

# ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



## CASE STUDY:

Activities by members of the Association of Latin American Sugar Producers (UNALA) supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) 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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## **SDG 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**

**Target 3.1:** By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

**Target 3.2:** By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

**Target 3.3:** By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

**Target 3.4:** By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

**Target 3.5:** Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

**Target 3.6:** By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

**Target 3.7:** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

**Target 3.8:** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

**Target 3.9:** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

**Target: 3.a:** Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

**Target: 3.b:** Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

**Target: 3.c:** Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

**Target: 3.d:** Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Source: United Nations, 2015.



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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



caei

7



SECTOR  
AGROINDUSTRIAL  
DE LA CAÑA  
asocaña

8



UNICA

9



CENTRO  
AZUCARERO  
ARGENTINO

10



empresas  
iansa

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PERUCAÑA

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AZUCALPA  
Asociación de Azucareros y Alcohólicos de Panamá

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FENAZÚCAR

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ALUR

# THE ASSOCIATION OF LATIN AMERICAN SUGAR PRODUCERS

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 3

The members of UNALA have multiple initiatives in place with the aim of ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages, the main objectives of SDG 3. Some examples of these important activities include: the Local Sports Support Program, Empresas Iansa, Chile; the “Sugarcane Unites Us” program, Asocaña, Colombia; Fundazucar

Guatecaña Medical Clinics, GUATECAÑA Guatemala; the Program on Good Health and Wellbeing, CNIAA, Mexico; the Total Worker Health Program, Pantaleon Group, Monte Rosa Sugar mill, Empresa de Servicios Azucareros, S.A. (ESASA), Nicaragua; and, the “Health Comes First” Program, Ignacio Escudero Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Center, Caña Brava Company, Peru.





**Orgullosos  
de incentivar  
el deporte  
nacional.**

## **LOCAL SPORTS SUPPORT PROGRAM**

# ► THE LOCAL SPORTS SUPPORT PROGRAM

## Empresas Iansa

### Chile

## Objectives and Description

Empresas Iansa promotes education on healthy eating, conscious nutrition and healthy lifestyles to its employees, communities, consumers, and other stakeholders, so support for athletes is in line with this focus of action. In the development of more sustainable communities, Empresas Iansa promotes a healthy lifestyle through constant support for athletes in the places where the company is present.

The primary objective of the Local Sports Support Program, developed by Empresas Iansa, is to promote health and healthy living. Within this context, the program values and recognizes the development of local sports as an activity of significant impact and visibility for the communities near the facilities of the company. To this end, the program encourages, develops, supports, and sponsors activities to promote healthy living and sports.

The Sports Support Program sponsors high-performance national athletes and workers, and provides ongoing support to young athletes, sports activities, and sport clubs in the nearby communities. Actions include contributing to their sports development through sponsorships, sports events, sports clothing, and other resources. To date, the program has maintained sponsorships for the Ñublense Sports Club for the past 8 years.

Additionally, Empresas Iansa guarantees the integrity and transparency of the program in accordance with its Crime Prevention Model through the development of a Donations Policy. This policy establishes a single and uniform regulatory framework to control the delivery of donations, in strict compliance with the regulations, both to cultural, sports and educational entities, as well as to individuals or legal entities.

## Related Targets

The Sports Support Program's actions align with SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Its objectives are broadened by addressing Target 3.4 on reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

## Challenges

Important challenges relative to the proper processing of donations had to be addressed by Empresas Iansa. These include:

- Donations are different from corporate sponsorships. They required separate management processes.
- The Corporate Marketing and Sustainability department must ensure that donations align with the company's Sustainability Model.
- The donation program must adhere to the company's environmental and social commitments, as well as sustainability policies.
- Donations must also be aligned with the interests and other related factors of neighboring communities.





## Lessons learned

Some lessons learned during the implementation of the Sport Support Program include:

- The development of local sports is one of the activities with the greatest impact on communities and the highest visibility.
- Small actions (donations of sports equipment to a club, for example) generate an incredibly positive impact on local communities. It nurtures a sense of unity and goodwill.
- Sponsoring a regional club such as Ñublense Sports Club has helped the program in generating a sense of belonging and pride in the neighboring communities. It contributes to community growth and instills a shared sense of purpose and accomplishment.

