



# Creating opportunities and building resilience: priorities for sustainable recovery



The IDB Group  
in the Central American Isthmus  
and the Dominican Republic

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2022





**Creating opportunities  
and building resilience:  
priorities for sustainable recovery**



The IDB Group  
in the Central American Isthmus  
and the Dominican Republic

---

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2022



# Contents

Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic in 2022	4
New projects	6
Our portfolio and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals	8
The knowledge agenda	11
Our Regional Initiatives	12
Fostering people-centered resilience	16
IDB Group activities at the country level	24
Publications 2022	56
Annexes	59

This document was coordinated and prepared by a team from the IDB's Country Department Central America, Haiti, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, with contributions from IDB Invest, IDB Lab, the Migration Unit and the Division of Innovation for Citizen Services.

At the date of publication of this report, data related to IDB Invest operations are still preliminary and may be subject to change.

Graphic design: Duare Pinto



# Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic in 2022

Dominican Republic. Financing for the sustainable expansion of dairy production.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the region of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (hereafter, “the region”), contracted by 7.5 percent in 2020 before recovering by 10.9 percent in 2021. The recovery was expected to continue in 2022, but Russia’s invasion of Ukraine quickly degraded the outlook. Growth projections for the world and the United States for 2022, a major trading partner for the region, were lowered to 3.4 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Even in this context of lower external demand, the region is estimated to have grown by 5.7 percent in 2022, displaying greater resilience thanks to the recovery of tourism and remittances, as well as reduced volatility in agricultural exports. These circumstances allowed formal employment to rebound to 5 percent above its pre-pandemic level by October 2022.

Some of the pandemic’s after-effects, however, are lingering in the region. The total number of people in work remains below the pre-pandemic level in several countries. This might be because there are fewer jobs in the informal sector, or because people stopped looking for work in order to undertake other activities such as caring for their families or migrating. The poverty level fell in 2021 but remained above its pre-pandemic rate. On average the poverty rate in the region rose from 31 percent in 2019 to 36 percent in 2021, equivalent to an increase of 2.3 million people living in poverty.

## Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CAPDR): Selected Economic and Social Data

	2019	2020	2021	2022
GDP, % var.	3.3	-6.8	10.4	5.7
GDP per capita, current USD	6,030	5,487	6,167	6,748
Public deficit, % GDP	3.1	7.3	3.7	3.2
Public debt, % GDP	47	60	56	54
Poverty, % population	31	NA	36	NA
Formal employment, % var.	NA	-6	9	5

Source: Authors’ calculations on the basis of World Economic Outlook (WEO October 2022), and IDB COVID-19 [Labor](#) Markets Observatory.

Note: The poverty data correspond to Central America and the Dominican Republic. The poverty line is income of US\$ 5/day (PPP 2011). For Honduras, the data correspond to the National Institute of Statistics of Honduras and its poverty line. The formal employment data cover the countries of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

Rising inflation became a prime concern worldwide in 2022, reaching an estimated 8.8 percent for the year compared to 4.7 percent in 2021. The rise stemmed from constraints in logistics chains in the wake of COVID-19, increases in international food and energy prices as a result of the war in Ukraine, and the lagged effects of the extraordinary measures to provide liquidity, among other factors. In several countries of the region, inflation exceeded 10 percent in mid-2022 and food price inflation was above 15 percent.

Increases in energy prices, especially gasoline, weakened the trade balance by about 2 percentage points of GDP. Remittance flows continued to rise in most countries of the region, however, supporting household consumption and the availability of foreign currency resources.

To contain inflation and keep inflation expectations anchored, the region's central banks increased their monetary policy rates. The increase in global and local interest rates is being passed through to rates on new government bond issues, which in the future might be an additional source of spending for the public and private sectors. Bank lending to the private sector has been resilient in the region, lending rates have remained stable, and the volume has continued to grow. As financing for these institutions becomes more expensive, however, new loans should begin to reflect the new interest rates.

Governments tried to contain the surge of inflation through interest rates, as well as sought to mitigate its social effects, especially the rise in food inflation. Specifically, to mitigate the increase in food insecurity in the region, governments have abolished or temporarily reduced various taxes on basic foodstuffs, provided transfers to low-income households, adopted certain price controls, offered subsidies to producers of some basic crops and to gasoline prices, and reached agreements with the private sector to cushion increases in the price of some basic products. The region's spending on these measures is estimated to average 1.2 percent of GDP, although with substantial variance among countries. Despite these efforts, the sharp increase in food prices could exacerbate food insecurity, which would make it more difficult to keep the poverty rate trending downwards. This is reflected in the concerns of households in the region countries: nearly 40 percent of the region's households report that their main concern is meeting their basic needs.

To mitigate the effects of the pandemic, first, and then the impact of food and energy inflation, public spending rose in several countries of the region. A context of higher interest rates and possible risk-aversion events poses the challenge of maintaining fiscal stability to ensure favorable financing conditions while simultaneously supporting the neediest households.



Dominican Republic. Productive development and competitiveness of San Juan Province.

## Outlook for 2023

World economic growth is expected to keep slowing in 2023. Specifically, the IMF estimates that the United States will grow by 1.4 percent and the world by 2.9 percent. Against that background, the region will grow by 3.6 percent.

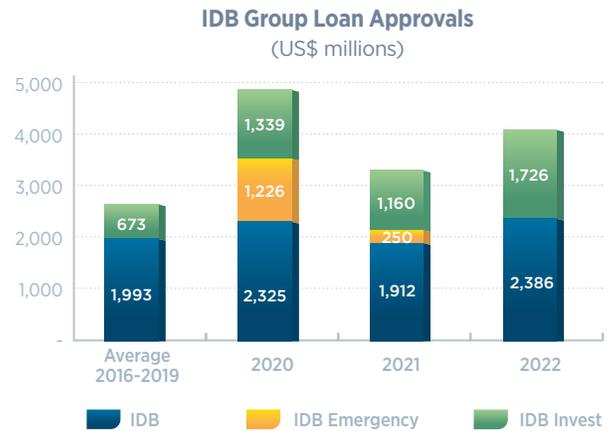
Inflation in the region is expected to fall as external pressures on food and energy prices are eased. The process is expected to be slow, however, and inflation is likely to be at the high end of central bank inflation targets, suggesting that higher interest rates will persist for an extended period.

Higher inflation and higher interest rates in a context of lower growth are circumstances that hinder continuation of the downward trend in poverty and food insecurity during 2023. Public debt levels exceed 60 percent of GDP in five of the eight countries. It is therefore even more necessary to prioritize social policies that target the neediest, and to make investments that help increase household incomes in the countries of the region.

# New projects

In 2022 the **IDB Group** approved **US\$4,166 million** for the countries of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic. This level of financing is more than 50 percent higher than the average of 2016–2019 approvals. Relative to 2021, it is a 49 percent increase in the private share and a 10 percent increase in the public share.

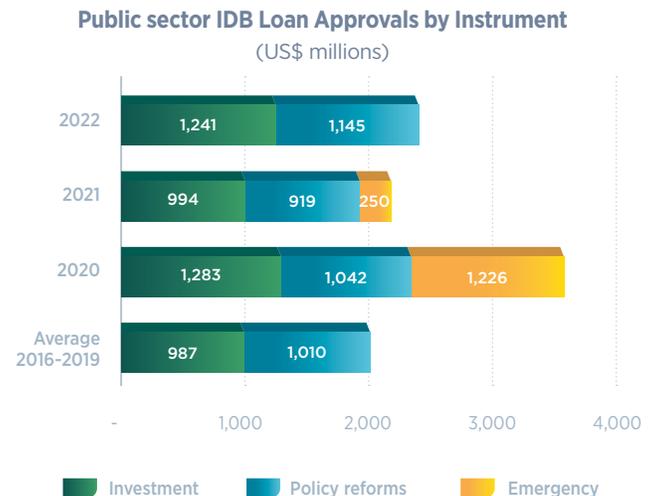
- ✦ The **IDB** worked with the public sector mainly in poverty alleviation – through social protection networks, access to basic services, and the development of Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); infrastructure development; the improvement of public management, and environmental sustainability.
- ✦ **IDB Invest**, the private-sector investment arm, focused on supporting the productive fabric and employment, especially Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and their value chains, as well as on foreign trade facilitation.
- ✦ **IDB Lab**, the innovation laboratory, targeted its support on financial inclusion for vulnerable groups, support for the digitization of MSMEs, and training and employment.



## Public sector

In 2022 the **IDB** financed **26 loans** to the public sector totaling **US\$2,386 million**, and provided technical assistance through **102 grants** totaling **US\$43 million**.

- ✦ A **25 percent** increase in investment and support for policy reforms relative to 2021.
- ✦ Approvals in 2022 were almost 20 percent higher than the pre-pandemic average, and **10 percent** higher than in 2021.
- ✦ An additional **US\$528 million**, equivalent to 22 percent of the total approved, was raised in cofinancing from partners such as the French Development Agency (AFD), the Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- ✦ **48 percent** of the resources approved were for **budgetary support** to help meet the countries' financing needs, and to provide technical assistance to key structural reforms for the region's long-term recovery.



These resources supported, for example, decarbonization in Costa Rica, the transparency agenda in Honduras, and the competitiveness and resilience of the tourism sector in Panama, among others.

As regards **priorities**, most of the IDB's operational effort centered on supporting:

- ✦ Poverty alleviation (social investment and the productive sector) **41%**
- ✦ Infrastructure (investment and reforms) **28%**
- ✦ Public sector effectiveness (transparency and public spending efficiency) **17%**
- ✦ Environmental sustainability (agriculture, tourism, and emergencies) **15%**

The Bank also responded to crises caused by natural disasters. The following were approved:

- ✦ Two operations under contingent loans totaling US\$37 million in El Salvador and Nicaragua, in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Julia.
- ✦ More than US\$3 million (including emergency grants and reallocated portfolio resources) was made available to Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic in response to Hurricanes Julia, Fiona and Lisa, as well as tropical storms in recent months.



Nicaragua. Smart cocoa production in Jinotega.

## Private sector

**IDB Invest** approved 21 long-term operations in 2022 totaling US\$553 million, and 30 short-term operations amounting to US\$1,173 million. Total approvals in 2022 amounted to **US\$1,726 million** (including US\$143 million in regional operations) and financial closures totaled US\$1,470 million.

✦ Total approvals during 2022 were a record since 2016. They were double the 2016–2021 average and 49 percent above the 2021 level.

✦ Focus on SME financing, green portfolios, technological entrepreneurship and trade through financial institutions, as well as on promoting capital investments in basic infrastructure and in strategic corporate sectors with high potential to create jobs.

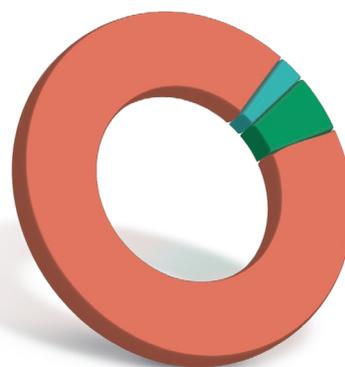
✦ The demand for short-term financing grew significantly: approvals in 2022 were almost double those of 2021. This has strengthened working capital and liquidity for companies, so that they can continue to function and to operate internationally.

### US\$553 million in long-term loans and guarantees:

- ✦ **60 percent to the corporate sector** to support agribusiness, manufacturing, telecommunications, industrial parks, trade logistics, and sustainable tourism.
- ✦ **23 percent for financial institutions** to improve SMEs' access to credit, green loans, and capital market development, as well as for innovative and technological entrepreneurship.
- ✦ **18 percent for infrastructure** projects to diversify the energy matrix via investments in renewable energy and better electricity distribution, as well as upgrading infrastructure for health and for water and sanitation.

### US\$1,173 million in short-term loans and guarantees:

**92%** to 25 financial institutions through the Trade Finance Facilitation Program (TFFP), which supported exporting and importing companies.



**2.6%** for the infrastructure sector to support essential health infrastructure in Panama.

**5.5%** for the corporate sector to support the agribusiness, manufacturing, and telecommunications sectors.

**IDB Lab** approved **23 operations** totaling **US\$11 million**, including mobilization and the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP), to stimulate:

✦ Innovation and the take-up of technologies with a view to building skills among young people and workers, thus improving their job quality.

✦ Financial inclusion, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

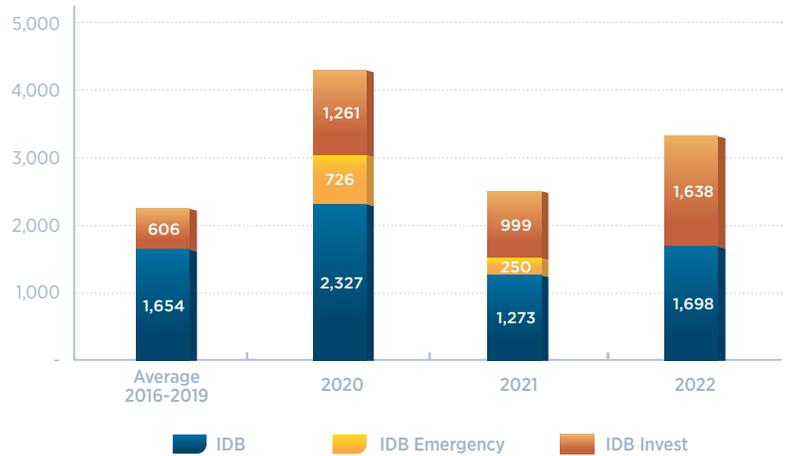
✦ Supporting the digital transformation of the region's MSMEs.

✦ There are also **two regional projects totaling US\$2.0 million** including Core Mobilization and SEP initiatives geared to building digital skills for greater employability, and strengthening ecosystems to support small businesses in Central America.

# Our portfolio

In 2022 the **IDB Group** disbursed **US\$3,336 million** for the countries of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic. This is a 64 percent increase in private-sector disbursements and a 33 percent increase in public-sector disbursements relative to 2021, though it is below the level of disbursements in 2020, the peak year for emergency funding in response to the pandemic.

**IDB Group Disbursements**  
(US\$ millions)



## Public sector

The **IDB** has an active portfolio of **127 projects** in the region totaling US\$9.7 billion, with more than **US\$6 billion in available resources**.

Disbursements in 2022 amounted to **US\$1,698 million** and helped to:

- ✦ Consolidate the IDB's position as the main source of multilateral (**44 percent**).
- ✦ Finance **16 percent** of public investment.
- ✦ Cover **11 percent** of the region's financing needs.

**Public Sector Disbursements by Instrument**  
(US\$ millions)



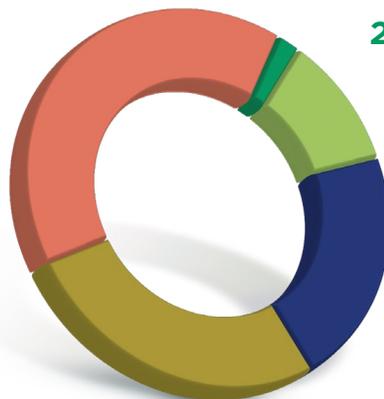
## Public sector loan portfolio composition (percentage of the current approved amount)

**Infrastructure 39%**

- ✦ Transportation and logistics
- ✦ Energy
- ✦ Water and sanitation

**Social development 27%**

- ✦ Health
- ✦ Social investments
- ✦ Education



**2%** Productive sector, SMEs

**11%** Environment and natural disasters

**21%** Public management

- ✦ Fiscal management
- ✦ Justice and citizen security
- ✦ Innovation and technology
- ✦ Institutional strengthening

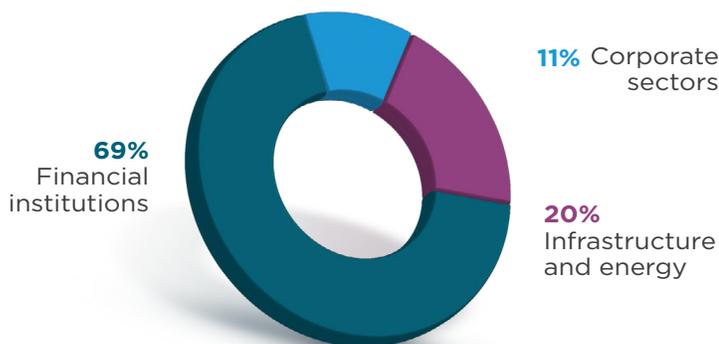


La Uruca, San José, Costa Rica, Construction process Metalub plant.

**Private sector**

**IDB Invest** has a portfolio of **97 operations** with an exposure of **US\$2,387 million** as of December 31, 2022. It also manages additional resources of US\$422 million from other sources, including US\$150 million from third parties, in three areas:

Demonstrating its responsiveness and support for private-sector reactivation, **IDB Invest** disbursed **US\$1,638 million** in 2022, an increase of 64 percent over 2021 and 68 percent more than the 2016–2021 average.



**IDB Invest projects have helped to:**

- ✦ Expand credit to MSMEs and underserved segments.
- ✦ Empower women entrepreneurs.
- ✦ Foster financial intermediation and strengthen the capital structure of financial institutions (gender, social, and sustainable bonds).
- ✦ Promote the green portfolio, mainly in construction, mobility, renewable energies, and energy efficiency.
- ✦ Support strategic corporate sectors including agribusiness, manufacturing, sustainable tourism, and telecommunications.
- ✦ Promote foreign trade.

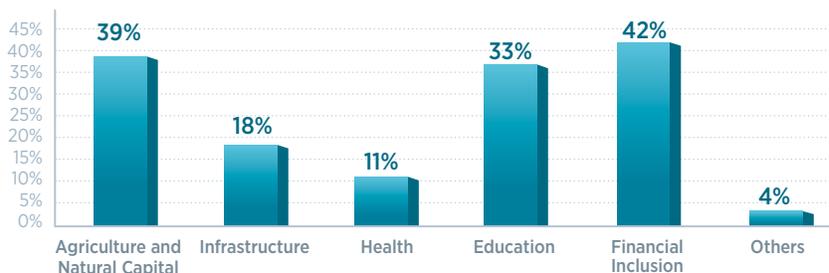
**IDB Lab** has **93 operations** underway totaling **US\$93.6 million of its own funds and mobilization resources**, which foster innovation and leverage private-sector financing.

- ✦ It also manages 66 SEP operations amounting to an investment of US\$30 million.
- ✦ It has 13 regional operations totaling US\$19 million.

**IDB Lab's operations mainly address the following areas:**

**Distribution of Operations with Own Resources and Mobilization by Area\***

\* An operation can be aligned with several areas.



**These initiatives support:**

- ✦ Innovation-driven ecosystems and businesses that have significant social and economic impact.
- ✦ Financing for innovation and underserved groups.
- ✦ Social, labor, and economic inclusion.
- ✦ Climate resilience and environmental sustainability.
- ✦ Adoption of new technologies and expansion of access to training opportunities.

