

# The National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty

## Executive Summary



Secretaría Nacional  
de **Planificación**  
y **Desarrollo**



Secretaría Técnica  
para la **Erradicación**  
de la **Pobreza**





“We are diverse and have the same rights”

Interinstitutional Committee for the Eradication of Poverty  
Secretary of National Planning and Development  
Technical Secretariat for the Eradication of Poverty

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## Executive Summary

**Moving towards Good Living in Ecuador**

November 2014



Secretaría Nacional  
de **Planificación  
y Desarrollo**



Secretaría Técnica  
para la **Erradicación  
de la Pobreza**

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The National Strategy for Equality and the Eradication of Poverty was approved by the Interinstitutional Committee for the Eradication of Poverty on February 28, 2014.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Presentation</b>	7
<b>Introduction</b>	10
<b>I. Eradicating poverty is a moral priority</b>	12
<b>1.1. Poverty is a political problem</b>	12
<b>1.2. Poverty seeps into the subconscious</b>	12
<b>1.3. Poverty is the ultimate expression of inequality</b>	12
<b>1.4. What poverty? The poverty of rights!</b>	13
<b>1.5. Eradicating poverty is achieving Economic Justice</b>	13
<b>II. Milestones and challenges: Rights should not be considered favors!</b>	15
<b>2.1 Measurements, tendencies and causes of poverty in Ecuador</b>	15
2.1.1. <i>Causes of Poverty</i>	15
2.1.2. <i>Monetary Poverty</i>	15
2.1.3. <i>Poverty by Unsatisfied Basic Needs (NBI)</i>	17
2.1.4. <i>Multidimensional Poverty</i>	18
2.1.5. <i>Poverty and Territorial Districts</i>	21
<b>2.2 Inequalities</b>	22
2.2.1. <i>Education</i>	23
2.2.2. <i>Health</i>	23
2.2.3. <i>Housing</i>	23
2.2.4. <i>Employment</i>	24
<b>III. Towards the end of Poverty!</b>	27
<b>3.1 Conditions for Change</b>	27
3.1.1. <i>Popular Power and Collective Action</i>	27
3.1.2. <i>The Maintenance and Continuance of a Free From Poverty Social Matrix</i>	29
3.1.3. <i>Management of knowledge for a learning society</i>	34
<b>3.2 General objective</b>	37
<b>3.3 General aims</b>	38
3.3.1. <i>Eradicating extreme poverty by income</i>	38
3.3.2. <i>Reducing inequality by income</i>	38
3.3.3. <i>Reducing multi-dimensional poverty</i>	39
<b>3.4 Specific Objectives</b>	40
<b>3.5 Components</b>	40
<b>Component 1: Necessity goods</b>	42
<i>Foundation</i>	42
<i>Aims</i>	42
<i>Axes and strategic guidelines</i>	43
<i>Health</i>	43
<i>Education</i>	46
<i>Habitat y housing</i>	48
<i>Water and sanitation</i>	50

<b>Component 2: Productive revolution, work and employment</b>	<b>53</b>
<i>Foundation</i>	53
<i>Aims</i>	54
<i>Axes and strategic guidelines</i>	54
<i>Dignified work and employment</i>	54
<i>Agricultural Revolution and Food Sovereignty</i>	56
<i>Strengthening of popular and solidarity economics</i>	58
 <b>Component 3: Integral protection to lifespan</b>	 <b>62</b>
<i>Foundation</i>	62
<i>Aims</i>	63
<i>Axes and strategic guidelines</i>	63
<i>Protection and Social Security</i>	63
<i>Care</i>	65
 <b>Together we shall overcome poverty and inequality!</b>	 <b>69</b>
 <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	 <b>71</b>
 <b>ILLUSTRATION INDEX</b>	 <b>77</b>
 <b>GRAPHICS INDEX</b>	 <b>77</b>
 <b>TABLES INDEX</b>	 <b>77</b>
 <b>MAPS INDEX</b>	 <b>77</b>



# Presentation

*“Peace is not merely the absence of war; while there is poverty, racism, discrimination and exclusion we can hardly achieve a world of peace”*

*Rigoberta Menchú.*

With the adoption of the Constitution of 2008, the Ecuadorians decided to construct a society that respects the dignity of persons in all its dimensions. This respect is built from the decision to change power relations, to base them on economic justice and the entitlement of rights.

In a country with so much wealth as Ecuador, it is unacceptable that many people live in poverty and exclusion. A dignified life is a matter of rights, not charity. All human beings should be able to eat healthy, have decent housing, drinking water, basic sanitation, a healthy environment, labour, health, art, and education. However, in Latin America, the most unequal region in the world, those basic rights are still denied to millions of people. This is absolutely intolerable.

Poverty, inequality and violence are caused by unjust socioeconomic structures and relationships that enable and naturalize exploitation. To achieve a society of Good Living it is necessary to transform these structures, as a moral imperative.

Social inequality and unfair distribution of wealth are not resolved by philanthropy, international loans or grants, humanitarian aid or compensation policies for the poor, but with profound changes in the economic system, which necessarily involve a change in the power relations.

State efforts should be aimed at (re)distributing wealth and contributing to the development of skills and opportunities for individuals and groups. This work must be accompanied by effective participation of citizens in the transformation process of society.

During neoliberalism, poverty and inequality increased significantly in Ecuador. In the year 2000, 2 out of 3 Ecuadorians were living in poverty; and the income inequality in just two years (1999-2001) increased by 5 points. These were the disastrous results of the doctrine of minimal state, which postulated economic growth as the measure of development, and the market as the best allocator of resources. The “poverty alleviation” was then trumpeted, from an assistencialist perspective in which social policy aimed to pick up the survivors of a submissive economic policy. The poverty was fought, but without changing the inequality.

Unlike the neoliberal period, the Citizen Revolution manages to integrate economic and social policy to enable a redistribution of wealth. In the early years of the Citizen Revolution (2007-2013) universal rights of citizenship were granted by closely linking poverty reduction with the reduction of social inequality. From this perspective, the policies aim to effectively put the human being above the capital. We have recovered the State for the citizens and not for the powerful.

The outcomes are evident: Ecuador is the Latin American country that has faster reduced income inequality. While in the period 2006-2012 the inequality in the region fell just 2 points, Ecuador managed to reduce 7 points, three times more than the regional average. Income poverty declined by 12 points over the period 2006-2013, and extreme poverty fell by half, reaching for the first time in the history of the country a single digit (8%). At present, Ecuador is the Latin American country with the lowest unemployment rate. All these achievements show that poverty reduction in recent years responds to a national productive dynamic and has ceased to be the result of unsustainable assistencialist measures.

In this new period of Citizen Revolution (2013-2017), we have considered new and more ambitious challenges, such as the eradication of extreme poverty by income and the transformation of the productive matrix of the country into a new knowledge-based specialization. The meeting point between these two great challenges is undoubtedly the generation of employment and decent work. To eradicate poverty in Ecuador is not enough to have a good redistributive system; it is necessary also to produce distributing, i. e. ensuring the conditions for the country's productive structure to be more equitable.

The eradication of poverty also involves overcoming the logics of assistencialist charity to build a true economic justice that exceed those approaches of "social inclusion" in an unjust and unequal system. In short, it is necessary to change the social matrix together with the change of the productive matrix.

The National Strategy for Equality and Poverty Eradication summarizes a set of guidelines and policies to guide public action, in order to eradicate poverty in Ecuador, starting from understanding its causes and therefore from a proposal of structural transformation of the prevailing socio-economic matrix.

Thus poverty is approached from a multidimensional focus, based on human rights and the rights of nature, so its eradication involves working on the causes of exclusion that violates rights. Poverty is a face of inequality; hence the Strategy proposes the elimination of all forms of discrimination and exclusion still present in the country: inequalities of gender, of race, between generations, due to birthplace or disabilities.

In the rural sector the poverty and inequality are condensed and expressed in different ways. Therefore, the Strategy proposes concrete mechanisms to overcome regional disparities in Ecuador. Each of the components of the Strategy has been worked from a territorial perspective, establishing territorial priorities. A typology of territories in Ecuador, which have different intervention strategies according to local priorities and the diversity of problems they face, is also presented.



The implementation of the Strategy requires articulated efforts from different sectors of public policy at all levels of government and the society, because eradicating poverty is a responsibility of everyone.

Therefore we invite the citizens, the social and productive organizations, and all levels of government to realize the dream of eradicating poverty and inequality in Ecuador.

**Pabel Muñoz L.**

*Secretary of National  
Planning and Development*

**Ana María Larrea**

*Technical Secretary for the  
Eradication of Poverty*

*Together we shall overcome poverty and inequality!*

# Introduction

The National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty [ENIEP] is an interdependent set of policies, guidelines, directives, programs and mechanisms aimed at materializing government initiatives regarding the historic endeavour of eradicating poverty in Ecuador. It is based on a deep understanding of the causes of poverty in order to provide sustainable answers to the problems of inequality and social exclusion that goes beyond the use of compensatory policies.

The strategy has conceived poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, i.e. the lack of opportunities, anomalies, shortages, discriminations, unacceptable violence, exclusive cultural patterns, and unfair deprivation of certain rights that in conjunction negate the plausibility of Good Living.

It contemplates the eradication of poverty from multi-sector and territorial points of view, relying of course on the active participation of different public, private and community social actors. The Strategy's guidelines aim towards productive diversification, increased productivity that respects the natural habitat, the elimination of asymmetries and the expansion of dignified employment opportunities and income improvement- all whilst taking advantage of the territory's endogenous potential. This takes place on the basis of three components: better access to necessity goods; productive revolution-work and employment; and integral protection of life cycles. Additionally, the changes proposed by the strategy depend on the following caveats: power to the people and collective action; the feasibility and sustainability of the poverty eradication process, and the management of knowledge.



# Eradicating poverty is a moral priority

## CHAPTER 1

# 1

## Eradicating poverty is a moral priority

Poverty is a reflection of unacceptable conditions of inequality, exclusion and violence caused by perverse structures and power alliances. Overcoming poverty is one of the Government's highest duties, and demands the transformation of said social and economic alliances in order to comply with the universal imperative of progressively building a society of Good Living.

### 1.1. Poverty is a political problem

The eradication of poverty entails removing the root of the problem in each one of the social alliances that caused it. In the context of productive economic dynamics generating exclusion and social discrimination, poverty is the result of an unfair distribution of wealth, consolidated by poor historical public policy decisions that have substantiated inequality and impoverished the majority of the population for the benefit of a few.

### 1.2. Poverty seeps into the subconscious

Poverty is understood mainly as the absence or deprivation of "wellbeing", i.e. as a phenomenon that expresses above all an infringement of human rights. The shortages and unfairness suffered by people or social groups cause a degree of frustration in their life projects, to the point of seeping into the very core of their subjectivity.

The key to eliminating the set of pathologies defining poverty entails letting go of the palliative logic established by dominating institutions and operating on the basis of a deeper, more radical democracy capable of tackling the underlying causes of hardship.

### 1.3. Poverty is the ultimate expression of inequality

Poverty is a structural problem of capitalism- historically getting deeper embedded into society due to the power struggles and disputes that have built the social system of values we live in today.

Acts of segregation, exclusion and relegation can be evidenced throughout history- as well as domination and subordination dynamics that are associated with classifications based on gender, sexual orientation, cultural and ethnic matters, disabilities and age, and situations deriving from human mobility: territorial inequality and economic imbalance. Such "Coloniality of Power" makes social integration impossible, further implanting a patriarchal, paternalistic and racist society (Quijano, 2000). The eradication of poverty implies the constitution of a counter-hegemony, a marked change in the existing



relations of power capable of achieving the historic feat of making the demands of the needy a priority for the makers of public policies.

#### 1.4. What poverty? The poverty of rights!

Seen from a human rights perspective, we can have a more comprehensive viewpoint of poverty not just as an issue of inequality and unfairness, but also as a problem of social inefficiency that causes many human beings to insert themselves precariously in the economic, social and political affairs that are pertinent to them. However, from this point of view, the poor stop being needy people getting their dues by means of compensations, and become persons perceived as actual human rights holders. In this sense, by assuming the human rights point of view, the National Strategy for Equality and the Eradication of Poverty (ENIEP) conceives poverty as a situation that indicates encroachment on the rights of the people, or at best, a problem that does not allow the poor to fully exercise their constitutional rights- said rights are in themselves both a goal and a means of getting people to exploit their skills and expand the opportunities available to them.

From this human rights point of view it is a duty of the State - with the co-responsibility of society- to eradicate poverty since it derives from power alliances and exclusive social and economic structures. Thus, by analysing poverty from a multidimensional perspective, other viewpoints emerge. Poverty by food consumption is related to the rights of water and food- i.e. food sovereignty, and thus, also to the production, distribution, access to, preparation and consumption of foodstuffs. Poverty expressed in terms of Unsatisfied Basic Needs (NBI) is related to the right to water, dwelling, education and a healthy environment; whereas poverty seen as a limitation of one's capabilities and liberties refers to the rights of freedom, participation, collective rights, among others.

#### 1.5. Eradicating poverty is achieving Economic Justice

The process of eradicating poverty is essentially a process of structural change demanding emancipation. Instrumental reasoning has separated economy from justice, productivity from solidarity. Talking about the economy immediately has us thinking about income, private property, scarcity, competition, yields, maximum profit and control over the means of production, yet very rarely about distributive justice, equal opportunity and even less about hope.

It is absolutely unfair that in a rich and diverse country like Ecuador there are many living in miserable conditions, enslaved by scarcity. The emancipation of the poor requires that economy and its diverse dynamics allow for, before anything else, the reproduction of life in dignified conditions. All inequalities and hardships are unfair, thus it is not possible to talk about guaranteeing social rights without talking about economic justice. Any economic structure aimed at achieving Good Living has to be equipped with ethics and justice.

Economic justice has a lot to do with distributive efforts being directed at expanding the people's options, opportunities and capabilities.



Milestones and challenges:  
Rights should not be considered favors!

**CHAPTER 2**

# 2

## Milestones and challenges: Rights should not be considered favors!

### 2.1. Measurements, tendencies and causes of poverty in Ecuador

#### 2.1.1. *Causes of Poverty*

Several studies regarding poverty in Ecuador agree that the main reasons behind it are the elevated proportions of inequality, low education levels, political instability, the size of the nuclear family, low productivity, unemployment and underemployment and the limited access to land and other means of production.

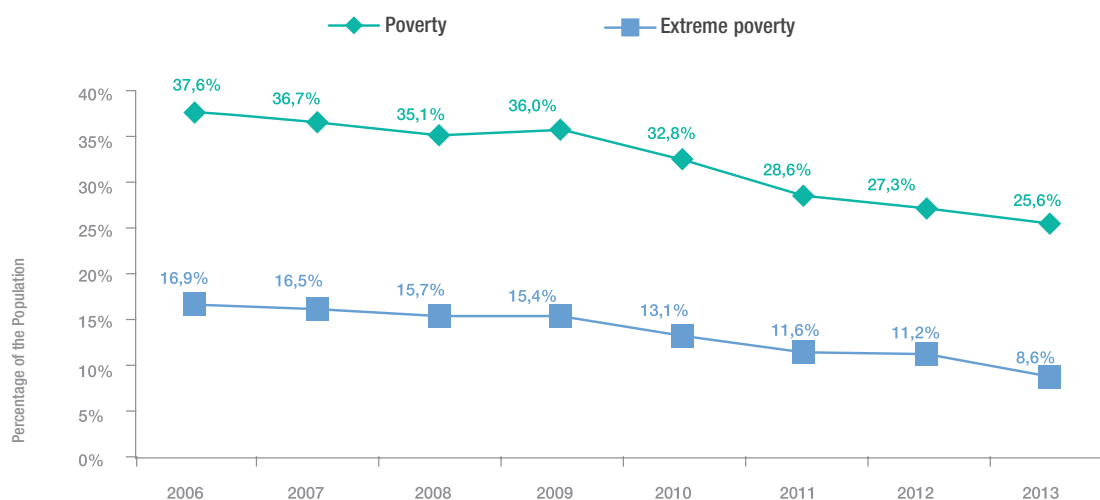
The main cause of poverty due to Unsatisfied Basic Needs (NBI) is the lack of water coverage by public network and sanitation. This dictates that 38 percent of Ecuadorean homes live in poverty by Unsatisfied Basic Needs (NBI) and close to 64,1 percent exist in conditions of extreme poverty by NBI<sup>1</sup>.

#### 2.1.2. *Monetary Poverty*

In Ecuador, according to Living Conditions Surveys (ECV), the incidence of poverty by consumption went from 39,6 percent in 1995 to 38,3 percent in 2006, and suffered a considerable increment in 1998 and 1999 due to the *El Niño* phenomenon and the financial crisis. Up to 2006 it was barely possible to even return to levels of poverty by consumption similar to those in the country before the crisis.