## Results

The development of the Sport Support Program has had meaningful results. Some include:

- Ñublense Sports Club. Through this sports club, local soccer support has been provided for eight consecutive years. Sports activities are promoted and developed. Ñublense Sports Club is sponsored under the company's brand.
- Support in Special Olympics Chile for games held in Berlin 2023.
- Soy Más Foundation community run.
- Support for the Chilean Paralympic Rugby Federation for the Pan American Games.
- Support for the Ñuble Sports Event Run Towards Santiago.
- Collaboration with local high-performance athletes (Mateo Mendoza, Pablo León, and Alan Ríos).
- Collaboration with Sports Clubs (Unión Estrella de Freire and Puente Ñuble).

- San Nicolás Athletic Club. Training program sponsorship for all members of this Athletic Club.
- Chile Special Winter Olympics. Donation of products such as Tamaya juices, beans, lentils, and pumpkin and spinach cream.
- Chile Special Olympics. Support for a Christmas campaign for Special Olympics Chile, to generate resources for their trip to Berlin, Germany.
- Permanent support is provided to young athletes in the communities of influence. The following are the main sponsorships and donations generated by IANSA Enterprises:

- Triathlete Mateo Mendoza. Under the program's sponsorship, he participates in Triathlon and Duathlon competitions. He is a member of the Catholic University Team. First place in the National Duathlon Championship 2022.
- Triathlete Sebastián Maldonado. He received support for the purchase of sports equipment for his participation in the South American Games in Asuncion, Paraguay.
- Table tennis player Pablo León. He was provided with sports equipment.
- Cyclist José Miguel Ferrada. Annual sponsorship to support his training. Bronze medal in 400 meters flat in the M 45 category at the 2020 World Masters Athletics Championships,

Tampere, Finland. South American and Chilean record with a mark of 51' 31".

- Athlete Sara Vera. Support for medical services and treatments. Best mark in the discus and hammer throw in the sub-20 National Federated Athletics 2022. Bronze medal in the hammer throw in the South American Athletics Championship.
- Table tennis players Jean Parra & Benjamín Suarez. Monthly sponsorship for their training sessions. Bronze medal, in boys' doubles, 2022 Table Tennis Junior Championship.

## Interlinkages with other SDGs

The Sports Support Program embodied within SDG 3 bears an important interlink with SDG 5, on Gender Equality, as evidenced by its actions aiming at creating a safe environment for all athletes, regardless of gender. Its direct support to high performance athletes fostering inclusiveness without gender barriers plays an essential role in empowering women and girls in this sports program.

Empresas Iansa promotes diversity and inclusion through sports and sponsors the activities of the Special Olympics Chile. Additionally, it sponsors a high-performance athlete in the Paralympic games.

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# ► THE “SUGARCANE UNITES US” PROGRAM

## ASOCAÑA

### Colombia

## Objectives and Description

The “Sugarcane Unites Us” Program, established in 2019 by the sugar agrobusiness sector, aims to contribute directly to good health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable communities in southwestern Colombia. Currently, it represents a fundamental pillar of the sustainability strategy of Asocaña, its mills and affiliated growers.

The program conducts short-, medium- and long-term projects of great social impact and benefit for the communities. Asocaña, in a public-private partnership with its affiliated mills, the Colombian Air Force (FAC), municipal governments, family compensation funds, universities, government agencies, and other entities, organizes and holds special health events which are held for the communities in the area of influence of the sugar mills. These events provide cost-free medical services (general and specialized) as well as wellness and recreational services to communities with limited or no access to these services.

The special health events provide access to more than eleven medical specialties, including: Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Dentistry, Psychology, Gynecology, Speech Therapy, Neuropediatrics, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, General Medicine, and also, a prescription drugs delivery service, extended to populations not covered by the social security system. To date, the “Sugarcane Unites Us” Program has benefited more than 13,000 people, including children, youth, adults, and senior citizens, mostly vulnerable and migrant population.