# The contribution of the IDB Group portfolio to the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) over the past seven years:

## 1 NO POVERTY

**5.1 million**  
Beneficiaries of anti-poverty programs

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

**7.5 million**  
Students benefiting from education programs

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**28 MW**  
Installed capacity of electricity generation using renewable sources

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**16,500**  
Beneficiaries of support initiatives for migrants and their host communities

## 13 CLIMATE ACTION

**US\$39 million**  
Investments in resilient or low-carbon emissions infrastructure in 2021

## 2 ZERO HUNGER

**454,000**  
Beneficiaries of greater resilience to natural disasters and the effects of climate change

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY

**304,000**  
Economically empowered women

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**98,000**  
MSMEs financed and more than 85,000 jobs created

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**408,000**  
Households with improved access to energy services

## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER

## 15 LIFE ON LAND

**526,000**  
Hectares of sustainably managed habitats using ecosystem-based methods

## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**24 million**  
People receiving health services

## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**384,000**  
Households with improved access to water and sanitation

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**1,258 kilometers**  
Roads built or upgraded

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**92,000**  
Annual tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions averted (2021)

## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**146 Institutions**  
with strengthened migrant capacities and digital technology

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

**2 Integration agreements**  
and regional cooperation initiatives supported

# The knowledge agenda

In response to the region's most urgent needs, in 2022 we continued to produce knowledge products that focus on offering development solutions and finding opportunities for growth. Priority issues for 2022 included food security, the energy crisis, social areas, value chains, and innovation.

Particularly noteworthy are reports that speedily addressed the main critical challenges and the economic and social ramifications of COVID-19:

- ✦ **Food security overview and outlook.** This study provides an overview of the current situation and examines the countries' policy responses, offering short- and long-term recommendations for managing a potential food emergency and averting future crises.
- ✦ **Fiscal and distributive impact of measures taken to tackle the energy crisis.** This report estimates the direct fiscal cost and income-distribution effect of measures taken in the context of the Russo-Ukrainian war. Price freezes are reported as having the highest fiscal cost, followed by direct price cuts and subsidies.
- ✦ **In search of better borrowing conditions for firms and households.** This study examines the state of private-sector indebtedness, the effect of monetary and regulatory policy in supporting credit availability during the COVID-19 crisis, and the link between the level of indebtedness and arrearage, job creation, and health.
- ✦ **Poverty and inequality in Panama after two years of pandemic.** This report looks at the role of Panama Solidario and conditional cash transfer programs. It finds that Panama Solidario curbed the rise in poverty and inequality and restrained the decline in the middle class, though it shows that these benefits varied within the country.

In the area of social inclusion, the studies on gender and migration are worth noting:

- ✦ **Gender gaps in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) occupations in Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico.** This registers significant gender gaps in science, technology, engineering and mathematics occupations, and estimates that output would rise by between 1 and 10 percent if barriers to these occupations were removed in Mexico.
- ✦ **Migration, remittances, and education in El Salvador.** This report explores the effect of the migration of a household member on the education of children and teenagers. It also offers recommendations such as revising the content of the school curriculum, offering non-academic activities, and instituting early warning systems to detect the risk of students dropping out of school.
- ✦ **Extended school day and teenage fertility in the Dominican Republic.** This paper examines the impact of the extended school day, finding that it reduces the incidence of teenage pregnancy.

On the use of innovative tools for development, the following study is notable:

- ✦ **Nowcasting to predict economic activity in real time.** The findings of nowcasting models, which predict quarterly GDP some 30 to 60 days before the data's official release, are consolidated into a dashboard that provides a timely overview of the growth outlook for all countries in the region.

 20 publications

 +181,000 downloads

 8 Blogs  
blogs.iadb.org

 3 Blogs  
in newspapers

## Knowledge agenda 2023

In 2023 the knowledge agenda will continue to focus on social challenges, exploring job opportunities that reduce migration and devising methodologies for the timely production of poverty estimates (nowcasting). The agenda will also center on analyzing strategies to foster participation in global value chains and increase competition. Moreover, it will seek to support operational effectiveness by analyzing the impact of projects on social and climate-change indicators in the communities in which they are implemented.

# Our regional initiatives

## Moving forward with the agenda to build resilience to natural disasters

Managing the economic and social impacts of natural disasters is a major challenge for the sustainable development of the region. Given the challenges posed by climate change and its negative repercussions for productive assets and livelihoods, especially among the most vulnerable populations, the resilience agenda has become central to the region's strategies for economic recovery and poverty reduction.

In that context the Bank has been supporting the countries of the region as they move from an approach geared to dealing with disaster-related emergencies to an integrated strategy that also includes building resilience and reducing vulnerability, in line with the Sendai Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) and the Paris Agreement. Evidence shows that every dollar invested in resilience yields savings of four dollars in post-disaster response and reconstruction costs.

In that regard, during 2022 the Bank approved record climate financing of US\$1,062 million for the region. This was an increase of 85 percent over 2021 and accounted for 44 percent of total resources approved in the region. These resources supported efforts at mitigation (65 percent of the total) and adaptation (21 percent), as well as dual-approach initiatives (14 percent). Mitigation efforts included support for decarbonization initiatives in Costa Rica, for emissions reduction and greater use of public transportation in the Dominican Republic, and for improving efficiency and reducing emissions from water and sanitation systems in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. As regards adaptation, programs were approved to develop transportation and tourism infrastructure aligned with climate-change resilience criteria in El Salvador, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic.

The Bank has also continued to support countries in risk management and responses to climate-related disasters. In 2022, the Bank approved a Contingent Loan for Natural

Disasters and Public Health Emergencies in Panama (US\$400 million). This operation is in addition to the existing lines for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (US\$400 million each), the Dominican Republic (US\$300 million), Nicaragua (US\$86 million), and Belize (US\$10 million). During the year, both El Salvador and Nicaragua conducted operations under these lines to tackle the impacts of Hurricane Julia, for US\$10 million and US\$27 million, respectively.

Finally, to support decision-making and the prioritization of government actions, Bank activities have paid particular attention to producing knowledge on how climate change affects vulnerable sectors, as well as to strengthening the governance apparatus tasked with natural-disaster management in the countries of the region. In that regard, in 2022 the Bank conducted a study to analyze the impacts of climate change on coffee growing in the countries of northern Central America. The study identifies opportunities to increase the sector's resilience. To support this agenda, the Bank is implementing a pilot initiative to build resilience in the livelihoods of rural communities in the municipality of San Mateo Ixtatán in Guatemala, by strengthening the value chains for coffee and cardamom. The Bank has also conducted analyses of disaster-management governance in Guatemala and Honduras, so as to help identify actions that will make it more effective.



San Mateo Ixtatán, Guatemala. Initiative to strengthen coffee and cardamom value chains.

## Trade facilitation and optimization of border management to support competitiveness and growth

It is a priority for the Central American countries to drive medium-term growth and create more and better jobs, and to those ends it is crucial to deal with competitiveness and trade issues.

The cost associated with the cross-border movement of goods is one of the factors that most undermines logistics performance and competitiveness in Central America. It has a particular effect on intraregional export flows, which in 2021 amounted to US\$12,164 million, or 29 percent of exports from the countries of the region (SIECA, 2022). The available studies indicate that full implementation of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement would reduce trade costs by 15.5 percent (World Bank, 2021) and could boost regional output by between 1 and 2.4 percent (ECLAC, 2018).

To support this agenda and reduce the costs associated with intra- and extraregional goods trade, the Bank has been a key partner for the region in designing and implementing the "Central American Strategy for Trade Facilitation and Competitiveness with Emphasis on Coordinated Border Management" (ECFCC). Significant progress was made on this agenda in 2022, at both the national and regional levels. As part of the operations



Nicaragua. Expansion of the border integration program.

underway in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, work was completed on modernizing the San Pancho border crossing, in Nicaragua adjacent to Costa Rica, and work began on the Paso Canoas and Río Sereno border crossings, between Costa Rica and Panama. A new operation was approved for Honduras that will help improve customs processes through automation and the use of technology to facilitate trade and reduce tax fraud.

At the regional level, the Central American Digital Trade Platform (PDCC) was launched. This is a crosscutting element of the ECFCC that provides countries with a catalogue of 71 functions and a Regional Integrated Risk Management System to optimize the trade-related operations of the Customs, Migration, Health and Single Windows authorities. The countries' use of the PDCC is expected to reduce their trade costs by up to 6 percent, which would yield an increase in exports of up to 3 percent.

In the context of the Deep Integration Process between Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, studies were carried out to assess the economic and social impact of reforms to the Integrated Border Posts between Honduras and Guatemala on the neighboring communities. The Bank also provided technical support to connect El Salvador's customs system to the Community Information Technology Platform, which is the regional node for exchanging the Central American Single Invoice and Declaration (FYDUCA).

For 2023 there are plans to support the Council of Ministers of Central American Economic Integration (COMIECO) in reviewing and updating the ECFCC, in coordination with the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and other cooperation partners. The Bank also expects to manage additional resources from the European Union (€3 million) to help the countries use and strengthen the features of the PDCC. Finally, as part of the Mesoamerica Project, the Bank will provide technical assistance to the Trade Facilitation Liaison Group to identify and implement specific measures that enhance links with Belize, Colombia, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.



## Supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A renewed commitment to eliminating malaria in Mesoamerica

According to the latest World Health Organization (WHO) report, there were 241 million cases of malaria in 2020, causing 627,000 deaths globally.

The Regional Malaria Elimination Initiative (RMEI) in Mesoamerica and the Dominican Republic aims to achieve the elimination of locally transmitted malaria in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic, and to avert its reintroduction in Belize and El Salvador.

The RMEI is a partnership between the IDB, the governments of the nine participating countries, the donors (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Carlos Slim Foundation, and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), and technical partners: Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Council of Ministers of Health of Central America (COMISCA), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and Mesoamerica Integration and Development Project (Project Mesoamerica).

Resources are administered by the IDB and executed under a results-based financing model, replicating the best practices of the Salud Mesoamerica Initiative. The Bank acts as the resource manager for the nine countries and, along with the other technical entities, oversees the work of the coordination unit.

The US\$70.6 million in donations have leveraged US\$60.8 million in national financing, reaching a total funding of US\$131.4 million.

The RMEI helps the governments of the nine participating countries to update their strategic and operational plans against malaria, including identification of active foci/ areas of intense transmission. Some 221 active foci were identified in 2019, but the number has been reduced to 163 thanks to the RMEI methodology. The initiative also helps improve health systems to achieve the elimination of malaria and avert its reintroduction.

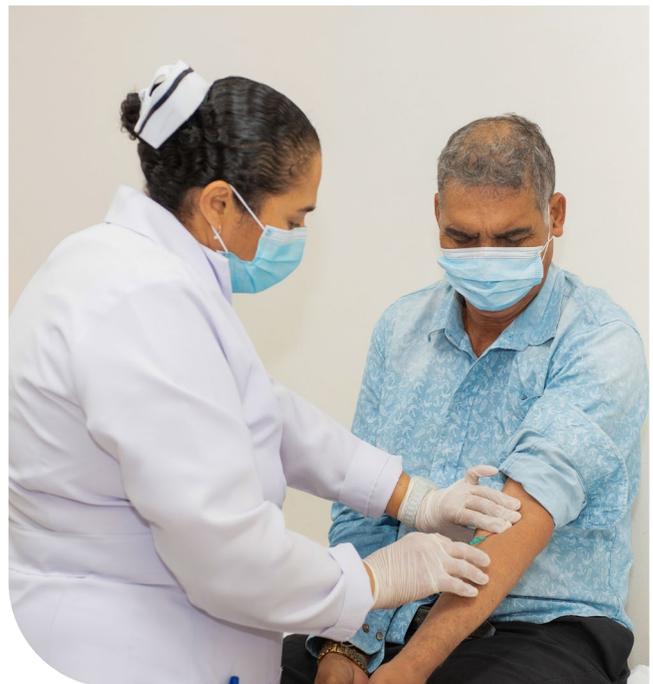
As regards progress by country, El Salvador was certified as malaria-free in 2020 and Belize completed four years without cases in 2022. With this achievement, the country would receive its certification in 2023.

Guatemala and the Dominican Republic have also made substantial progress.

Seven countries in the region (Honduras, Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico) have been prioritized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for malaria elimination by 2025. The RMEI model takes them further along the path to this priority.

In 2022, the participating countries and donors renewed their technical, political, and financial commitment to eliminating malaria by 2025. In that connection, the Carlos Slim Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation made an additional contribution of US\$14.55 million to finance the extension of the RMEI.

Attainment of this milestone triggered a process of review, prioritization, and defining next steps in developing the initiative among donors, partners, and countries.



Quilali, Nicaragua. Community health program for rural municipalities.

## Migration: responding to the challenges in the region

Migration is common to all the countries of the region. The mounting challenges of movement affect the countries of origin, transit and destination. The solutions require coordination and effort on the part of governments, the private sector, cooperation agencies, and multilateral banks.

The IDB has been supporting initiatives to foster the economic and social integration of migrants into host communities, using investment grants that complement lending operations. Recently, given the arrival of large numbers of returning migrants in very short periods, the Bank has broadened its scope of action to include support for the socioeconomic reintegration of this population in the countries of return. The countries benefiting from this initiative to date are Panama, Costa Rica, Belize, and the Dominican Republic. The initiative is expected to include Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in 2023.



La Carpio, Costa Rica. Citizen security and violence prevention program. Soccer classes at the Civic Center for Peace.

In **Panama**, a US\$15 million grant is helping the government integrate migrant children into the school system and providing benefits to local receiving communities. The Bank has also supported the National Migration Service with a diagnostic study and preliminary proposal for the rehabilitation and renovation of the Los Planes de Gualaca Migrant Reception Center in Chiriqui Province.

In **Belize**, two ongoing operations totaling US\$3.3 million seek to improve the quality of primary and secondary education in host communities, as well as to promote sustainable livelihoods for migrant entrepreneurs. The digital capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration are also being strengthened.

In the **Dominican Republic**, the Social Inclusion Plan will receive US\$800,000 in financing from the migration facility under the project for Integrated and Sustainable Solid Waste Management in Greater Santo Domingo, where a large share of waste pickers are migrants. The Bank is also supporting the country's institution-building on migration-related matters.

For **Costa Rica**, a US\$20 million grant is being prepared to help the government improve citizen security and engage in initiatives to prevent violence in migrant and host populations, as well as to pursue legal channels for asylum seekers and refugees. In conjunction with the World Bank, moreover, the IDB supported Costa Rica's membership of and access to the Global Concessional Finance Facility (GCONF).

Finally, in **Guatemala**, an IDB technical cooperation project is supporting the integration of returned migrants through a comprehensive intervention model based on practicing sports.





# Fostering people-centered resilience



Jinotega. Highly diversified agroforestry model for coffee in Nicaragua, financed by IDB Lab.

Derived from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, multidimensional and people-centered resilience emphasizes capacity to reduce people’s vulnerability to shocks and build resilience to them.



After a period of relative stability, in short order the world has suffered several shocks with multidimensional implications. Disruptions in logistics chains caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, increases in international food and energy prices as a result of the war in Ukraine, and the lagged effects of the extraordinary measures to provide liquidity during the pandemic have led to a sharp surge in inflation (8.8 percent in 2022 compared to 4.7 percent in 2021) and a downturn in economic growth (3.4 percent in 2022 compared to 6.2 percent in 2021) that is expected to continue in 2023 (2.9 percent).

The region of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (hereafter, the region), exposed to multiple internal and external shocks throughout its history (including intense and frequent natural disasters and migration phenomena), has experienced a slightly faster economic recovery than other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The region contracted by 7.5 percent in 2020, before recovering to grow by 10.9 percent in 2021 and 5.7 percent in 2022 (compared to an average of 6.9 percent and 3.9 percent in LAC, respectively). The rebound was driven by the revival of the tourism sector, remittances, and agricultural exports (López-Marmolejo et al., 2023).

The recovery of pre-pandemic growth levels in the region masks more structural repercussions that have persisted in terms of **poverty, access to services and employment**, which widened income gaps in a region already marked by high levels of inequality. In 2021, poverty in the countries of the region was still above its pre-pandemic level. On average the poverty rate in the region rose from 31 percent in 2019 to 36 percent in 2021, equivalent to an increase of 2.3 million people living in poverty. It is expected that, in 2022, the increase in the prices of the basic food basket could make it difficult to reduce the poverty rate, or could even increase it.

The region still lags in the provision of basic services. On average, 12 percent of the population lacks piped water at home (in some cases the share exceeds 20 percent), and in several countries some 10 percent of the population does not have electricity at home. Education was one of the services most affected by school closures during the pandemic. School attendance among children aged



Dominican Republic. ECO-DELIVERY: electromobility, environment and intelligence

6 to 11 fell in several countries compared to the pre-pandemic period. That in turn could affect attendance levels in the future, in a context where school attendance among youths aged 15 to 17 is only 76 percent on average, and in some countries is only 55 percent. Formal employment has recovered to 5 percent above its pre-pandemic level, but the number of working people is still lower in several countries, which may be explained by migration, engaging in unpaid activities, as well as fewer jobs in the informal sector. Moreover, the high level of labor informality—accounting for about 50 percent of the working population in the region—makes the income of the poorest families more vulnerable and limits their access to the public health system.

The increase in the frequency and impact of multiple recent crises offers an opportunity for countries to adapt, and for the Bank to tailor its response to the needs of its clients. **Multidimensional and people-centered resilience** is a model based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to which all the countries of the region adhere, and which emphasizes capacity to reduce people's vulnerability to shocks and build resilience to them. The Bank has taken this perspective in its support for the region in recent years, with interventions in various sectors but with the common goal of improving people's well-being, even in the face of various crises that jeopardize the progress made. Moreover, the IDB has been adjusting its support for its clients in the region, pursuing multidimensional resilience through: (i) income support for the poorest; (ii) access to basic services; (iii) support for productivity; and (iv) public-sector efficiency and climate-change resilience.

## Income support for the poorest

Nearly 40 percent of households in the region report that their main concern is meeting their basic needs. Given the significant rise in food prices, the poorest households' food security and consumption could deteriorate further, making it hard to continue the downward trend in the poverty rate that was a feature of the pre-pandemic years.

Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon in which a poor individual may suffer several disadvantages simultaneously (MPPN, 2022), and therefore the fight against poverty requires the alignment of increasingly integrated and multisectoral public policies, programs, and projects. Conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs are among the leading interventions for that purpose. Implemented in the region for more than 20 years, CCTs have helped increase food consumption and improve its composition (quality and variety) (Ruiz-Arranz et al., 2006), reduce child labor (Galiani and McEwan, 2013; Edmonds and Schady, 2012), and increase both school enrollment and school retention, thereby contributing to human capital accumulation.



Honduras. *Bono Vida Mejor* program.



Honduras. Program to improve the quality of education to develop jobs skills: *Proyecto Joven*

With Bank support, between 2020 and 2021 about 1.6 million people benefited from anti-poverty programs.<sup>1</sup> More than 800,000 of them have received CCTs, supporting their household income and encouraging compliance with co-responsibilities in health and education. Additionally, three new programs were approved to support the livelihoods of those living in extreme poverty: (i) two in Honduras (2021 and 2022) are expected to support 50,000 households nationwide and 72,000 rural households in extreme poverty with CCTs, 165,000 children with nutrition and child development care, 6,000 school-age children with their development in school, and 350,000 households in extreme poverty by strengthening the care model and the Social Protection System; and (ii) a program in the Dominican Republic (2021) is expected to support 167,000 households in extreme and moderate poverty with CCTs that improve their consumption levels; and more than 4,000 households through the care network in prioritized municipalities.