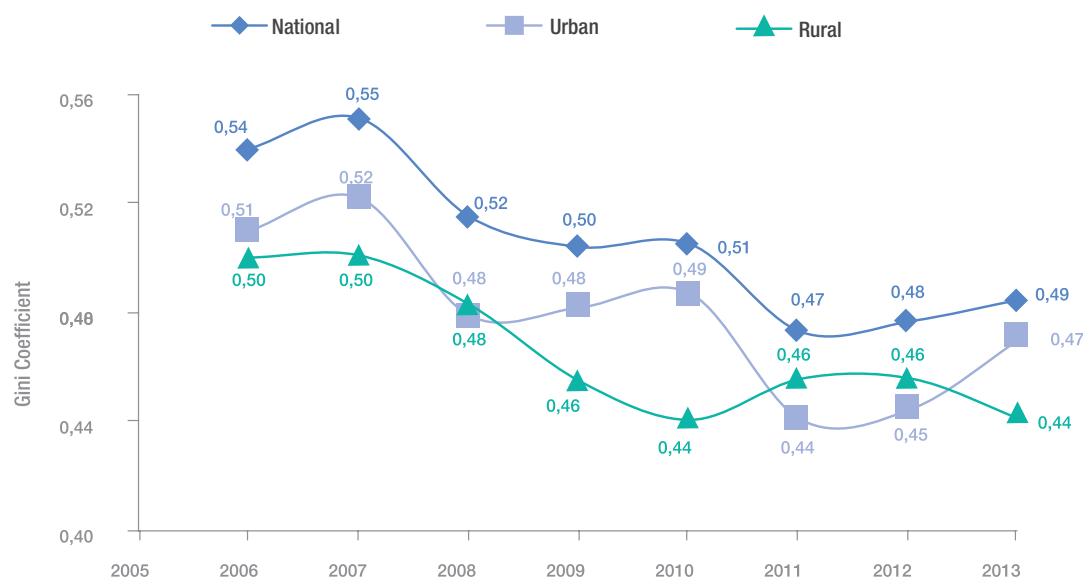
According to the National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment in Urban and Rural Areas [Enemdur], between December 2006 and December 2013, the incidence of poverty by income (Graph 1. Incidence of Poverty by Income) went from 37,60 percent to 25,55 percent, whereas the incidence of extreme poverty went from 16,9 percent to 8,6 percent. That is, more than one million people came out of poverty and more than 900 thousand people overcame extreme poverty in Ecuador during that period.

<sup>1</sup> Estimate carried out by the National Planning and Development Secretariat from information contained in the National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Subemployment in Urban and Rural Areas (INEC, 2013b).

**Graph 1. Incidence of Poverty by Income.**

Source: INEC - National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Subemployment in Urban and Rural Areas [Enemdur], 2006-2013.  
Made by: National Planning and Development Secretariat, Senplades.

Inequality was reduced from 0,54 to 0,49 between 2006 and 2013. The concentration of income in the 10 percent wealthiest population group went from 42,7 percent to 37,29 percent in the same period. Nevertheless, in 2013, the participation of the poorest 10 percent represents just 1,56 percent of the total income (1,17 percent in 2006)<sup>2</sup>. In the meantime, Enemdur calculations show that the relation of the average income per capita between decile 10 and decile 1 went from 37,4 in 2006 to 24,2 in 2013.

**Graph 2. Gini Coefficient<sup>3</sup>**

Source: INEC - Enemdur, 2006-2013.  
Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary - Senplades.

<sup>2</sup> Data from the Integrated Social Indicator System of Ecuador (SIISE) based on the Enemdur (INEC, 2013b).

<sup>3</sup> Measure of inequality showing the relation between the accumulated income percentage and accumulated percentage of the population. A Gini Coefficient equal to 0 indicates a perfectly equal distribution of income, whereas a Gini Coefficient equal to 1 evidences an imbalanced distribution of income.

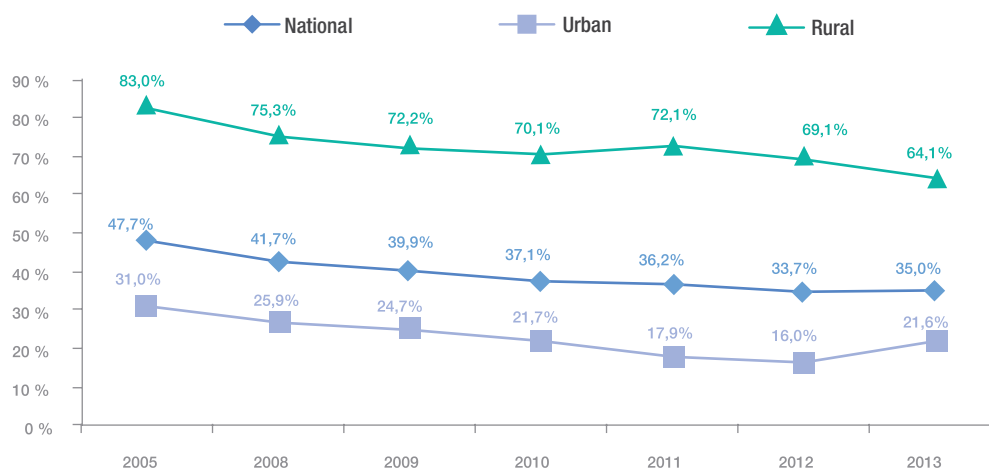


### 2.1.3. Poverty by Unsatisfied Basic Needs (NBI)

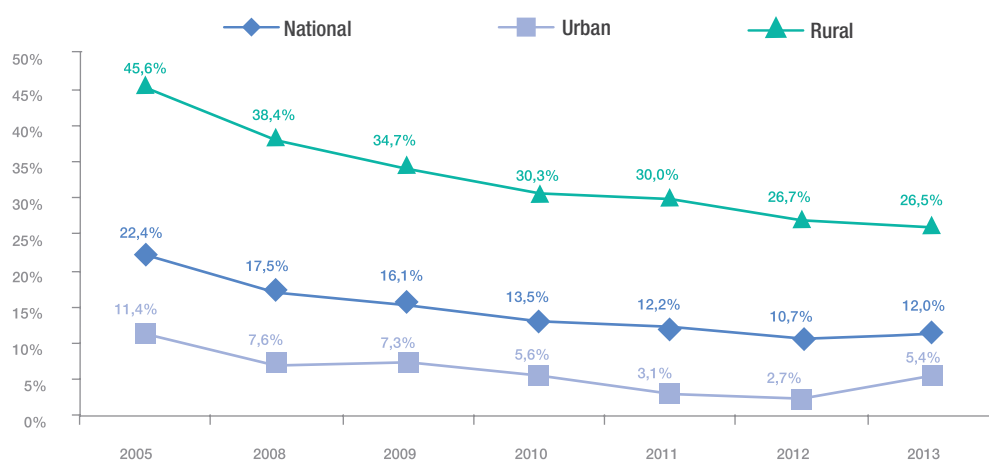
Poverty as defined by Unsatisfied Basic Needs (NBI) exists when within the home one of the following occurs: i) the dwelling is physically inadequate<sup>4</sup> ii) the basic services are inadequate (there is no connection to pipelines or water supply, or the toilet is absent or not connected to sewage or septic tank) iii) there is a high level dependency (i.e. more than three dependants per working adult, and head of the home has maximum two years elementary schooling) iv) in the home there are boys and girls aged between 6 and 12 y.o.a. that do not attend school v) the home is overcrowded (more than three people sleeping in one room).<sup>5</sup> Between 2005 and 2013, the incidence of poverty by Unsatisfied Basic Needs went from 47,7 percent to 35 percent and of extreme poverty from 22,4 percent to 12,0 percent.

**Graph 3.** Incidence of Poverty and Extreme Poverty by Unsatisfied Basic Needs (NBI) (percentage of homes)

#### Poverty



#### Extreme Poverty



Source: INEC – Enemdur, 2005-2013.

Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary - Senplades.

4 External walls made of tin, fabric, cardboard, straw or cane, plastic, or any other waste material of a precarious nature and soil floor.

5 Definition taken from the methodological index of the Integrated Social Indicator System of Ecuador (SIISE), (MCDS, 2014).

The incidence of poverty by NBI is three times higher in rural areas compared to urban ones. It is concentrated in the following regions: Amazon dwellings (47,8 percent in 2013), Central highlands (Bolívar, 51,3 percent; Chimborazo, 45,2 percent) Los Ríos (60 percent), Manabí (59,7 percent), Esmeraldas (51 percent) and Santo Domingo (56,4 percent).<sup>6</sup>

#### *2.1.4. Multidimensional Poverty*

The purpose of constructing a multidimensional index of poverty is to take advantage of its methodological tools to identify the diversity of limitations of rights in the specific segments of the population; and from those particularities to establish a typology of poverty accounting for the main scarcities throughout a life-cycle, and furthermore, to incorporate into the analysis an assessment of poverty with regards to gender, ethnic auto-identification and area of residence.

The right to Good Living constitutes the framework to gather such indicators in the case of Ecuador (Mideros, 2012) in such a way that it is possible to establish a particular correlation or link between the causes and therefore gain knowledge regarding the encroachment or deprivation of the following rights: i) water and food, ii) healthy environment, iii) communication and information, iv) education, v) habitat and dwelling, vi) health, vii) work and social security.

#### *Data and dimensions*

The indicators with regard to Good Living were obtained from Enemdur and correspond to the December 2013 figures. The following chart shows the dimensions associated with Good Living rights along with their respective indicators.

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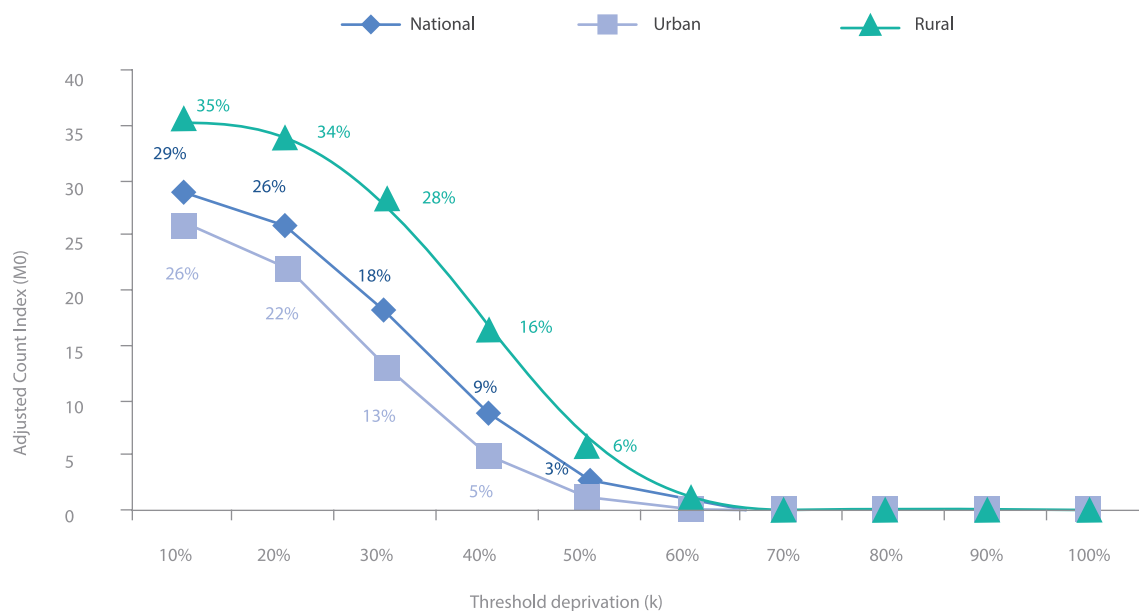
6 Own analysis based on the Enemdur (INEC, 2013b).

**Table 1.** Selected Indicators with relation to Good Living Rights

Dimensions	Indicators	There is deprivation if:
<b>Education and Communication</b>	Participation in infant development programs	An infant does not attend
	Attendance to elementary and high school (net rate)	A child or teenager does not attend
	Access to higher education (there is no deprivation if the person does not wish to attend)	A youngster would like to attend but is unable
	Schooling	Some adult in the home has not completed ten years of schooling
	Illiteracy	An adult person does not know how to read/write
	Digital illiteracy	A family member older than 15 y.o.a does not have an active cell phone and has not used a computer or the internet in the past six months
<b>Work and Social Security</b>	Infants, children and teenagers(12 to 14) at home protected by social security	The heads of the family do not have social security
	Child labor	A member of the family between 5 and 14 y.o.a is working
	Dignified work	A member of the family 15 y.o.a is working in undignified conditions
	Elderly population with social security (includes non contributive pensions)	An elderly person does not have social security
<b>Water, Food and Health</b>	Extreme poverty	The family income does not reach the extreme poverty line
	Running water	There is no running water
	Immunization (has had all five immunizations)	Any infant has not been immunized according to the established immunization calendar
	Need of care	Elderly occupants in the home do not have the necessary care
<b>Habitat and Dwelling</b>	Home ownership	The dwelling is not owned by the occupants
	Overcrowding	More than three people sleep in one bedroom
	Adequate dwelling	The quality of the dwelling and the materials in it are adequate
	Dwelling with an adequate means of dealing with human waste	The dwelling does not have sewage if in an urban area, nor does it have sewages or septic tanks if in a rural place
	Unsafe habitat (insecurity perception index)	The perception of safety (with 1 —being the most unsafe— to 5 —safe) is less than or equal to 3
	Access to the municipal rubbish collection rounds	The dwelling does not have rubbish collection service
<b>Healthy environment</b>	Perception of poor-quality water	Perception of quality of water in the dwelling is (with 1 being the lowest— to 5) less than or equal to 3)
	*Access to greenery	The dwelling has a garden or is near a park

\*This indicator is only applicable to urban areas.

Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary, Social Development Coordinator.

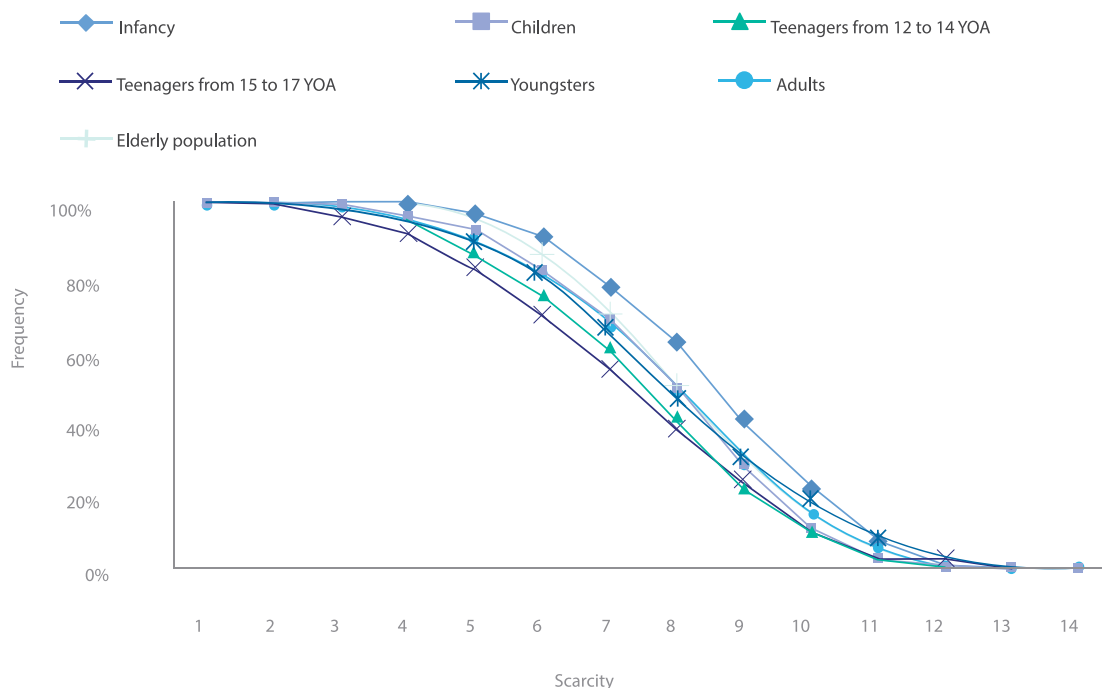
**Graph 4. Adjusted Count Index (M0)**

Source: INEC – Enemdur (2012).

Made by: Technical Secretariat for the Eradication of Poverty – Senplades and Ministry Coordinator of Social Development.

Graph 4 depicts the Multidimensional Poverty Index adjusted (M0) versus different k thresholds. The chosen threshold k corresponds to the 30 percent. Therefore, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in Ecuador for 2012 is 17.9 percent. For urban areas, the rate corresponds to 13 percent of households; while in the rural area, the MPI is adjusted twice, with 28 percent of households.