## Related Targets

The program’s actions are framed within the SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

These are related to: Target 3.3 on helping to end epidemics, tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases; Target 3.4 on reducing premature mortality and promoting mental health and well-being, as shown by the program’s cost free comprehensive health care approach that includes medical services and other aspects of well-being, such as education, nutrition, and mental health, all aimed at vulnerable communities; and, Target 3.8 on achieving universal health coverage, access to quality essential health-care services and access to quality, effective, safe and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, as shown by the special health events providing access to more than eleven medical specialties and a prescription drugs delivery service.

## Challenges

Guaranteeing the participation of specialized physicians in these workshops, given that their support is on a voluntary basis, has been one of the most important challenges faced by the program. Other key challenges encountered include:

- The program aims to benefit vulnerable communities. Some regions still lack adequate healthcare infrastructure, hindering the program’s equitable reach.
- Social disparities and reaching marginalized populations also remain an ongoing challenge.



- The COVID-19 pandemic represented a major challenge to overcome.

## Lessons learned

The need to integrate and coordinate continuously with health promoting entities and hospitals to guarantee health care provision to communities has been a major lesson learned during the implementation of the program. Other important lessons learned include:

- Involving local communities from the outset has been crucial to ensure acceptance and sustainability. The design and execution of the program's projects must include and be guided by the communities insights, needs, and preferences.
- A comprehensive approach, beyond medical services, addressing other aspects of well-being, such as education, nutrition, and mental health has proven to make the program more effective and impactful.
- Being adaptable has also been essential. Quick adjustments based on real-time feedback due to logistics, weather, or unforeseen circumstances have been necessary throughout the program's implementation.
- Special health events provide immediate benefits. Capacity building, training, and infrastructure development are required for long lasting initiatives.
- The program's effectiveness relies on partnerships, shared resources and experience with government agencies, NGOs, private companies, local leaders, and other related entities.
- Effective communication, health awareness and community health and

well-being empowerment represent efforts requiring ongoing addressing.

- To understand, respect and include cultural aspects, local customs, beliefs, and practices have been critical actions for the program's success.

## Results

The "Sugarcane Unites Us" program in Colombia has made significant contributions to vulnerable communities and the sugarcane industry. Some important contributions include:

- The free comprehensive specialized health care provided by the special health events has benefited more than 13,000 people from vulnerable communities.
- The services of health care have been extended to provide delivery of prescription drugs, particularly to the population not covered by the social security system.
- More than eleven medical specialties have been offered during "Sugarcane Unites Us" workshop days: Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Dentistry, Psychology, Gynecology, Speech Therapy, Neuropediatrics, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, General Medicine, among others.
- Medical offices under the program were equipped with important medical equipment provided by the sugarcane industry.
- The program has united and strengthened the relationship between stakeholders, improved health services, and contributed to the progress of the sugarcane industry in Colombia.

## Interlinkages with other SDGs

This program's actions supporting SDG 3 bear important interlinkages with SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, by the contribution to the well-being and progress of the most vulnerable communities in southwestern Colombia; and, SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals, as shown by the public-private partnerships achieved between Asocaña, its affiliated mills, the Colombian Air Force (FAC), municipal governments, family compensation funds, universities, government agencies, and other entities for a health program on behalf of the communities in the area of influence of the sugar mills.

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**THE “SUGARCANE UNITES US”  
PROGRAM**

## ► Guatecaña Medical Clinics Program ASAZGUA/GUATECAÑA Guatemala 🇬🇹



### Objectives and Description

The Guatecaña Medical Clinics is located in Escuintla and operates through an agreement with Ministry of Health of Guatemala. It provides medical attention to over 45,000 patients annually offering to the general public five medical specialties: general medicine, pediatrics, dermatology, ophthalmology, and odontology. It also provides pharmacy, laboratories, and optic services. Patients pay just a symbolic amount of 30 Quetzals (about \$3.9) considering the poverty situation of the target population.

### Related Targets

This activity is particularly related to Target 3.8 on achieving universal health coverage and access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for

all. The initiative is allowing vulnerable communities in Guatemala to have access to essential health services and indispensable medicines.