<sup>1</sup> Individuals who benefit from programs that provide cash transfers and/or social services targeted on the poor, either by income level (or other dimensions of poverty when using a multidimensional poverty measure), an indirect means test, and/or by geographic segmentation.

## Provision of basic services

Interventions to support household income are necessary, but they are not sufficient for families to escape poverty and must be complemented with more and better provision of basic social services. Relative to LAC as a whole, the region is still marked by gaps in access to basic social services. These gaps are widening between countries and between people who are rural, indigenous or poor, on the one hand, and those who are not:

Indicator	LAC average	Central America and DR average
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000) <sup>1</sup>	16.2 (2020)	17.0 (2017)
Secondary school enrollment (% net) <sup>1</sup>	77.4% (2017)	62.0% (2017)
Population using an improved drinking water source <sup>2</sup>	97.8% (2020)	95.1% (2020)
Among rural population <sup>2</sup>	91.4% (2020)	88.3% (2020)
Population using an improved sanitation facility <sup>2</sup>	93.3% (2020)	89.0% (2020)
Among rural population <sup>2</sup>	78.9% (2020)	77.2% (2020)
Population with access to electricity <sup>2</sup>	97.8% (2016)	94.4% (2017)
Among rural population <sup>2</sup>	94.2% (2016)	86.5% (2017)

Sources: 1 World Bank – [World Development Indicators](#);  
2 United Nations – [UN Water](#).

In this regard, the Bank's support has centered on access to services for the underserved and vulnerable population, as well as on improving the quality of these services. In the case of **health**, for example, in 2021 and 2022 more than 8 million people received health services such as access to: (a) new or improved health infrastructure (hospitals and/or clinics); (b) trained human resources, including medical training; (c) technological upgrades to increase efficiency, access, quality, and delivery of health services; and (d) prevention and early detection programs for underserved populations.

As regards **education**, more than 1.8 million students in the region have benefited from education projects, including upgrades to school infrastructure, teacher training, curriculum strengthening, access to textbooks and teaching materials, and improvements in laboratories and facilities, among other initiatives. The challenges arising from the pandemic demanded changes in the delivery of educational services. In Belize, for example, the quality education project that was approved in 2020 adjusted its strategy to



Tola, Nicaragua. Project for the improvement and sustainable management of drinking water and sanitation services in urban and periurban areas.

include distance learning features. To date, almost 10,000 e-learning devices have been delivered for hybrid education, with applications for offline use in primary and secondary schools. In 2021 an investment grant was approved in Panama to improve quality and inclusion in the education sector. It is estimated that this initiative will benefit 25,000 students with programs for socioemotional skills development, and 12,000 teachers and principals will be trained in inclusive and multicultural education, as well as in protocols for the care of migrant and refugee minors.

With respect to access to **drinking water and sanitation**, between 2020 and 2021 more than 116,000 households gained better access to these services. Moreover, the Bank's support in this sector has intensified, with four new projects approved between 2021 and 2022 in: (i) El Salvador (2022), where 120,000 households already connected to the piped drinking water system are expected to enjoy a more reliable and better quality service (at least 12 hours a day, seven days a week); (ii) Honduras (2021), where at least 30,200 households are expected to benefit from safe water and sanitation services; and (iii) the Dominican Republic, with two projects (2022) that are estimated to benefit 56,000 households with new access to safely managed sanitation in tourist and coastal cities, and 3.7 million people in the Greater Santo Domingo area with access to improved solid waste management.

Finally, as regards access to **electricity**, in 2020–2021 alone, service has been improved for more than 300,000 households in the region, ensuring not only that they are connected but also that the service is more reliable. Significant contributions have been made in Nicaragua, where three substations have been built or expanded; and in Honduras, with the renovation of a canal for the hydroelectric power plant. The Bank expects to help bring about universal service coverage in the region, especially in rural and isolated areas, with new interventions or programs beginning implementation in Panama, Guatemala and El Salvador, by expanding the distribution network or installing stand-alone systems with renewable energy.

## Productivity support for SMEs and the rural agricultural sector

MSMEs account for 99 percent of the region's businesses and employ between 65 and 70 percent of the economically active population, especially among the most vulnerable populations (Cenpromype, 2021). Supporting **MSMEs** and their productivity is therefore an essential element of building people-centered resilience. MSMEs, however, face constant challenges in access to financing and technical upgrades.

In response to this need, in 2020–2021 the IDB Group financed more than 360,000 MSMEs, supporting more than 100,000 jobs in the region. For the public sector, in 2021 and 2022 the Bank approved credit access programs amounting to US\$400 million in Belize, El Salvador, and Panama to strengthen the MSME ecosystem, especially segments affected by the pandemic such as tourism and agriculture. These programs are expected to benefit 155,000 MSMEs, with particular attention to businesses run by women and small-scale entrepreneurs. The aim is to boost their competitiveness, export capacity, technology take-up, and digital skills. The Bank has also supported



Finca Los Ausoles, Ahuachapán, El Salvador. Program to strengthen the climate resilience of coffee forests.

policy reform programs to foster a business-friendly digital environment and build resilience in the tourism sector.

In 2021, IDB Invest alone supported the creation of 18,000 jobs and the financing of 265,000 MSMEs. IDB Invest's support to MSMEs has centered on innovative financial products such as a guarantee program for the tourism sector in Panama and a subordinated loan for Banco Agrícola in El Salvador, which focused on SMEs led by women. In the industrial sector, IDB Invest continued to finance the textile industry in Honduras, which will lead to a 91 percent increase in purchases from local suppliers, -mostly SMEs-, the creation of more than 2,000 new jobs, and the integration of regional value chains.

To foster resilience in the region's **agricultural sector** and offset the shortage of products that has impacted food security in the countries of the region, governments are implementing productive support programs for the sector, providing advisory services for the adoption of appropriate crop technologies, to buy inputs, and to strengthen procurement systems. Between 2020 and 2021, with IDB Group support, more than 15,000 farmers gained improved access to agricultural investments and services. In 2021 and 2022, moreover, the Bank approved programs totaling almost US\$60 million in Belize and Panama for sustainable agroforestry development, rural development, and agricultural productivity and innovation to improve food security and incomes for small family farmers. This is expected to benefit 8,300 producers (1,625 women and 1,630 indigenous people) directly and indirectly with financing for agro-ecological farming systems and technical assistance, with environmentally sustainable practices, and greater climate resilience and agricultural productivity.



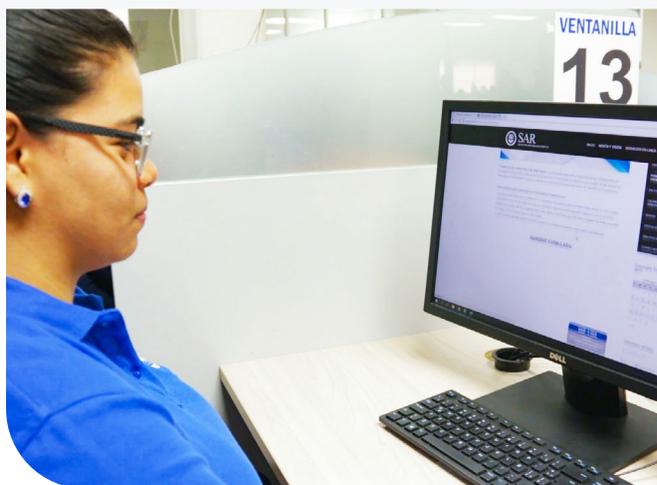
Jinotega, Nicaragua. Smart cocoa production, financed by IDB Lab. The project aims to improve the income, profitability, and resilience of 1,000 cocoa producers.

## Efficient governments and climate change

People-centered resilience presupposes that governments continue to be strengthened in a cross-cutting manner so as to optimize their efficiency and ensure that the underserved population is included in the provision of state services and benefits. Additionally, given that climate change disproportionately affects people who are poor and underrepresented (Hallegate, et al., 2020), it is imperative to support mitigation and adaptation in a cross-cutting way.

**Public-sector efficiency.** The indicator of government effectiveness (which measures the government's capacity to perform its functions) for Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic has remained below the LAC average in recent years, while indices that measure control of corruption or regulatory quality have been marked by setbacks. This affects citizens' perception of the rule of law in the countries of the region, reinforcing the importance of working to improve government transparency, management, and accountability. The region has made efforts to improve state capacities, but there are still challenges and opportunities for improvement.

In recent years the Bank has supported public-sector efficiency, mainly by improving transparency and optimizing expenditure, as well as by strengthening and digitizing institutions. Between 2020 and 2021, the IDB strengthened the management and digital technology capacities of 25 institutions in the region, with tools to facilitate access (such as e-government), and improvements to planning and management instruments, among other initiatives. In Panama alone, the Bank has supported the digitization of more than 260 government procedures, as well as digital literacy training programs. These programs have benefited 8,000 people to date, enabling the country to move up 14 places on the United Nations e-government ranking. Moreover, technical cooperation funds were



San Ignacio Municipality, Honduras. Program for the consolidation of fiscal and municipal management. Integrated municipal administration system.

used to implement the InvestmentMap technology initiative in the region (see the article on Honduras). This seeks to improve the transparency and integrity of the budgetary, investment, and public procurement systems by strengthening information management.

The Bank's commitment to supporting public-sector efficiency will continue with the recent approval of: (i) five operations to expand the digital agenda in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, totaling US\$340 million. These will increase the delivery of digital governmental procedures and services, lowering the costs of interaction between citizens and businesses and the state; and will connect public institutions such as schools, health centers, and municipalities to the Internet, resulting in better service for the population; and (ii) five programs totaling US\$ 533 million (two policy reforms and three investment programs) to strengthen public management and transparency in Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. These will support fiscal sustainability and spending efficiency, and will strengthen accountability, internal oversight, and access to information.



### Climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

The effect of climate change on natural disasters has been widely documented (greater frequency and impacts). In addition to current global challenges in supply chains and productivity constraints for small farmers, climate change is a significant factor in food insecurity. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador rank second, fifth, and sixth respectively among LAC countries with moderate or severe prevalence of food insecurity. Part of climate-change adaptation involves increasing the resilience of the food system (see the above section on support for productivity).

The IDB Group has addressed this challenge in a cross-cutting manner and has set ambitious targets in its corporate results framework. In 2021, some 90,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>2</sup> were averted under the Bank's projects, with an estimated US\$39 million of investments in resilient or low-carbon infrastructure.<sup>3</sup> Some 87 percent of the volume of loans approved for the region in 2022 support climate-change mitigation and/or adaptation. In the 2020-2021 period, more than 525,000 people benefited from greater resilience to disasters and climate-change effects because of IDB Group-financed projects.



Costa Rica. Calox corporate loan financed by IDB Invest. The Calox pharmaceuticals business has made improvements in infrastructure and energy efficiency thanks to the loan.



Honduras. Coffee chain project: Digitization of the coffee chain to increase the resilience of specialty coffee producers.

In 2022, with Bank support, Costa Rica approved the Decarbonization Plan Support Program to enable the country's gradual transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This fosters sectoral and policy reforms to improve the management and monitoring of climate actions and to pursue low-carbon agricultural production and energy generation options (see the article on Costa Rica).

As regards the private sector, 20 percent of IDB Invest's long-term operations approved for Central America in 2022 were related to climate change, notably: (i) a corporate loan to Belize Electricity Limited to foster energy security in a country dependent on energy imports, as well as to improve electricity services for users; (ii) issuance of the first sustainable bond in El Salvador with Banco Promérica, to increase the client's capacity to offer financing to local firms' green projects; and (iii) a loan to Grupo Elcatex/San Juan Textiles, to develop a strategy of net zero greenhouse gas emissions for its operations.

In a context of increasingly frequent and severe overlapping shocks, the region must prioritize policies that foster resilience and that place people's well-being at their core. In the face of the shocks wrought by these multiple crises, the IDB Group will continue to support the region in its commitment to sustainable development, upholding progress in areas of social development, especially among the most vulnerable.

<sup>2</sup> Annual tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emission reductions or sequestration expected to be produced by climate-change mitigation projects supported by the IDB Group.

<sup>3</sup> Investments during the year that financed the construction and/or renovation of resilient and/or low-carbon infrastructure.

## Bibliografía:

- Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (2023). Fomentando la participación en las cadenas globales de valor. Informe económico sobre Centroamérica, México, Panamá y República Dominicana. Editores: López-Marmolejo, A., Eggers, C., y Ruiz-Arranz, M.
- Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (2022). Panorama y perspectivas de la seguridad alimentaria en Centroamérica, Panamá, República Dominicana, México y Haití. Editores: Deza M, Ruiz-Arranz M. <https://publications.iadb.org/es/panorama-y-perspectivas-de-la-seguridad-alimentaria-en-centroamerica-panama-republica-dominicana>
- Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (2023). Perspectiva General del Sector Educación. <https://www.iadb.org/es/sectores/educacion/perspectiva-general>
- Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (2023). Perspectiva General del Sector Salud. <https://www.iadb.org/es/sectores/salud/perspectiva-general>
- Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (2019). Segunda actualización de la Estrategia Institucional. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/second-update-institutional-strategy-summary>
- Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (2019). Marco de Resultados Corporativos. <https://crf.iadb.org/es>
- Calvente, A. M. (2007). Resiliencia: un concepto clave para la sustentabilidad. Complejidad y sustentabilidad. Universidad Abierta Interamericana Sostenible. (Archivo PDF). <http://www.sustentabilidad.uai.edu.ar/pdf/cs/uais-cs-200-003%20-%20resiliencia.pdf>
- Cenpromype (2021). Impacto económico de la pandemia COVID-19 en las Mipymes de Centroamérica. <https://cenpromype.org/impacto-economico-de-la-pandemia-covid-19-en-las-mipymes-de-centroamerica/>
- Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (2022). Panorama social de América Latina y el Caribe. La transformación de la educación como base para el desarrollo sostenible. <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/ps>
- De Michele, R. (2021). Avances de la transparencia e Integridad en América Latina y El Caribe (Archivo PDF). <https://publications.iadb.org/es/avances-de-la-transparencia-e-integridad-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe>
- Edmonds, Eric V. y Schady, Norbert (2012). Poverty Alleviation and Child Labor. American Economic Journal: Economic Policy Vol. 4, No. 4, pp. 100-124 (25 pages). Published By: American Economic Association. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23358246>
- Galiani, S. y Mc Ewan, P. (2013). The Heterogeneous Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers. Journal of Public Economics 103: 85-96. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0047272713000789?via%3Dihub>
- Grupo de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Sostenible (2023). Valores Universales, Principio Dos: No dejar a nadie atrás. <https://unsdg.un.org/es/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind>
- Hallegatte, S., Vogt-Schilb, A., Rozenberg, J., Bangalore, M. and Beaudet, C. (2020). From Poverty to Disaster and Back: a Review of the Literature. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41885-020-00060-5>
- Ibarrarán, P., Medellín, N., Regalia, F. y Stampini, M. (2017). Así funcionan las transferencias condicionadas. Buenas prácticas a 20 años de implementación. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/how-conditional-cash-transfers-work>
- Jiménez Herrero, L.M. (2000). Desarrollo Sostenible: Transición hacia la Coevolución Global. Ediciones Pirámide.
- Naciones Unidas, CEPAL (2022). Estudio Económico de América Latina y el Caribe. Dinámica y desafíos de la inversión para impulsar una recuperación sostenible e inclusiva. <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/48077-estudio-economico-america-latina-caribe-2022-dinamica-desafios-la-inversion>
- Naciones Unidas, FAO (2022). El Estado de la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición en el Mundo. (Archivo PDF). <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0640es/cc0640es.pdf>
- Naciones Unidas. (2023). Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible: 4 Educación de Calidad. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/education/>
- Ortega, A. (19 de noviembre de 2022). Saneamiento óptimo: la respuesta para el acceso universal al agua y saneamiento. Volvamos a la fuente. <https://blogs.iadb.org/agua/es/saneamiento-optimo-la-apuesta-para-el-acceso-universal-a-agua-y-saneamiento/>
- Red de Pobreza Multidimensional, MPPN (2022). ¿Qué es Pobreza Multidimensional? <https://mppn.org/es/pobreza-multidimensional/que-es-el-ipm/>
- Ruiz-Arranz, M., Davis, B., Handa, S., Stampini, M. y Winters, P. (2006). Program Conditionality and Food Security: The Impact of PROGRESA and PROCAMPO Transfers in Rural Mexico. [https://www.anpec.org.br/revista/vol7/vol7n2p249\\_278.pdf](https://www.anpec.org.br/revista/vol7/vol7n2p249_278.pdf)





# The IDB Group in Belize

## US\$47.8 million in financing approved by the IDB Group in 2022.

During the year, the IDB continued to support economic recovery, with an emphasis on private-sector development, sustainable livelihoods in the agricultural and tourism sectors, investment facilitation, and digital innovation.

### New projects

**Sustainable and Inclusive Belize Program** (US\$15 million, IDB; US\$800,000, Migration Facility grant). This program will help increase incomes and promote sustainable livelihoods in the agriculture and tourism sectors. The aim is to increase MSMEs' competitiveness, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability. Some 300 MSMEs and 1,500 individual producers, in the agricultural and tourism sectors will benefit, which is especially among the more vulnerable communities (migrants, indigenous groups, women and Afro-descendants).

**Digital Innovation Program to Promote Economic Development in Belize** (US\$10 million, IDB). This program will help promote the digitization of businesses and public services to foster growth and boost economic efficiency. It aims to stimulate business growth and improve digital skills among women entrepreneurs, foster business efficiency, and reduce costs for citizens by digitizing civil registration services.

**Trade and Investment Facilitation Program** (US\$8 million, IDB). This program will promote Belize's foreign direct investment and trade performance. It aims to improve investment facilitation, tools for SME investment promotion and internationalization, and trade facilitation. Beneficiaries include: (i) current and potential investors, given that close to 800 investment opportunities have been identified; (ii) local SMEs seeking to export, with particular attention to women-led businesses.

**Corporate Loan to Belize Electricity Limited** (US\$5 million, IDB Invest). In 2022 the Bank approved a US\$5 million increase to the original US\$ 30 million package approved in 2021 for Belize Electricity

Limited, the country's main electricity distributor. The overall financing includes medium- and long-term tranches. This initiative seeks to reduce energy losses, improve services for users, and strengthen environmental and social standards and policies.

**Marie Sharp** (US\$5 million, IDB Invest). The financing to Marie Sharp Fine Foods Limited, an SME and Belize's largest pepper producer and exporter, will focus on capital investments in a new line that will more than double the firm's production capacity, increase its number of greenhouses, and cover working capital needs. The program will help increase value-added agro-industrial production for export, and will boost productivity. The company is an example of a successful women-led business.

**Promoting Sustainability and Driving Growth through an MSME Digital Revolution in Belize** (US\$350,000, IDB Lab). This project will boost the digitization of MSMEs in Belize to foster a business environment that is conducive to the continuity of firms' operations. The project will have an impact on more than 250 MSMEs in Belize.

**Harnessing Digital Technology and Innovation for the Belize Smart Marine Initiative** (US\$400,000, IDB Lab). This project will aid conservation and adaptation in the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve (TAMR) by implementing digital technologies to improve the management of marine areas that provide significant socioeconomic benefits to local fishing communities. The project's beneficiaries will be more than 860 fisherfolk who work collectively in and around the reserve.





