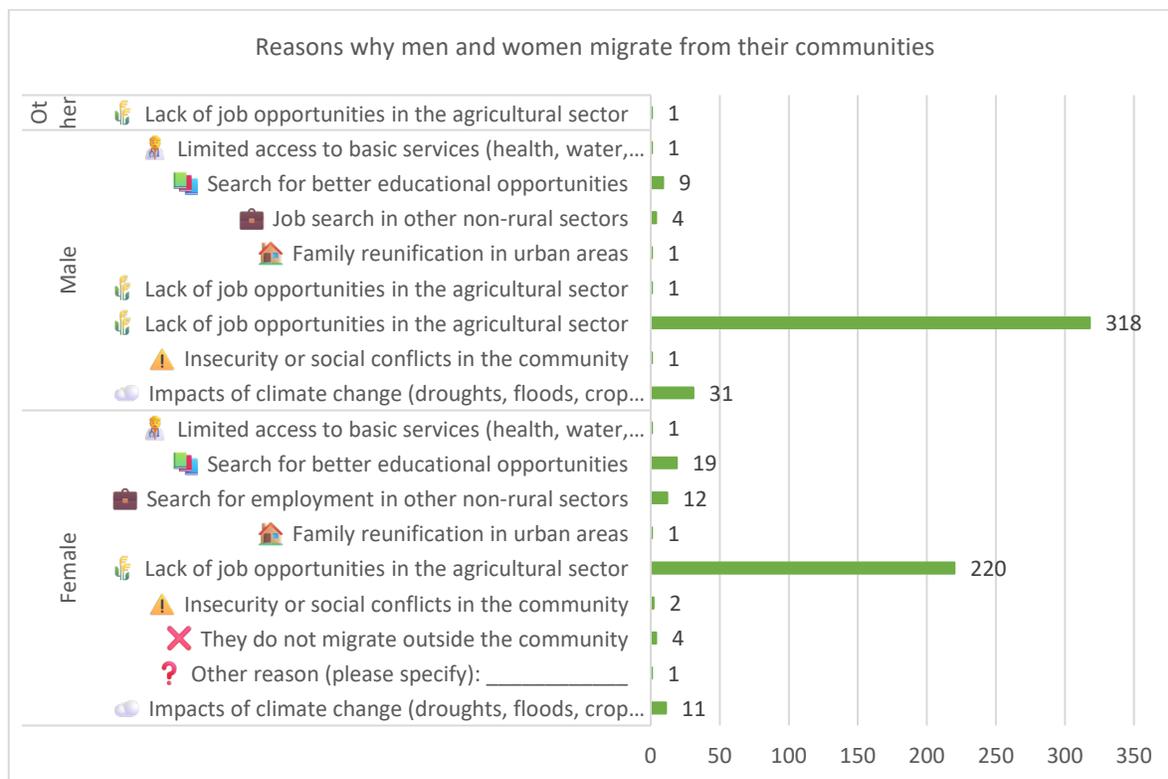
Indicator R3: Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge gender-based violence behaviours

COMPONENT	INDICATOR	MEN	WOMEN
Gender-based violence	Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge gender-based violence behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is normal/natural for men to hit women: 4%. - It is normal/natural for parents to hit girls: 6%. - It is not violence to insult and offend women: 53.5%. - Money and property should be managed by men: 12.8%. - It is women's obligation to have sex with their partner, even if they do not want to: 4.6%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is normal/natural for men to hit women: 3%. - It is normal/natural for parents to hit girls: 6%. - Insulting and offending women is not violence: 54.9%. - Money and property should be managed by men: 4.4%. - It is the duty of women to have sexual relations with their partner, even if they do not want to: 3.3%.

The results obtained in indicator R3 of the gender-based violence component show that although less than 5% of women and men responded that it is not normal to hit women and for parents to hit girls, at the same time, more than 50% of women and men indicated that insulting and offending women is not violence. It is also evident that less than 5% of women agreed with the statement that money and property should be managed by men, compared to 12.8% of men who agreed with this statement.