The etarian groups with the highest level of unsatisfied basic needs are the early infancy ones (over 90 percent have at least 6 unsatisfied basic needs) elderly population from both genders (86 percent of them have at least 6 unsatisfied needs) and children of both genders (81 percent of them have at least 6 unsatisfied basic needs).

**Graph 5. Accumulated inverse scarcity distribution: extreme poverty by income**

Source: INEC, Enemdur, 2012.

Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary, Senplades.



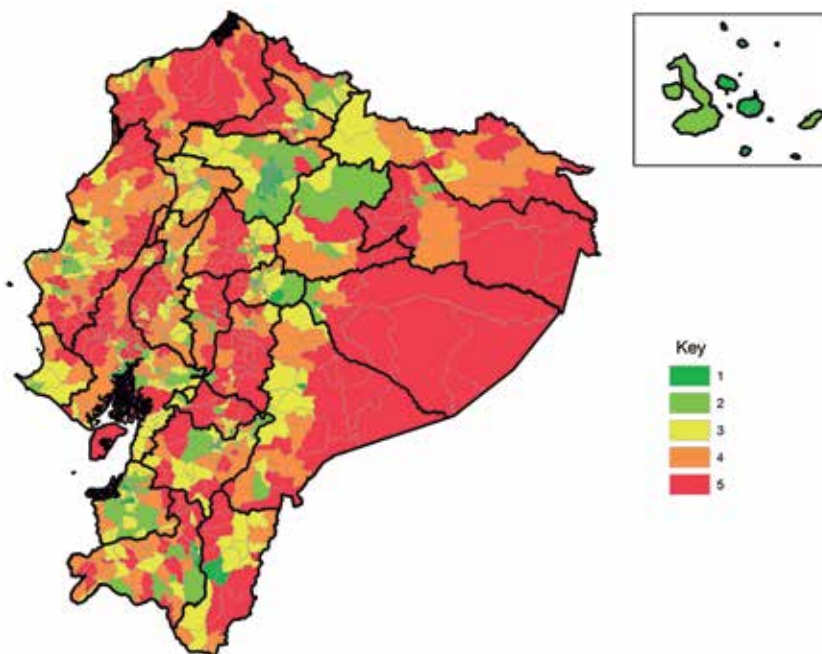
### 2.1.5. Poverty and Territorial Districts

The ENIEP (The National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty), focuses its transformation proposals among various territorial districts. This approach speeds up the ranking of the policies among the various sectors incorporating at the same time the demands and initiatives of the local community.

This territorial approach makes possible the analysis of the social, productive, cultural, and political dynamics which embrace in a differential manner, a given territorial district. The Strategy understands the territory as a socially built space whereby the population maintains social links which are various and intense. The territorial public action in Ecuador has been organized through areas of planning, administrative districts and areas which enable to rationally program the access to different public goods and services, thus enabling the closure of gaps.

The ranking of territorial priority districts considered as study units, analyzes them according to 17 indicators framed in the rights of Good Living.

**Map 1.** National prioritization index in the national territory by areas - National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of poverty.



Source: INEC, Population and Dwelling Census , 2001, 2010 Living Conditions Survey , 2006.  
Cartographic Information: INEC, Political Administrative Division, 2010.  
Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary, Senplades.

The map of territorial districts shows that the most severe social conditions appear in the rural area of the Amazon; in the mountain region it can be seen that the most critical territories are in the central region (specifically in the provinces of Cotopaxi, Chimborazo and Bolivar), and also critical situations appear in the provinces of Carchi and Imbabura. Meantime in the coastal region the serious problems are in Esmeraldas, Manabi, Los Rios and Guayas. Galapagos on the other hand shows relatively high living conditions in relation to other areas of the country.

Five kinds of territorial districts were identified. The areas pertaining to the first groups from less to more, are the ones found in better conditions, and those which are placed at the highest level are those which show the greatest conditions of vulnerability, refer to table 2.

**Table 2.** Territorial prioritization typology, average coverage of access to the rights to Good Living.

Typology	Elementary and High School	Illiteracy	Workers with Social Security	Dwellings with Running Water	Adequate Dwelling	Health care per 10,000 inhabitants	Digital illiteracy	Rubbish collection Services
1	87,0%	3,7%	46,6%	95,0%	69,7%	53,3%	17,8%	97,0%
2	82,9%	8,9%	32,8%	77,2%	45,2%	15,9%	28,8%	82,2%
3	79,1%	13,4%	27,8%	55,7%	32,4%	7,0%	36,4%	64,6%
4	76,0%	17,8%	25,7%	37,2%	23,4%	3,5%	41,8%	38,4%
5	71,6%	26,6%	18,2%	26,6%	17,3%	2,2%	53,2%	19,0%

Source: INEC, Population and Dwelling Census, 2010.  
Made by: Secretaría Técnica para la Erradicación de la Pobreza, Senplades.

In the central mountainous region and the coast, the greatest problems are monetary poverty, inequality, and lack of access to usable land and other employment opportunities, and the growing soil erosion; while in the Amazon region the most important ones are the lack of infrastructure, added to disinterest in agricultural activities, as well as the very little productive diversification. In this region it is necessary to strengthen the programs of rural development which combine the promotion of the improvement of the soils along with programs of productive diversification towards rural activities which are not agriculture and animal husbandry.

## 2.2. Inequalities

The diversity in Ecuador has historically provoked inequality, due to the fact that some individuals, groups or cultural entities have been subjected to unfavorable or negative treatment because of their origin and cultural identity, skin colour, sexual orientation, religion, poverty, age, disability, gender and/ or human mobility<sup>7</sup>. This situation shows itself in inequalities with regard to the enjoyment of the rights to citizenship.

Both the Ecuadorean constitution as well as international legislation, have established a specific regulation regarding the rights of both genders to be well treated, and the principles of equality and non discrimination.

In Ecuador the advancement in the satisfaction of social rights has been very important due to the active participation of the State, especially from 2007. This progress is reflected in promising results in the reduction of gaps in education, health, housing and unemployment. However, there persists inequalities which must be seen in order to focus efforts in those aspects which have to be the object of public policy, and which will help in the elimination of gaps and the achievement of real equality in the enjoyment of rights in the context of a society which is diverse, intercultural, and multicultural.

<sup>7</sup> Senplades, 2013a, pp. 8.

### 2.2.1. Education

Basic education<sup>8</sup> in 2003 reached 96 percent coverage, and the gaps which affected women, indigenous populations and afro Ecuadorean populations have disappeared. The expansion of educational coverage has been an historical achievement, above all at the level of high school education. The net rate of attendance at the high school level rose from 46 percent in 2001, to 81 percent in 2013.

According to ENEMDUR 2013, major gaps in relation to illiteracy affect mainly indigenous women. Illiteracy in this group reaches 28.3%, four times the national average. Years of schooling<sup>9</sup> of the population are increasing positively, from 8,2 in 2001 to 9,7 in 2013, according to the INEC-SIISE.

There remain inefficiencies in the educational system with respect to its levels of quality, importance, and ability to complete the years of study.

### 2.2.2. Health

The inclusion and the number of people covered by the health services have had significant achievements during the last decade. The average number of people covered by health services has risen from 37 doctors in 2001 to 50 doctors in 2010 for every 10,000 inhabitants. The gaps between the countryside and the city in so far as the access to health services, have also been reduced, although they still continue to be large.

In accordance with the administrative registry of vital statistics of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), the infant mortality rate has been reduced from 17.3 in 2001, to 10.11 in 2011 per each thousand infants born alive. Also, important advances can be observed both in life expectancy at birth and a reduction in the global fertility rate. However, there are serious problems of public health such as chronic infant malnutrition among five year olds, which is still adversely affecting 25 percent of the children in the country, especially those of the Indigenous race and the ones in the rural mountain areas (according to Ensanut<sup>10</sup> 2012 / National Health and Nutrition Survey). Infant mortality in the country areas is greater (accounting for 35 children per 1000 being born) in relation to the cities (which accounts for 25 per 1000 born), affecting to a greater extent the mountainous region and the Amazon.

Although the Gini index of concentration of health personnel went down 9 points in the period between 2001 and 2010 at the national level, there exists a concentration of health services in the main cities; in Quito the availability of medical doctors was 92 for every 10,000 inhabitants in 2010, while the national average was 50, and in 82 parishes of the Amazon region with a total of 84,000 inhabitants, there were no health personnel. There are certain health indicators that have not had positive advancement; the rate of teenage pregnancies has not experienced any important reduction since 1990.

### 2.2.3. Housing

Housing conditions in general have improved in the country in the latest years, especially recently. One of the most important achievements is the coverage of electricity services by public networks in the rural areas, which during 2013 benefited 93.7 percent of the

8 Article 42 of the Organic Law of Intercultural Education (LOEI) states that basic general education develops skills, abilities, and competences of children and adolescents, from five years of age and older. The basic general education consists of 10 years of compulsory attendance, during which the skills and competences acquired in the previous stage are reinforced, broadened and deepened, and the basic disciplines are introduced, ensuring the cultural and linguistic diversity

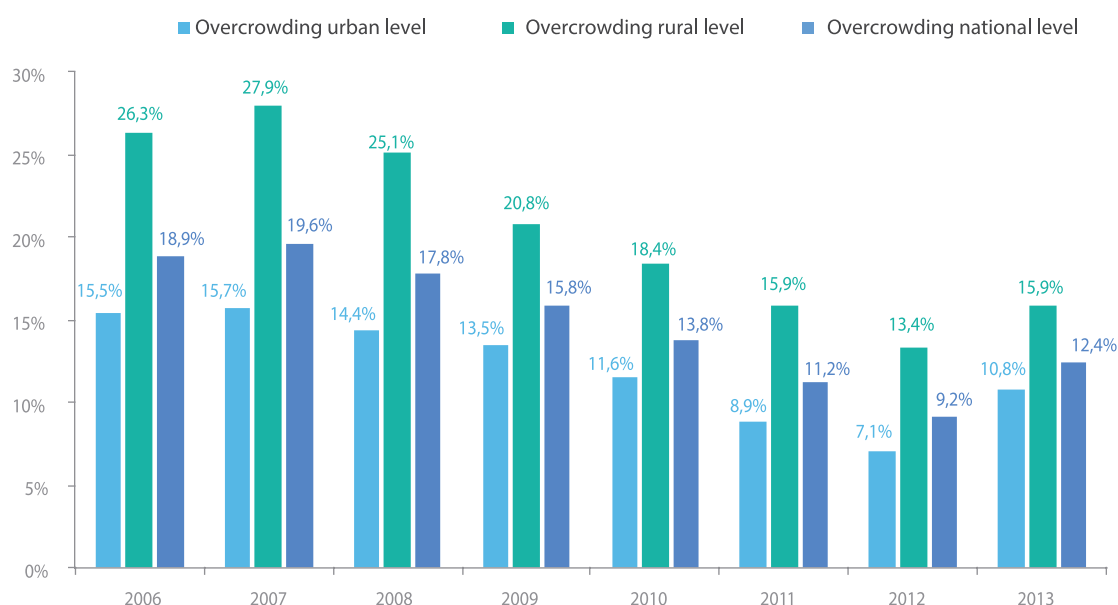
9 According to the INEC-SIISE, schooling is defined as the average number of school years approved in institutions of formal education at primary and secondary levels, higher university, non-university higher and postgraduate, for persons 24 years and over age.

10 Ensanut is The National Health and Nutrition Survey 2012, carried out by the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for Statistics and Census.

households in the country, while during 1990 this was 52 percent. The lack of water and sewage services is more severe in the rural areas, especially in the coast.

Overcrowding<sup>11</sup> has diminished 7 percent between 2006 and 2013. This contraction is greater in the rural areas, where it has reduced in 10 percent, while in the urban areas the reduction was 5 percent.

**Graph 6.** Overcrowding percentages in Ecuador ( 2006-2013)



Source: INEC, Enemdur, 2006-2013.

Made by: Socio Environmental Unit UASB & Center of Planning and Social Studies (Ceplaes).

## 2.2.4. Employment

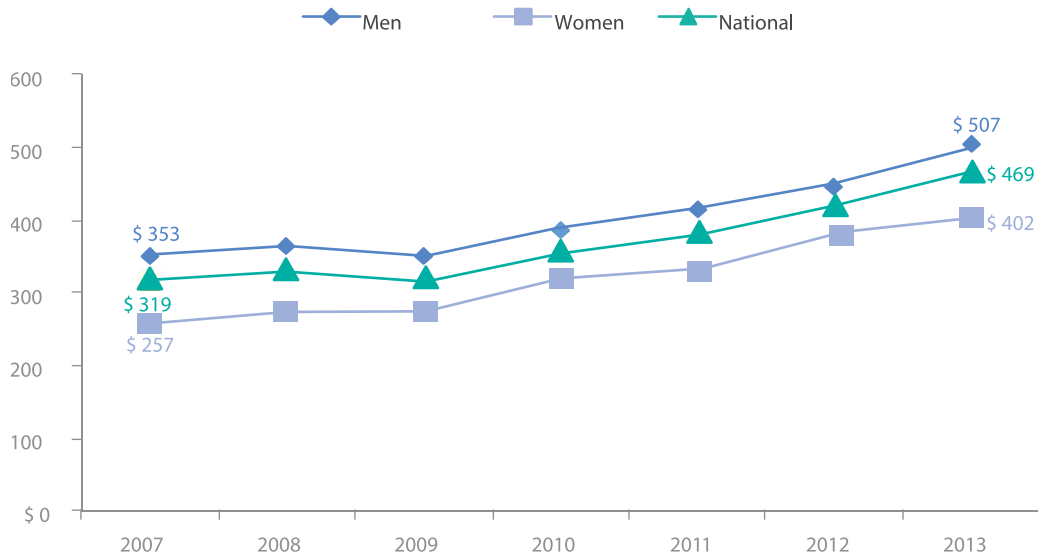
The indicators of appropriate employment<sup>12</sup> show an increase in the percentage of workers from 11 percent in 2007, to 20 percent in 2011. Although the levels of dignified employment are still low, they show a considerable increase due to the widening in the coverage of the social security services and increase in real salaries, which during the same period increased 55 percent. On the other hand, the unemployment rate has remained moderate, reaching 4,16 percent in 2013. Also, child labor has shown an important decline. However, there remain important problems of a structural order in the Ecuadorean labor system which is shown by the percentage of under employed people, which is still high.

In so far as the social factors which affect salaries, a discriminatory structure against women and Indigenous workers is still present. In conditions of equality as far as education and labor experience, the salaries obtained by women in December 2013 were 26 percent less in relation to the salaries of men, while salaries of the Indigenous in relation to the rest of society, were 40 percent less.

11 According to the INEC's Methodological Index, in Ecuador, overcrowding is when there are more than three people in one room.

12 This concept is defined as a working relation that is in compliance with minimum conditions i.e. an income that is sufficient to cover basic needs, enrollment with social security, a stable appointment or contract, working Schedule not surpassing 48 hours per week and that the worker be between 15 and 64 y.o.a (Senplades, 2013a).



**Graph 7.** Average working income, by gender (2007 – 2013).

Fuente: INEC, Enemdur, 2007-2013.

Elaboración: Unidad de Información Socio Ambiental UASB y Ceplaes.

In spite of the advances with respect to social inclusion and equality, the remaining challenge is still very large. The challenge for The National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty (ENIEP) is to achieve coordinated State action that finally eliminates the structures of unfair living conditions which have historically been characteristic to Ecuadorean society.



# Towards the end of Poverty!

## CHAPTER 3

## 3

## Towards the end of Poverty!

The Strategy sets out the fulfilment of concrete goals up to 2017 in order to progressively eliminate the conditions of continuous increase in the poverty of the population. Pursuing a multidimensional approach of rights and capabilities, it establishes three necessary conditions to achieve a structural change. It organizes the actions along three components which are explained in the following chapters.

### 3.1. Conditions for Change

The conditions for structural change which will ensure the eradication of poverty in Ecuador are: popular power and collective action, sustainability and maintenance in the process of wiping out poverty, and the management of knowledge.

#### 3.1.1. Popular Power and Collective Action

Social inequalities tend to strengthen when the powers upon which they are based are characterized by appropriation, command and punishment, and when their political action is devoted mainly to ensure the dominance of the groups which have this power. The extreme social inequality, the discrimination, the labor and commercial exploitation, the concentration of the means of production, and the exploitation of the human beings weakened by the powerful, constitute the roots of the social and economic problems which bleed society, and translate into poverty.

In this context the construction of popular power and collective action allow to create changes in the way of social interaction which is absolutely necessary to eradicate poverty, in togetherness and along with the people, both organized and not organized, making possible that the social transformation commitment emerges as a movement with structural character. Thanks to collective action public policy will be able to make sense of the data, realistically evaluate the goals, and listen to the messages of the people.