Belize. Solid waste management project II. The towns and villages of Orange Walk, Corozal, Stann Creek, and Toledo will benefit from improved waste removal.

## IDB Group Approvals

US\$ millions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Public sector</b>						
Loans	10.0	7.0	24.0	14.5	28.0	33.8
Technical cooperation	2.6	1.5	2.4	1.5	1.5	2.9
Investment grants	-	0.3	0.3	-	-	0.3
<b>Private sector</b>						
IDB Invest	2.0	15.0	1.0	42.0	52.0	10.0
Long-term	2.0	15.0	-	31.0	52.0	10.0
Short-term	-	-	1.0	11.0	-	-
IDB Lab*	0.7	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.4	0.8

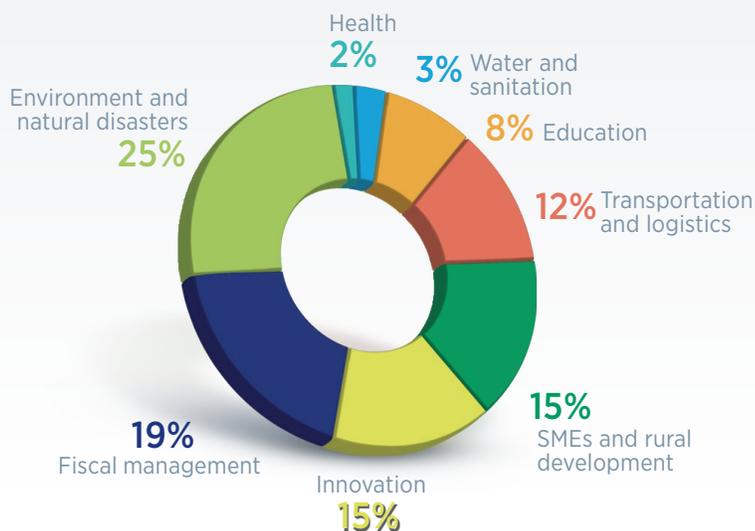
\* From 2019 onwards, IDB Lab data include projects using external funds and resources from the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

## Projects in execution

### Public sector

- ✦ 14 operations totaling US\$127 million, with an available balance of US\$66.5 million

Distribution of public-sector portfolio by sector  
(% of available balance)



### Private sector

#### IDB Invest

- ✦ 6 operations with an exposure of US\$26.6 million, centered on agribusiness and tourism development, as well as support for energy security (through an investment in a liquefied petroleum gas terminal and associated infrastructure) and international trade.

#### IDB Lab

- ✦ 5 operations totaling US\$2.7 million to promote the sustainability and digital capacities of MSMEs, improvements in the tourism sector, social inclusion, and climate resilience.



# MSMEs as an engine of sustainable and inclusive growth in Belize



Belize’s micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) account for 98 percent of the country’s businesses, 45 percent of GDP, and 70 percent of private-sector employment.

Because of their significant impact on job creation, mainly in the tourism and agricultural sectors, Belizean MSMEs play a key role in reducing poverty, sustaining livelihoods in rural areas, and improving income distribution. Nonetheless, most of them are uncompetitive, are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and have difficulty accessing markets. These circumstances limit their growth potential.

Belize. Market incentives program for responsible fishing. Local fisherfolk prepare the day’s catch in line with the “Fish Right, Eat Right” pledge, which seeks to tackle unsustainable fishing practices





Their limited productivity stems from constraints on access to credit, a low level of technology take-up, labor skills gaps, and a business climate that is suboptimal for their development.

The pandemic and the economic contraction that was triggered in 2020 had a marked impact on MSMEs, especially in the tourism, agricultural and fisheries sectors, as well as in enterprises run by women, as they faced mounting difficulties in acquiring credit through the banking system. Consequently, in 2021 the Bank supported Belize with an emergency program: *The Global Credit Program for Safeguarding the Productive Sectors and Employment (US\$15 million)*. This aims to alleviate the constraints on MSMEs in accessing credit in both the short term, to ensure their immediate survival, and the medium term, to stimulate a rapid recovery of economic activity and employment in the country.

In this new stage of recovery against a global background of uncertainty, most of the IDB Group's operations with Belize that were approved in 2022 focused on positioning the private sector as an engine of sustainable and inclusive growth. In particular, they address the most pressing constraints on MSME performance, such as access to finance, digitization, and links to the external sector.

For example, the *Sustainable and Inclusive Belize program* (US\$15.8 million) will help improve the incomes of vulnerable families and the sustainability of their livelihoods by providing technical assistance, by cofinancing business plans, and by developing technical business skills among some 300 MSMEs, as well as 1,500 individual producers in the agricultural and tourism sectors.

The *Trade and Investment Facilitation Program* (US\$8 million) will make it possible to integrate local MSMEs into value chains by linking them with large firms (anchor companies), thereby expanding their access to markets and to export opportunities, as well as boosting their contribution to the economy. A supplier development program will strengthen their capacities to serve as suppliers to anchor companies, giving them more competitive business skills and practices for export purposes.



Belize. Program to strengthen the tax administration.

---

*The Digital Innovation Program to Boost Economic Development* (US\$10 million) will foster the digitization of companies with a view to making them more productive, through activities that assess their level of innovation, finance improvements in local digital capacities, and strengthen the local supply of digital service providers.

This program is complemented by an IDB Lab intervention (*Promoting Sustainability and Driving Growth through an MSME Digital Revolution*, US\$350,000) that will benefit more than 250 MSMEs, including startups, that currently face constraints on their management and business innovation capacity. It will do that by providing access to technical assistance and finance so as to nurture and facilitate their digital transformation.

All these joint efforts of the IDB Group aim to help improve the capacity of MSMEs to take the fullest advantage of economic opportunities in this recovery stage.





# The IDB Group in Costa Rica

**US\$479 million in financing by the IDB Group in 2022,** mainly to support the National Decarbonization Plan 2050, promote green financing, and reduce emissions in the agro-export sector.

## New projects

**Towards a Green Economy: Support for Costa Rica's Decarbonization Plan II** (US\$250 million, IDB; US\$50 million, Korean Infrastructure Development Cofinancing Facility, KIF). This is the second policy reform program to support Costa Rica's implementation of the National Decarbonization Plan 2050. Among other things, the operation supported reforms to expand the protection of existing forests; to develop budget markers for climate change and biodiversity; and to set tariffs for the electrification of transportation and electricity usage in the industrial, commercial, and residential sectors. The program also included reforms to promote gender equality. It was designed in conjunction with the AFD, which contributed €100 million in parallel financing.

**Emergency Support in Response to Heavy Rains, Floods, and Landslides** (US\$200,000). This grant supported the government's efforts to tackle the most urgent needs and provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by these events, which left nine people dead and damaged more than 500 homes. The operation supported the purchase of drinking water and basic necessities, as well as relief work and transportation in the affected areas.

**Support to Strengthen the Regulatory Framework to Foster Safe and Sustainable Urban Accessibility and Mobility** (US\$200,000). Despite Costa Rica's efforts to reduce the number of traffic accidents and encourage road safety, in 2021 there was an increase in the number of deaths from road accidents (pedestrians, motorcyclists, and cyclists) compared to 2020. Against

that background, this grant aims to help promote safe, accessible, and sustainable traffic conditions by: devising regulatory and policy instruments; by supporting sectoral institutions in defining strategic projects; and by analyzing critical aspects of accident rates. These undertakings should give rise to road infrastructure solutions and urban equipment for vulnerable users, such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

**Banco Davivienda - Green Financing Partnership** (US\$15million, IDB Invest; US\$15 million, IDB). This is a senior unsecured A/B loan of up to US\$60 million to Banco Davivienda Costa Rica SA (50 percent raised with third parties) to expand its long-term portfolio in green projects, strengthen environmental and social standards and policies, improve its corporate governance, and develop strategies geared to the green portfolio.

**Circular Economy from Agroforestry Waste for Decarbonization** (US\$350,000, IDB Lab). The management of biomass waste produced by agricultural and agro-industrial processes is important in creating opportunities for the agro-export sector, as well as in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This operation aims to strengthen and expand a circular economy model based on processing agroforestry waste into biodegradable end products. The initiative is expected to help avert CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, create local jobs, and increase linkages with local value chains and external markets.



Barranca-Limonal Highway, Puntarenas, Costa Rica. Transportation infrastructure program.

## IDB Group Approvals

US\$ millions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Public sector</b>						
Loans	20.0	144.0	575.0	745.0	500.0	300.0
Technical cooperation	2.6	1.6	6.8	6.3	2.7	2.6
Investment grants	-	1.5	-	0.9	-	-
<b>Private sector</b>						
IDB Invest	24.0	87.0	25.0	109.0	159.0	176.0
Long-term	11.0	68.0	20.0	19.0	90.0	95.0
Short-term	13.0	19.0	5.0	90.0	69.0	81.0
IDB Lab*	-	4.1	3.9	0.3	0.9	0.4

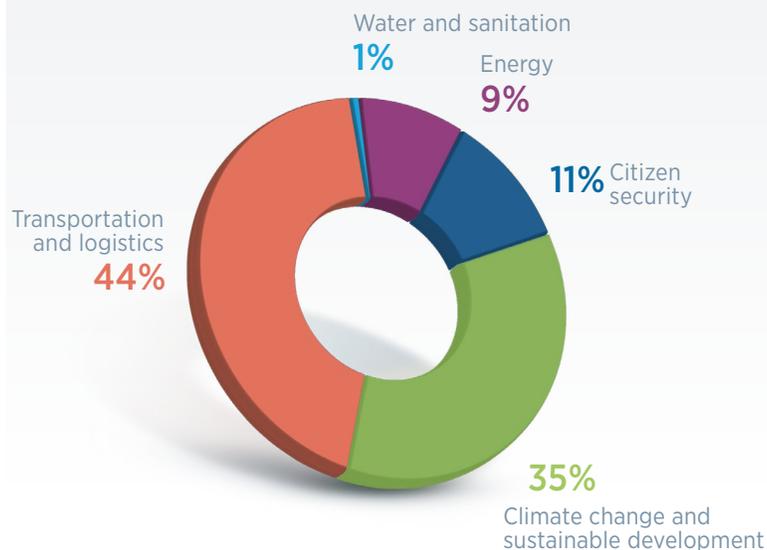
\* From 2019 onwards, IDB Lab data include projects using external funds and resources from the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

## Projects in execution

### Public sector

- ✦ 8 operations totaling US\$1,426 million, with an available balance of US\$856 million

Distribution of public-sector portfolio by sector  
(% of available balance)



### Private sector

#### IDB Invest

- ✦ 13 operations with an exposure of US\$204 million, with an emphasis on supporting commercial banks for SME financing, foreign trade and guarantees for thematic bond issues, as well as renewable energy, sustainable tourism, educational infrastructure, digital inclusion and industry.

#### IDB Lab

- ✦ 14 operations totaling US\$9.2 million to promote the circular economy and innovative processes conducive to environmental sustainability, technology use to boost SME productivity, and sustainable tourism. These 14 operations include 9 SEP operations totaling US\$4.1 million.





# Costa Rica: The road to decarbonization



Costa Rica has been a pioneer in innovative environmental policies for decades, and is notable for its management of protected areas, payment for environmental services, promotion of green tourism, and an energy matrix that is almost 100 percent renewable.

Costa Rica. Towards a green economy: Support for Costa Rica's Decarbonization Plan II.

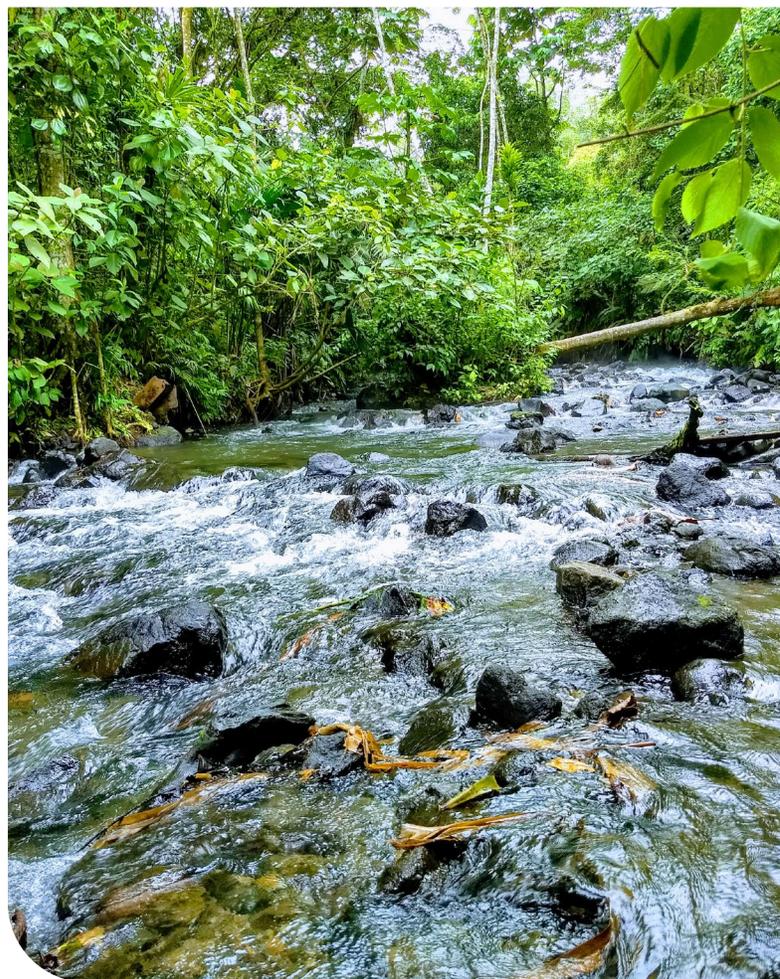
The country displayed its environmental leadership again in 2019 when it launched the National Decarbonization Plan, which aims to achieve zero net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. With IDB support, Costa Rica has laid the groundwork for the plan's implementation through a series of policy reforms in the areas of climate change, energy, transportation, forestry, agriculture, and marine issues. These actions will help decarbonize the economy and will yield benefits for the population and the environment estimated at US\$41 billion between 2020 and 2050.



In 2022, the IDB supported the design and implementation of the program “Towards a Green Economy: Support for Costa Rica’s Decarbonization Plan II” with US\$300 million. Some US\$250 million of this comes from IDB ordinary capital and US\$50 million is from the Korea Infrastructure Development Cofinancing Facility, which is administered by the Bank. Additionally, the French Development Agency provided €100 million in parallel financing. This second operation continues the efforts begun under the first loan approved in 2020, deepening reforms in climate action monitoring, climate-smart agriculture, and electromobility.

To move forward with the decarbonization of the economy, it is essential to ensure the participation of the public and private sectors, as well as the citizenry. In the public sector, the protection of existing terrestrial forests and mangroves has been expanded and climate-action monitoring has been strengthened by developing budget markers for climate change and biodiversity. These steps make it possible to analyze the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending on such activities. Moreover, enabling measures have been adopted for the transition, including: setting tariffs for the electrification of transportation and the use of electricity in the industrial, commercial, and residential sectors; replacing GHG-emitting agricultural practices with GHG fixers; strengthening the management and monitoring of climate action in public bodies; designing an economic recovery plan based on marine and coastal activities (the blue economy, as contemplated in SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda). Measures have also been devised to ensure the sustainable inclusion of women coffee producers, offering them greater knowledge and empowerment in climate-smart and low-GHG activities.

The private sector, for its part, has assumed a more prominent role in decarbonization efforts. In biomass waste management, for example, with the support of IDB Lab, a circular economy model is being developed to reuse agroforestry waste, converting it into biodegradable end products. This operation will process 44,300 tons of wood waste, avoiding 8,200 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, and will benefit 26 companies in the construction sector and 65 local wood waste producers.



Costa Rica. Towards a green economy: Support for Costa Rica’s Decarbonization Plan II. The program has expanded the protection of terrestrial forests in the country.

This ambitious reform agenda is opening up new opportunities for collaboration in the country. In 2022, Costa Rica became the first country for which the IMF approved an operation under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility, totaling US\$725 million, to support the national climate resilience and decarbonization agenda.

**Costa Rica has made a firm and long-term commitment to the investments required for successful implementation of the National Decarbonization Plan 2050.**

The Bank will continue to provide specialized technical assistance to support activities that enable the country to achieve its decarbonization targets in the medium and long terms.



# The IDB Group in Dominican Republic

**US\$1,110 million in financing approved by the IDB Group in 2022,**

mainly to support greater transparency in public management, road transportation, environmental sustainability, and recovery of employment.

## New projects

**Transportation sector.** Two operations were approved: Support for Mobility, Road Transportation, and Road Safety II (US\$ 200 million, IDB; US\$200 million, French Development Agency, AFD); and Road Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance (US\$140 million, IDB). The aim is to ensure safe and efficient road transportation through reforms that reduce the number of road accidents, cut harmful emissions, increase the use of public transportation, and improve the productivity of freight transportation. The programs also seek to help improve regional connectivity by providing a safe and accessible transportation service, while guaranteeing access to basic services and markets.

**Support for the Integrity and Transparency Agenda.** (US\$60 million, IDB). This initiative seeks to strengthen transparency and integrity in public finance management by improving public investment and procurement systems, and by increasing access to information and citizen participation.

**Universal Sanitation Coverage in Tourist and Coastal Cities.** (US\$190 million: US\$80 million, IDB; US\$60 million, Korea Infrastructure Development Financing Facility, KIF; US\$50 million, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, AECID). This program seeks to improve environmental and health conditions by providing access to safe and sustainable sanitation services. It also aims to increase sanitation coverage, improve the management of drinking water services, and strengthen the water and sanitation operators and the National Water and Sewerage Institute (INAPA), benefiting 56,000 households.

**Integrated and Sustainable Management of Solid Waste in Greater Santo Domingo.** (US\$110 million: US\$44.2 million, IDB; US\$45 million, Japan International

Cooperation Agency, JICA; US\$20 million, AECID; US\$800,000 Migration Facility grant). The goal is to help improve the integrated management of solid waste in Greater Santo Domingo, so as to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of open dumps, benefiting approximately 3.7 million inhabitants.

**Support for the Flexible Employment System** (US\$38 million, IDB). This initiative aims to improve opportunities for job seekers in finding formal-sector employment. To that end the program will support a comprehensive system of active employment policies to strengthen job skills and to improve the coverage and quality of labor intermediation services.

**CEPM Green Projects** (US\$25 million, IDB Invest; US\$17 million, IDB). Corporate financing for the Punta Cana-Macao Energy Consortium, SA will contribute to both its working capital and capital investment program. The operation's objectives include increasing energy supply from renewable sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the availability of mobile electricity infrastructure, and contributing to the company's decarbonization strategy.

**Disolvente Verde** (US\$500,000, IDB Lab). This project will finance the development of a hazardous waste valuation model by creating a system of separation, collection, bulking, treatment, and recycling using "green solvent" technology to reduce environmental risks and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Digital Entrepreneurial Community** (US\$400,000, IDB Lab). This aims to create a digital ecosystem tailored to women entrepreneurs so that they can expand their markets, send and receive electronic payments, and access financing from any financial intermediary.