Component: Mobility and Climate Change

Indicator R1: Percentage of people surveyed according to reasons for migrating from communities in the area of influence.



The migration of young people from rural areas to urban centers in Ecuador is a structural dynamic driven by the search for more stable and better-paid job opportunities. This trend has intensified in recent decades, particularly affecting men and women between the ages of 15 and 29, who face significant limitations in their home territories, such as restricted access to higher education, decent employment, and basic services (Fernandez, 2019). In this study, this reality is reflected in the results of indicator R1 of the mobility and climate change variable, since 86.8% of men and 81.1% of women responded that the main reason for young women and men to migrate from their communities is the lack of job opportunities in the agricultural sector.

Despite having higher levels of education than previous generations, rural youth are forced to migrate due to the precarious nature of agricultural work and the lack of local economic alternatives. This phenomenon has led to a growing disintegration of rural social fabric, deepening poverty in the countryside and contributing to disorderly urban expansion. Furthermore, migration is becoming a strategy for social mobility, albeit with uncertain results, especially for young women who face additional barriers related to gender systems and family expectations (Peraza de Aparicio, 2021).

5.3. Opportunities identified

Women gain access to agricultural resources

A key opportunity to strengthen the empowerment of women in rural areas is to ensure equitable access to productive assets, including land, machinery, agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilisers, bio-inputs) and appropriate technologies. The creation of technical assistance networks and the active inclusion of women in fairs, local marketing circuits and public procurement processes contribute to improving their economic visibility and participation in markets. It is also essential to facilitate access to financial services tailored to their needs, such as bank accounts, loans with adequate guarantees, digital payments and community revolving funds, recognising the structural barriers they face. The provision of light machinery, such as electric pruning shears and small-scale equipment, can also be decisive in increasing their participation in agricultural and field activities.

Capacities for change

During the gender assessment carried out in the project's intervention area, key capacities and potential for empowerment were identified among rural women, particularly those with experience in agricultural activities. Their traditional knowledge of resilient agricultural practices, combined with a high willingness to participate in agricultural production initiatives, represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen their role in climate change adaptation. These women not only play a central role in the food security of their households, but also show openness to processes of technical capacity building and community organisation. The project will be able to catalyse these capacities through actions that promote their leadership, access to productive resources and active participation in decision-making, thus contributing to transformative adaptation with a gender focus.

Climate adaptation with a generational approach

The FORECCSA+ project is proposed as a strategic intervention to reverse the dynamics of rural youth migration by strengthening agricultural production chains that are resilient to climate change. Through the implementation of adaptation measures and sustainable technologies in all prioritised parishes, the project seeks to increase the sustainability of key crops such as maize, potatoes, rice, sugar cane and beans. These actions will improve the profitability of local agricultural systems, strengthen livelihoods and encourage young men and women to put down roots in the area. By integrating adaptive practices such as efficient water management, the use of climate-stress-resistant seeds and access to inclusive markets, FORECCSA+ promotes a low-emission and resilient rural development model that recognises the transformative potential of young people as key agents in the transition to sustainable agri-food systems.

Local female empowerment

The FORECCSA+ project recognizes the strategic role of rural women in the climate resilience of territories and has prioritized their participation in capacity-building processes aimed at implementing adaptation measures on family farms and in local communities. Through field schools, practical workshops and certified training, the technical and organizational empowerment of rural women, female heads of household and rural youth will be promoted, facilitating their access to knowledge and adaptive tools. The topics covered will include agroforestry systems, community and small-scale irrigation, good agricultural and environmental practices, pest management with organic inputs, climate change, food security, and gender equality. These training processes will not only strengthen the capacity to respond to extreme weather events but will also contribute to the transformation of traditional roles, promoting gender equality and the sustainability of local agricultural production systems.