#### Transversal Guidelines

**1** Widen the social networks, establish and strengthen the local places for dialogue, participate and interact with the citizens in order to radicalize democracy, and progressively build a community living under the principles of cooperation, solidarity, responsibility, “*aprendiencia*” (learning and science), and taking care of the environment.

#### STRATEGIES

- 1.1 Develop instruments to incorporate the principles of cultural ownership, cooperation and co-responsibility in the planning process and territorial endeavours in order to strengthen social togetherness and deepening of the social networks.
- 1.2 Promote citizen participation collectively or individually in the adoption of decisions, accountancy, the control and actual materialization of those actions in the public matters which affect the rural population, favoring the emergence of social agreements and shared projects.

- 1.3 To create or widen the networks of cooperation among women in the territories and encourage debate over matters of inequality and shared opportunities, and the active participation of women in the establishment and control of gender policies.
- 1.4 To strengthen by sectors the Citizenship Councils in order to accompany and supervise the performance of territorial policies and programs, and to reflect upon those collective matters submitted to public questioning.
- 1.5 To progressively build democracy and increase the access of the producer and the rural communities to the information, and to build tools and incentives which enable the “joined organization” among its participants, to strengthen the cooperation and the relations of solidarity, confidence and reciprocity.
- 1.6 To rescue, to care for, to protect and enhance public spaces, and develop leisure, meeting, and recreation activities, in order to generate sense of local identity, building sustainable lifestyles, making good living with the others.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

- 2.** To develop and implement culturally relevant social communication systems fostering the strengthening of community networks so as to form proactive human groups capable of materializing their own Good Living.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 2.1 To improve the individual and group abilities giving impulse to innovation through the creation of educational tools for communication, to strengthen collective understanding and learning, and to promote the interaction between participants and agents.
- 2.2 To formulate, innovate, and put into practice, shared communicational practices which favor the emergence of a democratic culture of shared responsibility and care of the public goods, greater subjective integration of shared identities, so that the communities become actors of the actions and decisions which would affect the changes.
- 2.3 To build mechanisms of educational community directed towards the creation of a civic culture which enables the consolidation of a Constitutional State of Rights and Justice, and to strengthen the democratic institutions in order that the population knows the framework of protection norms which is offered by the Constitution and the Law.
- 2.4 To promote the Good Living in rural districts, the identification and analysis of social networks in order to know the local social structure, the relationships among actors and agents, their interests and dynamics, seeking to discover the links of mutual relationships, the morally formalized mechanisms of social support, and increase social links and ways of association.
- 2.5 To develop tools of educational communication which allow the establishment of the Good Living values, relationships based on respect, confidence, care, dialogue, creativity or learning; to encourage the social action starting with collective participation processes, of active citizenship with a capacity for innovation and proposal.
- 2.6 To create processes of educational community which would contribute to the symbolic enrichment of the identity and the strengthening in the sense of belonging to the local society, attempting to dismantle dominant ways, discrimination and violent attitudes which hinder social togetherness and peaceful community living.

2.7 To improve the trust of the local population in the public institutions whose function is to provide public goods, increasing the effectiveness in the application of the public policies, the importance and transparency in the implementation of programs and projects.

2.8 To encourage the social and environmental responsibility of the public media to expose communication contexts which are plural, timely, and diverse -as ethical principles- which promote a culture free from stereotypes.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**3.** To enclose and strengthen the ability of the communities and rural organizations for actions and negotiation, building and improving the necessary incentives and mechanisms to widen the social activities and cooperation.

#### *STRATEGIES*

3.1 To create and multiply economic togetherness by setting forth the validity of various experiences and the application of cooperation mechanisms among organizations of country producers and among small and medium rural enterprises.

3.2 To establish incentives which encourage the organizational proximity and the strengthening within the links of cooperation and interdependency among rural firms of various sizes, to encompass abilities and capacities to add value and earn innovation capacity; substantially increasing the elements which will allow the associative processes to become more efficient and to bear fruit, and to afford access to the markets in a continuous manner.

3.3 To face the direct discrimination towards women inside the local communities, promoting the mutual responsibility of the males in daily chores, and to promote the gender equilibrium among the community members.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**4.** To increase the support towards the protection, updating, conservation and management of the cultural patrimony, both tangible and intangible, starting with the community and for the enjoyment of everyone.

#### *STRATEGIES*

4.1 To maintain the collective and individual memory belonging to the rural districts, and put them to the service of all the citizens, and encouraging the disciplinary encounters of the community, and the investigation about the social memory and the cultural patrimony of the local lands, as sources of identity and understanding of the cultural diversity.

### *3.1.2. The Maintenance and Continuance of a Free From Poverty Social Matrix*

The above indicated maintenance constitutes an ethical principle related to the peoples' values to establish relationships with the other community members and the PachaMama (Mother Earth), including the acknowledgement of the interdependency between the basic necessities of the human being and the demands of the environment, encompassing the notions of equality. Its understanding forces us to denounce intolerable developments of modern social living. Inequality provokes by the excessive concentration of wealth, resources, opportunities, and the use of energy, the creation of poverty as a result of unlimited growth of the economic product and consumption.



The maintenance in the process of eradication of poverty implies having the necessary resources to ensure the structural change, the promotion of shared responsibility both personal and collective, for the removal of extreme poverty in the country. This maintenance also includes the consolidation of the economic and social solidarity system, by placing the (re)distribution of income and the human being over the economic growth and profit system. The constitution establishes this as a duty of the State, public investment and economic regulation.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**5.** To guarantee the obedience to the rights of nature, the provision of the communal goods in a shared and sustainable manner, as well as the maintenance of the process of transformation of the productive matrix.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 5.1 To promote a greater impact of social investment through the incorporation of the environmental component in the planning and development of cross section policies.
- 5.2 To set forth the precaution principle in the participative processes of territorial planning being introduced.
- 5.3 To create an environmental conscience, and to generate the institutional and social capabilities to control and revert the degradation and erosion processes of the soil in the rural territories; to rank and establish good productive practices, and to design complete integral strategies to encourage the continuous use of the land.
- 5.4 To strengthen the ability of both the public and private sectors to detect the local environmental problems, the present or possible risk factors, and to elaborate solutions, prevention, alleviation or adjustment alternatives; and take part in the definition of policies in its shared instrumentation and the evaluation of its effects.
- 5.5 To encourage social and rational participation in the activities required by the big and small river basins and surrounding areas, through investigation of these areas and the transmission of important information among the various levels of government, the rural organizations, and the private sector, in order to improve the efficiency and quality of its management.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**6.** To promote the sustainable management of the agricultural economic system to stop the loss of agricultural land, and to guarantee the protection and recuperation in the fertility of the farming soil.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 6.1 To set up an indispensable regulatory framework for the expansion of agricultural and livestock frontiers and the unsustainable extension of agro-industrial monoculture and extensive farming.
- 6.2 To progressively increase productivity, maintain soil fertility and minimize contamination, thus transforming the traditional agricultural production systems into ecological and organic ones and facilitating said transition.

- 6.3 To foster the development of clean production based on ecological principles, aggregating value to organic produce, origin certification and implantation of alternative quality control systems and certification that will guide all productive activities to the health standards demanded by the market.
- 6.4 To regulate the expansion of urban areas over soils with agricultural value and surrounding natural habitats.
- 6.5 To provide the people with tools and knowledge for the conservation and care of the environment by means of territorial training programs and educational communication.
- 6.6 To carry out specific studies relating to advantageous soil patterns and management, and conservation practices.
- 6.7 To implement comprehensive programs aimed at increasing vegetable coverage and prioritizing the planting of endemic tree species, the increment of biomass and local organic matter as well as the recovery of eroded soils.
- 6.8 To systematize and catalogue the rural experiences and best practices for the sustainable management of agricultural ecosystems; to validate, promote and broadcast these practices.
- 6.9 To investigate, test, validate, and disseminate agricultural production practices that improve or strengthen nutrient recycling processes and optimize their availability, improvement of soil and water biology, reduction of losses caused by insects, weeds and pathogens, through bioinputs and the encouragement of beneficial fauna.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

- 7** To improve the levels of agricultural and agro-industrial productivity by decreasing reliance on fossil energy, agro-chemicals, antibiotics, and fully eradicate the use of products that may be harmful to humans and the environment.

### *STRATEGIES*

- 7.1 To drastically lessen the use of fossil energy in agriculture and promote its replacement with intensive practices using renewable energy.
- 7.2 To develop, on a territorial scale, clean energy technologies that are locally appropriate and not too sophisticated -requiring endogenous resources and are easily applied- in order to promote a sustainable agriculture that uses renewable energy.
- 7.3 To regulate and zonify the production of agro-combustibles and develop innovative methods for their production without affecting the lands destined to food security and sovereignty and taking into consideration any droughts resulting from climate change.
- 7.4 To remove pollutants from the environment and restore the quality of agricultural ecosystems by developing and applying recovery techniques reliant on bioremediation and phytoremediation and natural mitigation methods.
- 7.5 To promote low energy consumption economic-productive dynamics, and above all to propose innovations fostering new forms of production and consumption patterns featuring low carbon emission and efficient use of energy.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**8.** To strengthen capabilities in Decentralised Autonomous Councils (GAD), institutions, rural communities and urban neighbourhoods to improve risk management efforts and mitigation measures as well as to adapt to climate change from territorial viewpoints.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 8.1 To incorporate contingency plans, precautionary, adaptation and social management measures to deal with the effects of climate change in poverty eradication programs.
- 8.2 To incorporate risk management processes into the planning of Good Living on a territorial scale as well as into Development Plans and Territorial Ordainment (PD&OT) plans in order to decrease the population's vulnerability when in the face of hydro-meteorological threats that could affect service infrastructure and provision.
- 8.3 To systematize local experiences in a bid to rescue knowledge about the adaptation strategies of the rural communities and neighborhood organisations regarding climate change.
- 8.4 To implement mechanisms and techniques that will allow for the improvement of the adaptation capabilities in the communities and villages living in agro-ecosystems and hydrographic basins, in the face of potential impacts of climate change- and in particular any extreme meteorological phenomena including excessive rainfall, flooding and landslides.
- 8.5 To develop local resilience for the management of climate change, particularly in the case of the poor and vulnerable.
- 8.6 To promote -in conjunction with the competent institutions- the relocation of urban and rural settlements located in unmitigated and environmentally sensitive risk areas as well as to set forth social plans for mitigation of any events of this nature.
- 8.7 To promote the investigation and experimentation regarding local environmental issues.
- 8.8 To improve the early alert and control systems in place for the monitoring and opportune attention of the population. To identify and mitigate threats and social vulnerabilities in the face of natural and anthropical events.
- 8.9 To incorporate contingency plans in the case of potential changes of sea-level that may affect the infrastructure and services in coastal areas.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**9.** To set up social management processes shared between the State and local community in order to protect hydrographical basins as a means of guaranteeing the sustainability of common goods and food sovereignty.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 9.1 To incorporate PD&OT in the management of hydrographic basins and micro-basins.
- 9.2 To strengthen the institutions in charge of systemic management of the hydrographic basins in different territories and generate institutional capability (including system support to the management and norms) regulating the use of hydric resources. Also to define common rights, avoid erosion, and the sedimentation of rivers and water bodies;

to control river branches and punish contamination by chemical and toxic waste affecting both superficial and deep waters.

9.3 To generate within the territories, systems for collecting basic information regarding hydrographic basins- particularly regarding offer, demand, and water quality; and to define decision models deriving from the hydrologic behaviour of the basins, underground water, flow and sediment load on rivers.

9.4 To regulate and control liquid seepage and residual water settling into bodies of water and to ensure compliance with sound water regulation practices by Decentralised Autonomous Councils (GAD), the industry and agro-industry.

9.5 To strengthen equal and sustainable redistribution mechanisms for drinking water, irrigation water and basic sanitation services in all districts and areas of Ecuador by means of inter-institutional agreements ensuring protection from hoarding and degradation of water resources in urban and rural locations.

9.6 To guarantee the provision of services, drinking water and sanitation in particular, to the neediest communities and neighborhoods.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**10.** To ensure State resources are readily available for the implementation of the Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty as a means to affirm social emancipation and social mobility processes – hence substantiating government participation in the realm of society.

### *STRATEGIES*

10.1 To articulate productive and social investment on a territorial scale so as to increase levels of efficiency and quality of public investment considering alternative uses of resources and their costs of opportunity. To set up concrete programs in this regard so as to gain effective results and promote the liaison of inter-sector organizations.

10.2 To carry out retrospective analyses that will allow for the elimination of subsidies and taxes distorting the use of or fostering inefficiency in the use of social investment. To schedule said analyses periodically so as to ensure a sustainable increase of the resources over a period of time.

10.3 To plan financing of social policies and programs establishing standards regarding the structure and composition of social investment, ensuring widespread coverage and taking into careful consideration the cyclical fluctuation of actual tax revenues.

10.4 To make advancements in the decentralization and/or deconcentration of public social services and their complementary integration into a network- including private services- with the aim of optimizing operational costs and dynamizing them.

10.5 To avoid regressions in the tax system by ensuring the poor and middle classes pay proportionally less tax than the rich. To achieve the fair and efficient collection of tax monies, the transparent and rational management of the budget and equilibrium of public debt.

10.6 To identify the different risks potentially affecting communities and incorporate measures for their prevention and mitigation, focusing on organizational measures that will solidify the population's resilience and making certain that efforts will be made to rehabilitate and reconstruct the affected communities.

### Transversal Guidelines

**11.** To oversee that the changes in the economic structures promote inclusion and social innovation, economic independence and environmental sustainability – seeking an equal distribution of wealth in the society.

#### STRATEGIES

- 11.1 To potentiate the State's re-distributive capabilities on the different levels of inequality, particularly those relating to access to means of production, knowledge, opportunities and power.
- 11.2 To guarantee the people's access to production assets, keeping equal opportunities open and encouraging a fair distribution of the capital and work factors.
- 11.3 To guarantee the workers' right to form Unions to protect themselves from situations of inequality; thus, encouraging them to create and join said unions to defend their working rights both individually and collectively without fear of discrimination and without previous authorization in accordance with the Law.
- 11.4 To enable the materialization of deals and negotiations aimed at increasing salaries on a collective level that will improve the chances of social mobility, working conditions and fair retribution among the participants in the productive process, establishing equalitarian trends in the primary distribution of income.

### Transversal Guidelines

**12.** To strengthen citizen co-responsibility for the care and efficient use of public funds by means of shared learning, educational communication and increased participation.

#### STRATEGIES

- 12.1 To increase social linking, i.e. the conversations and interactions among social and institutional actors, thus improving the volume and quality of participation in social networking sites, groups and environments as a means of improving cooperative learning and subjectivity.
- 12.2 To promote the setting up of stable socio-political agreements as a means of protecting social public investment, stabilizing it and making it progressive, therefore guaranteeing the people's rights and encouraging their participation.
- 12.3 To promote multiculturalism, pushing forward with social conditions that favor solidarity and responsibility.
- 12.4 To ensure that all entrepreneurial activities, both national and transnational, whatever be their size and legitimate activity, actively comply with and respect labor laws and regulations and work towards dignifying and continuously improving working conditions and income. That they consistently act in the public interest and in observance of their responsibility within the social and environmental context.
- 12.5 To integrate the vision of the Good Living principles to the activities of both public and private enterprises. To respect multiculturalism and the ethical principles of peasants, laborers, communities, nationalities, villages etc... as well as nature.



### 3.1.3. Management of knowledge for a learning society

The success of the Good Living strategy depends on the continuous learning of the people and communities as a must in order to nourish individual and social creativity.

The Strategy seeks the emergence of new collective learning opportunities and public environments where dialogue and thought can flourish, impacting positively and creatively on networking, so that these new contacts may foster creativity and innovation, and stimulate the people on an intellectual level.

**Illustration 1.** Learning Societies



Source: National Planning and Development Secretary, 2013.

The Strategy proposes opening broadcasting and shared learning opportunities whereby the unconscious knowledge, (i.e. knowledge directly deriving from human interaction and the environment, through daily life generation after generation) as well as scientific knowledge interact at the same time maintaining their autonomy but not blocking each other out, in such a way that the result will be a society that is thirsty for learning and is all-round better equipped to face the changing natural and social environments affecting their livelihoods.

### Transversal Guidelines

**13.** To develop the thinking skills, learning capabilities and intelligences of all Ecuadorean men and women throughout their lives so that they realize their full potential and are able to relish in the Good Living experience, whilst elevating the country's level of education.

#### STRATEGIES

13.1 To ensure that all people finish their good-quality basic education and keep on acquiring the knowledge, skills, and capabilities that will allow them to think creatively and explore the world, thus opening opportunities to continue their studies throughout their lives and in different environments.