Pepillo Salcedo, Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic. Support for implementation of the rehabilitation and expansion of Manzanillo Port. The port will boost the export of bananas, one of the main agricultural products in the northwest region of the country.

## IDB Group Approvals

US\$ millions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Public sector</b>						
Loans	366.0	795.0	339.0	500.0	625.0	623.0
Technical cooperation	2.7	4.6	4.6	2.0	4.5	5.7
Investment grants	-	-	1.5	-	3.8	0.7
<b>Private sector</b>						
IDB Invest	101.0	93.0	138.0	309.0	174.0	477.0
Long-term	99.0	21.0	38.0	4.0	72.0	110.0
Short-term	2.0	72.0	100.0	305.0	102.0	367.0
IDB Lab*	1.9	1.8	1.0	0.7	1.3	3.2

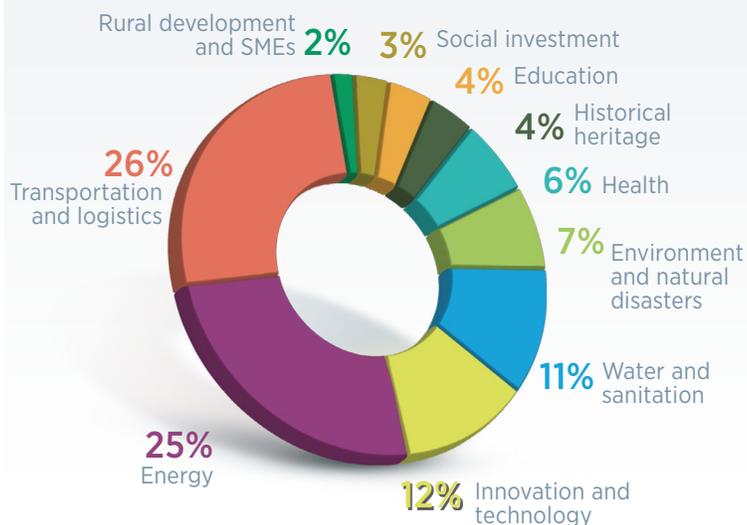
\* From 2019 onwards, IDB Lab data include projects using external funds and resources from the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

## Projects in execution

### Public sector

- ✦ 22 operations totaling US\$1,942 million, with an available balance of US\$1,689 million

Distribution of public-sector portfolio by sector  
(% of available balance)



### Private sector

#### IDB Invest

- ✦ 7 operations with an exposure of US\$353 million, focusing on financial markets development, SME access to credit, international trade, support for the manufacturing sector, and increasing energy supply from renewable sources.

#### IDB Lab

- ✦ 29 operations totaling US\$11.5 million, centering on boosting productivity, an innovation ecosystem, skills development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience.



# Improving labor market access opportunities in the Dominican Republic



Dominican Republic.  
Financing for the sustainable expansion of dairy production.

The pandemic exacerbated structural deficits in the quality of the Dominican Republic’s employment, leading to significant job losses and a rise in unemployment and underemployment, especially among youths and women.

Additionally, disruptive trends in the labor market, such as digital transformation and the transition to a low-carbon economy, are altering job requirements, creating new jobs, and spurring demand for new skills. With IDB support, the country is focusing on improving employability in a context of sustainable and inclusive recovery. This goal is pursued through the flexible employment system “RD Trabaja,” which will make it possible to offer comprehensive support to job seekers.





In 2022, the Bank approved a US\$38 million loan to set up a new, integrated support system for job seekers. The system offers unemployed people a better labor intermediation service, as well as access to job training in line with their employability profile and the skills demanded by the productive sectors. The “RD Trabaja” flexible employment system will include distinct job intermediation and training activities for job seekers between the ages of 18 and 35, and for those over 35. For both groups, and in line with their training needs, the loan will finance training in soft skills, green skills (development of proficiencies and skills that promote pro-environmental and sustainable behaviors and the creation of a specialized workforce) and technical skills. The provision of training will include internships, training for job placement in companies, and temporary economic support for job placement. This initiative will also finance specific actions to guarantee the inclusion of mothers and people with disabilities (PWD) in the opportunities available under RD Trabaja.

The operation also includes improvements to the National Employment Service (SENAE), enabling it to function as a one-stop shop for the “RD-Trabaja” system. The improvements include investments in computer systems and SENAE’s interconnection with training services, as well as staff training, which will strengthen labor intermediation between workers and companies. The initiative will also include improvements to the provision of in-person services, so as to offer more individualized attention to job seekers.

The program is expected to increase the proportion of job seekers (youths and adults, mothers, and PWDs) who are certified in relevant training courses, with a view to raising their employability in dynamic and sustainable productive sectors. It is also expected to increase the proportion of job seekers using virtual services and of those receiving integrated service from SENAE (in total and PWDs). Moreover, it will increase the number of Territorial Employment Offices that are certified in efficient energy use. The operation will serve at least 31,000 people during program implementation, of whom 26,700 will be direct training beneficiaries.



Support Program for Mobility, Land Transport and Road Safety in Dominican Republic I and II.

**Strengthening SENAE will potentially benefit the country’s entire working-age population (5.3 million in 2022), as well as employers, by providing better services.**

The Bank will thereby continue to support the country’s priorities that are conducive to recovery of the economy and employment, directly benefiting the most vulnerable population.





# The IDB Group in El Salvador

**US\$616 million in financing approved by the IDB Group in 2022,** to revitalize the tourism sector, improve access to water and sanitation services, upgrade rural roads, and provide sustainable financing.

## New projects

**Support for the Recovery and Expansion of the Tourism Sector** (US\$106 million, IDB). This operation seeks to make tourism more competitive, increase tourism spending, and boost employment and private investment in the sector. It also seeks to strengthen institutional capacities, reduce gender gaps, and reinforce the environmental sustainability of tourist destinations.

**Strengthening the Water and Sanitation Sector** (US\$100 million, IDB). This loan aims to strengthen the sector by helping to improve the performance of the National Aqueduct and Sewer Administration, the continuity of drinking water services in the San Salvador Metropolitan Area (SSMA), and the energy efficiency of drinking water systems. It is estimated that the operation will directly benefit 120,000 households and indirectly benefit the 1.8 million inhabitants of the SSMA.

**Rural Roads Program** (US\$100 million, IDB). This loan seeks to improve traffic conditions on the unpaved and rural national road network. It will help boost economic activity and create inclusive job opportunities, benefiting close to 44,000 inhabitants of the program's intervention areas.

**Affordable Housing** (US\$10 million, IDB Invest). This revolving financial facility provides long-term debt financing and advisory services to develop innovative mortgage solutions for women, as well as to devise a gender, diversity, and inclusion strategy for the La Hipotecaria financial institution. It seeks to expand access to credit among underserved sectors, increase financing for access to housing among vulnerable sectors, developing inclusive and sustainable infrastructure services.

**Sustainability Bond** (US\$20 million, IDB Invest). This initiative supported the structuring and public placement of a sustainability bond for Banco Promerica El Salvador (BPES), centered on developing its green and SME portfolio. The issuance will help BPES secure stable funding for the placement of new loans. The transaction included technical assistance enabling BPES to serve both segments, and fostered development of the local capital market.

**Orion IP and Free Zone** (US\$8 million, IDB Invest). This is a corporate loan to a leading Salvadoran company for the construction and administration of free trade zones and industrial parks. The transaction complements the US\$25 million previously approved in 2021, and will partially finance the additional resources required to execute the second phase of a new free trade zone in the department of La Libertad. This includes an industrial park and two industrial premises within it, as well as the installation of solar panels on the roofs of those premises to supply up to 8.1 MWp for self-consumption, and a pilot plan for a battery energy storage system.

**GigES. Workertech for Independent and Informal Workers** (US\$1.5 million, IDB Lab). This initiative aims to improve conditions for independent workers by developing innovative and digital solutions that address their needs. It will do this by providing customized benefits and protection services related to basic health, savings and credit coverage, productivity and professional development, and collective organization.





## The IDB Group in El Salvador

La Paz. Providencia solar photovoltaic project. Construction, operation, and maintenance of an 80 MWac (100 MWp) solar photovoltaic power plant.

### IDB Group Approvals

US\$ millions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Public sector</b>						
Loans	-	370.0	245.0	870.0	179.0	333.0
Technical cooperation	3.3	4.7	1.6	5.3	2.6	2.8
Investment grants	-	1.8	-	0.5	-	6.4
<b>Private sector</b>						
IDB Invest	44.0	128.0	125	332.0	164.0	272.0
Long-term	31.0	91.0	93.0	225.0	62.0	87.0
Short-term	13.0	37.0	32.0	107.0	102.0	185.0
IDB Lab*	4.3	-	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.3

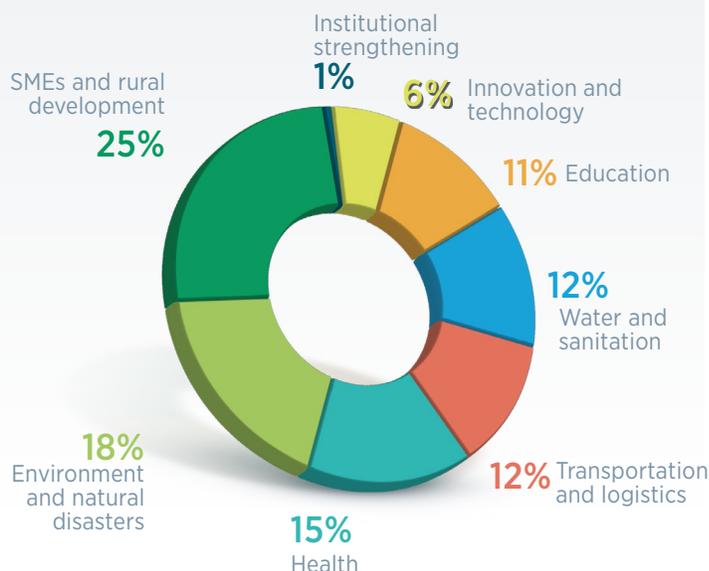
\* From 2019 onwards, IDB Lab data include projects using external funds and resources from the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

### Projects in execution

#### Public sector

- ✦ 16 operations totaling US\$1,187 million, with an available balance of US\$811 million

Distribution of public-sector portfolio by sector  
(% of available balance)



#### Private sector

##### IDB Invest

- ✦ 18 operations with an exposure of US\$508 million, geared to expanding the supply of credit to SMEs and firms owned or led by women, as well as green portfolios, sustainable bond issues and foreign trade facilitation, plus investments in renewable energies and related storage batteries, and industrial activities.

##### IDB Lab

- ✦ 18 operations totaling US\$11.4 million to foster the use of technology as a means of raising the income of small farmers and improving the educational development of vulnerable youths using edtech solutions. These ongoing operations also foster SME productivity, support digital transformation, and promote the social, labor and financial inclusion of vulnerable people and groups.



# Improving lives through sustainable tourism in El Salvador



In recent years the tourism sector has become an engine of economic growth in El Salvador.

El Salvador. Tourism development program for the marine coastal strip.

In the period 2011–2019, tourism GDP grew by an average of 6 percent<sup>4</sup>—which is more than twice the rate of national GDP growth—and created more than 31,360 direct jobs.<sup>5</sup> The IDB contributed to this growth through flagship investments in El Salvador’s coastal zone, in line with a government strategy that centers on the promotion of surfing tourism, known as Surf City.

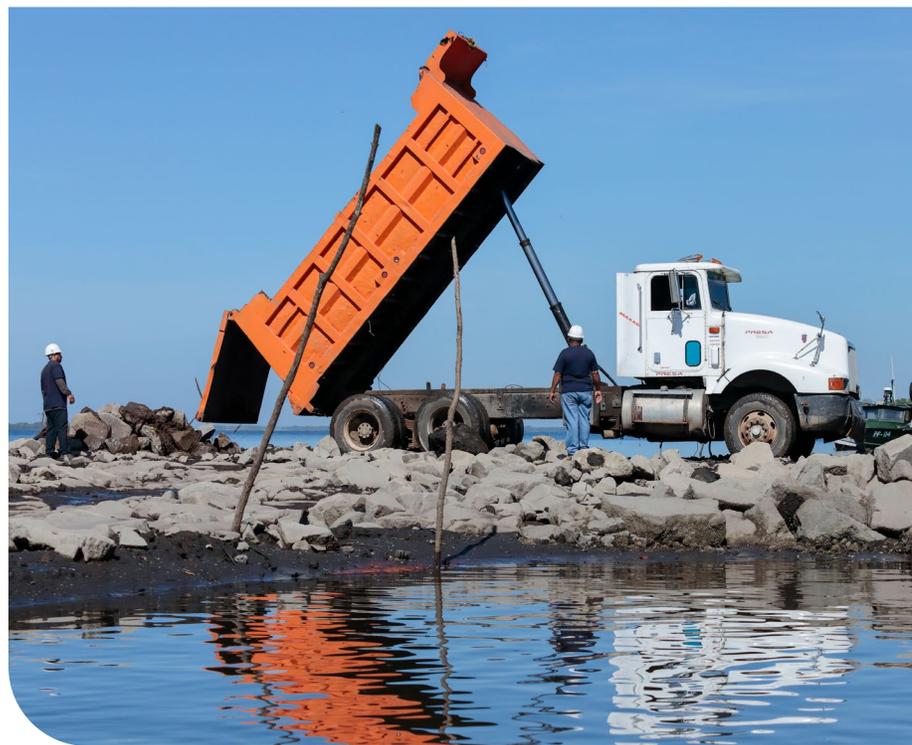
<sup>4</sup> Authors’ calculations on the basis of data from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC) and the International Monetary Fund.

<sup>5</sup> World Travel and Tourism Council, Economic Impact Database, London, United Kingdom, 2020.





These emblematic investments include the seafood market, food court and boardwalk in Puerto La Libertad, the tourist site that accounts for most visitors to El Salvador; and upgrades to El Tunco beach, one of the hotspots of surfing tourism in the region. Both of these sites are in the department of La Libertad, the country's main tourist destination. These investments were financed by the *"Tourism Development Program for the Marine Coastal Strip"* (US\$ 25 million), which was implemented between 2015 and 2022. The program also helped mitigate COVID's impact on tourism by supporting the development of bioprotocols for the sector, and by providing technical assistance and financial resources to devise and implement strategic business plans for tourism SMEs, many of them run by women. This program included a significant environmental sustainability component, involving the construction of treatment plants and support for municipal environmental offices.



El Salvador. Tourism development program for the marine coastal strip.

Continuing this commitment to the development of El Salvador's tourism sector, in 2022 the Bank approved the *"Program to Support the Recovery and Expansion of the Tourism Sector in El Salvador"* (US\$106 million). This program centers on key issues at the sectoral level, such as institutional strengthening and improving governance in the sector; creation of a tourism intelligence system; significant investments; development of policies, legal frameworks and regulations geared to reinforcing climate resilience and environmental sustainability (including water treatment, solid waste management, integrated coastal management, and mangrove protection); support for the sector's business ecosystem with a gender perspective; and the cross-cutting promotion of accessible tourism. The program is expected to help improve living conditions for residents of the tourist destinations of La Unión, Morazán, San Miguel and Usulután, as well as to strengthen the sector's competitiveness and the resilience of the country's overall productive tourism ecosystem.

It is been estimated that the program will benefit more than 960,000 people (those with jobs in tourism and their families).

---

It is further estimated that some 21,000 people will benefit from the water and sanitation projects, and some 3,000,000 will benefit directly from the whole series of improvements in tourism infrastructure and services. These are expected to improve residents' quality of life and their enjoyment of spaces for recreation and leisure, especially people with disabilities (estimated at some 150,000 direct beneficiaries).

With the approval of this new program, the Bank has consolidated its position as El Salvador's main strategic partner in a key sector for the country's sustainable development, helping to drive forward an integrated and sustainable vision of tourism.





# The IDB Group in Guatemala

**US\$619 million of IDB Group financing in 2022,** mainly to help improve the quality of social spending, road integration, food security, and financial inclusion with a gender approach.

## New projects

**CA-9 North Corridor Development Program: El Rancho–Teculután subsection** (US\$75 million, IDB; US\$100 million, FONPRODE). This program seeks to improve the country's logistical and trade performance by boosting the exports of strategic productive sectors in a sustainable and inclusive manner. To that end, the program will widen the 35-kilometer-long subsection of the corridor between El Rancho and Teculután to four lanes, using climate-change resilience management specifications. The investments will support the reconversion of the northeastern agricultural region, and will give more than 400,000 people in the departments of El Progreso and Zacapa better access to public and social services. The roadworks will also benefit 2.9 million people in the departments of Chiquimula, Izabal, Petén, and Alta Verapaz.

**Support Program to Improve the Quality of Social Spending** (US\$300 million). This is the first of two policy reform operations that aim to support the country's efforts to improve the quality of public spending on social protection and health services. The program will support reforms geared to improving the quality and transparency of social protection programs by strengthening the management, targeting, communications, and assessment capacities of the Ministry of Social Development. It will also support reforms in prenatal and childbirth care, the emergency health system, and intercultural care provided by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance.

**Emergency Support – Tropical Storm Julia** (US\$200,000). This grant helped meet the basic humanitarian needs of

people affected by the storm, which left 13 people dead, 3,396 evacuated, and 207 homes severely damaged. It financed the purchase of drinking water and basic necessities, as well as the transportation of those goods to the affected areas.

**Guatemala's Long-Term Decarbonization Strategy** (US\$350,000). This grant will support decarbonization of the economy with the design of a Long-Term Decarbonization Strategy (LTS) that is aligned with the 2050 decarbonization goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The operation will enable participation and dialogue among public, private, and civil society actors on the importance of decarbonization for sustainable development; develop models for achieving net zero emissions over the long term; and draw up a road map for implementing the LTS.

**CMI Alimentos III** (US\$50 million regional, IDB Invest). This operation with the CMI Alimentos group seeks to increase food production and supply in domestic markets, strengthen regional supply, and support local agricultural employment through a revolving committed loan (up to US\$40 million) for working capital needs; and an uncommitted revolving credit line for imports (up to US\$10 million) to buy grain.

**PRO Mujer** (US\$2 million, IDB Lab). Credit, preventive health, and digital skills to empower women microentrepreneurs. This project will strengthen Pro-Mujer Guatemala's capacities to foster financial and digital inclusion, and to train women microentrepreneurs in preventive health.



Tecpan-Patzun Highway, Guatemala. Road infrastructure development program.