Opportunity to close gender gaps in rural climate adaptation

The gender assessment carried out within the framework of the FORECCSA+ project identified significant gaps in terms of equality, evidenced by the persistence of patriarchal attitudes in approximately 20–25% of the men surveyed, who expressed agreement with the subordination of married women to their partners, as well as a worrying normalization of various forms of gender-based violence. This situation represents a critical opportunity to integrate gender-transformative approaches into climate adaptation processes. The project envisages the implementation of training on rights, gender equality, new masculinities and intersectionality, aimed at strengthening local capacities for the planning and implementation of resilient and inclusive adaptation measures. In addition, specific protocols will be established to prevent abuse, sexual harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence during the implementation of the project. These actions will not only contribute to reducing structural social vulnerabilities but will also generate co-benefits in terms of community cohesion, inclusive governance, and the sustainability of climate interventions.

6. Conclusions

- Persistence of structural gender inequalities: In the 115 prioritized rural parishes, persistent inequalities were identified in women's access to formal education, decent employment, and access to agricultural resources, which limits their participation in climate adaptation and food security processes.
- Barriers in the agricultural sector: Women in the prioritized areas face multiple obstacles in accessing land, credit, technical assistance, and adaptive technologies, which restricts their ability to implement adaptation measures and develop resilient bio-enterprises.
- Power relations and traditional gender roles: Participatory diagnoses and problem trees reveal that power relations in the territories are marked by patriarchal patterns that reinforce the subordination of women, especially in family and community contexts.
- Normalization of sexist attitudes: The survey showed that between 20–25% of the men surveyed express attitudes that justify the subordination of married women and minimize forms of gender-based violence, which represents a risk to the safe and inclusive implementation of the project.
- Opportunity for social transformation: These gaps represent a strategic opportunity for the project to promote social transformation processes through training in rights, gender equality, new masculinities, and intersectionality, strengthening the leadership and empowerment of rural women.
- Potential for climate and social co-benefits: Strengthening women's capacities to implement adaptation measures, access diversified markets, and adapt their livelihoods to climate change will contribute to improving families' food and nutritional security, generating co-benefits in terms of reducing their workload, improving family income, and increasing participation in decision-making spaces.
- Need for specific safeguards: The FORECCSA+ project will implement specific protocols in the Environmental and Social Action Plans (ESAP) and Gender Action Plans (GAP) to prevent abuse, sexual harassment and gender-based violence, which is essential to ensure a safe and equitable environment during the implementation of the project in the field, in line with the standards of the Green Climate Fund.

7. Recommendations

- *Mainstream the intersectional approach in project implementation:* Ensure that all project activities incorporate gender equity criteria, including the participation of women in capacity building, design and implementation of measures, and improved market access.
- *Strengthen capacities with a gender-transformative approach:* As part of the Gender Action Plan, implement training programmes on rights, leadership, new masculinities, intersectionality, and climate adaptation, prioritizing women from agricultural associations and rural youth, to promote their empowerment and economic autonomy.
- *Design and implement mechanisms for equitable access to agricultural resources:* Establish inclusive criteria for field school programmes, incentive allocation, and calls for bio-enterprises, ensuring that women are given priority in the distribution and allocation of project resources.
- *Establish protocols for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence:* Develop and institutionalize clear protocols to prevent harassment, abuse, and gender-based violence during project implementation, including safe reporting channels, response mechanisms, and coordination with local protection services.
- *Promote women-led bio-enterprises:* Facilitate the development of climate change-resilient bio-enterprises through technical assistance, access to diversified markets, business management training, and support in marketing processes with a focus on the solidarity economy.
- *Monitor gender indicators and co-benefits of adaptation:* Incorporate specific indicators into the project monitoring system to assess progress in reducing gender gaps, empowering women, improving livelihoods and community resilience to climate change.
- *Promote inter-institutional partnerships for the sustainability of results:* Coordinate with local governments, women's organizations, educational institutions, and actors in the agricultural sector to ensure the sustainability of gender actions undertaken beyond the project's life cycle.

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9. Appendices:

Appendix 1: Problem Tree Methodology for Gender Analysis

Target Groups for the Workshops:

Male and female specialists from the eleven provincial GADs, as well as from NGOs and local universities related to the project's themes.

