

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE



CASE STUDY:

Activities by members of the Association of Latin American Sugar Producers (UNALA) supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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End Poverty in all its forms everywhere / UNALA

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ISBN 978-9929-8379-6-6 digital version



SDG 1: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Target: 1.A Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

Target: 1.B Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Source: United Nations, 2015.



1 CAMARA NACIONAL DE LAS INDUSTRIAS AZUCARERA Y ALCOHOLERA

2 ASAZGUA
Asociación de Azucareros de Guatemala

3 Jizucar

4 ESASA
Empresa de Servicios Azucareros S.A.

5 LAICA

6 cael

7 SECTOR AGROINDUSTRIAL DE LA CAÑA
asocaña

8 unica

9 CENTRO AZUCARERO ARGENTINO

10 empresas
iansa

11 PERUCAÑA

12 AZUCALPA
Asociación de Azucareros y Productores de Pajón

13 FENAZÚCAR

14 ALUR

THE ASSOCIATION OF LATIN AMERICAN SUGAR PRODUCERS (UNALA)

The Association of Latin American Sugar Producers (UNALA) is a private non-profit organization that brings together the agro-industrial sector of sugarcane and sugar beet of Latin America. The idea of creating UNALA surged in 2017 and it was formally constituted in 2020. It includes representatives from this agroindustry from 14 countries in the region. Its members are strongly committed to the sustainable production of sugar, electricity, and ethanol, among other byproducts. Together, the members of UNALA represent the largest sugar producing and exporting region in the world. UNALA is more than sugar, it is sustainability, energy, and economic development.

UNALA works with all its members to promote:

- Balanced lifestyles and diets
- The efficient and responsible use of natural resources, including water and land
- The production and use of renewable energy
- The use of ethanol as part of diversified energy matrices

According to data published in the Sugar Yearbook 2024 and the Ethanol Yearbook 2024, the countries represented in UNALA produce approximately 30 % of sugar and 30 % of ethanol in the world. Besides generating more than 6.5 million jobs, some of UNALA members also cogenerate renewable electricity and heat from sugarcane biomass, which is key to promote the sustainable development of Latin America.

The members are:

1. National Chamber of the Sugar and Alcohol Industries (CNIAA) - Mexico
2. Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala (Asazgua/Guatecaña) - Guatemala
3. Distribuidora de Azúcar y Derivados S.A. (DIZUCAR) - El Salvador
4. Empresa de Servicios Azucareros, S.A (ESASA) - Nicaragua
5. Sugarcane Industrial Agricultural League (LAICA) - Costa Rica
6. Sugar Consortium of Industrial Companies (CAEI) – Dominican Republic
7. Association of Colombian Sugar Cane Growers (ASOCAÑA) - Colombia
8. Brazilian Sugarcane Industry and Bioenergy Association (UNICA) – Brazil
9. Centro Azucarero Argentino (CAA) - Argentina
10. Empresas Iansa - Chile
11. Peruvian Association of Agro-Industrial Sugar and Derivatives (PERUCAÑA) - Peru
12. Cane Sugar Industrial Association of Panama (AZUCALPA) - Panama
13. Federación Nacional de Azucareros del Ecuador (FENAZÚCAR) – Ecuador
14. Alcoholes del Uruguay (ALUR) - Uruguay

Vision

UNALA's vision is to be a sugar agroindustry that works together as a region and that operates sustainably in a global context in which its interests are represented.

Mission

UNALA's mission is to be the platform that allows the Latin American sugar agroindustry to operate under fair international conditions, in a competitive market while remaining committed to sustainability.

UNALA works to stimulate the continuous improvement of sustainable practices and thus promote low-carbon energy solutions, as well as actions to improve the efficient use of land and water resources. Therefore, its members have renewed different processes of the production chain allowing an increase in efficiency, an improvement in environmental sustainability, a reduction in the use of water in irrigation and an increase in investment for the preservation of biodiversity.