- 13.2 To improve the quality of education on all levels and at all ages; including economic-financial education (consisting on making sound economic and financial decisions) and informal apprenticeships, to continuously activate the intellectual and subjective potential of the people, hence encouraging them to find answers to problems and produce innovative solutions as a means of establishing a social framework that is proactive, empathic and respectful.
- 13.3 To continuously improve the contents of educational material at all levels in agreement with the rights of Good Living; as well as renovate the basic teaching-learning processes and the development of basic competences and educational instruments for their rational and systematized application, all the while fostering curiosity, discerning spirit and self-confidence.
- 13.4 To oversee the academic curricula to ensure they are organized in viewpoints from different fields and that they continuously set the bar for academic performance, while being in tune with peoples' needs, sensibilities and vocation. Also to ensure there are links between the subjects undertaken and the social and productive needs of the country.
- 13.5 To accept continuous evaluation of education and feedback as a means of perfecting policies, correcting deficiencies and progressive improvement of the quality of teaching/learning that is paramount for achieving high academic levels.
- 13.6 To ethically enrich language processes considering the word as an official mediator of the educational process. This will improve the contents and quality of communication, the actual use of language and media and instruments available to successfully transmit information, imagery, messages and meanings.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**14.** To cause the progressive revelation of an empowering education whose cognitive methods of teaching both rationally and creatively will ensure compliance with the Good Living principles and give way to a society that is continuously learning.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 14.1 To conceive school as a space that is made up of inter-dependent compartments that are fully committed to the social and cultural environment, community, village life, the farm, the health center, community center and other public places and to the common good, so that knowledge becomes integrated to action, creation and decision.
- 14.2 To foster the creation of shared learning networks and exchange among communities with different knowledges. So much so as to encourage cognitive hybridization and develop a culture of continuous learning and innovation.
- 14.3 To stimulate the replication and exchange of educational experiences both inside and out of the classroom in order to cause involvement in deep and significant learning processes in the people throughout their lives.
- 14.4 To foster interdisciplinary contests, encouraging the exchange of knowledge and experiences as well as integrated, contextualized learning so as to open sharing opportunities based on equality, sustainability and justice.
- 14.5 To offer opportunities for shared unconscious and scientific learning, maintaining their autonomy but not blocking each other out, in such a way that the result will be a society that is thirsty for learning and is all-round better equipped to face the changing natural and social environments affecting their livelihoods.

14.6 To promote experiences regarding education and learning based on equality, cooperation and respect, even if they are contrary or unknown, in such a way as to avoid falling into paternalistic, patriarchal and machista relations.

14.7 To foster the creation of living environments that will stimulate collective practices of creativity and production which will -along with some imagination- transcend standard teaching/learning modalities and transform education into a political affair rather than a pedagogical one.

### *Transversal Guidelines*

**15.** To strengthen learning, training, and technological innovation so as to put knowledge and technology to the service of systemic production, productive diversification and the creation of new products with improved added value.

#### *STRATEGIES*

15.1 To extend and improve connectivity and technological media as a means for broadcasting knowledge, information, technical know-how and necessary capabilities as a means of dynamizing productive diversification processes and economic justice as well as encouraging sustainable forms of production and consumption.

15.2 To support the continuous development of skills, capabilities, and competences that will allow people to work with cutting edge technology in order to make productive processes more effective and efficient; making those that the productive revolution demands a priority, thus complying with the objectives of Good Living.

15.3 To identify scenarios, paths, necessities and opportunities for social and technological innovation, analysing the interaction between technological supply and demand and making an inventory of capabilities and competences both on a national and institutional level.

15.4 To incentivate the emergence of innovating activities translated into new products or services as well as novel productive methods for the use of eco-efficient and renewable supplies as well as any associative organizational models and empathic management.

15.5 To set up or extend on both urban and rural levels, opportunities for shared learning that will foster innovative modifications, adjustments and practical solutions to the problems affecting producers and their organizations, thus enabling them to achieve their common goals.

15.6 To continuously identify the need for urban and rural workmanship, and also to ensure the development of programs guaranteeing technical training for said workers; continuously updating its methods and contents seeking to create a positive impact on their conditions in the short and medium terms.

15.7 To guide the efforts of continuous training and technical support principally towards small family based industries in order to improve their income and test their existing level of know-how – not just as a means of increasing productivity- but also to generate new forms of organizational empathy, sustainability, and so as to reach food sovereignty.

### **3.2. General Objective**

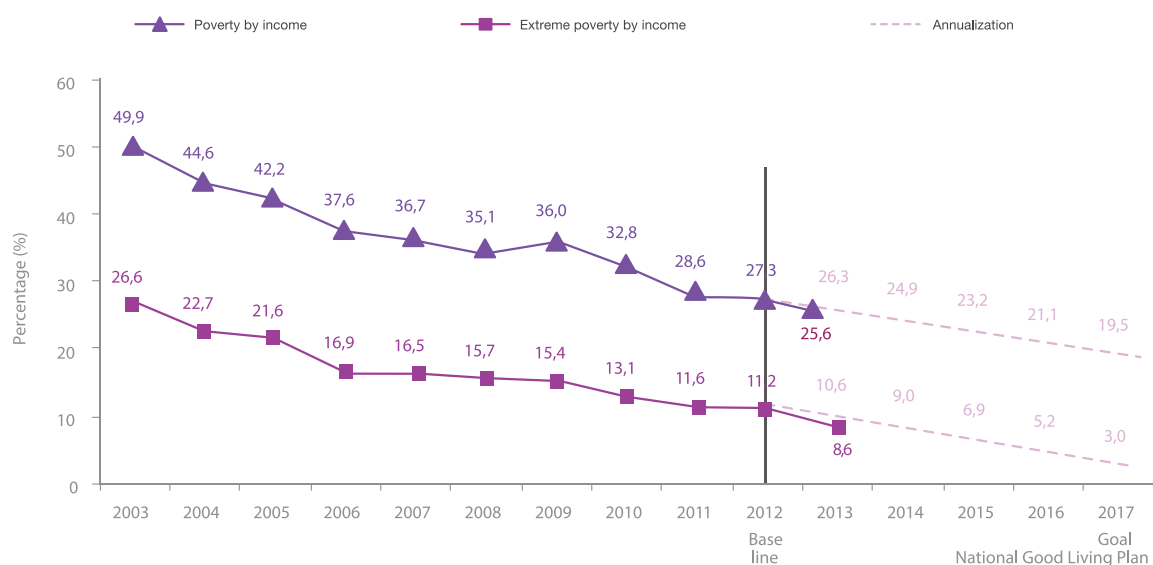
The National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty [ENIEP] is an inter-dependent set of policies, guidelines, directives, programs and mechanisms aimed at materializing government initiatives regarding the historic endeavour of eradicating poverty in Ecuador.

It is in fact a roadmap for the implementation of the National Plan for Good Living 2013-2017. Its objective is “to eradicate poverty in a continuous and sustainable manner by means of a productive revolution of work, employment, the full exercise of Good Living rights, strengthening of capabilities and opportunities and encouragement of citizen participation and popular power in order to achieve a fair and empathic society”.

### 3.3. General Aims

#### 3.3.1. Eradicating extreme poverty by income

**Graph 8.** Eradication of extreme poverty by income (persons)



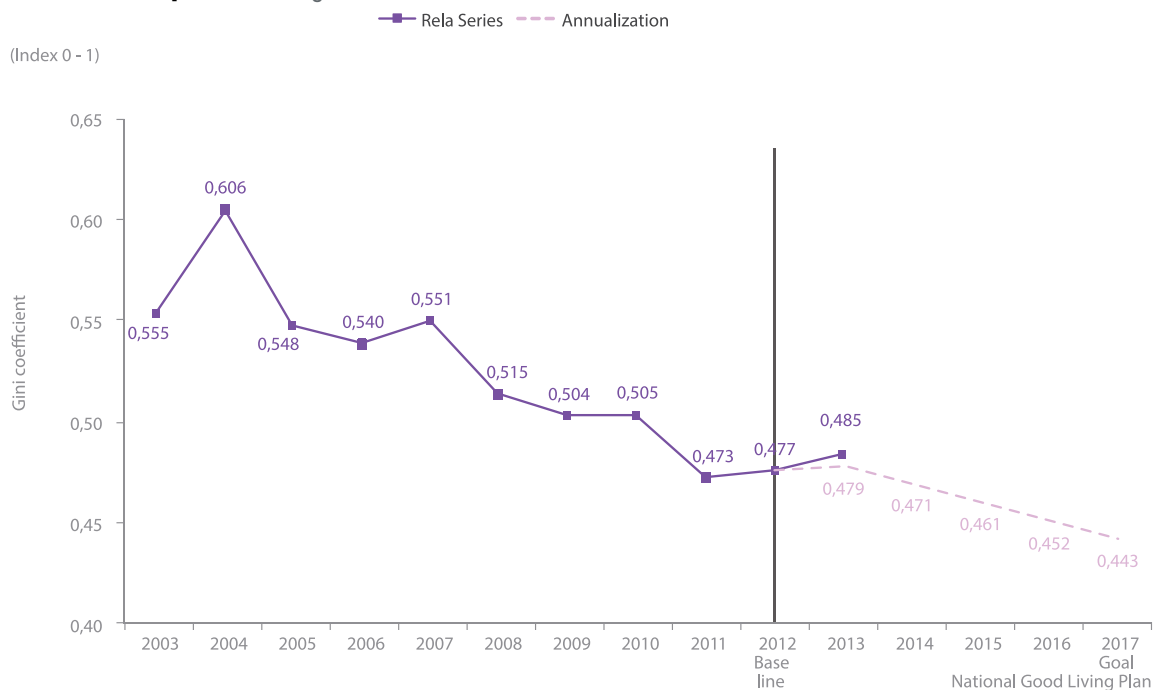
Note: Starting 2013 the data is projected although there is already information available for that year.

Source: INEC, Enemdur, 2006-2012.

Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary, Senplades.

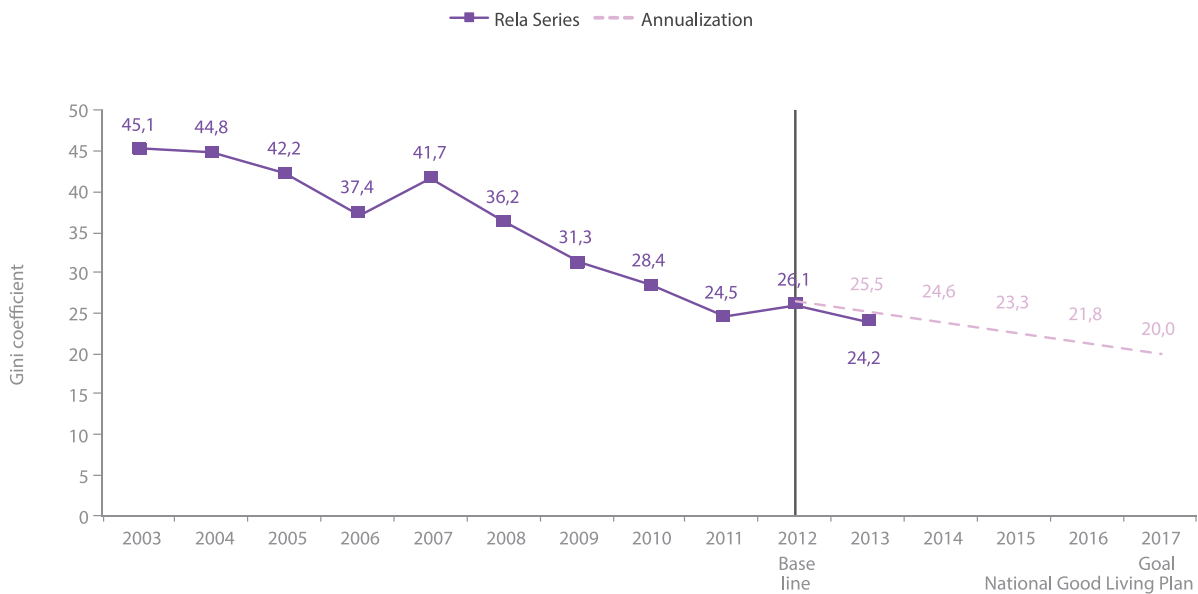
#### 3.3.2. Reducing inequality by income

**Graph 9.** Reducing the Gini Coefficient to 0.44



Source: INEC, Enemdur, 2013.

Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary, Senplades.

**Graph 10.** Reducing To less than 20 points the relation between decile 10 and decile 1

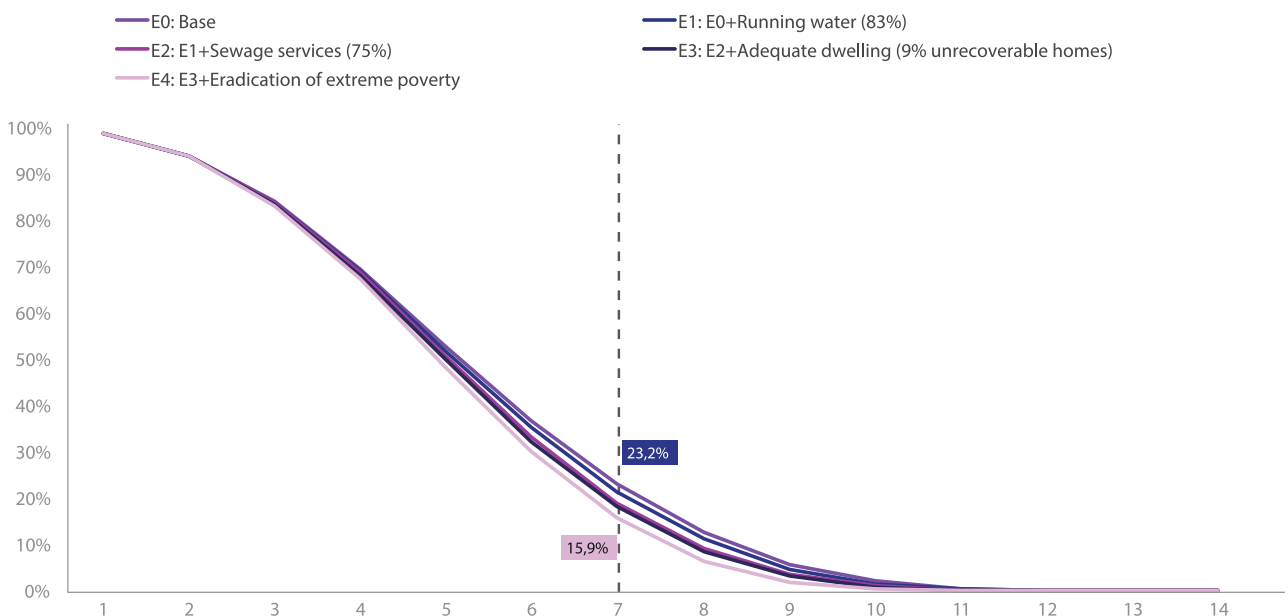
Source: INEC, Enemdur, 2013.

Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary, Senplades.

### 3.3.3. Reducing multi-dimensional poverty

The Strategy proposes developing new methodologies to facilitate measuring and evaluating poverty from a multi-dimensional viewpoint – as an accumulation of scarcity and lack of enjoyment of rights obstructing the pathway to Good Living.

With this intention, we propose the creation of a multi-dimensional index including 22 types of scarcity (throughout people's lifespans) related to non-compliance with the rights to Good Living.

**Graph 11.** Reduction of multi-dimensional poverty

Source: INEC, Enemdur, 2013.

Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary, Senplades.



### 3.4. Specific Objectives

- To guarantee satisfaction of and universal access to the constitutional rights to Good Living throughout the national territory with emphasis on those pertaining to health, education water, habitat and housing.
- To promote economic justice and social equality by means of a productive revolution based on dignified work, food sovereignty, the formation and strengthening of capabilities, and a popular and supportive economy.
- To guarantee complete protection of the lifespan of the people and their families with particular emphasis on the needy.

