



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE IN ECUADOR

In 2020 USAID re-opened its country office in Quito, giving the United States and Ecuador new opportunities for bilateral cooperation and programming. USAID/Ecuador’s new DRG strategy is based on the premise that effective non-governmental institutions, such as civil society, the media, academia and international networks of experts, help strengthen government institutions’ effectiveness and responsiveness, raise citizen awareness and participation in the governing process, and improve international collaboration.

## OUR WORK

USAID’s work in Ecuador is to protect democracy and the most vulnerable people, specifically through anti-corruption programming. USAID also leverages DRG interventions as a crosscutting strategic approach to address climate change goals and to address continuing food and health insecurity issues.

USAID works with the Ecuadorian government, institutions, communities and civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen the country’s democracy by promoting transparency and fighting corruption on all

levels of government as well as in the elections process to restore public trust and increase domestic and foreign investment. Our work supports Ecuador's National Anti-Corruption Strategy, as well as Ecuador's democracy and political process and enhances its capacity to administer elections, support civil society to combat disinformation, and promote greater participation of women, including indigenous women. More transparent, effective, and inclusive elections are key to good governance and the consolidation of the country's democracy.

## **HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE?**

### **USAID SUPPORTS CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) TO WORK WITH ECUADORIAN GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNITIES AND TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRACY.**

USAID partners with the Government of Ecuador (GoE) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen democracy and increase transparency at the national and local level. USAID's assistance in this area focuses on CSOs' abilities to advocate for inclusive, democratic governance, and to strengthen direct dialogue between civil society and the government. USAID helps CSOs build new alliances across the country, particularly outside of the larger cities, and make the private sector aware of their activities and initiatives to build connections and support from them. Additionally, USAID seeks to increase international private sector interest so Ecuadorian CSOs and institutions have a larger pool of resources, expertise and financing to draw upon to overcome challenges.

### **USAID INSTITUTIONALIZES AND INTEGRATES ANTI-CORRUPTION ACROSS KEY SECTORS.**

USAID works to address the Ecuadorian President's Anti-Corruption priorities and to ensure its National Anti-Corruption Strategy delivers tangible results. USAID currently works to create task forces to improve government transparency through civil society oversight in the energy, infrastructure and telecommunications sectors. Moreover, by assisting with the implementation of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and public procurement transparency, USAID supports the Ecuadorian government in addressing corruption and abuse of the system.

### **USAID PROMOTES PUBLIC-PRIVATE ALLIANCES.**

USAID works with approximately 150 organizations from the the public, private and other sectors to generate best practices and a blueprint for long-term collaborations. USAID strengthens collaborative work to implement USAID's strategy of empowering civil society to partner with the private sector and drive the fight against inequality, corruption, and climate change - and the improvement of education . Specifically, CSOs, in coordination with the private sector, implement innovative pilot projects that enhance the education system, which benefits students, reinvigorates small producers, promotes transparency and addresses climate change.

### **USAID ENABLES CIVIL SOCIETY TO COMBAT DISINFORMATION.**

USAID works with elected provincial, municipal- and parish-level officials and civil society to improve communication across ministries, improve service delivery and implement citizen participation mechanisms and transparency initiatives. Priority actors are the subnational governments themselves as

well as CSOs, local media outlets, and the citizenry. Environmental issues offer a key entry point for this work. Furthermore, USAID continues to support diverse news outlets to develop skills in investigative journalism, fundraising, countering mis- and disinformation, and physical and data protection. Action supporting media organizations and outlets is critical to monitoring press freedom, decreasing harassment and attacks on journalists, and rooting out endemic corruption. USAID encourages transparency in public procurements to help strengthen the role citizens play in their government and the voice they have in the actions it takes. USAID will leverage other USG agencies to promote larger projects that follow transparency and accountability.

### **USAID PROMOTES GENDER EQUALITY AND GREATER POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS WOMEN.**

One of USAID's core institutional values is inclusivity of marginalized groups and, as such, we working to remove barriers for women, including indigenous women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, in the political process and elections at the national and subnational levels and to foster an environment that allows them to participate in meaningful positions. The Mission is building the framework for increased political power by supporting and strengthening these groups in their capacities for risk management and by enhancing their participation of grassroots communities in the decision-making processes that affect their communities.