Objectives

- Facilitate a space for dialogue to promote communication and the development of joint activities that support the sustainable development of member countries in Latin America.
- Represent the Latin American sugarcane and sugar beet sector in regional and multilateral organizations.
- Promote actions, programs and strategies aimed at the sustainable development of the Latin American sugarcane and sugar beet agroindustry.
- Promote the exchange of information and the development of research and technology for the benefit of the sector.

UNALA is committed to advance the objectives and targets of all the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other global agendas including the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Human Rights agendas. Therefore, UNALA's sustainable development strategy focuses on integrated actions directed to address three key dimensions: people (social), prosperity (economic) and planet (environmental), as the basis for achieving sustainable development.

People

The sugarcane and sugar beet agroindustry of Latin America is committed to ensure the well-being of its collaborators and the communities that surround their operations. UNALA members generate decent employment,

which translates into better quality of life and more opportunities for development. UNALA members generate a total of more than 6.5 million jobs.

Prosperity

The sugarcane and sugar beet agroindustry in Latin America, in total, represents the major producer and exporter of sugar in the world. Along its entire value chain, the sugar agroindustry represents economic development for countries. Sugar means opportunities for investments, innovation, and businesses.

The sugarcane agroindustry is also key for national economies due to its contribution to energy matrices including ethanol production for transport and electricity generation from sugarcane biomass.

Planet

In addition to working on all the issues related to the sustainable production and consumption of sugar, UNALA members work directly addressing many issues related to the efficient use of water and the reduction of contaminating wastewater discharges. Another major priority work area is the production of renewable energy that supports climate change objectives including the production of ethanol as an alternative fuel to fossil-fuels for use in the transportation sector and the cogeneration of electricity and heat using sugarcane residues, including bagasse, for self-consumption and to support national energy grids.

UNALA members also conduct programs and projects specifically designed to address other Sustainable Development Goals including: sustainable consumption and production, poverty eradication, decent jobs, ending hunger through improvements in agriculture productivity, sustainable production systems, inequality reduction, protection of biodiversity and aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, quality education, improvements in health services and industrial processes and promotion of advanced technologies and innovation.

UNALA promotes sustainable development and cooperation of the sugar agroindustry of the region through work in three priority areas:

Sugar. Promoting balanced diets that recognize the importance of sugar with four objectives: (1) participate in regulatory processes related to sugar; (2) inform and educate about sugar and substitutes in the diet; (3) show the positive impact of the value chain of the sugar agroindustry; and (4) share knowledge and experiences about the consumption, education and regulation of sugar consumption.

Sustainability. Promoting the sustainability of the sugar agroindustry including: (1) sharing and promoting knowledge and experiences about sustainability practices in the social, economic and environmental dimensions; (2) closing the knowledge gaps in issues related to sustainability; (3) participating and creating partnerships with international organizations related to sustainable development; and (4) communicating information about the sustainability practices being implemented by the sugar agroindustry.

Renewable energy. Recognizing the importance of increasing the use of renewable energy through activities that: (1) promote the generation of renewable electricity using sugarcane residues; (2) promote the use of ethanol in Latin America; (3) exchange knowledge and experiences in the generation of renewable electricity and the production of ethanol; (4) develop new innovative opportunities for the use of sugarcane and beets; and (5) inform the public about the importance of the sugar agroindustry in the generation of renewable electricity for self-consumption and its contribution to the energy matrices of Latin American countries.

► UNALA and the SDG 1

The members of UNALA have multiple initiatives in place that support the objective of SDG 1 on ending or reducing poverty in all its forms. Some examples of these important activities include: the “Echemos Pa ´ Lante (Let’s Move Forward)”

Program of the Sugarcane Industrial Agricultural League (LAICA), Costa Rica; the Social Strategic Framework of the Sugar Agroindustry, Asazgua/Guatecaña Guatemala; and the Studying to Succeed Program of the Agro-Industrial Laredo PERUCAÑA, Peru.



LAICA RSE



LAICA
en las
aulas.