### Challenges

A major challenge is the need to create awareness about the value of preventive



health and the need to visit primary health care facilities on a regular basis. These measures prevent the saturation of hospitals and health consultations with sick patients.

Although the Guatecaña Medical Clinics is able to provide medical attention to a large number of people, there is always the need to continue expanding these services, especially in other vulnerable communities of the country.

## Lessons Learned

The large number of patients who are benefiting from the health services of the Guatecaña Medical Clinics proves that health services can be provided efficiently with priority investment in covering as many people as possible especially in vulnerable regions of Guatemala.

## Results

The Guatecaña Medical Clinics is providing quality services in communities in Guatemala allowing access to over

45,000 patients to essential health services every year. The program represents a social protection mechanism covering poor and vulnerable people in Guatemala.

## Interlinkages with other SDGs

Activities by the Guatecaña Medical Clinics, related to SDG 3, include interlinkages with other SDGs. One clear interlinkage is Education (SDG 4) as the Sugarcane Agroindustry offers capacity development activities for the communities in its area of influence to improve their health and wellbeing. These activities are also related to SDG 17, as multiple partnerships among different stakeholders are required to fully implement the Sugarcane Agroindustry's SDG 3 initiatives. Finally, the interlinkage with SDG 1 (Ending poverty) is recognized, as the health services provided by the Sugarcane Agroindustry come at reduced or no cost to many patients in Guatemala.

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## Objectives and Description

In Mexico, the sugarcane sector is especially important in social terms, as it is located in rural areas where more than 185,000 cane growers and their families are the owners of the 800,000 hectares of sugarcane harvested every year and which is sold to the sugar mills under contract. In general, represents more than 495,000 direct jobs: 42,605 Factory Workers (with Union); 185,000 Cane Growers (represented by 2 national Unions); 153,711 Field Laborers; 69,971 Harvesters; 31,318 Transporters of cane. There are 49 sugar mills in 15 Mexican states and 267 rural municipalities, where more than 12 million people live.

With a history of 500 years in Mexico, passed down from generation to generation, the sugar industry in Mexico has been regulated by the Law for the Sustainable Development of Sugar Cane since 2008. Sugar is the only product in Mexico with its own dedicated law. As the law's name suggests, sustainability is a crucial component of public policies in the sugar industry.

The Law establishes the CONADESUCA (Comité Nacional para el Desarrollo Sustentable de la Caña de Azúcar / National Committee for the Sustainable Development of the Sugar Cane Industry) as the main regulatory body. CONADESUCA is a National Committee formed by 5 Ministries including the Ministries of Environment and Labor, two National Cane Grower Organizations and the Mexican Sugar Chamber (CNIAA).

The sugarcane sector, with a regulatory framework, focuses on sustainability:

- The Law for Sustainable Development of Sugarcane
- PRONAC 2021-2024 (establishes the public policy objectives in the sugar cane agroindustry)

Some of the PRONAC 2021-2024 sustainable goals, were:

- Increase the productivity and competitiveness of sugarcane production and its industrialization in a sustainable manner.
- Strengthen the sustainability indicators of the sugarcane agro-industry by integrating social variables into the official System of Sustainability Indicators (SI-SUSTENTABILIDAD).

Other National Programs that sugar mills must comply with, related to the sustainability of water, include:

- Programa Nacional para el Uso, Conservación y Recuperación del Suelo y Aguas Agrícolas (for the protection and recovery of the soil and water in agriculture).
- Programa Nacional Hídrico (for the sustainability of water).
- Programa Especial de Cambio Climático (for the mitigation of Climate Change)

The sugar mills of Mexico maintain their commitment to the development of social wellbeing by establishing programs and preventive health campaigns that seek to raise awareness about the importance of health care and the benefits of prevention. The programs



are targeted at both unionized and non-unionized mill workers, as well as their families, and various communities located in the areas of influence of the sugar mills. Each program is based on the specific needs identified in the mills and communities. The alliances or partnerships formed with health institutions, local and state authorities, state universities, clinics, and private clinical laboratories for the development of health programs play a crucial role in the implementation of this program.