Workshop Dates and Provinces:

24-25 June 2025: Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, and Bolívar

30 June to 3 July 2025: Imbabura, Carchi, Manabí, Guayas, Santa Elena, Loja, and Azuay.

Materials:

- Three-colour cardstock cards
- Markers in different colours
- A0 printout of the problem tree
- PPT

Workshop schedule:

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
30 min 8:30 to 9:00	Registration and arrival of participants	IICA
5 min 9:00	Welcome by the institutional delegates	GAD, MAATE, IICA
15 min 9:05 – 9:20	Dynamics of the workshop participants' presentations	IICA
25 min 9:20 – 9:45	Background on the scaling up of the FORECCSA project and objectives Strategic of intervention	IICA
60 min 9:45 – 11:00	Territorial of initiatives/projects and strategic prioritization of actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of initiatives/projects implemented in the territory. • Mapping of key chains/crops/products • Prioritization of measures for pre-identified adaptation measures 	IICA
15 min 11:00 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshments 	IICA

45 min 11:15 – 12:00	Identification and Prioritization of provincial actors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping and strategic analysis of provincial actors • Classification of actors by type and level of influence 	IICA
45 min 12:00 – 12:45	Gender analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory diagnosis • Participatory of gender at the territorial level • Presentation of the gender survey and explanation of its methodological objective 	IICA
30 min 12:45 – 13:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Plenary 	IICA, participants workshop participants
15 min 13:15 – 13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements, next steps and closing of the workshop 	IICA, workshop participants of the workshop
13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch 	IICA

Steps taken:

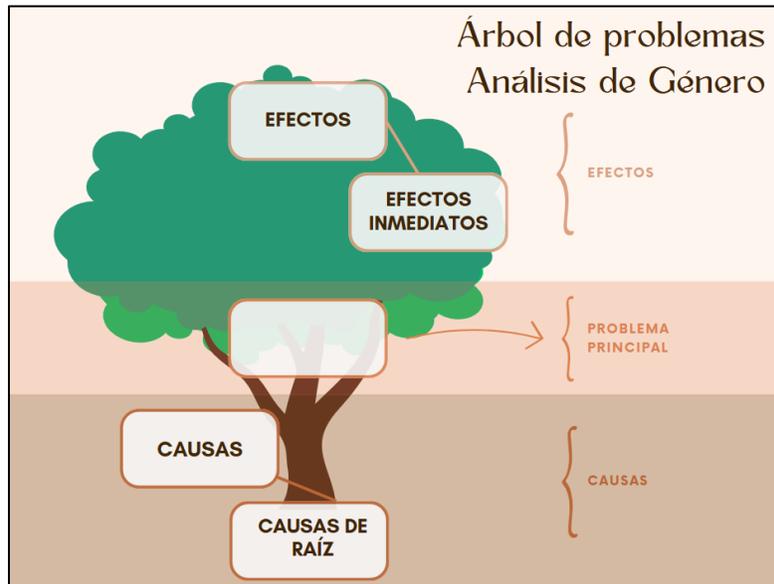
- 1) Explanation of the problem tree methodology applied to the relationship between gender and climate change. Introduce the dynamics of the exercise and each step to be followed, the materials to be used and the estimated time for the exercise. For this, the PPT will be used with a practical example of a problem tree.
- 2) Knowledge question for the audience:

What are the main obstacles and barriers that women in rural areas of your province face in gaining full and equitable access to productive resources and participating in climate change adaptation solutions?

The answers to this knowledge question will be linked to the climate change situation, or the problems exacerbated by climate change that require attention, or the central problem faced by women in rural areas of the province. It is important to note that there are many potential problems or starting points.¹⁸

- 3) Generate debate and define the problem in plenary with the A0 printout of the problem tree:

¹⁸ GCF & UN Women. (2017). Mainstreaming gender in Green Climate Fund projects. Green Climate Fund. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4849ewiz>. (pp37).



