"LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND"

Joint Program: Strengthening of the Strategy *Puente al Desarrollo* to break the cycle of poverty at the local level with a gender and environmental perspective.

"Strengthening the economic autonomy of women"

To accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, Costa Rica needs to continue advancing **gender equality** and **women´s socioeconomic integration**.

Why is a program with gender perspective important?

Despite progress, there are still important challenges to overcome to achieve women's equality, including:

- Discrimination in access to employment, working conditions, remuneration and social security.

- Early pregnancy rates among teenagers and girls, especially in peripheral communities affected by poverty.

- Higher unemployment and underemployment rates for women than men.

- Lack of co-responsibility and unequal distribution of caring responsibilities within the household.

- Higher percentage of women in the informal economy.

- Disadvantages and social exclusion patterns of women, with wider impact on indigenous and afro-descendant communities.

- High levels of violence against women and girls.

- Structural exclusion of women from financing and land ownership.

The Joint Program will work on two levels::

- **At the central level:** it will strengthen the capacities and coordination of the social protection system entities, with emphasis on the **welfare, agro and labor** components of the Strategy *Puente al Desarrollo*.

- **At the local level:** it will promote employment and entrepreneurships of women living in poverty in the cantons of **Buenos Aires, Puntarenas and Limon**, with special emphasis on indigenous and afro-descendant communities.

TThree innovation laboratories will be established for women to develop sustainable productive initiatives that respond to the market demands, thus promoting women's economic autonomy.

To achieve this, interinstitutional and interagency coordination and the involvement of social and private actors and academia is required. Therefore, the Program will facilitate dialogue spaces and the participatory construction of agreements.

Strategic priorities:

SOCIAL PROTECTION: social protection floor to guarantee women their right to social security.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WITH A GENDER EQUALITY PERSPECTIVE: interventions that enable to reduce the gender gaps that limit women´s "effective access to resources and services."

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: initiatives that promote the economic autonomy of women, innovation and the sustainable use of natural resources, benefitting communities and biodiversity.

Expected results:

Participating institutions in the Strategy Puente al Desarrollo strengthened on:

- Interinstitutional capacities, coordination and tools
- Gender perspective
- Intersectional analysis
- Environmental sustainability
- Promotion of employability and entrepreneurship of women

Women living in poverty conditions in the cantons of Buenos Aires, Puntarenas and Limon have improved access to:

- Innovative services that target their specific needs.
- Support to transition to the formal economy
- Financial instruments

Joint Fund for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Created in 2014 to accelerate progress towards the **17 SDGs** and 2030 Agenda.
- Financed through contributions of donor countries, international organizations, private sector and philanthropic individuals.
- Invests resources to identify and address the challenges of sustainable development, mobilize strategic partnerships and facilitate new financial sources for the SDGs.

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