The Pantaleon Group, through its sugar mills Pánuco and El Mante, supports local health institutions and helps improve community health infrastructure to improve access to these services. The Group supports the administration of Community Health Clinics that decentralize access to care as well as helps add services to existing institutions such as Early Childhood Screening, Mental Health, Autism Services, Cancer Prevention, amongst others. They also promote health campaigns in the communities including an audiovisual screening campaign that provides free reading glasses to children who need them. For its workers and their families,

each mill has a dedicated health clinic offering primary care, ophthalmology, and dentistry services, receiving around 2,000 visits yearly.

Caritas Tampico provides sugar donations and organizes the provision of daily school breakfasts. The program is aimed at vulnerable individuals in the communities of Tampico, Ciudad Madero, Altamira, in Tamaulipas, and the northern region of the state of Veracruz. In this regard, all sugar mills in Mexico coordinate with the CNIAA for the donation of sugar to the 'Food for Mexico' initiative led by the National Agricultural Council which aims to provide food to the most vulnerable populations in the country.

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Panuco and Mante sugar mills donated protective equipment that benefitted the following organizations: the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), the Civil Hospital of Pánuco, the Red Cross Pánuco and Mante, Sanitary Filter, Civil Force and the Regional Hospital of Ciudad Mante.

Trópico Sugar Group conducted activities for the operational staff, their families, and the communities near La Gloria

and La Joya sugar mills including the Mammograms program called “October is the whole year” and studies for the prevention of kidney diseases. In addition to these programs, donations of medical equipment and materials were made, as well as monetary contributions resulting from races and cycling events organized by the sugar mills for the benefit of the population.

At Porres Group, during the 2023/2024 harvest, 5,512 medical services have been provided to agricultural workers in the field. Likewise, 1,200 services have been implemented in shelters or stays for the families of agricultural harvesters. Additionally, in the Porres Group 4 sugar mills programs related to water, shade and rest have been conducted, managing to install 2,325 shaded areas for rest breaks and the placement of drinking water containers for harvesters and laborers.

In addition, donations of medical equipment and materials were made, as well as monetary contributions resulting from races and cycling events organized by the sugar mills for the benefit of the population.

In relation to sports promotion, sugar mills maintain various programs, such as: Sugar Run 5k, with over 4,400 runners; establishment of after-school soccer programs for children and youth, which also promote additional physical conditioning classes for the parents and workers; 4 kms Sugarcane and Sugar cycling event; charity cycling event “Pedaling for You”; and recreational fishing tournament “Among Friends.” These sport events have been conducted by the Pantaleon México Group and the Trópico Sugar Group in the states of Veracruz, Tamaulipas, and Campeche. To ensure the implementation of these programs, the organization of these races and cycling events requires forging alliances with local

authorities, national and international organizations, and private companies.

Since 2012, the Tala Sugar Mill and Lázaro Cárdenas Sugar Mill, both part of Grupo Azucarero Mexico (GAM by its initials in Spanish) have been providing support through the Solidarity Pharmacies program. This initiative involves setting up pharmacies in communities near the mills, offering medical care and first-level medicines at a low cost or free. Additionally, they provide consultations and medications at Tala’s care homes and elementary schools sponsored by GAM in the communities near to their operations.

GAM’s program includes periodic health caravans that provide health services to its employees and communities near the sugar mill. These caravans provide services related to ophthalmology and general medicine, vaccination, dental care, hearing health prevention and disease prevention. Since 2020, GAM initiated another program at Tala Sugar Mill, it is called “Pink October” to benefit over 60 women annually against. These services are offered to employees, their families, and the community to prevent breast cancer.

Regarding these initiatives, there are permanent prevention and drug addiction programs, including an Alcoholics Anonymous group and a social reintegration program through the full-time group focusing on family issues, domestic violence, addictions, and the promotion of core personal values.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Tala Sugar Mill and Lázaro Cárdenas Sugar Mill donated medical equipment, face masks, and hand sanitizer to the Mexican Social Security Institute. Additionally, the sugar mills supported doctors and paramedics in coordinating vaccination campaigns.