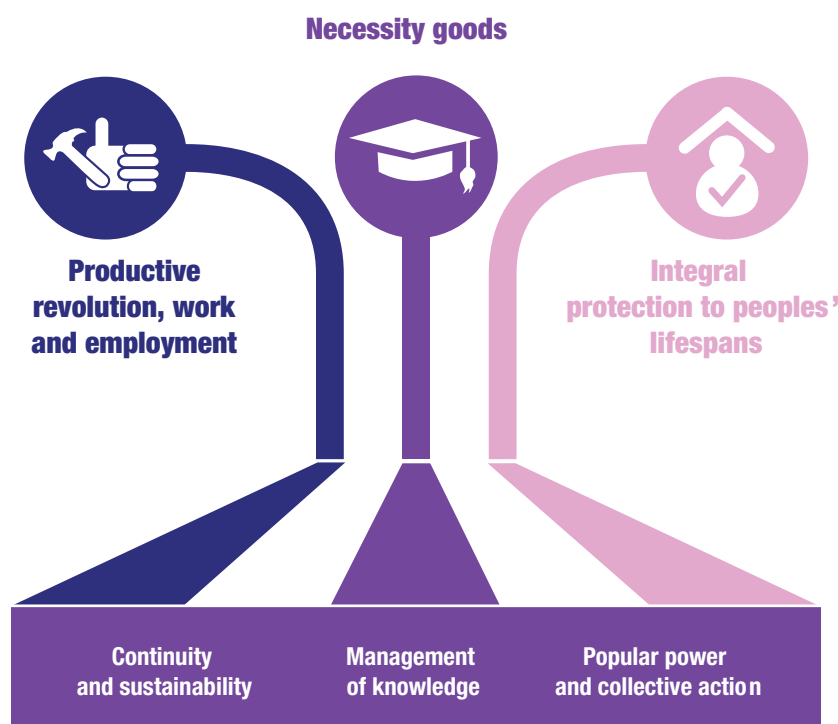
### 3.5. Components

The Strategy proposes a systemic focus of social life seeking to build a proposal for radical changes on the social matrix producing and reproducing poverty conditions at a multi-sector level.

Three components are the basis of the Strategy's proposed components:

- Necessity goods;
- Productive revolution, work and employment; and
- Integral protection to peoples' lifespans.

**Illustration 2.** Structure of the National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty.





Necessity goods!  
**COMPONENT 1**

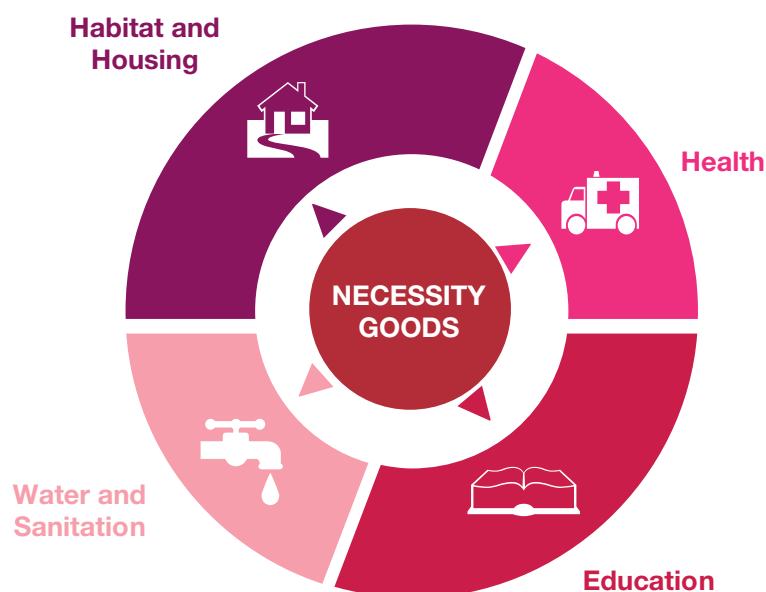
## Component 1: Necessity goods

### Foundation

The State guarantees the effective application of the rights enshrined in the Constitution. *Necessity goods* guarantee these rights, and should reach every single citizen without exception. The State is not the sole provider of Necessity Goods, since both the private sector and social actors play an essential role in their provision.

The Strategy's *Necessity Good* component is aimed at articulating policies, guidelines and actions on an inter-sector scale and at different government levels to ensure there is complete access to quality public services throughout the territory as a means of identifying and dealing with gaps in this respect. Its strategic vision, nonetheless, is focused on those services whose adequate provision has a higher impact on the reduction of poverty. The component comprises four strategic areas: health, education, habitat and housing, and water and sanitation (illustration 3).

**Illustration 3.** Areas of Strategic Components



Made by: National Planning and Development Secretary, Senplades.

### Aims

#### Health

- To reduce up to 2017, maternal mortality in 29.0 percent, that is to move on from 70.4 deaths for each 100,000 infants born alive, registered in 2011, to 50.0 in 2017.

- To reduce the infant mortality rate in 41 percent, that is, to move from 10.1 deaths for each 1,000 children born alive in 2011, to 6.0 in 2017.
- To eradicate the existence of malnutrition among girls and boys younger than 2 y.o.a, which in the year 2012 was 24 percent.
- To reverse the existing tendency of obesity and overweight in girls and boys of 11 to 12 y.o.a, until it reaches 26.0 percent in 2017, in relation to the 29.9 percent of 2012.
- To reduce from the 7.8 percent death rate from dengue in 2012, to 2.0 percent.
- To increase breastfeeding during the first 6 months of life, from the existing 43.8 percent in 2012, to 64 percent.
- To eliminate HIV infection among newborns to infected mothers, starting from the 4.4 percent detected in 2012

### *Education*

- To globalize the net rate of assistance to basic education at the medium level (9 to 11 y.o.a), and higher basic (12 to 14 y.o.a), up to 95 percent in 2017.
- To increase the net rate of high school attendance from the 63.9 percent in 2012, to 80 percent in 2017.
- To reduce illiteracy among the indigenous and mountain dwellers between 15 and 49 y.o.a., to 4.0 percent.
- To increase enrolment in higher education to 46 percent in 2017.
- To increase by 60 percent, the participation of students enrolled in technical and technological institutes, in relation to the total of new students enrolled in the higher educational system.

### *Habitat y housing*

- To reduce up to 2017, the percentage of families living in overcrowded conditions, to 10.3 percent at the national level, and in the rural level to 13.4 percent.
- To reduce by 2017 the national housing deficit to 10.5 percent, and in the rural districts up to 25.7 percent.

### *Water and sanitation*

- To achieve by 2017, the coverage in the services of running water in 83 percent, and in 75 percent the ones of sewage.

### *Axes and strategic guidelines*

#### **Health**

The topics which the work of the Strategy deals with in the health environment are: 1) strengthening of the first and second levels of attention in matters of health, 2) improvements in the information regarding the coverage of the public health services

and about the distribution of the existing infrastructure and human resources, 3) strengthening in the quality of the health services.

It is important to strengthen the first and second levels of attention in health services, since 90 percent of the population's health problems can be served by the primary ones<sup>13</sup>. It is in this level where activities for the prevention and promotion of health must take place, in order to have an impact in the change of attitude and practices which would promote a healthy, pleasant, productive, participative, responsible, attitude among the intercultural diversity. Hence, it is in the first and second levels of attention where there should be a strengthening of the health services for the prevention and promotion of health. On the other hand, it is necessary to take care in the quality of health services provision, taking into account that although it is important to have adequate access to the services, there will only be a positive change in the population's health conditions if there is access to them under adequate conditions, in such a way as to guarantee the integral health of the population, taking into account cultural and gender differences. Hand in hand with the quality of the health services is the equitable distribution in the areas of adequate infrastructure, equipment, human resources, the provision of medicines and adequate inputs to the health units of the Ministry of Public Health. All this pursues to increase the attention coverage to ensure universal access to the services.

### *Guidelines*

**1** To develop mechanisms for the promotion and strengthening of integral health in the first levels of attention, taking into account the various characteristics of gender, intercultural health and the priority of those highly vulnerable populations requiring immediate attention.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 1.1 To encourage communal activities, taking into account cultural importance, gender, and focus towards populations which require immediate attention, in order to launch shared responsibility before possible risks which provoke mortality rates, and could be avoided.
- 1.2 To encourage the diagnosis, the control and opportune attention to the mother and newborn before and after birth, giving importance to cultural and gender differences, and focus on populations of high priority and high vulnerability.
- 1.3 To encourage, through the first level of health attention, breastfeeding to improve childhood nurturing, and to prevent infectious diseases in the newborn.
- 1.4 To launch, through the first level of health attention, mechanisms towards the consumption of healthy foodstuffs which contribute to a balanced diet, especially in populations which require immediate attention and have high vulnerability.
- 1.5 To promote through the first levels of health attention, the diffusion of health information and advice about sexual and reproductive health, focusing on cultural and gender differences, mainly in populations of high priority and high vulnerability; in order to reduce complications in women's health, teenage pregnancies, and the diffusion of sexually transmitted diseases.
- 1.6 To channel through the first levels of health attention, programs of preventive medicine, mainly for populations requiring immediate attention, high vulnerability, giving importance to cultural and gender diversity.

<sup>13</sup> MSP, 2012.



1.7 To establish cross cultural intervention to give priority to the so called illnesses of poverty.

1.8 To include in the provision of primary health care, the knowledge, the world vision, and the ancestral knowledge of the various cultures, for the prevention and promotion of integral health.

1.9 To launch and promote in the population, self care with cultural and gender appropriateness, in order to achieve physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and social welfare.

1.10 To open up inside the primary health services, exchanges for citizenship participation, and the horizontal exchange of knowledge among the community, in order to launch cross cultural learning and shared responsibility of integral health care actions.

## 2. To improve the attention coverage of public health services, and the distribution of the infrastructure and human resources.

### STRATEGIES

2.1 To establish effective incentives to improve the distribution of health personnel in the territories.

2.2 To strengthen in an equal manner, the infrastructure and hospital equipment in the territories.

2.3 To give the territories able community promoters educated in health matters, to participate in an integral way in the communities.

2.4 To establish mechanisms for the equal and proportional distribution of inputs and medicines in the health services of the Ministry of Public Health (MSP).

2.5 To encourage the breaking up of the public health services based on the system of districts and areas, in order to guarantee the effective territorial distribution of the services.

2.6 To consolidate the System of Integral Health Care, allowing the integration and consolidation of the three levels of health attention; re orienting, decentralizing, and optimizing the attention, encouraging the strategy of primary attention, guaranteeing its continuity up to the level of specialties, with the widening and appropriateness of the hours of attention, and with an adequate network for emergency attention.

## 3. To improve the quality of the health services.

### STRATEGIES

3.1 To norm, regulate, and control the quality of the health services in the territories, focusing on gender and cultural importance.

3.2 To regulate and evaluate the incorporation of able professionals, qualified and specialized in the national health system, in accordance with requirements and priorities.

3.3 To encourage mechanisms of citizen participation and social control, focusing towards the fulfilment of the right to health which the government guarantees to the people, and in abidance with the principles of universality, equality, cross cultural equality, efficiency, and performance.

3.4 To develop processes of training and professional development of health personnel.

## Education

Education is the main weapon for the fight against poverty. Ecuador is experiencing a true educational revolution based on the principles of universality, no-cost, and quality.

Educating for living, with excellence, allows the widening for the human being to have a better performance in the Good Living society.

### Guidelines

# 1. Global coverage of basic and high school education for everyone

#### STRATEGIES

- 1.1 To establish effective incentives to improve the distribution of educational personnel in the territories, favoring the original teachers of the area in order to strengthen the cultural values of the community being educated.
- 1.2 To strengthen the equal assignments of infrastructure and educational equipment in the territories.
- 1.3 To establish mechanisms for the efficient distribution of learning tools with cultural pertinence for the various territories.
- 1.4 To strengthen the breaking up of the educational service in accordance with the system of districts and areas, in order to guarantee the effective access in the territories.
- 1.5 To implement programs encouraging families not to incur in the abandonment of school, due to the need for income arising out of child labor.
- 1.6 To encourage programs which would reduce school abandonment at high school level, mainly in the rural areas.
- 1.7 To create special programs which would allow to finish with the schooling gaps at all levels.
- 1.8 To encourage and strengthen literacy programs for elderly adult women, mainly in communities, towns, and nationalities, focusing on cultural importance.
- 1.9 To face and discourage the reasons for the desertion and abandonment of the educational system by women and LGBT. These causes would be harassment, violence, teenage pregnancy, and prostitution.
- 1.10 To guarantee the disabled an inclusive and specialized education, providing quality and warmth, as well as learning opportunities throughout their life.
- 1.11 To strengthen and give quality to the bilingual intercultural education.

## 2. To guarantee the availability of goods and services necessary for access and permanence in the education system.

### STRATEGIES

- 2.1 To strengthen efficient mechanisms for the provision of uniforms, books, and notebooks, as well as transport services, so that all students can access the educational centers.
- 2.2 To strengthen programs for the provision of healthy foods in the educational centers.

## 3. To ensure the quality of the educational system.

### STRATEGIES

- 3.1 To norm, regulate, and control, the educational services in the territories, focusing on the human rights and cultural importance.
- 3.2 To regulate and evaluate the incorporation of able professionals for the educational system, through their participation in appropriate ability tests.
- 3.3 To strengthen the continuous training of teachers, both in pedagogical as well as curriculum matters.
- 3.4 To evaluate in a periodic manner, the pedagogical and curricular knowledge of the teachers.
- 3.5 To evaluate in a periodic manner, the knowledge acquired by the students.
- 3.6 To establish quality standards for knowledge, both by the teachers and the students.
- 3.7 To evaluate and update in a periodic manner, the curriculum, according to international standards.
- 3.8 To develop quality standards, with cultural importance, for the regulation and control of the educational service.
- 3.9 To create mechanisms of citizen participation and social control to carry out with quality, the educational services.
- 3.10 To open up spaces for the exchanges of learning experiences between the community and the teachers, in order to create abilities both in the educators and in the community.
- 3.11 To encourage the training of teachers and administrators of educational services, to give students objective and scientific information regarding sexual and reproductive rights.
- 3.12 To launch the building up of educational quality indicators which allows the following up and evaluation in a permanent manner, of the educational system at the basic and high school level.

## 4. To strengthen and revalue the technical and technological education as a support and encouragement to the productive and social transformations of the country.

### STRATEGIES

- 4.1 To promote the technical and technological education as an alternative of quality formation and its permanent link to the productive system, taking into account the studies of demand by industry.
- 4.2 To establish mechanisms for the entrepreneurial sector to include among its personnel, students and/or graduates of the technical and technological institutes, as trainees or giving them their first employment.
- 4.3 To widen the mechanism for the equalising between the offers for the education of personnel with its technical demands.
- 4.4 To strengthen the creation and/or restructuring of the technical and technological institutes towards a system that links theoretical and practical aspects.
- 4.5 To improve and widen the education of teachers for the technical and technological institutes, with a specific program in the public offering by higher education institutes, in order to strengthen their capacity to transmit knowledge in a system characterized by being theoretical and practical.

## 5. To strengthen the quality, the number, and the coverage of the higher educational system.

### STRATEGIES

- 5.1 To continue with the evaluation processes of the universities and higher education institutes.
- 5.2 To continue with the training of the university professors at the Master and PhD level.
- 5.3 To diversify the university educational offers system, by taking into account the needs of the country.
- 5.4 To substantially improve the efficiency of the university students by the end of their studies.
- 5.5 To strengthen in the university, research programs which would allow to take benefit of the competitive advantages of the country, to improve the living conditions of the population.
- 5.6 To strengthen the access mechanism of the least favored social groups, to gain entrance to the university through scholarships both inside and outside the country.
- 5.7 To strengthen the relationships of the university sector with the productive.

## 6. To build up capabilities through financial education.

### STRATEGIES

- 6.1 To encourage programs of financial education, understood as a process through which the persons acquire knowledge, ability, and attitudes to develop capabilities and behaviour, which allows them to undertake responsible economic and financial decisions in daily life, exercise their rights, and fulfil their related obligations, pursuing their social roles and contribution to the personal, familiar, and community development.

## Habitat y housing

The Strategy begins with recognition of the social and environmental function of property in which there prevails a common interest over an individual one, in order to establish home as “the natural space for a given society and its civilization, where the social subjects are settled, and where they design and take over the geographical space, living in it with all their senses, tastes and enjoyment”<sup>14</sup>.

Taking into account that the space in which one dwells is a dimension built out of real life and in which one can affect the surrounding conditions, it is desirable therefore to create living conditions that are safe, attractive, healthy, and inclusive to all.

### Guidelines

**1.** To place the urban revolution as an urban right, defined as the enjoyment of those conditions which allow the citizens to take advantage in a dignified and equitable manner, of an urban space which is sustainable, safe, healthy, and free from architectural barriers, and not forgetting the togetherness that must exist with the rural sphere<sup>15</sup>.

#### STRATEGIES

1.1 To promote and put into effect the urban policies of Good Living, where there prevails the communal public interest over the individual or private one<sup>16</sup>.

1.2 To avoid all mechanisms of real estate speculation through regulations and norms of Good Living in the city, guaranteeing a fair distribution of the burdens and benefits created by the urbanization process<sup>17</sup>.

1.3 To encourage the citizens' participation over the extraordinary rent (value added rent), obtained through public investment, making sure to avoid it being captured by the private interest, which, whenever they have not carried out any action over their property with that end in view<sup>18</sup>.

1.4 To strengthen innovating processes for the planning, regulation, and execution of environmental policies in the urban areas, which guarantee relationships of coherence and harmony between the growth of the cities and the protection of the natural, historical, architectural, cultural, and artistic patrimony, giving priority to the social building of the dwelling environment, and the achievement and maintainability in the social function of the city and ownership.