- 4) Two working groups will then be organised: 1) to work on the causes and root causes of the problem, and 2) to work on the consequences or effects and immediate effects of the defined problem. For the group work, coloured cards will be handed out to women and men, along with markers. This exercise will take 20 minutes.
- 5) Once the time is up, each group will appoint a representative to present their work to the whole group. Each group representative will be asked to include the information in the problem tree by placing the cardboard cards distributed for the exercise on it. This exercise will take 15 minutes.
- 6) The problem tree for each province will be shared with all participants after it has been systematised.

Annex 2: Form for collecting information on gender at the provincial level

In 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), prepared a Concept Note addressed to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the aim of securing resources to reduce the vulnerability of communities in priority areas, in accordance with the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Within this framework, IICA, as an agency accredited by the GCF and selected by the National Designated Authority (NDA), is preparing a financing proposal to implement the project "Strengthening the Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change with an Emphasis on Food Security and Gender Considerations – FORECCSA+".

This form consists of two parts, both of which must be completed. **The first part** identifies key institutions and organizations in the territories where the FORECCSA+ project is likely to be implemented. **The second part** collects information on gender and climate change in terms of gaps, vulnerabilities and opportunities related to gender equality, agricultural production, climate adaptation, and food security at the territorial level.

PART 2. GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE FORECCSA+ PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Welcome to the evaluation questionnaire on the Gender and Climate Change Approach within the framework of the FORECCSA+ Project, an initiative led by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), in coordination with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) as the implementing entity, and with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

🗣️ What is the purpose of the questionnaire?

This questionnaire aims to gather input and information on gaps, problems and opportunities related to gender equality, agricultural production, and food security, to understand gender roles and power relations in the territories prioritized by the project.

The information gathered will be key to formulating strategies that strengthen the participation of rural people, promoting more sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient production.

🕒 Estimated duration:
Approximately 15 minutes.

🔒 Confidentiality

Your responses will be used exclusively for the technical analysis of the project, ensuring the confidentiality and anonymity of participants at all times.

👤 Your participation is key!

If you are part of an agricultural production organization in your province, your contribution is essential to the success of the project. We also invite you to share this questionnaire with others in the sector to broaden the scope and representativeness of the information collected.

? Need help or have questions?

You can contact us through the following channels:

✉ Email: edison.calderon.consultor@iica.int

☎ WhatsApp: 0987378138

1 - General information

Province _____ District _____ Parish/community: _____

Organización/entidad _____

Gender of respondent: female __ male__ prefer not to say__ other__

Ethnic self-identification:

White

Mestizo(a)

Kichwa

Awá

Huancavilca

Karanki

Cayambi

Panzaleo

Natabuela

Puruwá

Kañari

Waranka

Montubio

Afro-descendant

Age group:

Population aged 18 to 25

Population aged 26 to 35

Population aged 36 to 45

Population aged 46 to 55

Population aged 56 to 64

Population aged over 64

Marital status of the respondent:

Single ___ Married ___ Widowed ___ Divorced ___ Cohabiting ___

Has children Yes ___ No ___

What is the highest level of education you have attained? (single answer option):

None

Incomplete basic education

Complete basic education

Incomplete secondary education

Complete secondary education

Incomplete higher education

Complete higher education

Postgraduate

Description of survey questions based on each variable, component, and project outcome:

Variable: Gaps

Component: Access to and control of land, financing, technology, and training

Indicator R1: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about the relationship between access to and control of land/financing/technology/training and food security

1. Question: Answer yes or no to the following statements related to access and control of land, financing, access to technology (machinery, seeds), access to training and food security:

- b) Women and men have equal opportunities to access information and knowledge in agricultural production (yes/no)
- c) Women and men have equal opportunities to access land (yes/no)
- d) Women and men have equal opportunities to access financing for agricultural production (yes/no)
- e) Women and men have equal opportunities to access technology for agricultural production (yes/no)

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge the existence or non-existence of inequalities between men/women; ethnic groups; age groups, in access to land, financing, technology and training.