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**- 2023 -**

**La Red CCE por la Primera Infancia extiende  
el presente reconocimiento**

a la

**Cámara Nacional de las  
Industrias Azucarera y  
Alcoholera**

Por su compromiso y participación en la Red.



GAM also donated food and groceries to vulnerable populations around GAM's sugar mills.

Since 2019, the Tala Sugar Mill has implemented the Bonsucro Standard for its own fields, which is frequently used to measure safety, health, and working conditions for field workers.

The PIASA Group, through its social responsibility programs, has been developing activities that contribute to the welfare of its employees and the communities of influence of its three mills (Tres Valles, Adolfo López Mateos and PIASA Ingenio Plan de San Luis). Since 2022, it has implemented programs such as "Cinema under the stars", which seeks to bring entertainment to children in our society and promote familiar spaces for our stakeholders. In addition, it has been improving the conditions of facilities in different areas so that employees and their families can enjoy spaces such as parks, swimming pools,

and children's playgrounds in excellent conditions. Additionally, PIASA Group has been promoting sports activities through the delivery of baseball uniforms to a women's team in the state of Veracruz and the organization of the "We Are PIASA" Races, an event that brought together 1,650 people in its first version, including employees and their families in the different business units of the group. Finally, in 2024, investments have been made for the purchase of medical products, furniture and healing materials for public entities and schools in the community of Tres Valles, Veracruz.

Additionally, in alliance with the sugarcane associations, since 2018 the "INTEGRA" program has been under development. This program seeks to improve conditions of sugarcane producers and cutters through the different processes in the region. The main results are 907 sugarcane producers, and 839 sugarcane cutters have been participating and involved, they have been trained in occupational

safety, health, human rights, and good environmental practices. In addition, support has been provided through the delivery of personal protective equipment, hydration and rest equipment, general medical checkup, and medical care in the field.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, alliances were formed with health institutions that benefited people with COVID and vulnerable sectors with basic necessities such as alcohol, medicines, and some bunk beds for patients. In the sugarcane crops, there were health brigades with specialists to monitor the cutters and their families through timely detection and medication.

The support of all the Mexican sugar mills to local institutions was particularly noticeable during the COVID-19, where the Mills collaborated with local counterparts to ensure they had the required protective equipment.

The sugar agroindustry, aware of the importance of early childhood care, has joined forces with the Early Childhood Network of the Business Coordinating Council (CCE). The agroindustry represents an active member of this network. From this collaboration, courses are offered to companies for their workers and parents, aiming to emphasize the importance of health and emotional well-being care of children and adolescents in early childhood. It is highlighted that the actions implemented by companies for their employees directly contribute to creating healthy environments both at work and at home. The constant promotion of the courses and conferences deployed within the network promotes responsible parenthood, breastfeeding rooms, the benefits of breastfeeding, emotional care for infants, the advantages of adopting flexible schedules for female employees, mental health, among other topics.

## Related Targets

This program on good health and wellbeing supports the objectives of SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for everyone. The activities of this program are specifically related to Target 3.2 on ending preventable deaths of newborns and children; Target 3.3 on ending the epidemics of various diseases; Target 3.4 on reducing premature mortality and promote mental health and wellbeing; and Target 3.8 on achieving access to health services and essential medicines and vaccines.

## Challenges

One of the main challenges is related to the coordination in the implementation of these health and wellbeing activities with all the stakeholders. The cooperation with public organizations and community representatives is challenging but essential to ensure the success of all the diverse activities in all the different communities.

## Lessons learned

An important lesson learned is that health and wellbeing activities are highly appreciated by the people in communities where this support is needed. Therefore, the efforts are usually insufficient due to the continuous increasing demand for these quality medical services and wellbeing activities.

## Results

The comprehensive number of health and wellbeing activities being implemented by the sugar agroindustry of Mexico have resulted in considerable benefit to the people who live in the communities located in the area of interest of all the different sugar mills.