1.5 To promote the creation of adequate laws which establish mechanisms and functions designed to guarantee the full enjoyment of the urban land and of the property either public or private, with no building, abandoned, or underutilized, to achieve the social fulfilment of the property<sup>19</sup>.

**2.** To encourage the widening of the scope and the quality of housing bought in the urban and rural areas, in order to create a living environment, which is environmentally healthy and adequately conditioned for the population.

<sup>14</sup> Cardona, 2013.

<sup>15</sup> With special attention to impoverished and vulnerable groups as a means of legitimizing action and organization based on their customs in order to achieve full exercise of rights. (Constitution of Ecuador, 2008, Art. 31).

<sup>16</sup> COOTAD, Art. 296.

<sup>17</sup> COOTAD, Art. 296.

<sup>18</sup> COOTAD, Art. 186.

<sup>19</sup> Constitution of Ecuador, 2008, Art. 321.



## STRATEGIES

- 2.1 To encourage the starting up of strategies for the improvement of deteriorated houses which are in inadequate risky condition, or subjected to overcrowding.
- 2.2 To promote the development of integral housing programs which take into account the special conditions of the people such as cultural ones, or territorial, and other special situations as well as family closeness, through housing, services, and public transport.
- 2.3 To create new indicators which take into account the conceptual difference between house and living space, in order to have a measurement which would allow to perceive the dwelling not only as a place “inside the home”, where part of communal living takes place, but also one that implies a wider space where essential activities of the community happen.

**3.** To promote the implementation of new legal and technical instruments regarding land management, which would guarantee the safe access to land and housing, both in the urban and rural areas, as a preventative measure to the occupation of high risk areas, and the proliferation of irregular human settlements.

## STRATEGIES

- 3.1 To promote the creation of “land banks “ in the different levels of government in order to guarantee the soil reserves for social interest housing, which would encourage social inclusion in the given space, starting with the principles of diversity, equality, and cross culture, avoiding any risk.
- 3.2 To launch the preferential sale of property favoring the State, for housing purposes.
- 3.3 To promote the equitable access of the population to the territories for housing purposes; establishing norms, regulating and controlling the land market to avoid speculation.
- 3.4 To prevent irregular human settlements on the land.
- 3.5 To promote control in the use and occupation of the territories in high risk areas, to avoid their occupation and the development of human settlements.

## Water and sanitation

The access to water services and quality sanitary facilities, is a basic necessity for the population, and one of the most important factors which determines the existence of poverty, due to unsatisfied basic needs. The water has an influence in all the activities of the human being, such as feeding, hygiene, and personal comfort. On the other hand, the sewage system makes possible the elimination of dirty water, removing infectious focuses which provoke diseases and epidemics. These basic services have a positive influence in the health, education, the provision of an adequate environment for the human being and for economic growth.

## Guidelines

**1.** To launch the increase in the coverage of running water and sewage systems, through a territorial priority strategy, and the financing of these activities, which considers the strengthening in the capacity of the council and metropolitan Decentralized Autonomous Councils (GAD), to improve the working and administration of the water and sewage projects.

*STRATEGIES*

- 1.1 To give resources priority to those cities which most need it, in order to guarantee the achievement of the goals of increasing the service, taking into account the closing of social gaps, and the strengthening of the Decentralized Autonomous Councils (GAD).
- 1.2 To support the creation of the integral plan for water and sewage, which would take into account pre investment studies focusing on hydraulic basins, to achieve an equitable coverage according to the land characteristics.
- 1.3 To support the creation of a financial strategy and subsidies of the resources needed to reach the desired aim, linked to the strengthening of the capacities.
- 1.4 To put into effect a pre investment national strategy in pure water and sewage, which would speed up the process for the review, approval, and execution of the project.
- 1.5 To promote investment at the national level, of infrastructure for safe water and sewage.
- 1.6 To contribute to the implementation of differentiated technological solutions for water and sewage, taking into account cultural and geographic differences, and population density.

## 2. To encourage the improvement in the management of the running water and sewage services by the Decentralized Autonomous Councils (GAD).

*STRATEGIES*

- 2.1 To support the strengthening of assistance, and technical help capabilities.
- 2.2 To promote the establishment of a unique regulation approved and simplified to speed up the approval of technical possibilities, and of the viabilities of environmental licences of investment projects in water and sewage.
- 2.3 To apply immediate investment measures in projects that have technical viabilities.

## 3. To promote the access to quality water through mechanisms of regulation and control.

*STRATEGIES*

- 3.1 To promote the regulation and control capacity of the State through the implementation and working of a water regulation and control agency.
- 3.2 To promote a quality control system for the services of safe water and sewage, at a national level.



Productive revolution, work and employment  
**COMPONENT 2**

## Component 2: Productive revolution, work and employment

### Foundation

Our country has to change its conventional economic and productive structure; not only to come out of the primary exporting specialization that has constantly subordinated us through unequal commercial exchange, but to keep all the population out of poverty. In the new scenario of global transformation, the change in the production matrix supposes to project towards a society which nurtures on ability and diversity, affirming the awareness of shared knowledge. There is an urgency to diversify production and to create employment opportunities starting with innovation and learning, and creating new shared ways of production.

The Productive Revolution of work and employment establishes the urgency to widen the processes of productive diversification in the country and in the city, and to improve the distribution of the productive opportunities, seeking economic efficiency, social and economic inclusion, sustainability, and social equality. Besides taking advantage in a continuous and sustainable manner, the potential territory is required to promote the access of the poor people to income and dignified employment, to the means of production including the financial assets, organizational and technological access, and its equitable participation in the productive and commercial links.

All that in the framework of the qualitative enhancement of the popular economy, the valuing of the agriculture which is family based, the encouragement to private initiative, the encouragement to the innovation and the increase in the technological offer.

The component of the productive revolution is analyzed through three strategic axes shown as follows:

**Illustration 4.** Principles of productive revolution, work and employment



Source: National Planning and Development Secretary, Senplades.

## Aims

### *Dignified work and employment*

- To reach up to 55 percent of the economically active population PEA, with full employment up to 2017.
- To reduce under employment of the economically active population to 50 percent in 2017, and informal work to 52 percent in 2017.

### *Agricultural revolution and food sovereignty*

- To reduce the concentration of irrigated land surface to 60 times by 2017.
- To reduce the intermediation of products belonging to small and medium producers in 33.0 percent by 2017.
- To revert the import tendency in the participation of imports in the consumption of agricultural and meat products, and reach the 5,0 percent in 2017.

### *To strengthen the Popular and Solidarity Economies in the Rural Areas*

- To duplicate the registered volume of public purchases to enterprises belonging to the solidarity and popular economies, starting from the 57.5 million registered in 2003, to 115 million in 2017.

## Axes and strategic guidelines

### **Dignified work and employment**

Having a proper job adequately paid, and permanent, is the basis to eradicate poverty and improve the living conditions of the family. Besides, the work allows for personal realization, the development of individual and collective capacities, and of the surrounding family, constituting therefore an indispensable irreplaceable basis for Good Living.

It is a priority of public action, to put into effect actions and incentives which would permit to widen labor opportunities, improve the conditions of present employment, and democratize the participation and property of the workers. The generation of work and employment constitutes the link between the economic and social development. Work is essential for the growth of the economy and productivity and allows for the satisfaction of human needs.

### *Guidelines*

1. To encourage full and dignified employment for everyone.

#### STRATEGIES

- 1.1 To launch initiatives of territorial development with cultural pertinence, by sectors, activated among various levels of government along with the private and community sectors, through the creation of strategic investment projects.
- 1.2 To promote the economic and financial inclusion of persons and groups requiring priority attention, through the financial education, togetherness, and the capacity to establish new investment opportunities.



- 1.3 To strengthen the orientation of the public employment policies towards those sectors defined as priorities, in the change of the production matrix, and the eradication of poverty.
- 1.4 To reinforce the public investment as an agent for the creation of direct employment and a multiplier of new productive activities.
- 1.5 To develop programs of self employment in the urban and rural spheres, aligned with the people's productive vocation.
- 1.6 To encourage the participation of the private sector in the creation of employment.
- 1.7 To promote and diffuse the employment offices as instruments of proper employment, particularly in the network known as "Red Socio Empleo" (Partners for Employment).
- 1.8 To strengthen the program of first employment in the public sector, and to generate this kind of action in the private sector.
- 1.9 To decisively launch the generation of entrepreneurial opportunities by the participants of the popular and solidarity economies.

## 2. To put together the policies for the generation of employment with actions for the strengthening of abilities.

### STRATEGIES

- 2.1 To develop programs for the education and training linked to the requirements of the labor market, through the assignment of resources for the different sectors and priority groups, taking into account the productive orientation of its territory, and covering the whole country.
- 2.2 To apply the dual system of technical education and training, awarding their certification.
- 2.3 To develop programs of training, financing, and management support for small and medium enterprises.

## 3. Strengthening Tourism.

### STRATEGIES

- 3.1 To promote the research of tourist attractions among the different regions and territories of the country, and to formulate a strategy of programs and projects starting from their strategic element.
- 3.2 To encourage local tourism alternatives for small and medium enterprises, to give greater value added to their land, products and services.
- 3.3 To generate local capabilities and options for labor and professional development in tourism.
- 3.4 To widen or create areas for self help and socialization of solid tourism practices in the rural, associative, and communal areas.
- 3.5 To identify in the territories, the concrete and most important actions which would allow to solve the main social and institutional problems affecting the local tourism.
- 3.6 To insert local tourism in the territorial productive activities as an instrument for the promotion of social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and economic justice.

- 3.7 To contribute to the development of abilities in the human capital linked to tourism, and to strengthen the local management situations geared towards the continuous improvement of products and services.
- 3.8 To give the personnel working for the small tourism firms the knowledge and abilities for efficient performance in their work activities, offering tools which develop and optimize the operation of their businesses.
- 3.9 To create vanguard tourism experiences in the territories, and promote the competitive strengthening of the people providing local services.
- 3.10 To support an adequate placing in the market of communal tourism, and to create local advantages which enable the tourist to recognise the various territories.
- 3.11 To establish mechanisms for the selective assignment of liquidity, to strengthen the community and rural tourism, as well as flexible credit lines for the development and renovation of the touristic sector in general, reducing the time of waiting for approval.

## Agricultural Revolution and Food Sovereignty

The launching of the Good Living in rural areas of Ecuador supports the building of a new development model: inclusive, sustainable, competitive in an all inclusive way, which implies the definition of a new social pact directed to activate a process of structural change, favoring a peasant agriculture of the countryside, the indigenous people, and their families, with its diversity of productive system.

The agrarian revolution emphasises the need to progressively increase the levels of productivity, particularly of the family based peasant agriculture, and the community system; to improve access to the productive assets and the efficient distribution of the means of production; to stimulate social creativity and the capacity for technological innovation; and also to encourage processes of productive diversification which promote the emergence of economies characterized by being sociable and having a system of togetherness, to include them as agents in the process of import substitution. The agrarian revolution constitutes a just and important scheduled roadmap towards the inclusive change of this sector's productive nature, pushing from the rural world and in accordance with their endogenous potential, new productive activities which create value in the agricultural sector and in the territorial economies working towards a generation of proper and sustainable employment opportunities. It also bids on the change towards agro ecological styles of production, looking after the biological diversity, the dialogue of know-how, and the widening of capacity.

## Guidelines

- 1 To improve the productivity of the family inclusive peasant agriculture, and the non industrial artisan fishing, in order to reach food sovereignty, economic justice, and environmental maintenance.

### STRATEGIES

- 1.1 To encourage the productive diversification and associated value added activities, pushing towards economies characterized by having production diversity and group togetherness, which would reduce the general costs and those of the transactions in the framework of sustainability and economic justice.

- 1.2 To increase the access opportunities of the country people to the land, under the principles of production efficiency, permanence over time and equality.
- 1.3 To forbid the hoarding and concentration of property, and the land rent of the land suitable for agricultural activities.
- 1.4 To reverse the processes of parcelling into small plots, and the scarcities of production means in the land ownership with agricultural potential.
- 1.5 To launch the democratic access of the peasants to irrigation water, and of the techniques.
- 1.6 To put into effect efficient systems for the rescue, research, improvement, and multiplication of native quality seeds; to promote the increase of the communal seed banks, and to guarantee the access, use, and free exchange of seeds to protect the biodiversity and the alimentary sovereignty.
- 1.7 To create and give priority to easily accessible credit lines, geared towards the strengthening of the agricultural country families.
- 1.8 To improve the potential for the capturing of over production and profits among the small and medium agricultural and animal husbandry producers.
- 1.9 Create systems of organic certification and agricultural public ones, friendly towards the environment, guaranteeing its general and popular access.
- 1.10 To strengthen the technical, technological, organizational, and marketing capabilities of the artisan fishermen, guaranteeing greater profitability of this activity, cultural importance, and environmental protection.
- 1.11 To set up a national program of learning schools and training for territorial social managers, as well as leaders to facilitate the processes of inter sector linkages, togetherness, participation, organization, and social innovation.
- 1.12 To promote the setting up of networks and of platforms for the innovation and widening of competencies, linking the universities and public and private institutions at the national and territorial levels, around those matters identified as priority ones for Good Living, of the urban and rural population living in conditions of poverty.

**2.** To improve the productive and marketing infrastructure: the storage, the transport, the communal irrigation, the electrification, the communication, the rural secondary roads, and digital connectivity.

#### STRATEGIES

- 2.1 To control the hoarding, waste and degradation of the running water.
- 2.2 To increase and rebuild the communal running water in the small areas, and provide techniques for its management.
- 2.3 To increase the market power of the country people and their organization; to reduce the intermediary profit margins; and to build short circuits, communal agricultural centres and services for joint marketing.
- 2.4 To multiply the agricultural fairs, and the communal agricultural centres at all levels of the urban and rural territorial organizations.

2.5 To increase and strengthen the system of direct and alternative marketing (producer fairs, local solidarity groups, country shops, public purchases or fair market) identified on the base line on the basis of the General Coordination of Commercial Networks of the Ministry of Agriculture.

2.6 To multiply agro-ecological fairs and community agricultural centers at all levels of territorial organization, i.e. in both urban and rural areas.

2.7 To increase and strengthen the direct and alternative commercialization systems (producers fairs, local solidarity baskets, local stores, public purchases or fair trade) identified on the base line of the General Commercial Network Coordination at the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **3.** To stop degradation of the productive base of natural resources linked to agricultural activities in rural areas.

#### *STRATEGIES*

3.1 To protect hydrographic basins and micro-basins in order to guarantee environmental sustainability and food sovereignty.

3.2 To progressively transform conventional agricultural production activities into agroecologic and agroforestry systems to ensure protection and recuperation of the soil and to look after agrobiodiversity.

3.3 To favor the use of biological controls and the use of biologically sourced supplies, thus drastically decreasing the use of chemicals in agricultural and industrial activities.

3.4 To strengthen industrial capabilities in terms of quality inspection and control of toxic substances.

3.5 To improve variety by means of developing non-transgenic bio-technology that will guarantee the conservation, protection and better access to local genetic resources.

3.6 To replace the exclusive use of inorganic fertilization techniques with energy efficient and clean agro-ecologic alternatives.

3.7 To ban the use of red label agricultural supplies.

### **Strengthening of popular and solidarity economics**

Throughout Ecuador there is a vast array of associative production practices that do not function exclusively under orthodox trading rules and which should be recognized and encouraged. The Strategy proposes to support these initiatives. This effort would entail departing from conventional paradigms of eradication of poverty by linking social, economic and environmental issues, seeking to open opportunities of access to productive assets, extending the people's capabilities and to create conditions for mobility and economic justice.

It is necessary to create the relevant social and institutional conditions that will allow for the emergence of an extensive social and productive network where those excluded by wealth can express themselves with creativity and solidarity. This is about empowering human talent, associative initiatives, financial resources, scientific and technological media, and social markets in every possible niche of the economy in order to create alternative production, distribution and consumption processes.

It is about putting the peasant laborers, indigenous peoples, afro-Ecuadoreans and mountain-dwellers in the center of public policies and efforts; as well as involving the agents of urban popular economy and the social and environmentally responsible entrepreneurs linked to the industry and services -who operate intensive knowledge.

### *Guidelines*

**1.** To build up Solidarity Economies from within neighboring communities, whilst seeking to engage complementary, sustainable company engagements as a means of improving productivity gaps among different associates.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 1.1 To facilitate opportune access to financial resources for Solidarity Economies and encourage their development.
- 1.2 To improve the action channels for Solidarity Economies within the local markets by giving producers full access to logistics networks and market information.
- 1.3 To improve productivity, quality of associative production and forms of solidarity trading.
- 1.4 To encourage the linking up of solidarity economies in order to improve sustainability in the markets and productivity levels as well as product quality.
- 1.5 To incentivate private investment in the creation of microenterprises within the territories in accordance with their endogenous capabilities as a means of increasing work opportunities.
- 1.6 To foster the organization of local associative solidarity networks, and integrate them as suppliers or participants in the productive chain; to ensure they adopt adequate working practices and clean technologies in order to minimize or avoid contamination. To strive for their positioning in the market as environmentally responsible suppliers.
- 1.7 To ensure the different actors or economic agents forming part of the productive chain always prefer the supply of solidarity economy goods and given the highest degree of priority to the use of national raw materials.