## IDB Group Approvals

US\$ millions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Public sector</b>						
Loans	-	-	250.0	228.5	70.0	375.0
Technical cooperation	7.6	1.5	2.9	2.2	4.9	3.0
Investment grants	-	-	-	7.1	10.1	5.0
<b>Private sector</b>						
IDB Invest	181.0	341.0	159.0	328.0	307.0	234.0
Long-term	10.0	234.0	20.0	146.0	128.0	27.0
Short-term	171.0	107.0	139.0	182.0	179.0	207.0
IDB Lab*	0.7	-	7.6	5.3	4.8	2.0

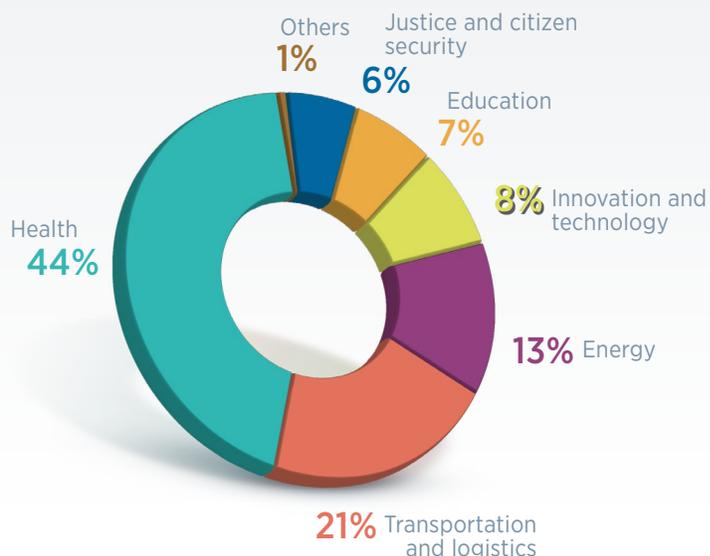
\* From 2019 onwards, IDB Lab data include projects using external funds and resources from the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

## Projects in execution

### Public sector

- ✦ 10 operations totaling US\$1,083 million, with an available balance of US\$894 million

Distribution of public-sector portfolio by sector  
(% of available balance)



### Private sector

#### IDB Invest

- ✦ 15 operations with an exposure of US\$584 million, with an emphasis on support for MSME financing and foreign trade; and agro-industrial development with investments in sustainable operations that include climate-smart practices, agricultural technologies, medicines production, and strengthening value chains that benefit small and medium local producers.

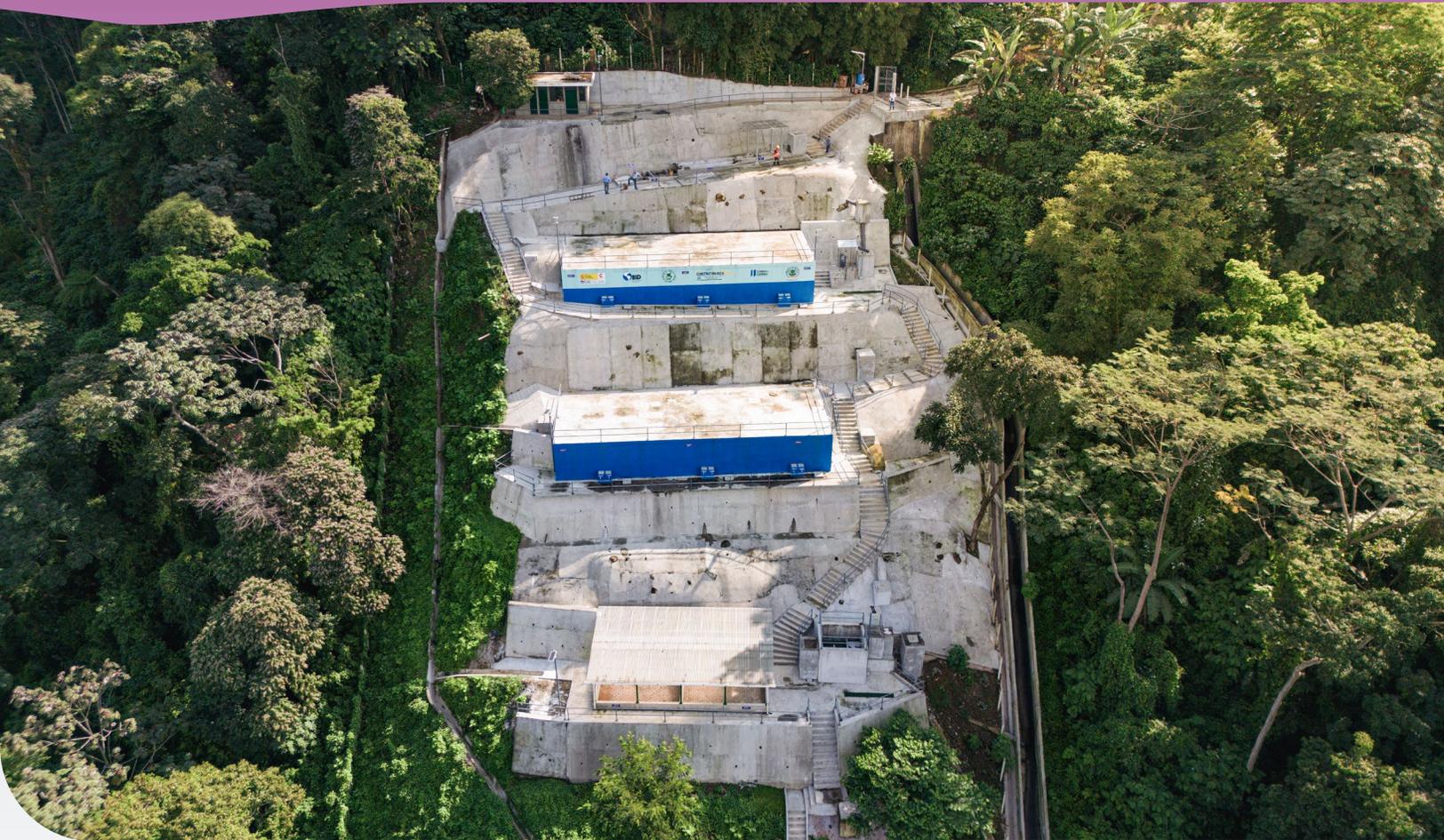
#### IDB Lab

- ✦ 38 operations totaling US\$24.3 million to promote social, labor and financial inclusion, increase productivity, and improve farmers' climate resilience through the use of technologies, supporting digital transformation, and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem. These 38 operations include 19 SEP operations totaling US\$7.9 million.





# Making water and sanitation services more accessible to vulnerable populations in Guatemala



Access to safe water and sanitation services is an essential right for the attainment of better development opportunities, as well as a key factor in curbing diseases. Guatemala is close to achieving universal coverage in basic water services: some 94 percent of the population is now covered.<sup>6</sup>

In the past 20 years, moreover, the coverage of safe drinking water<sup>7</sup> has risen by 8 percentage points (equivalent to 10 million people), and stood at 56 percent of the population in 2020. Despite the progress made, however, there are still access disparities between urban and rural areas.

San Marcos, Guatemala. Drinking water and human sanitation program, Phase 1.

<sup>6</sup> WHO/UNICEF. Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP).

<sup>7</sup> Defined as drinking water within dwellings 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





In 2020, some 65 percent of urban areas had access to safe drinking water, compared to 46 percent of rural areas. Similarly, while the coverage of basic sanitation services<sup>8</sup> in urban areas reached 79.5 percent in 2020, in rural areas it was 55.5 percent. In recent years the IDB has supported Guatemala's efforts to provide these services to the most vulnerable people, closing access gaps by means of investments and technical assistance.

With the *Drinking Water and Human Sanitation Program - Phase I* (US\$50 million), complemented by a grant from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (US\$50 million), the Bank has been helping the government improve the quality of and access to drinking water and basic sanitation services in rural, periurban, and urban areas. Specifically, in the departments of San Marcos and Sololá, 88,682 and 3,620 people, respectively, were beneficiaries of drinking water services — equivalent to 33 percent and 18 percent of the 2018 gap in those departments. Similarly, more than 90,177 people in San Marcos and 14,982 in Chiquimula gained access to sanitation services — equivalent to 15 percent and 8 percent of the 2018 gap in those regions.

Beyond the achievements in access, the program has helped shift the traditional approach of investment in physical infrastructure toward integrated services provision, thereby serving the population better. For example, the program included the treatment of sewage before its disposal in rivers, thus reducing the percentage of untreated wastewater in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Quiché, Guatemala. Drinking water and human sanitation program, Phase I. Beneficiaries now have access to quality drinking water and sanitation services.

As part of this new approach, communities and municipalities were encouraged to participate in activities geared to the sustainability of infrastructure initiatives, such as drawing up regulations for the management, operation and maintenance of water and sewage systems; and taking part in workshops on plumbing, water quality monitoring, and oversight of solid waste management.

Making drinking water and sanitation services available is crucial to promoting inclusive growth, strengthening human capital, and improving Guatemalans' quality of life.

<sup>8</sup> According to WHO, basic sanitation is the lowest-cost technology for hygienic disposal of excreta and wastewater, and for a clean environment in and around the dwelling.





# The IDB Group in Honduras

**US\$468 million in financing approved by the IDB Group in 2022,** mainly to promote the country's transparency agenda, support the social protection system, job skills development, strengthen customs administration and financing of the manufacturing sector.

## New projects

**Support for the Integrated Social Protection System II** (US\$75.9 million, IDB). The program will benefit 50,000 extremely poor households that will receive CCTs, raising their minimum income and protecting them against external shocks. The Social Protection System and the provision of services will be strengthened so as to improve conditions and capacities in the life cycle of the poorest households, as prioritized in the target areas of the Solidarity Network Program.

**Program of Transparency and Integrity for Sustainable Development** (US\$195 million, IDB). The reforms in this first phase of a programmatic series will help foster transparency in the budget and public spending, and will improve the management of public finances by integrating analysis of specific fiscal risks into the budget, including potential damage from natural disasters. The program will also set up oversight systems to strengthen public integrity, by means of a digital platform to handle tax returns and to exchange tax information and cooperate with more than 100 countries.

**Institutional and Operational Strengthening of the Customs Administration** (US\$50 million, IDB). The program aims to boost customs revenues and improve customs controls, facilitating trade and increasing economic growth and competitiveness. It will also provide the customs service with tools to improve its revenue-raising capacity and help finance public policies. It will improve oversight, automation, and the use of technologies to reduce tax fraud and increase the IT resilience of customs management.

**Grupo Elcatex/San Juan Textiles II** (US\$25 million, IDB Invest). This second transaction with the textiles group provides a financial package that will raise an additional US\$ 15 million from third parties. The financing will support a 50 percent production increase at the San Juan Textiles plant, and refurbishment of two new sewing plants. The operation also includes technical advisory services to support job creation, increased purchases from local SMEs, the integration of regional value chains, and the group's decarbonization strategy.

**INNOVAEDU: Payment-by-Results of Educational Innovations** (US\$700,000, IDB Lab). This project pilots a pay-by-results mechanism that transfers the risk and financial incentive to private actors, service providers and/or civil society, using performance-based contracting. It will also pursue edtech solutions to experiment with educational interventions that offer vulnerable youths and women a second chance of high-school graduation with skills in STEM. The initiative is expected to benefit between 500 and 1,500 vulnerable youths.

**Integrated Model: Development of Digital Skills and Access to Financing for Innova-T Start-Ups** (US\$1.4 million, IDB Lab). This project will bring together a group of public, private, and academic institutions to give young people more opportunities to earn an income through job placement and the development of high-tech start-ups, by improving digital skills and access to financing with a gender perspective.



## The IDB Group in Honduras

Honduras. Program to improve the quality of education in order to develop jobs skills: *Proyecto Joven*.

### IDB Group Approvals

US\$ millions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Public sector</b>						
Loans	160.0	477.6	229.9	285.0	224.0	320.9
Technical cooperation	4.6	7.4	8.7	6.6	5.2	6.2
Investment grants	6.1	15.3	29.9	1.6	-	-
<b>Private sector</b>						
IDB Invest	52.0	168.0	138.0	209.0	124.0	139.0
Long-term	9.0	46.0	5.0	105.0	1.0	38.0
Short-term	43.0	122.0	133.0	104.0	123.0	101.0
IDB Lab*	1.3	3.5	3.3	6.8	2.7	2.1

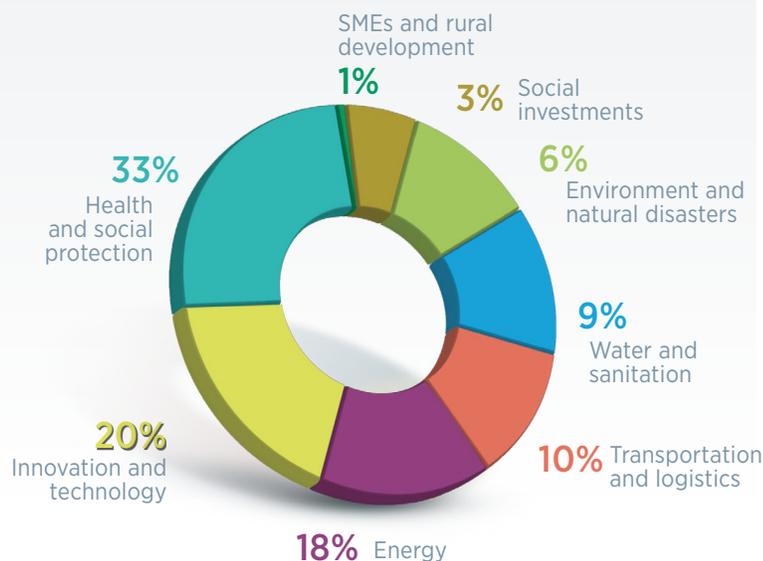
\* From 2019 onwards, IDB Lab data include projects using external funds and resources from the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

### Projects in execution

#### Public sector

- ✦ 26 operations totaling US\$1,276 million, with an available balance of US\$516 million.

Distribution of public-sector portfolio by sector  
(% of available balance)



#### Private sector

##### IDB Invest

- ✦ 10 operations with an exposure of US\$156 million, improving foreign trade and the financial inclusion efforts of local commercial banks, supporting the high value-added and export-oriented textile industry, and promoting renewable energy generation for self-consumption in industrial complexes.

##### IDB Lab

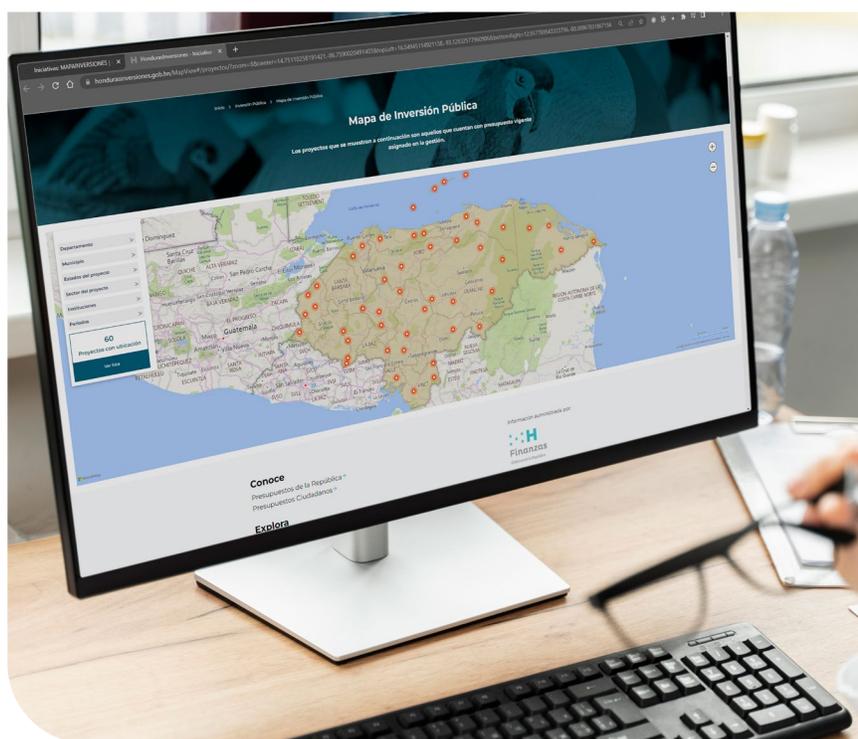
- ✦ 33 operations totaling US\$52.4 million to support the productivity and digital transformation of SMEs, including startups, improve the educational development of vulnerable youths through technology, and foster the use of renewable energy. These 33 operations include 12 SEP initiatives totaling US\$6.6 million.



The Bank has supported the country's efforts to adopt a legal and institutional framework geared to promoting transparency and public integrity, in line with international anticorruption initiatives to which Honduras is a party. *The Transparency and Integrity Program for Sustainable Development* (US\$195 million), approved in 2022, aims to strengthen the accountability of the government of Honduras and increase public transparency, the effectiveness of integrity policies, and efficiency in oversight systems.

The reforms advance transparency in the budget and public spending, as well as better management of public finances by integrating analysis of specific fiscal risks into the budget, including estimates of the potential damage stemming from natural disasters. Moreover, oversight systems will be set up to strengthen public integrity by designing and adapting a platform for the digital management of public officials' sworn disclosures of assets, so as to give greater efficiency to oversight of the veracity of what they declare to the Supreme Court of Auditors. Efforts will also be made to further the exchange of information and cooperation on tax matters among the revenue collection agencies of more than 100 countries.

The IDB has complemented this budgetary support with technical assistance to strengthen transparency. In 2022 Honduras joined the regional [InvestmentMap](#) initiative. As part of this endeavor the IDB worked on the design of an interactive digital platform to promote transparency, participation, and accountability in the use of public resources in Honduras. Known as [Honduras Inversiones](#) and launched in December 2022, this tool will offer users a site that brings together and presents in georeferenced format the physical and financial progress of public investment and spending. This will foster greater citizen oversight, as well as informed decision-making by the various public and private sector agencies.



Honduras. Honduras Inversiones platform, enabling citizens to participate in and acquire information about budget implementation, ongoing public investment projects, and procurement processes managed through *HonduCompras*.

The IDB has also provided technical support in the form of tools for cooperation between countries and by strengthening dialogue.

**The Sixth Meeting of the OECD-IDB Public Integrity Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (“Innovation and Integrity for Better Oversight of Public Management”) was held in Honduras in December 2022. Authorities from 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean took part.**

Participants discussed the challenges involved in designing and implementing innovation policies to prevent and control corruption in the public sector. With these actions the IDB Group has renewed its commitment to fostering transparency and integrity for sustainable, inclusive and responsible development, hand in hand with governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia.



# The IDB Group in Nicaragua

**US\$46.9 million from a contingent loan in the portfolio in response to natural disasters, and the renewal of an existing foreign trade lines.** The IDB also provided technical support to identify obstacles and opportunities in the areas of poverty, educational connectivity for vulnerable populations, the productive transformation of small producers, and social housing.

## New projects

**Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster Emergencies –Hurricane Julia** (US\$10 million). This kind of loan provides resources to cover a country's immediate costs in reestablishing basic services for the population after a severe or catastrophic natural disaster, such as Hurricane Julia, which affected several areas of Nicaragua in October 2022. This financing included the immediate reconstruction of infrastructure, and humanitarian aid services, channeled through the World Food Program.

**Nicaragua Poverty Map** (US\$500,000). This technical cooperation initiative aims to help reduce poverty levels and inequality gaps in Nicaragua by mapping poverty conditions in vulnerable regions, with a view to identifying obstacles and opportunities and fostering human development strategies for those populations.

**Promoting Educational Technologies for Vulnerable Populations** (US\$300,000). This operation will support capacity-building in the use of technologies to improve the quality of educational services for vulnerable populations. To this end it will back the development of an educational connectivity map that will analyze use of the Internet for teaching purposes, the extent to which educational technologies have been adopted, and teachers' digital skills. It will also support the establishment of a model school using educational technologies in a rural area with a poor population.