The program has allowed around 36,000 health services in the Pánuco Sugar Mill area and 116 in the El Mante Sugar Mill area. Caritas Tampico provides 9,500 school breakfasts every day. The activities carried out by the PIASA Group have benefited more than 3,000 people in the states of Veracruz, San Luis Potosí, and Oaxaca.

At the Tala and Lázaro Cárdenas Sugar Mills, the pharmacy services and complementary health campaigns benefit more than 10,000 people per year.

## Interlinkages with other SDGs

The program's actions, framed within SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being, bear important interlinkages with: SDG 2 -Zero Hunger. Through the program, the CNIAA supports the overall health of workers and their families. Addressing

health issues ensures that agricultural workers contribute effectively to food production and distribution. Additionally, all sugar mills in Mexico coordinate with the CNIAA to donate sugar for the “Food for Mexico” initiative and provide food to the most vulnerable populations; and SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals. The program has successfully strengthened its actions through collaboration with various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, private sector, and industry players. These partnerships have effectively aided in securing resources, institutional endorsements, knowledge sharing and creating synergies to support the program and its sustainable development.

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# ► **TOTAL WORKER HEALTH PROGRAM**

## **ESASA, S.A.**

### **Pantaleon Group/ Monte Rosa Sugar mill**

#### **Nicaragua**

## **Objectives and Description**

The Total Worker Health Program includes policies, programs and practices designed for the prevention of illnesses and injuries that support the comprehensive protection and wellbeing of workers. It focuses on health, security, and wellbeing.

The specific objectives of this program include: (1) implementation of 8 Epidemiological Vigilance Programs (EVPs); (2) promotion of good health and continued education on health issues; (3) compliance to standards specified in the EVPs; (4) systematic follow up of activities through compliance indicators, health indicators and impact assessments; and (5) notification of information derived from the EVPs to the high level and area management.

The Total Worker Health Program is based on occupational and non-occupational risks to which workers are exposed in and out of their work areas. It addresses occupational, physical, and mental health issues. Occupational health issues include EVP on thermal stress to ensure adequate hydration, rest and shade during working hours; EVP on auditive protection to ensure adequate noise exposure; EVP on muscle and skeleton disorders to ensure the reduction of accidents and the adaptation of the work activities and areas to the workers physical conditions; and EVP on Agrochemicals to reduce the risk of intoxication. The physical health includes EVP on healthy lifestyles to improve the life quality; monitoring of workers with chronic health conditions; and EVP on drugs and alcohol to create awareness and prevent harmful use. Mental health issues consider EVP on stress and fatigue to reduce causes and to learn how to manage these factors.

One of the main strategies followed for the implementation of the Total Worker Health Program is education. Through education, the Monta Rosa Sugar Mill promotes good health through several activities that ensure that workers have a proficient level of knowledge that allows them to take control over their own health. The “Train the Trainers” strategy allows the formation of health expert teams that then lead the dissemination of valuable health information among all the workers.

## **Related Targets**

This activity is particularly related to the Target 3.5 on the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and alcohol; on Target 3.8 on providing access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines; and Target 3.9 on reducing illnesses from hazardous chemicals.

## **Challenges**

Some of the most important challenges related to the implementation of this program include the need to induce a cultural change in relation to health habits and ensuring that relevant health education reaches all the workers. In the last few years, the COVID-19 health crisis represented a real challenge that needed a lot of attention and that was difficult to overcome.

## Lessons Learned

A major lesson learned is that the health of workers needs to be addressed in a holistic or integrated manner. It is not sufficient to manage occupational illnesses or injuries. Workers need to have valuable knowledge on health issues and on occupational and non-occupational risks both in and out of their work areas and that the constant monitoring of their health condition is of utmost importance.

## Results

The Total Worker Health Program has been highly successful in the last several years as demonstrated by several indicators. Today about 95% of the planned program activities are implemented with positive results. There has been a marked reduction in the prevalence and incidence of occupational illnesses and about 92% of the workers with chronic health conditions have achieved controlled status. In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mortality rate was only 0.04%.