**2.** To encourage public knowledge seeking to help medium and small solidarity enterprises to develop by perceiving them as an integral part of a bigger set of economic articulations.

#### *STRATEGIES*

- 2.1 To contribute to the progressive development of technology for associative enterprises in order to improve their competitive levels in the market.
- 2.2 To promote the development of skills, capabilities, know-how and experience by providing laborers with constant training.
- 2.3 To improve negotiating skills and the emergence of innovation systems by linking the Central Government, Decentralised Autonomous Councils (GAD), popular and solidarity economy supporters (NGO's), universities, private entities, and the popular economy participants themselves into solidarity networks.
- 2.4 To potentiate local added value by creating environments for the popular economy participants themselves to access better learning and knowledge opportunities.



- 2.5 To promote the research, design and implementation of low cost, eco-efficient food plants for the small and medium industries, as well as their adequate provision of equipment, machinery, software and e-agriculture opportunities (Agro-TICS) as a means of adding value to and strengthening solidarity economies.

### 3. To promote the compilation of a vast database of producers seeking to establish inclusive local development by means of associations and integrating proposals.

#### STRATEGIES

- 3.1 To promote collective action as a key component for improving production, transformation and innovation processes.
- 3.2 To generate incentives for the binding and integration of associative economic initiatives fostering the joint work ventures, thus optimizing results and guaranteeing market continuity for their products/services.
- 3.3 To facilitate associative processes within the framework of local economic diversification and the diversification of the productive matrix.

### 4. To generate associative mechanisms promoting the development of visitor attractions.

#### STRATEGIES

- 4.1 To support the emergence of new local tourist ventures in favor of associative businesses and solidarity economies, as well as improving existing businesses by striving to introduce solidarity in the theory and practice of tourism economy and in the production, distribution, consumption trading of services/products.
- 4.2 To promote social and institutional networks that integrate and commit different tourism endeavours into community projects, thus generating a diverse and extensive offer of visitor attractions.
- 4.3 To incorporate community initiative and participation with regard to local culture and traditions and the protection of eco-systems in the development of visitor attractions.
- 4.4 To strengthen institutions and organizations co-existing within the territory, striving to dynamize associative working practices in a bid to accomplish shared objectives successfully and facilitate liaison among their different linking parts.



Integral protection to lifespan  
COMPONENT 3

## Component 3: Integral protection to lifespan

### Foundation

The Constitution enshrines the National System for Inclusion and Social Equality, which requires for its consolidation, inter-sector policies that are articulated at different government levels and promote collective action.

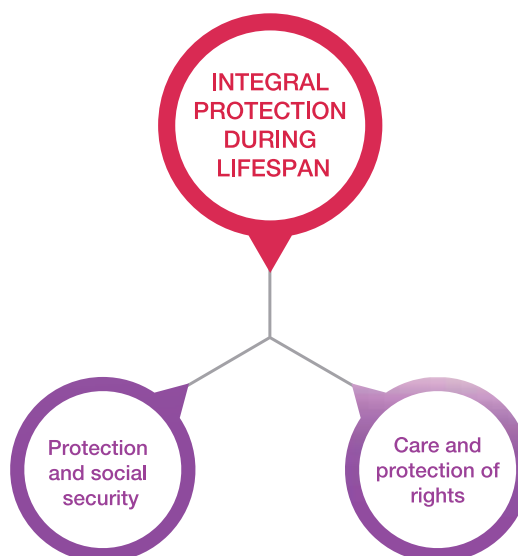
The integral protection of the cycle of life is in par with the fight against inequality and poverty since it allows the people to face adversities, stop the reproduction of poverty and strengthen popular power. It is set forth as a mechanism for the achievement of justice and equality. It is not paternalistic, but on the contrary, generates conditions and opportunities to achieve economic justice with the co-responsibility of society as a whole.

The Strategy's proposal is to consolidate an integral mechanism aimed at accompanying families when they are mapping out their life-plans and providing them with references and counter-references regarding the public programs in place, thus promoting compliance with commitments and responsibilities, providing follow-up and evaluating the process of abandoning poverty.

The principles for this component are:

- Social security and protection
- Care and protection of rights

**Illustration 5:** Principles of the Component for Integral Protection of Life-cycles



## Aims

- To increase the percentage of Economically Active Population (PEA) enrolled in contributive social security up to 60 percent on the urban scale, and 50 percent in rural areas as opposed to the 51,5 percent and 32,7 percent coverage respectively achieved in 2012.
- To increase by 10 points the percentage of families that manage to cover the basic food basket, using the 55,5 percent achieved in 2012 as a reference.
- To universalize coverage of infant development programs for children under five in a situation of poverty and to reach 65 percent of a national scale with respect to the 33,1 achieved in 2010.
- To eradicate child labor affecting children between five and fifteen y.o.a which in 2012 was at 3,2 percent.

## Principles and strategic guidelines

### *Protection and Social Security*

Protection and social security must guarantee a dignified life for all by means of consolidating contributing and non-contributing mechanisms of insurance in event of poverty and vulnerability. Likewise, economic and social inclusion must be promoted, thus generating the conditions necessary for progressive ascending social mobility.

It is imperative to recognize the role of care work. Unpaid care work carried out mainly by women has taken the fall for certain inefficiencies in the capitalist economic system, thus upholding said system at the cost of many women's health, well-being and quality of life. If we are to build a new society this must end.

Care and social security is one mechanism for promoting inclusion and economic equality for those who have historically been excluded. In order to consolidate social security and protection in Ecuador, a non-contributive social protection system and inclusive social security are needed.

Social security is conceived by nature as a mandatory, irrevocable right, and it recognizes several forms of work and employment. Enrollment to social security should be independent of its linkage to the work market. Likewise, it is necessary to regulate voluntary enrollment in order to generate a comprehensive subsystem of protection and social security, based on the principles of universal coverage, and using different instruments and based on solidarity financing.

The social security system focuses on coverage in the event of extreme poverty by providing access to health, education, housing, basic services, dignified employment, consumption of nutritionally adequate foods, and sufficient income for a dignified lifestyle. The social protection system is universal and looks after the population as whole, but especially in circumstances of poverty or vulnerability by means of:

- Transfers in order to cover the cost of a basic food (extreme poverty by consumption/income).
- Income guarantee by means of pensions to the elderly and disabled living in situations of poverty by income, and who are not covered by contributive social security.

- Money transfers to eliminate restrictions in the areas of health and education- especially in the case of children and teenagers, and to eradicate child labor.
- Guarantee the right to work and incentive to work by means of active labor market policies including public work as a temporary solution and as a last resort.
- Access to dignified living and safe habitat by means of money transfers destined to home improvements and coverage of services.
- The universal, free access to health services and education- focusing primarily on prevention of disease.

### Guidelines

## 1. To strengthen the social security system towards its progressive universalization.

#### STRATEGIES

- 1.1 To reinforce the regulatory framework and institutional management capacity to achieve the universal right to social security.
- 1.2 To consolidate the Integral Public Health Network in a comprehensive and unified manner, thus ensuring its fiscal sustainability.
- 1.3 To implement mechanisms to guarantee, follow-up on, and control enrollment and fine failure to enroll workers in a dependent relationship.
- 1.4 To generate incentives, mechanisms and procedures to guarantee the enrollment of people doing different forms of work, employment and occupation.

## 2. To reformulate the Bono de Desarrollo Humano [Human Development Benefit Payment] to offer cover in the event of extreme poverty.

#### STRATEGIES

- 2.1 Family support plan for economic and social inclusion with gradation strategies.
- 2.2 Continuous upgrading of information to record entry to, exit from, and linkage to public programs.

## 3. To strengthen the social protection system for people in a vulnerable situation.

#### STRATEGIES

- 3.1 To promote social protection by means of pensions to the elderly and people with disabilities living in situations of poverty and who do not enjoy the benefit of contributive social security.
- 3.2 Coverage in situations where there is undignified dwelling situations and limitation of access to health and education services by means of programs and transfers.

## Care and protection of rights

### *Care*

All people need to have a family, be part of a community and society in order to have support throughout their lifespans. To understand the notion of people being inter-dependent and reliant on care and development requires the complete involvement of everyone, but it also encourages “weaving of the social fabric”.

This duty of care has to be undertaken by four parties: The State, the market, the community, and the family. The social organization of care depends on a combination of these agents. To be taken care of when in a situation of dependency is a right, and therefore must be guaranteed by the State- who in turn needs to generate the necessary conditions for social actors to participate and contribute in making the enforcement of duty of care a reality.

The Constitution stipulates that the State will adopt any necessary measures to prevent, eliminate and punish all forms of violence, sexual exploitation and slavery- specially if perpetrated against girls, boys, women, teenagers, the elderly, the disabled and indeed against any person in a situation of disadvantage or vulnerability.

In this sense, the creation of a special sub-system on a district level is proposed, to provide protection of rights within the framework of the national system for inclusion and social equality. This would articulate responses from the Central Government, Decentralized Autonomous Councils (GAD's), the judiciary function, and social control and transparency function in a bid to face any vulneration of rights by using opportune preventative action, and providing attention and restitution mechanisms. Presently, there is a trend of facing these situations almost exclusively by judiciary action, when it is fact more necessary to consider administrative actions in order to speed up the provision of aid to the victims and adequate restitution of their rights.

The special sub-system contemplates preventative actions, provision of attention and restoration of rights to citizens throughout their lifespans by generating both individual and territorial interventions that will cause prompt restitution of the peoples' rights if they are in any way infringed. Paralelly, it is important to foster the prevention of all situations that may hinder intervention on the roots of such infringements.

These territorial interventions carried out by the State upon the special sub-system must include temporary safe-houses for women suffering violence, abused children, victims of human trafficking, homeless persons and/or refugees among others. It must also include permanent safe-houses such as orphanages for abandoned children, geriatric homes for the elderly and others. The territorial intervention carried out by the State should also contemplate the necessary measures for preventative action, provision of attention and restoration of rights to citizens when said rights have been violated.



## Guidelines

### 1. To promote the articulation and completeness of care programs.

#### STRATEGIES

- 1.1 To regulate and control quality care standards for private, public and community services aimed at aiding the needy.
- 1.2 To generate mechanisms of social, community and family co-responsibility in terms of health, education, citizen participation, and duty of care. To potentiate the role of families.
- 1.3 To strengthen and professionalize infant development programs as well as those for the elderly, the disabled and those for youngsters.
- 1.4 To develop an integral catalogue of deconcentrated, and decentralized public services and reference and counter reference mechanisms.
- 1.5 To complement care programs aimed at helping the disabled or catastrophically ill with activities directed towards promoting their physical and mental rehabilitation and their re-insertion into the work market and social inclusion.

### 2. To democratize duty of care and domestic chores so that cultural changes can take place, thus eliminating sexual division of work and duty of care.

#### STRATEGIES

- 2.1 To create awareness in regard to equality of responsibilities for men and women in terms of duty of care and domestic chores.
- 2.2 To include the topics of duty of care and domestic chores in formal and informal education ventures directed at men and women.
- 2.3 To promote information campaigns regarding equality of responsibilities for men and women in duty of care and domestic tasks.

### 3. To establish articulation mechanisms between the Executive, the Judiciary function and the Decentralized Autonomous Councils (GAD's).

#### STRATEGIES

- 3.1 To create an Integral Rights Protection System within the National Information System (SNI) for evaluation purposes and the emergence of specialized knowledge and drafting of public policies
- 3.2 To implement in an articulated manner county departments for the protection of rights.
- 3.3 To articulate at institutional levels reporting systems regarding the infringement of human rights in order to generate feelings of trust in the community.
- 3.4 To develop and implement institutional and inter-sector actions for the transformation of socio-cultural patterns that naturalize and reproduce violence against women in public, private and community environments.

## 4. To improve access to the Protection of Rights System.

### STRATEGIES

- 4.1 To improve the provision of justice throughout the territory by means of an equalitarian decentralization.
- 4.2 To implement quality standards and protocols in private, public and community services for helping the victims of violence.
- 4.3 To set up procedures and administrative measures to opportunistly restore rights and encourage the alternative resolution of conflicts by means of community mediation.
- 4.4 To coordinate and implement educational and informative awareness tools that will help to shift cultural misconceptions and eradicate violence and discrimination.
- 4.5 To guarantee the special protection and social and economic inclusion of persons in situations of human mobility- including those that need international protection.
- 4.6 To fight against and eradicate gender violence in all its forms; thus strengthening a protection system with a cultural focus that will articulate State initiatives for the prevention, attention to and punishment of transgressions and the restoration of rights to its victims.
- 4.7 To generate actions directed towards fostering solidarity and responsibility and State control within families, society, and private enterprises as a means of eradicating violence, homelessness and child labor.



Together we shall overcome poverty and inequality!

## Together we shall overcome poverty and inequality!

The last seven years of Citizen Revolution have witnessed new processes for reducing poverty and inequality. The growth of the economy tends to favor the poorest and has resulted in social and infrastructure investment, boosting production to create more jobs, provide better public health and education, build more roads, and permit higher income levels. This reality has been possible thanks to the commitment of the Government to the payment of social debt. But the struggle for the Good Living has not ended. The Government has taken up the great challenge of eradicating poverty and ensuring the rights for all the citizens, as a basis for achieving the Good Living.

If the crisis is structural, structural solutions are required. It is necessary to imagine other ways of organizing society and relationships, as to multiply solidarity initiatives, creating economic justice and sustainability; but also enabling their stability over time, taking into account the wide endogenous potential of our heterogeneous territories.

The individual and collective capacity to be responsible with social life and with nature is the key to achieve the society of Good Living, which requires a responsible equality, the recognition that we are subjects of rights, but also to take our duties responsibly; an ethical awareness that allows us to reflect on what we deserve and what we owe to each other, and also about redistributive solidarity.

The human being only exists in the world as a social being that creates the meanings of its environment. We become human relating to each other. If the other fails to live in dignity, neither I can live in dignity. We must be able to nurture a political culture of solidarity because we are all responsible for combating poverty, injustice, and inequality.

The future of Ecuador as a free, just and emancipated society is held by all individuals, business entities, companies, local governments, and a system of plural economy committed to the deployment of Good Living. Solidarity does not occur without engagement, dialogue, and proximity in conflict. Together we shall overcome poverty and inequality.





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Illustrations, graphis, tables and maps index

## ILLUSTRATIONS INDEX

<b>Illustration 1.</b> Learning Societies	35
<b>Illustration 2.</b> Structure of the National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of Poverty	40
<b>Illustration 3.</b> Areas of Strategic Components	42
<b>Illustration 4.</b> Principles of Productive revolution, work and employment	53
<b>Illustration 5:</b> Principles of the Component for Integral Protection of Life-cycles	62

## GRAPHICS INDEX

<b>Graph 1.</b> Incidence of Poverty by Income	16
<b>Graph 2.</b> Gini Coefficient	16
<b>Graph 3.</b> Incidence of Poverty and Extreme Poverty by Unsatisfied Basic Needs (NBI) (percentage of homes)	17
<b>Graph 4.</b> Adjusted Count Index (M0)	20
<b>Graph 5.</b> Accumulated inverse scarcity distribution: extreme poverty by income	20
<b>Graph 6.</b> Overcrowding percentages in Ecuador ( 2006-2013)	24
<b>Graph 7.</b> Average working income, by gender (2007 – 2013)	25
<b>Graph 8.</b> Eradication of extreme poverty by income (persons)	38
<b>Graph 9.</b> Reducing the Gini Coefficient to 0.44	38
<b>Graph 10.</b> Reducing To less than 20 points the relation between decile 10 and decile 1	39
<b>Graph 11.</b> Reduction of multi-dimensional poverty	39

## TABLES INDEX

<b>Table 1.</b> Selected Indicators with relation to Good Living Rights	19
<b>Table 2.</b> Territorial prioritization typology, average coverage of access to the rights to Good Living	22

## MAPS INDEX

<b>Map 1.</b> National prioritization index in the national territory by areas - National Strategy for Equality and Eradication of poverty.	21
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*“Overcoming poverty should be the moral obligation of the world, especially when poverty is no longer the result of scarcity, droughts, or lack of resources, it is the effect of perverse systems.*

*The main indicator of development, of Good Living, should not be economic growth, but the reduction of poverty and especially extreme poverty”.*

*Rafael Correa Delgado, 24th May 2013.*

*Inaugural Address to the National Assembly*

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