**ECHEMOS PA'LANTE
(LET'S MOVE FORWARD)**

► ECHEMOS PA'LANTE (LET'S MOVE FORWARD) LAICA Costa Rica

Objectives and Description

The main objective of this program is to promote the well-being and quality of life of the employees of LAICA and their families. This is achieved by involving them in a series of subprograms, including capacity development activities, specifically designed to benefit them, thereby contributing to poverty eradication.

The "Echemos Pa'lante" (Let's move forward) program is a social initiative that involves conducting one-on-one interviews with employees who have chosen to participate voluntarily and documenting the information on a technological platform. Through these interviews, a socio-economic analysis is conducted for each household of the employees. The interview addresses and analyzes the following aspects:

- Housing
- Health and well-being
- Education
- Socio-economic characteristics of each household member
- Family finances (budget, indebtedness, etc.)

The platform generates a socio-economic indicator for each family, which the organization considers as a reference for employee requests related to their well-being and that of their families.

The subprograms encompassed by the "Echemos Pa'lante" Program are:

1. Academic Scholarships: This subprogram provides scholarships to children of LAICA employees, considering the socio-economic status of each beneficiary household, as well as the annual academic average of the children. The objective is to prevent school dropouts, promote academic excellence, and support employees in

vulnerable socio-economic conditions. The winners of the scholarship receive \$250 for school supplies and uniforms. The subprogram has managed to impact the education of workers' children in 106 households over the course of 11 years.

- 2. LAICA Te Impulsa (LAICA Boosts You):** This subprogram aims to advertise the entrepreneurial ventures of the employees' families through a catalog containing the products and services they offer. The catalogue is published four times each year before holidays, and it is sent to the email addresses of all the employees. This year, six more ventures were added to the catalog.
- 3. Donde Comen Dos Comen Tres (Where Two Eat, Three Can Eat):** This subprogram provides basic food items to our employees and their families for up to 4 months. The benefit is provided in case the employee's family is undergoing a situation that affects the family's economy, such as illness, unemployment, etc. To grant the benefit, a thorough analysis of the employees' and their families' situation is conducted based on the information collected during the one-on-one interviews mentioned earlier. An economic fund that supports this subprogram has been established, it is donated by both the workers and LAICA. LAICA matches the amount collected monthly by the workers.



4. Financial Education: The subprogram provides tools to LAICA employees through financial education programs that enable them to implement healthy financial habits in their homes. With internal instructors, with extensive educational knowledge in the financial field, the financial education workshop is being redesigned to adapt it to the main needs and conditions of LAICA's people. LAICA, in partnership with BAC San José, provides training in financial education with tools for the employees and their families to plan their budget, as well as define savings and goals.

5. LAICA en las Aulas (LAICA in the Classrooms): This subprogram promotes Basic General Education I and II cycles by providing some school supplies to

children in poverty. This subprogram is funded through auctions of gifts received by LAICA employees from suppliers, which the company's Code of Ethics prohibits them from accepting, as well as through donations from LAICA employees.

Related Targets

The "Let's Move Forward" Program supports the objectives of SDG 1 on ending poverty, particularly in relation to the following targets: Target 1.1 on eradicating extreme poverty for all people everywhere, as shown by the program's various actions, such as, providing basic food items, financial education and school supplies to employees and their families; Target 1.3 on implementing nationally

appropriate social protection systems and measures and achieving coverage of the poor and vulnerable through actions like the interview platform built with the socio-economic analysis of each household and employees, and, by providing workers and their families with tools for budget planning and financial stability education; and, Target 1.5 on building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations through scholarships, financial education, and emergency food aid.

Challenges

A major challenge has been the need to create awareness about the benefits that can be gained when implementing capacity development programs that foster better health, improved socio-economic conditions, enhanced education, financing planning and an entrepreneurial perspective.

Lessons learned

The experience of LAICA in the implementation of this comprehensive program demonstrates that providing basic support in the areas of health, food, education, financing, and entrepreneurship clearly helps to advance the important objectives of reducing poverty, increasing economic growth, enhancing the wellbeing of families and achieving sustainable development.