10. Question: Answer yes or no to the following options:

Inequalities between men and women

- a) Men have more land than women (yes/no)
- b) Men are the ones who decide on the family's money/resources (yes/no)
- c) Men are the ones who can take on debt and request loans for agricultural production and planting (yes/no)
- d) Men decide on the tools and technologies used in agriculture (yes/no)
- e) Men are the ones who must be trained (yes/no)

11. Question: Answer yes or no to the following options:

Ethnic inequalities

- a) Indigenous people / people of African descent / Montubios do not have the same amount of land as mestizos (yes/no)
- b) Indigenous people/Afro-descendants/Montubios do not have the same amount of resources or money as mestizos (yes/no)
- c) Indigenous people / people of African descent / Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to apply for loans for agricultural production (yes/no)
- d) Indigenous people / people of African descent / Montubios do not have the same opportunities as mestizos to access tools and technology (yes/no)
- e) Indigenous people/Afro-descendants/Montubios understand less than mestizos in training sessions (yes/no)

Indicator R3: Percentage of respondents who express ideas that devalue women's participation in decision-making (in different areas)

12. Question: What is your perception of the participation of men and women? Yes or No:

- a) Women's participation in community/parish activities must be done with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children. (yes/no)
- b) If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is because what she is saying is not important (yes/no)
- c) If a woman is speaking at a meeting and a man interrupts her, it is usually necessary to clarify her ideas (yes/no)
- d) Women should not speak in assemblies unless they are alone (yes/no)
- e) Interrupting a woman when she is speaking in public is violence (yes/no)

Variable: Problems and Vulnerabilities

Component: Climate Adaptation

Indicator R1: Proportion and number of women among vulnerable population groups and communities

13. Question: Do you identify as part of any of the following vulnerable groups?

- a) Female head of household without financial support
- b) Indigenous, Afro-descendant or Montubia woman
- c) Woman with a disability
- d) Women living in extreme poverty
- e) Migrant or displaced woman
- f) I do not identify with any of the above

Indicator R2: Proportion and number of women with greater exposure to food insecurity

14. Question: Do women in your household eat less or eat food of lower quality than other members when there is a food shortage?

- a) Yes, regularly
- b) Yes, occasionally
- c) No, it is distributed equally
- d) I am not sure

Indicator R3: Proportion and number of women who lack access to adequate productive infrastructure (irrigation, collection centers, inputs, etc.)

15. Question: In your association or organization, do women have equal access to productive infrastructure such as irrigation, collection centers, inputs, etc. as men?

- a) Yes, there is equality
- b) Partially, but there are barriers
- c) No, men have priority
- d) I do not have information on this topic

Variable: Capacities for Change

Component: Local Potential

Indicator R1: Women's roles in prioritized communities

16. Question: What is the main economic activity you carry out within your community?

- a) Agriculture or livestock farming
- b) Local commerce (shop, market)
- c) Paid work outside the home
- d) Own business (handicrafts, local products)

- e) Unpaid work at home or on the farm
- f) Other

Indicator R2: Women's roles in prioritized communities

17. Question: Do you receive any income for the activities you do?

- a) Yes, regularly
- b) Yes, occasionally
- c) I do not receive any income
- d) I prefer not to answer

Indicator R3: Role of women in the design and maintenance of infrastructure and the built environment

18. Question: Have you participated in the planning or design of productive infrastructure in your community (irrigation systems, access roads, collection centers, etc.)?

- Yes, as part of a community group
- Yes, as part of a productive association
- Yes, on my own initiative or that of my family
- No, but I am interested
- I have not participated and am not interested

19. Question: Have you received training on topics related to the design or maintenance of productive infrastructure?

- Yes, by public institutions (Prefecture, Municipality, MAG)
- Yes, by NGOs
- Yes, by community or association initiatives
- No, but I would like to receive training
- I am not interested in receiving training

Variable: Physical Autonomy

Component: How violence affects productivity and political participation

Indicator R1: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about power relations: man/woman (with cultural relevance); technical knowledge/empirical knowledge

20. Question: Answer true or false for the following statements (multiple answers possible)

- a) Men know more about managing the natural environment and have more knowledge than women (true/false)
- b) Men are better trained than women for agricultural tasks (true/false)
- c) Men should decide on agricultural production (true/false)
- d) Women are responsible for household care tasks (true/false)

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents who do NOT identify the existence of gender power relations (with cultural relevance); technical/empirical knowledge.