**Improving Opportunities for Small Producers in the Livestock Sector** (US\$100,000). The livestock sector is one of Nicaragua's main productive activities. Between 2017 and 2021 it accounted for close to 19 percent of the country's total employment. Given the livestock sector's importance in the national economy and food security, this operation will help devise a plan of interventions and investments for the productive, climate-resilient, low-carbon and environmentally friendly transformation of small rural producers in this sector in Nicaragua.

**Resilient Models of Social Housing for Vulnerable Populations** (US\$665,600). The housing deficit varies significantly between urban and rural areas of Nicaragua. In urban areas, the deficit stands at 70 percent of households, while in rural areas and the Caribbean Coast it exceeds 88 percent. To address that challenge, this technical cooperation project will help identify resilient housing solutions that meet the basic needs of the vulnerable population in the Dry Corridor and on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.

**Banco de la Producción TFFP** (US\$34 million, IDB Invest). This operation, approved as part of IDB Invest's current financing lines for financial institutions under the TFFP, aims to finance short-term foreign trade transactions and support companies in the agro-export production chains on which the Banco De Producción focuses.



## The IDB Group in Nicaragua



León, Nicaragua. Modernization of hospital infrastructure.

### IDB Group Approvals

US\$ millions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Public sector</b>						
Loans	335.0	-	-	78.0	-	10.0
Technical cooperation	3.9	3.0	2.9	3.4	2.7	2.9
Investment grants	23.6	1.3	5.2	-	-	-
<b>Private sector</b>						
IDB Invest	72.0	102.0	150.0	5.5	1.0	34.0
Long-term	29.0	49.0	82.0	-	1.0	-
Short-term	43.0	53.0	68.0	5.5	-	34.0
IDB Lab*	0.8	-	1.5	-	-	-

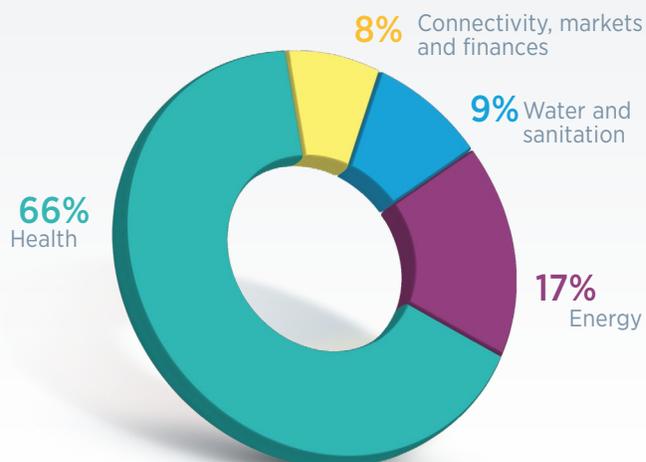
\* From 2019 onwards, IDB Lab data include projects using external funds and resources from the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

### Projects in execution

#### Public sector

- ✦ 7 operations totaling US\$464 million, with an available balance of US\$98.9 million.

Distribution of public-sector portfolio by sector  
(% of available balance)



#### Private sector

##### IDB Invest

- ✦ 11 operations with an exposure of US\$78.3 million to support the agro-industrial, manufacturing, tourism and logistics sectors for trade, access to financing for SMEs, social housing and foreign trade, and the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions for SMEs.

##### IDB Lab

- ✦ 5 operations totaling US\$4 million, focused on natural capital and climate change. These 5 operations include 2 SEP initiatives totaling US\$ 477,000.





# Facilitating access to quality health services for vulnerable populations in Nicaragua



El Viejo maternity home, Nicaragua. Community health program for rural municipalities.

Health conditions in Nicaragua have improved in recent years. Notable progress was made on health between 2007 and 2021: maternal mortality was reduced by 67.6 percent (from 97 to 31.4 deaths per 100,000 live births); and chronic malnutrition in children aged 0–5 fell from 17.3 percent to 9.3 percent in 2021.<sup>9</sup> There are still gaps in access and quality, however, especially in maternal and child health services.

For example, only 61 percent of women living in poverty had at least four prenatal visits, compared to 92 percent of women with higher incomes. The Caribbean Coast and rural areas report the highest rates of maternal mortality, as well as low coverage of prenatal care and institutional deliveries.

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Health, 2022.



Chronic malnutrition in children under five years of age stands at 9.3 percent nationally, but in rural areas the rate is 13.3 percent. It is crucial to reduce these health disparities in order to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations. The Bank is supporting Nicaragua's efforts to meet these goals through the "Community Health for Rural Municipalities" program (US\$45 million), which seeks to expand and improve access to high-quality health promotion and care services in the North Caribbean, Jinotega, Matagalpa, and the Dry Corridor.

Since 2008 the country has been implementing the Family and Community Health Model (MOSAFIC), whereby primary health care is provided in the communities by a team of doctors, nurses and assistants who attend to the population at a health post or in a community home base.<sup>10</sup> These teams take the families' health histories, detect health risks, and update the register of pregnant women, children under the age of five, and chronic patients. They also coordinate their work with a network of *brigadistas* (health care volunteers) and midwives responsible for health promotion and outreach activities. MOSAFIC pursues community empowerment strategies such as: (i) monitoring nutrition among pregnant women and children under two years of age; (ii) community delivery of contraceptives; and (iii) the strategy of maternity waiting homes, which offer shelter to pregnant women from distant communities so as to provide them with higher-quality prenatal check-ups and institutional care for childbirth.

One of the program's key interventions is strengthening the network of maternity homes that have helped reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in Nicaragua. To date, 100,000 pregnant women have received care in maternity homes; 160,000 live deliveries have been attended in health centers or hospitals; 29,000 pregnant and postpartum women have received nutritional monitoring and counseling services; 171,000 newborns have completed their first care visit within 28 days of birth; and more than 54,000 children under two years of age have received weight and development monitoring services. These activities directly help to narrow the gaps in access to health services for these populations.



Quilalí, Nicaragua. Community health program for rural municipalities.

The program has also supported improvements in the quality of care through investments in health infrastructure. Three health centers in remote areas have been renovated, while six maternity homes and the Quilalí Primary Care Hospital—located in the Dry Corridor—have been built, with the capacity to serve 53,000 inhabitants of Nueva Segovia.

Construction of the hospital allows the population of Quilalí to receive swifter care. Previously, they were referred to the municipalities of Ocotal or El Jícaro, involving travel times of 90 and 60 minutes, respectively. The Bank remains committed to improving Nicaraguans' living conditions by undertaking initiatives that improve vulnerable populations' access to quality health services.

<sup>10</sup> Simple infrastructure in rural areas for community health activities in the absence of a health post.



# The IDB Group in Panama

**US\$771 million in financing approved by the IDB Group in 2022,** mainly to boost the recovery of MSMEs and the tourism and agro-export sectors, support the digital transformation of public services, and improve the efficiency of public expenditure. Also of note is the Group's support for natural disaster response capacity and public health.

## New projects

**Digital Panama** (US\$60 million, IDB). This program seeks to reduce the costs of interaction among citizens, firms, and the government by digitizing procedures, as well as improving cybersecurity and data management. It will support the design, construction, and implementation of the Government Digital Innovation Hub, greater digitization of public services, and improved digital skills with a focus on gender and diversity.

**Fiscal Intelligence Program to Improve the Quality of Spending** (US\$20 million, IDB). Implementation of the Smart Fiscal Ecosystem will increase the efficiency and equity of spending, by allowing high quality data to be exchanged securely and confidentially between government agencies, as well as the use of algorithms to analyze third-party databases to inform decision-making in real time, allowing for a better channeling of resources to vulnerable populations.

**Program to Boost Competitiveness and Improve the Sustainability, Inclusiveness, and Resilience of the Tourism Sector** (US\$150 million, IDB). This is the first in a series of programs geared to implementing policies that will help boost economic growth and reduce poverty. It uses sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience criteria in implementing initiatives to promote the tourism sector.

**Credit Program for Sustainable Economic Recovery** (US\$160 million, IDB). Priority will be given to MSMEs in the agricultural, commercial, and service sectors, since they are key contributors to carbon emissions. The program will continue to strengthen the institutional

capacity of the National Bank of Panama, and will provide technical support to develop a guarantee fund.

**Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster and Health Emergencies** (US\$400 million, IDB). This loan aims to mitigate the impact of a natural disaster or serious health event on public finances. Resources will only be disbursed in an emergency to cover extraordinary expenditures. The operation includes development of disaster-emergency response guidelines with a gender focus.

**Banistmo - Guarantee Program for the Tourism Sector** (US\$31 million, IDB Invest). Program to partially co-guarantee loan portfolios of up to US\$300 million for the tourism sector. The government guarantee is complemented by a second loss guarantee from IDB Invest to support recovery of the sector.

**Grupo Ortiz - Water and Sanitation Facility** (US\$50 million, IDB Invest). This committed revolving credit line is for the purchase of credit rights to fund civic works that will improve Panama City's water system, including the expansion and rehabilitation of the North Panama aqueduct.

**Blockchain and Precision: Innovating with Producers in Panama's Rice Chain** (US\$577,000, IDB Lab). The project is piloting a precision production model with 100 mechanized rice producers to: (i) increase profitability for producers; and (ii) reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent.





Chepo District, Panama. Global credit program to promote sustainability and economic recovery in Panama. Pilot project for producers in the rice chain, using a precision production model.

## IDB Group Approvals

US\$ millions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Public sector</b>						
Loans	757.0	682.0	580.0	830.0	536.0	390.0
Technical cooperation	5.7	5.3	3.8	7.0	3.3	4.4
Investment grants	-	-	2.9	-	-	-
<b>Private sector</b>						
IDB Invest	58.0	168.0	164.0	82.0	178.0	375.0
Long-term	23.0	136.0	120.0	2.0	140.0	178.0
Short-term	35.0	32.0	44.0	80.0	38.0	197.0
IDB Lab*	0.7	0.8	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.3

\* From 2019 onwards, IDB Lab data include projects using external funds and resources from the Social Entrepreneurship Program (SEP).

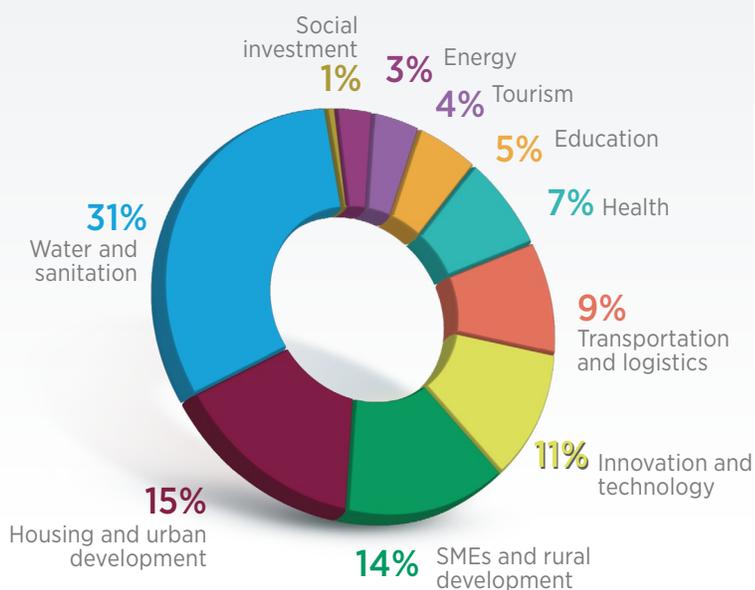
\*\* 2018 includes US\$ 3.9 million in supply chain finance (SCF).

## Projects in execution

### Public sector

- ✦ 28 operations totaling US\$2,333 million, with an available balance of US\$1,304 million.

Distribution of public-sector portfolio by sector  
(% of available balance)



### Private sector

#### IDB Invest

- ✦ 17 operations with an exposure of US\$477 million, focused on SMEs' access to credit, including women-led businesses, foreign trade, tourism, health, and transportation/logistics infrastructure (widening the Panama Canal). Especially noteworthy is the issuance of Latin America's first gender social bond at US\$50 million.

#### IDB Lab

- ✦ 17 operations totaling US\$8.5 million to promote digital skills training, the adoption of renewable energy for a more decent and sustainable last-mile delivery system, as well as the productive inclusion of young people, indigenous communities and migrants. These operations also support the strengthening of SMEs in creative industries. The 17 operations include 3 SEP initiatives totaling US\$2 million.





# Panama supports and strengthens financing for MSMEs as an engine of economic growth



MSMEs are an essential part of Panama’s productive fabric, accounting for 94 percent of businesses and 51 percent of formal employment in the country. Although Panama has a solid financial sector, since before the pandemic the MSME sector has faced financing gaps equivalent to 41 percent of GDP.

Chepo District, Panama. Global credit program to promote sustainability and economic recovery in Panama. The program supports micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The constraints on companies have included the requirements sought by financial intermediaries, as well as insufficient capacity to provide information requested by banks. The economic decline following the outbreak of the pandemic aggravated the challenges facing MSMEs, weakening their financial situation and undermining their ability to meet their obligations. In that context the Panamanian government made MSMEs’ access to financing one of the priorities of its economic reactivation plan.





With IDB support over the last three years (2020–2022), US\$460 million has been provided to the public sector for SME financing, and US\$300 million has gone directly to financial institutions through IDB Invest.

The IDB Group’s interventions seek to support the recovery of MSMEs by expanding access to credit among underserved segments (women, rural areas); and to sustain the productive fabric in the value chains of the agricultural and tourism sectors. In 2020 and 2021, the Bank approved the “*Global Credit Program for Safeguarding the Productive Fabric and Employment*” and the “*Global Credit Program to Promote Economic Sustainability and Recovery*,” each totaling US\$150 million, to foster access to financing for the productive sector and to guarantee the sustainability of MSMEs. These programs have benefited more than 4,600 MSMEs (57 percent micro, 22 percent small, and 21 percent medium enterprises) through 30 financial intermediaries, and they have reactivated more than 23,210 jobs.

Following the pandemic, the next challenge has been to reactivate the economy within a sustainable development model, one that is low in emissions and resilient to climate change. To that end, in 2022 the IDB approved the “*Global Credit Program for Sustainable Economic Recovery*” (US\$160 million) to promote sustainable financial recovery. This initiative is expected to benefit 4,000 companies, 30 percent of which are owned or led by women and/or populations marked by diversity. A minimum of 40 percent of the financing for this program is expected to be placed in sustainable investments that help climate-change mitigation and/or adaptation. For example, the initiative will make it possible to finance the purchase of more efficient productive equipment, as well as the implementation of projects in the areas of energy efficiency, solar thermal energy, the renewable generation of precision irrigation, and the circular economy, among others. The National Bank of Panama will also benefit from technical support to develop new financial products, as well as to strengthen its operational structure so as to improve loan placement.

IDB Invest, in close collaboration with the Panamanian government, created a risk mitigation facility in the tourism sector to incentivize financial institutions to offer loans to the sector. This helps support the country’s economic growth, given the tourism sector’s importance for the economy.



Pilot project for producers in the rice chain, using a precision production model in Panama.

The program will guarantee loan portfolios for the sector of up to US\$300 million through various financial institutions. Banistmo, Panama’s second largest private bank, is the lead institution and the program’s first signatory, with a portfolio of up to US\$80 million.

The program adds to IDB Invest’s support for SMEs in the country (to date, 11,467 companies have been financed indirectly), and will help sustain employment (8,810 jobs are supported).

With this set of interventions, the IDB Group has responded comprehensively to serve Panamanian MSMEs.



# Publications 2022

[publications.iadb.org/es](https://publications.iadb.org/es)



## Outlook and policy responses aimed at guaranteeing food security in the region

This study provides an overview of the state of food security in the region, and reports on the countries' policy responses. It also makes short- and long-term recommendations for managing a potential food emergency and avoiding future crises.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)



## The fiscal and distributive impact of measures to address the energy crisis in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

This technical note estimates the direct fiscal and income-distribution costs of measures taken in the context of the Russo-Ukraine war. The price freeze has had the highest total fiscal cost, followed by tax cuts, direct price cuts and, finally, subsidies.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)



## In search of better borrowing conditions for firms and households: Economic report on Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic

This report studies household over-indebtedness; the effect of monetary and regulatory policy in supporting credit availability during the COVID-19 crisis; the link between the level of indebtedness, arrearage and formal job creation; the relationship of over-indebtedness to health; and how behavioral economics can contribute to better borrowing conditions for households and small businesses.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)



## Poverty and inequality in Panama after two years of pandemic: The role of Panama Solidario and conditional cash transfer programs

This technical note looks at the Plan Panama Solidario, finding that it contributed more than the traditional programs as a whole to curbing the increase in poverty and inequality, as well as preventing a further decline in the middle class. Although the plan was of benefit to a significant part of the population, the analysis finds very marked differences within the country.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)



## Gender gaps in STEM occupations in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mexico

This study documents significant gender gaps in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) occupations in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mexico.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)



## Extended school day and teenage fertility in the Dominican Republic

This paper investigates the impact of the extended school day, which doubled daily schooling from four to eight hours. The results show that increased exposure to the program reduces the incidence of teenage pregnancy.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)

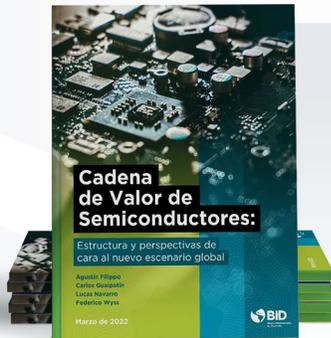


## Migration, remittances and education

This study analyzes the effect of the migration of one family member on the education of children and teenagers. The research makes recommendations such as revising the content of the school curriculum in the interests of both the labor market and the students themselves, and offering non-academic activities that promote student interaction with their educational environment. It also strongly advises that early warning systems be established to identify those at risk of dropping out of school.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)





### The semiconductor value chain: structure and outlook for the new global scenario

This study describes the global semiconductor value chain, its supply problems, and the policy responses of the countries in the chain. The aim is to aid understanding of the chain's complexity and provide background information on those links that present an opportunity for Mexican companies to develop.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)



### IDB Economics Costa Rica

This report analyzes the main challenges to economic development in Costa Rica and presents a range of opportunities to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth in a context of reduced fiscal space.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)



### COVID-19 and the labor market in the absence of lockdowns: evidence from Nicaragua

This paper explores the effect of COVID-19 on labor markets in the absence of lockdowns. The study concludes that there was a negative impact on labor participation immediately after the pandemic, particularly for young women, but also a rapid recovery.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)



### Financial inclusion in Panama. The importance of institutional quality and territorial, income and gender gaps

This study shows that the financial inclusion of Panamanian households is less than expected given the country's level of development. Moreover, there is a gender bias, an income-level bias, and an anti-rural bias in financial inclusion.