Results

By the year 2024, LAICA, through the "Scholarship Program," has impacted the education of 106 households of employees. All these families had been in poverty and in high and critical vulnerability conditions.

LAICA Impulsa has supported 23 entrepreneurial ventures of its employees, and six more ventures were added this year to the catalogue.

The academic scholarship subprogram has impacted 96 families in the last 10 years.

Interlinkages with other SDGs

The Echemos Pa'lante (Let's Move Forward) program, aligned within SDG 1, supports other important SDGs including: SDG 2 on Zero Hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition as demonstrated by providing basic food items for employees and their families with emergency economic situations; SDG 4, on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities including through academic scholarships and "LAICA en las Aulas" by donating school supplies to children of employees; SDG 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, as evidenced by actions implemented under LAICA's subprogram Financial Education; and SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals by fostering collaborative partnerships with various stakeholders, including government entities, private sector, and local communities.

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► SOCIAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE SUGAR AGROINDUSTRY ASAZGUA/GUATECAÑA Guatemala

Objectives and Description

The vision of the Social Strategic Framework of the Guatemalan Sugarcane Agroindustry (Guatecaña) is that everyone should have equal opportunities to satisfy basic needs. The mission of Fundazucar, the social branch of Guatecaña, is to become a model for the promotion of social development that the Sugarcane Agroindustry could share for implementation in other sectors of the country with the objective of supporting the social and economic development of the people of Guatemala. The specific target is to promote the development of the Pacific Lowlands region and of the communities of migrant workers through the development and implementation of programs and projects on education, health and municipal development that aim to reduce poverty, increase prosperity, and ensure the wellbeing of the population.

The activities of Fundazucar are based on the formation of human capital with an integral development focus in which each individual has the capabilities and potential to effectively support the prosperity of communities. The sharing of knowledge empowers people allowing a behavioral change that induces greater autonomy and more assertive decisions which in turn improves the quality of life and reduces poverty at all levels.

The experience of Fundazucar of the last 30 years has demonstrated that better results are obtained when the focus is on the cause of the problems; therefore, each of its programs is designed with a methodology of logical framework that allows the training and empowering of key actors. These actors effectively support the sustainable development of communities allowing the constant identification of solutions for the short, medium, and long term. The key actors include women, youth representatives, teachers, school directors, health workers, community leaders and municipal authorities.

Through this strategic framework, Fundazucar has an active and permanent role in the communities. Today the

Sugarcane Agroindustry represents a strategic partner for the state that promotes a model of responsible citizenship with trained and informed individuals that support a continuous process to eradicate poverty. These individuals play an important role in the sustainability of the communities helping to optimize the use of state resources in priority projects and programs, and to strengthen public institutions.

Related Targets

The Social Strategic Framework of the Sugarcane Agroindustry supports most of the targets of SDG 1 on poverty eradication. These targets include: Target 1.1 on eradicating extreme poverty; Target 1.3 on implementing appropriate social protection systems and measures; Target 1.4 on ensuring that men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources as well as access to basic services; and Target 1.5 on building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Challenges

One of the major challenges is the need to ensure continuous support to communities so that the objectives of the Social Strategic Framework are achieved in the mid-term and long-term. Poverty eradication is a continuous challenge that needs dynamic intervention not only from the public authorities but also from the private sector for the generation of jobs and for the formation of community leaders as active members of development.

Another important challenge is the coordination of activities between the government and the communities to ensure the implementation of projects based on integrated development planning. The main objective is to support public policies and implement them locally based on priorities with the efficient administration of public resources.

Lessons Learned

An important lesson from the experience of decades is the need to empower and build the capacities of key actors at the local level to effectively identify and perform the necessary actions that ensure the prosperity and sustainability of communities participating in the programs. The implementation of programs should support the state institutions strengthening the participation of qualified and informed citizens.