21. Question: Who do you think should make decisions in the home? (multiple answer options):

- a) The couple when it comes to issues related to the family unit
- b) The man when it comes to property and money
- c) The woman when it comes to property and money
- d) The woman when it comes to raising children
- e) The man when it comes to the children's education
- f) For the couple in all cases

22. Question: Choose Yes or No according to your perception (multiple answer options):

- a) Women's participation in community activities must be with the consent of their husband/partner/father (of a man) because they are primarily responsible for cooking, washing, and caring for children (yes/no)
- b) The man has authority in the family (yes/no)
- c) Decisions in the community should be made by consensus between men and women because they are equally important (yes/no)
- d) If it is necessary to coordinate actions in the community, we talk to the men because they are the authority in the family and the community (yes/no).
- e) Decisions about food security should be made by those who have studied and have technical knowledge (yes/no).
- f) One of the problems of food insecurity is the ignorance and lack of education of "rural people" (yes/no)

Indicator R3: Percentage of respondents according to the extent to which they judge practices regarding power relations in decision-making on food security.

23. Question: Answer yes or no to the following behaviors:

- a) The man's decisions about what products are grown or produced are the ones that must be followed in the family (yes/no)
- b) The head of the household decides what food is bought or sold (yes/no)
- c) Women must ensure that the family is fed with the resources and/or money given to them by their husband/partner (yes/no)
- d) Not everyone in the family needs to eat the same amount; men and boys eat more than women and girls (yes/no)

Component: Gender-based violence

Indicator R1: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about gender-based violence

24. Question: Answer true or false for the following statements (multiple answers possible)

- a) Men know more about managing the natural environment; they have more knowledge than women (true/false)
- b) Men are better trained than women for agricultural tasks (true/false)
- c) Men should decide on agricultural production (true/false)
- d) Women are responsible for household care tasks (true/false)

Indicator R2: Percentage of respondents according to association of ideas about gender-based violence

25. Question: Do you believe that (multiple answer options):

- a) There is no specific violence against women; it is just that women are very exaggerated and whiny (yes/no)
- b) It is normal for men to raise their voices and hit objects during arguments with their partners; this is not violence, it is in the nature of men to be strong, and they must demonstrate this (yes/no)
- c) A woman should prioritize keeping the family together, even if her husband shouts at her or hits her, because the family is the fundamental nucleus of society (yes/no)
- d) Women must obey their husbands; it is God's command (yes/no).
- e) Violence against women is more common in poor families with lower levels of education.

Indicator R3: Percentage of respondents according to the degree to which they judge gender-based violence behaviors.

26. Question: Answer yes or no to the following behaviors (multiple answer options; none = zero affirmative answers; 1 affirmative answer = low; 2 affirmative answers = medium; 3 or 4 affirmative answers = high):

- a) It is normal/natural for men to hit women (yes/no)
- b) It is normal/natural for parents to hit girls (yes/no)
- c) It is not violence to insult and offend women (yes/no)
- d) Money and property should be managed by men (yes/no)
- e) It is the duty of women to have sexual relations with their partner, even if they do not want to (yes/no)

Variable: (In)Mobility and Climate Change

27. Question: Where you live, what do you consider to be the main reason young women and men migrate away from their community or parish? (multiple answer options):

- a) Lack of job opportunities in the agricultural sector
 - b) Impacts of climate change (droughts, floods, crop losses, etc.)
 - c) Search for better educational opportunities.
 - d) Search for employment in other non-rural sectors.
 - e) Family reunification in urban areas
 - f) Limited access to basic services (health, water, energy, transport)
 - g) Insecurity or social conflicts in the community
 - h) Other reason (please specify): _____
 - i) They do not migrate outside the community.
- _____