[▶ Go to the publication](#)

## Annex 1. IDB Group operational data for the region

Approvals	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	No.	Amount														
(Amount in US\$ millions)																
Sovereign guaranteed loans - IDB	23	2,061	18	1,620	16	1,632	21	2,476	22	2,243	27	3,551	26	2,162	26	2,386
Non-reimbursable operations - IDB	143	69	104	65	105	89	50	92	97	73	91	45	78	41	78	43
Investment grants	6	18	6	19	3	30	3	20	7	40	7	10	2	14	5	12
Technical cooperations IDB	137	51	98	46	102	59	30	89	90	34	84	34	76	27	97	30
Private sector approvals (Non-sovereign guaranteed)																
IDB Invest <sup>1</sup>	59	536	53	467	61	489	97	844	103	891	41	1,339	46	1,160	50	1,726
Long term	39	358	10	163	10	168	22	417	14	370	11	454	23	547	21	553
Short term (Trade Finance Facilitation Program - TFFP)	20	178	43	304	51	321	75	427	89	521	30	885	23	613	30	1,173
IDB Lab <sup>2</sup>	17	19	17	15	15	12	15	12	19	18	27	18	26	13	23	11.0
<b>Total Approvals, IDB Group</b>		<b>2,685</b>		<b>2,167</b>		<b>2,222</b>		<b>3,382</b>		<b>3,226</b>		<b>4,952</b>		<b>3,377</b>		<b>4,166</b>

<sup>1</sup> In 2016 the private sector windows of the IDB Group were merged into IDB Invest. The approval data for IDB Invest includes the legacy portfolio from the old IDB private sector windows, the former Inter-American Investment Corporation, and since 2016, IDB Invest.

<sup>2</sup> In 2018 the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) became IDB Lab.



## Annex 2. IDB Sovereign-guaranteed loan approvals in 2020

Country	Operation Name	Amount (US\$)
Belize	Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize	10.0
Belize	Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize	8.0
Belize	Sustainable and Inclusive Belize	15.0
Belize	Sustainable and Inclusive Belize	0.8
Costa Rica	Towards a Green Economy: Support for Costa Rica's Decarbonization Plan II	300.0
Dominican Republic	Program to Support Mobility, Overland Transportation, and Road Safety in the Dominican Republic II	200.0
Dominican Republic	Program to Support the Transparency and Integrity Agenda in the Dominican Republic	60.0
Dominican Republic	Road Infrastructure Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program in the Dominican Republic	140.0
Dominican Republic	Support for the RD-Trabaja Flexible Employment System	38.0
Dominican Republic	Integral and Sustainable Solid Waste Management Program in the Great Santo Domingo	44.2
Dominican Republic	Integral and Sustainable Solid Waste Management Program in the Great Santo Domingo	0.8
Dominican Republic	Universal Sanitation Program in Coastal and Tourist Cities	140.0
El Salvador	Program to Support the Recovery and Expansion of the Tourism Sector in El Salvador	106.0
El Salvador	Program to Strengthen the Water and Sanitation Sector in El Salvador	100.0
El Salvador	Rural Roads Program	100.0
El Salvador	Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster Emergencies - Tropical Storm Julia	27.0
Guatemala	CA-9 Road Corridor Development: El Rancho - Teculután Substrech	75.0
Guatemala	Support Program to Improve the Quality of Social Spending	300.0
Honduras	Program to Support the Comprehensive Social Protection System II	75.9
Honduras	Transparency and Integrity Program for Sustainable Development	195.0
Honduras	Institutional and Operational Strengthening of the Customs Administration	50.0
Nicaragua	Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster Emergencies - Hurricane Julia	10.0
Panama	Digital Panama	60.0
Panama	Fiscal Intelligence Program to Improve Spending Quality in Panama	20.0
Panama	Program to Strengthen Competitiveness and Improve the Sustainability, Inclusivity and Resilience of the Panamanian Tourism Sector	150.0
Panama	Global Credit Program for Sustainable Economy Recovery	160.0
<b>26 operations</b>		<b>2,385.7</b>
Panama	Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster and Public Health Emergencies	400.0
<b>1 contingent loan</b>		<b>400.0</b>

### Annex 3. Technical cooperation program approvals

Country	Operation Name	Amount (US\$)
Belize	Digital Transformation for Improving the Business Climate for MSMEs in Belize	200,000
Belize	Support to improve the DFC institutional capacity in the execution of the BL-L1037 - Global Credit Program for Safeguarding the Productive Sectors and Employment	100,000
Belize	Development of the Blue Economy of Belize	300,000
Belize	Action Plan C&D	324,098
Belize	Design and support to the kick-off of the Sustainable and Inclusive Belize Project	370,000
Belize	Support the formulation of a program to promote sustainable growth in the blue economy	850,000
Belize	Support for Ambergris Caye Sustainable Development	500,000
Belize	Knowledge Exchange of Digital Platform Experiences for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	9,621
Belize	Emergency Technical Cooperation - Support for Lisa Hurricane Emergency in Belize	200,000
Costa Rica	Support for the Strengthening of the National System of Science, Technology and Innovation in Costa Rica	200,000
Costa Rica	Action Plan C&D	332,626
Costa Rica	Strengthening fiscal management support in Costa Rica	150,000
Costa Rica	Support to the Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewerage (AyA) in the execution of the Water and Sanitation Program (CR-L1024; CR-X1009) and support to the institutional strengthening of AyA.	150,000
Costa Rica	Support to improve the formal job placement in Costa Rica	200,000
Costa Rica	Scaling up the current SINPE-TP into an interoperable payment system for the San José Greater Metropolitan Public Transport	400,000
Costa Rica	Support for strengthening the regulatory framework to promote safe, accessible and sustainable urban mobility	200,000
Costa Rica	Technical support for educational improvement in Costa Rica	250,000
Costa Rica	Implementation Support to the Program Toward a Green Economy (CR-L1147)	400,000
Costa Rica	Support for the Emergency due to heavy rain, flooding, and landslides in Costa Rica	200,000
Costa Rica	Support for the Deployment of Public Procurement of Innovation	120,000
Dominican Republic	Action Plan C&D	404,302
Dominican Republic	Support to the Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program in the Dominican Republic	400,000
Dominican Republic	Support for Technical Professional Education	150,000
Dominican Republic	Support the Repositioning of the Dominican Republic in the Global Value Chains	300,000
Dominican Republic	Technical and operational design of the Sustainable Coastal Management Project	500,000
Dominican Republic	Support to the Generation of Knowledge for the Transparency and Integrity Agenda in the Dominican Republic	300,000
Dominican Republic	Support to the Execution of the Agricultural Health and Innovation Project	200,000



### Annex 3. Technical cooperation program approvals

Country	Operation Name	Amount (US\$)
Dominican Republic	Support for the implementation of the Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Port of Manzanillo	250,000
Dominican Republic	Support for the digitalization and integrated management of sanitation and solid waste services in the Dominican Republic.	1,000,000
Dominican Republic	Formulation of a Land Use and Zoning Plan for Pepillo Salcedo	350,000
Dominican Republic	Support for the structuring of the Care Communities pilot and the offer of care services for people in situation of dependency	200,000
Dominican Republic	Support for developing inclusive employability programs and the promotion of formal employment	235,000
Dominican Republic	Support for the start-up of the national innovation policy.	200,000
Dominican Republic	Support of pilot implementation of an innovative model for the integrated management of services for vulnerable women in the Dominican Republic.	250,000
Dominican Republic	Support to the Implementation of Land-Use Planning	600,000
Dominican Republic	Support to the Fiona Hurricane Emergency in Dominican Republic	200,000
Dominican Republic	Strengthening the institutional and regulatory environment to enable competitiveness and business development in Dominican Republic	150,000
El Salvador	Action Plan C&D	505,305
El Salvador	Supporting the Sustainable Development of El Salvador Tourism Sector	500,000
El Salvador	Operational Support for the Program to Support Fiscal Sustainability	150,000
El Salvador	Support for the preparation and implementation of the Rural Roads Program	350,000
El Salvador	Support for the Design and Implementation of the Program to Strengthen the Water and Sanitation Sector in El Salvador (ES-L1152)	300,000
El Salvador	Indicators for investment promotion and trade facilitation	150,000
El Salvador	Support for the Strengthening of the Health System in El Salvador	150,000
El Salvador	Promotion of Favorable Conditions for the Development of Social Housing	250,000
El Salvador	Emergency Technical Cooperation - Support for the Bonnie Tropical Storm Emergency	200,000
El Salvador	Emergency Technical Cooperation - Support for the Hurricane and tropical storm Julia Emergency in El Salvador	200,000
Guatemala	Support for Mainstreaming Diversity Issues in Guatemala Operations	150,000
Guatemala	Long-Term Decarbonization Strategy Guatemala	350,000
Guatemala	Technical Support for the Transition Subsidy for the Elimination of Malaria in Guatemala (GU-G1014)	763,507
Guatemala	Support to Activities in the Agroforestry Sector in the context of Guatemala's Nationally Determined Contribution	400,000
Guatemala	Action Plan C&D	476,760
Guatemala	Support the implementation of the Program to support the quality of social spending	200,000
Guatemala	Emergency Technical Cooperation - Support for the Blas and Celia Tropical Storms Emergency in Guatemala	200,000
Guatemala	Sustainable Urban Transport in Guatemalan Cities	275,000



### Annex 3. Technical cooperation program approvals

Country	Operation Name	Amount (US\$)
Guatemala	Emergency Technical Cooperation - Support for Julia Tropical Storm Emergency in Guatemala	200,000
Honduras	Intelligent Road Asset Management and Digital Transformation of the Transport Sector in Honduras	250,000
Honduras	Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Financial Services Demand Survey with a Gender perspective	700,000
Honduras	Supporting the Improvement of Social Digital Infrastructure Environment in Honduras	520,000
Honduras	Strengthening of pre-hospital and medical-surgical emergencies care services at the Hospital Escuela de Tegucigalpa.	200,000
Honduras	Supporting Efforts for the Conservation and Recovery of the Natural and Cultural Capital of Ciudad Blanca	250,000
Honduras	Action Plan C&D	616,564
Honduras	Promoting innovation and research in strategic sectors of Honduras	400,000
Honduras	Strengthening of the Transparency and Integrity Agenda in the Use of Public Resources in Honduras.	400,000
Honduras	Implementation of a demonstrative strategy of comprehensive and intersectoral care for adolescents.	265,623
Honduras	Smart grid assessment for Guanaja Island as part of "Guanaja Green Island Program"	500,000
Honduras	Strategy for the Modernization of Infrastructure Services in Honduras	350,000
Honduras	Operational and Technical Support for the Social Protection System of Honduras.	550,000
Honduras	Roadmap execution for the financial strengthening of the power sector in Honduras	350,000
Honduras	Support for the comprehensive modernization, professionalization and digitalization of the services of the Honduran National Police	150,000
Honduras	Support to improve fiscal policy efficiency and equity in Honduras	300,000
Honduras	Emergency Technical Cooperation - Support for landslide emergency in Tegucigalpa neighborhoods, Honduras	200,000
Honduras	Emergency Technical Cooperation - Support for the Hurricane and tropical storm Julia Emergency in Honduras	200,000
Nicaragua	Promotion of Education Technologies in Vulnerable Populations	300,000
Nicaragua	Improving transport conditions in rural and vulnerable areas	650,000
Nicaragua	Improving opportunities for small producers in the livestock sector	100,000
Nicaragua	Action Plan C&D	649,892
Nicaragua	Mapping poverty conditions in Nicaragua	500,000
Nicaragua	Resilient Models of Social Housing for Vulnerable Populations	665,623
Panama	Support to the Implementation of the Program to Support Gender Equality Policies - Phase II	300,000
Panama	Support for the Implementation of the Universal Access to Energy Program	100,000
Panama	Action Plan C&D	332,626
Panama	Support for the Competitiveness and Sustainability Program for the Resilience of the Tourism Sector in Panama	500,000
Panama	Support to promote energy efficiency in public space and buildings in Panama	150,000



**Annex 3. Technical cooperation program approvals**

Country	Operation Name	Amount (US\$)
Panama	Strengthening of the agricultural sector of Panama	500,000
Panama	Taking Advantage of Trade and Investment Opportunities	300,000
Panama	Innovation to close gender, climate change and territorial gaps	330,000
Panama	Support to the Fiscal Strengthening Program and Public Investment Management	200,000
Panama	New Instruments for Social Housing	293,750
Panama	Support for the Program Panama Digital	150,000
Panama	Support to improve employment services	150,000
Panama	Improvement of Sanitary Sewer Systems and Wastewater Treatment in Reverted Areas - Corregimiento de Ancón	200,000
Panama	Support for the execution of water and sanitation operations in Panama	100,000
Panama	Support for technical transformation to promote the energy transition in Panama	350,000
Panama	Support to the implementation of social inclusion programs for persons with disabilities in Panama	200,000
Panama	Support for labor inclusion through the strengthening of skills	250,000
<b>97 operations</b>		<b>30,390,297.0</b>

## Annex 4. Investment grant approvals

Country	Operation Name	Amount (US\$)
Belize	Advancing Water Disinfection in Urban and Rural Areas	250,000
Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic - Regional Malaria Elimination Initiative (RMEI) in Mesoamerica and Dominican Republic	664,244
El Salvador	Social Digital Connectivity Program	6,431,162
Guatemala	Transition Subsidy for the Elimination of Malaria in Guatemala	1,021,886
Guatemala	Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Dry Forest Landscape	4,008,413
<b>5 operations</b>		<b>12,375,705</b>

## Annex 5. IDB Invest approvals (long term)

Country	Operation Name	Amount (US\$)
Belize	Belize Electricity Limited Corporate Loan	5,000,000
Belize	Marie Sharp	5,000,000
Costa Rica	Banco Davivienda - Green Finance Partnership in Costa Rica	30,000,000
Costa Rica	Project Oban B-Bond	50,000,000
Costa Rica	Movistar Costa Rica Handset Financing	10,836,185
Dominican Republic	CEPM Green Projects	42,000,000
Dominican Republic	LAC Green Debt Fund	6,250,000
Dominican Republic	Megalabs	7,777,778
Dominican Republic	Tropicalia II Sustainable Tourism	50,000,000
El Salvador	Banco Agrícola Subordinated Debt to Strengthen Women-led SMEs and Green Financing in El Salvador	70,000,000
El Salvador	Orion IP & Free Zone	8,000,000
Guatemala	Luminova	10,000,000
Honduras	Grupo Elcatex/San Juan Textiles II	25,000,000
Panama	Cable & Wireless Revolving Credit Facility	100,000,000
Panama	Grupo Ortiz-Water and Sanitation Facility	50,000,000
Panama	St. Georges Bank - Subordinated Debt for the Strengthening of Green Strategy and Regulatory Capital	10,000,000
Regional	Locfund Next: Promoting Financial Inclusion Through Microfinance Institutions	8,571,429
Regional	RAP	12,000,000
Regional	Valor Digital Opportunity Fund	2,727,273
Regional	CMI - Alimentos III	40,000,000
Regional	Torrecom - Corporate Loan Regional	10,000,000
<b>21 operations</b>		<b>553,162,664</b>



## Annex 6. IDB Lab approvals

Country	Operation Name	Amount (US\$)
Belize	Harnessing Digital Technology and Innovation for Belize's Smart Marine Initiative	400,000
Belize	Promoting Sustainability and Driving Growth Through a MSME Digital Revolution in Belize	350,000
Costa Rica	Circular Economy from Agroforestry Residues for Decarbonization	350,000
Dominican Republic	Acceleration of the Dominican Republic's Venture Capital Ecosystem	750,000
Dominican Republic	Acceleration of the Dominican Republic's Venture Capital Ecosystem	250,000
Dominican Republic	Digital Entrepreneur Community: Digitalization and Connection of Women-run SMEs	400,000
Dominican Republic	Green Solvent: Implementation of the Circular Economy Model in Plastic Containers for Hazardous Waste	550,000
Dominican Republic	Green Solvent: Implementation of the Circular Economy Model in Plastic Containers for Hazardous Waste	100,000
Dominican Republic	MEDS: Open Innovation for Primary Care and Predictive Diagnostics	1,000,000
Dominican Republic	MEDS: Open Innovation for Primary Care and Predictive Diagnostics	195,000
El Salvador	Greenhouses 2.0: Technology Adoption and Innovation for Smallholder Farmers for small farmers in El Salvador	130,000
El Salvador	Greenhouses 2.0: Technology Adoption and Innovation for Smallholder Farmers for small farmers in El Salvador	270,000
El Salvador	INNOVAEDU: Pay-for-Per-Results of Educational Innovations in El Salvador	700,000
El Salvador	Legaltech: Legal Inclusion Solutions for the LGBTIQA+ Community	150,000
Guatemala	PRO Mujer: Credit, Preventive Health, and Digital Skills to Empower Women Microentrepreneurs	1,750,000
Guatemala	PRO Mujer: Credit, Preventive Health, and Digital Skills to Empower Women Microentrepreneurs	250,000
Honduras	Comprehensive Model for Development of Digital Skills and Access to Financing for Startups Innova-T	1,000,000
Honduras	Comprehensive Model for Development of Digital Skills and Access to Financing for Startups Innova-T	400,000
Honduras	INNOVAEDU: Pay-for-Per-Results of Educational Innovations in Honduras.	700,000
Panama	Blockchain and Precision: Innovating with farmers in the rice chain in Panama	577,000
Panama	GO-ON Boss: Towards a Dignified, Diverse, and Green Last-Mile Delivery Sector	547,500
Panama	GO-ON Boss: Towards a Dignified, Diverse, and Green Last-Mile Delivery Sector	115,000
Panama	Leveraging ICT solutions for preventive strategies in Aging population in Latin America and the Caribbean	50,000
<b>23 operations</b>		<b>10,984,500</b>

**Cataloging-in-Publication data provided by the  
Inter-American Development Bank  
Felipe Herrera Library**

Creating opportunities and building resilience: priorities for a sustainable recovery: the IDB Group in the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic: activities report 2022 / Inter-American Development Bank, IDB Invest, IDB Lab.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographic references.

1. Development banks-Central America. 2. Development banks-Dominican Republic. 3. Economic development projects-Central America. 4. Economic development projects-Dominican Republic. 5. Sustainable development-Central America. 6. Sustainable development-Dominican Republic. I. Inter-American Development Bank. Country Department Central America, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. II. IDB Invest. III. IDB Lab.

**IDB-AN- 344**

**JEL Classification: F63**

**Keywords:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fiscal Policy, Poverty, Health Policy, Sustainable Growth, Economic Development, Climate Resilience / Climate change, Environmental Sustainability, Hurricane, Natural Disaster, Coronavirus / COVID-19 / Pandemic, Vulnerable Population, Small Business Financing, Central America & Dominican Republic, Employment, Economic recovery, Productivity, Value Chains, Social investments, Inclusion, Inequality, Infrastructure, Gender, Diversity, Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), Access to credit, Institutional strengthening, Transparency, Accountability, Renewable energy, Agriculture, Tourism, Food security, Basic services.**

Copyright © 2023 Inter-American Development Bank. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons IGO 3.0 Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives (CC-IGO BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/legalcode>) and may be reproduced with attribution to the IDB and for any non-commercial purpose. No derivative work is allowed.

Any dispute related to the use of the works of the IDB that cannot be settled amicably shall be submitted to arbitration pursuant to the UNCITRAL rules. The use of the IDB's name for any purpose other than for attribution, and the use of IDB's logo shall be subject to a separate written license agreement between the IDB and the user and is not authorized as part of this CC-IGO license.

Note that link provided above includes additional terms and conditions of the license.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Inter-American Development Bank, its Board of Directors, or the countries they represent.