Continuous monitoring of poor and vulnerable communities is key to ensure progress related to the objectives of reducing poverty, increasing prosperity, and supporting sustainable development. Therefore, programs are necessary for

the continuous monitoring of social and economic indices and indicators that reflect progress in development objectives including on poverty, health, education, nutrition, etc.

Results

Guatecaña is playing an important role in Guatemala supporting overall efforts on the reduction of poverty and empowering people at all levels through its Social Strategic Framework. Many people are benefiting from the activities related to this social strategy, especially the people from the Pacific Lowlands region which is the area of operation of the Sugarcane Agroindustry.

Interlinkages with other SDGs

Activities of the Social Strategic Framework of Guatecaña related to Poverty (SDG 1) include interlinkages with other SDGs. A major interlinkage is with Economic Growth and Employment (SDG 8) since this agroindustry is a strong engine for the generation of jobs and for economic development in Guatemala. Another clear interlinkage is Health (SDG 3) as the Sugarcane Agroindustry offers programs for vulnerable and poor communities in its area of influence to improve their health and well-being. Health services supported by the sector are provided at reduced or no cost to many patients in Guatemala. A strong interlinkage exists with Education (SDG 4) due to the programs that provide the opportunity for education to low income people allowing them to move out of poverty. The activities are also related to Reducing Hunger and Improving Nutrition (SDG 2) since good nutritional programs have impacts on poverty.



► STUDYING TO SUCCEED PERUCAÑA Agro-Industrial Laredo Peru 🇵🇪

Objectives and Description

The main objective of the Studying to Succeed Program is to offer the opportunity to all the workers of Agro-Industrial Laredo and their families to finish their secondary education at no cost and during a short period of time. Peru has endured economic and social crises in the last years in which education is one of the most affected sectors; therefore, many adults have not been able to complete their basic education limiting their opportunities to find jobs. Given this current situation Agro-Industrial Laredo started this program in partnership with the Centers for Alternative Basic Education (CEBAs) located in the area of influence of this organization.

This educational program was developed for the workers of Laredo and their families including sugarcane harvesters and carriers and for members of the communities located in the area of influence of the organization. The opportunity to complete secondary education allows participants to break the poverty cycle and to improve their chances to get productive jobs. The program includes semi distance or blended (in person and at distance) courses that allow students to finish two academic degrees in one year which are recognized by the Ministry of Education. The program also promotes economic growth, equal education opportunities and the improvement of the quality of life particularly for vulnerable communities located in rural areas.



Related Targets

The Studying to Succeed Program supports most of the targets of SDG 1 on poverty eradication. These targets include: Target 1.1 on eradicating extreme poverty; Target 1.3 on implementing appropriate social protection systems and measures; and Target 1.4 on ensuring that men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources as well as access to basic services.

Challenges

The major challenges for the implementation of this project are related to: (1) ensuring that the local people have access to the educational centers and the necessary resources to follow the educational programs; (2) ensuring the participation of the local communities and creating awareness of the importance of education and its positive future impacts on job opportunities and the quality of life; and (3) ensuring coordination with the Centers for Alternative Basic Education and other educational centers for the planning and implementation of the alternative education programs.

Lessons Learned

The experience of Agro-Industrial Laredo clearly indicates that providing opportunities on education is key to support poverty eradication and to improve the chances for decent and productive jobs as well as to increase the quality of life of the members of the communities participating in this type of program.

Results

The program has been highly successful allowing 1,649 people to complete their secondary education, including 185 people during the 2021-2022 time period.

Interlinkages with other SDGs

The Study to Succeed program, in addition to support the objectives of SDG 1, supports SDG 4 on quality education, through educational programs developed specifically for the workers, their families and members of the communities located in the company's area of influence; and SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, by equipping workers with the educational tools necessary to improve their chances of securing productive employment and pursuing economic growth.

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Printed in natural paper Ledesma NAT, produced 100% from sugar cane, 0% tree fiber, 0% bleaching chemicals, by Ledesma in Argentina.

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