## Interlinkages with other SDGs

Activities by Empresa de Servicios Azucareros, S.A. (ESASA) related to “Ensuring Healthy Lives and Promoting Well-Being for All at All Ages” (SDG 3) include interlinkages with other SDGs. One clear interlinkage is Education (SDG 4) as the Sugar Agroindustry offers capacity development activities for the communities in its area of influence to improve their health and wellbeing. These activities are also related to SDG 17, as multiple partnerships among different stakeholders are required to fully implement the Sugar Agroindustry’s SDG 3 initiatives. Finally, the interlinkages between SDG 3 and SDG 1 (Ending poverty) are recognized, as the health services come at reduced or no cost to many patients in Nicaragua.

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# ► “HEALTH COMES FIRST” PROGRAM

## Ignacio Escudero Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Center PERUCAÑA Caña Brava Company Peru

### Objectives and Description

In Peru, at least half of the population still lacks access to essential health services, medical centers, and quality care. Caña Brava company is developing its “Health Comes First” program with the objective of providing access to quality medical care to families in the communities in its areas of influence.

In line with this program, the company hired medical and technical personnel in the communities of Montelima, San José, San Miguel, El Tambo, Amotape, El Arenal and Vivate. It also took part in the Ignacio Escudero Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Center and the quarterly Medical Campaigns, in strategic alliance with the Simón Rodríguez Community Association.

In addition, actions were taken, and contributions made during the COVID-19 pandemic, through the distribution of alcohol, masks, among other items. Currently, the company is involved in fumigation campaigns against dengue and provides constant support to Health Centers of the surrounding communities.

### Related Targets

The program’s actions are directly linked to Target 3.3 on ending epidemics and other communicable diseases as shown by the program’s active involvement and contributions made during the COVID-19 pandemic, dengue fumigation campaigns and support to Health Centers; Target 3.8 on providing access to quality essential health-care services for the communities surrounding the company; and, Target 3.d on strengthening the capacity of communities in the areas of influence of the company to manage national and global health risks, as shown

by the various projects carried out during COVID-19 and currently, against dengue and in coordination with local Health Centers.

### Challenges

The most important challenges faced by the “Health comes First” program since inception have included:

- Community participation. Information and active communication to effectively reach out to communities and gain their participation in the program has been a major challenge faced during the implementation of the project.
- Financial Resources. Securing sustainable funding for the program over time has also been a major challenge.
- Establishing partnerships with existing health centers to allow use of their facilities has been of vital importance to the program.

### Lessons learned

A comprehensive campaign was necessary to introduce the program to local communities, gain their recognition of its value, gain their trust, promote their involvement, and ensure that they would take advantage of it.

It was also necessary to implement a

coordination plan with Health Centers for the program's use of their facilities once partnerships were established.

## Results

The receptivity and the effectiveness of the program in communities have been maintained over time, as indicated by the following results:

- The program has a presence in 8 communities, where more than 2,000 services per community are provided annually, impacting more than 800 families. Likewise, the Physical Therapy center performs more than 1,500 treatments a year. Since 2007, the program has had medical presence in the community of Viviate, adding Ignacio Escudero, San José and Montelima communities in 2009, Amotape and Tambo in 2021, and Arenal and San Miguel in 2022.
- Medical campaigns provide assistance to more than 300 people per campaign. In these Quarterly Medical Campaigns, initiated in 2009, the program actively provides and supports medical personnel, implements personal protective equipment donations, personnel transportation, among other participations.
- Significant partnerships have been achieved with health centers, providers, and institutions, such as CLASS (Local Health Administration Committees), Ignacio Escudero Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Center, Simón Rodríguez de Paíta Community Association and the District Municipalities reflect the importance of public-private partnerships to address and sustain the program's goals.

## Interlinkages with other SDGs

This program's actions related with SDG 3 bear important interlinkages with SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities, by providing medical care to neighboring communities, especially in rural areas with no access to health centers, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, the program's medical care is aimed at making all communities and settlements in its area of influence inclusive, safe and resilient to health risks and threats, and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals, as shown by the important partnerships with health centers achieved and their supporting participation in the program.



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