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MORE PEOPLE-CENTERED
CITIES

MORE ENGAGED
MUNICIPALITIES

MORE EMPOWERED
CITIZENS

TANDEM

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR DIALOGUE
AND COLLECTIVE ACTION





TANDEM means “together” in Latin, and that is our philosophy:

We believe in the ability of people to work together, beyond their differences, for a common good. But collaboration does not happen spontaneously; it needs to be facilitated.

That is why, in each of our projects, we build trust first and develop methodologies that transform people, their communities, and ourselves. We operate at the local level because we believe that cities are the epicenter of human development, and we work to make them more people-centered, with participatory governments and active and responsible citizens.

Over the years, we have built networks across Ecuador, empowering communities and demonstrating that change is possible when we work together. Within these pages, you will discover stories of impact, lessons learned, and dreams taking shape. We invite you to explore our work, find inspiration, and join us in creating more just and vibrant cities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniela Chacón Arias".

Daniela Chacón Arias
Executive Director



WHO WE ARE

mission

We serve as a bridge for dialogue and collective action, connecting citizens, civil society, the private sector, and local governments to collectively address people's needs.

vision

We design and implement initiatives to foster communities and cities as spaces of coexistence to ensure they are safe, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.

key pillars

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TANDEM METHOD

FIRST MOMENT: SPATIAL INTELLIGENCE

At TANDEM, spatial intelligence is the first step toward change. It involves gathering, analyzing, and strategically using data to understand the reality of communities, identify opportunities, and foster knowledge exchange through equality-based approaches.

GOAL AND APPROACH

Its purpose is to generate reliable information that guides decision-making and maximizes impact. Through territorial analysis, we detect inequalities, especially related to gender, and design inclusive strategies.

KEY COMPONENTS

- **Official Sources** – Government data and large-scale information analysis.
- **Data Collection** – Surveys, interviews, and focus groups.
- **Citizen Knowledge** – Community participation in mapping and participatory diagnostics.

This approach strengthens the sense of belonging and allows us to design innovative and effective interventions, combining evidence, local knowledge, and equity to generate a real impact.

SECOND MOMENT: TRAINING FOR CHANGE

Training for change is a key pillar of the TANDEM method, focusing on developing skills and strategies so that participants can lead transformations in their communities.

GOAL AND APPROACH

Provide practical tools and knowledge adapted to local realities, promoting active and inclusive learning. The aim is to reduce inequality gaps, especially those related to gender, and to value all voices.

EPIPHANY: FROM LEARNING TO ACTION

This process transforms knowledge into concrete actions through interactive methodologies and strategic planning for sustainable impact.

KEY COMPONENTS

- **Recognition of the value of local experiences**
 - ◊ Spaces for exchange and real case studies.
 - ◊ Practical workshops with simulations and role-playing dynamics.

- **Playful and interactive dynamics**
 - ◊ Games, storytelling, and collaborative work for accessible learning.
- **Integration of knowledge**
 - ◊ A multidisciplinary perspective and connection between theory and practice.

- **Strategic planning**
 - ◊ Design of action plans and impact evaluation.

Training for change transforms learning into commitment, fostering sustainable leadership for social transformation.

THIRD MOMENT: PARTICIPATION

Participation is an essential pillar of the TANDEM method, driving collective potential to generate sustainable change. This process fosters creativity, planning, bonding, and empowerment, promoting long-term civic engagement.

GOAL AND APPROACH

Strengthen the capacity of individuals and groups to influence their environment in a planned and collaborative way. We seek for them to exercise their rights and become agents of change, promoting collective solutions and sustainable commitments.

- **Rights, Gender, and Participation Approach**

Participation ensures the exercise of rights and equity. At TANDEM, we promote inclusive methodologies to amplify the voices of women and vulnerable groups.

- **Levels and Roles of Participation**

Participation occurs at different levels (group, community, local, institutional, national) and across various degrees of involvement, ranging from access to information to decision-making and leadership.

- **Strategies and Mechanisms**

We combine formal mechanisms (hearings, councils) with informal ones (assemblies, digital platforms) to expand reach and impact.

Participation is key to social change. Through strategic and inclusive methodologies, we strengthen community cohesion and citizen advocacy.

FOURTH MOMENT: ADVOCACY

Advocacy is a strategic process to generate personal, community, and institutional changes, promoting a more inclusive and participatory democracy. At TANDEM, this phase is based on building trust and strengthening people's capacity to influence their environment and public policy.

GOAL AND APPROACH

Promote active participation and strengthen advocacy at different levels, ensuring that communities influence decisions that affect their lives. The goal is to achieve change that transforms both the people and the institutions.

LEVELS OF ADVOCACY

- **Personal:** Facilitates the development of individual leadership and the capacity for empowered action.

- **Community:** Promotes collective organization, participatory planning, and social cohesion.
- **Institutional:** Influences public policies through proposals, alliances, and citizen participation.

Impact and Sustainability

Advocacy transforms individuals, empowers collective action, and creates structural changes that reinforce equity and democracy.

At TANDEM, advocacy leads collective action and empowerment, securing sustainable changes aligned with community aspirations.

MORE PEOPLE-CENTERED CITIES

We aim to reduce inequalities in Ecuador's cities.

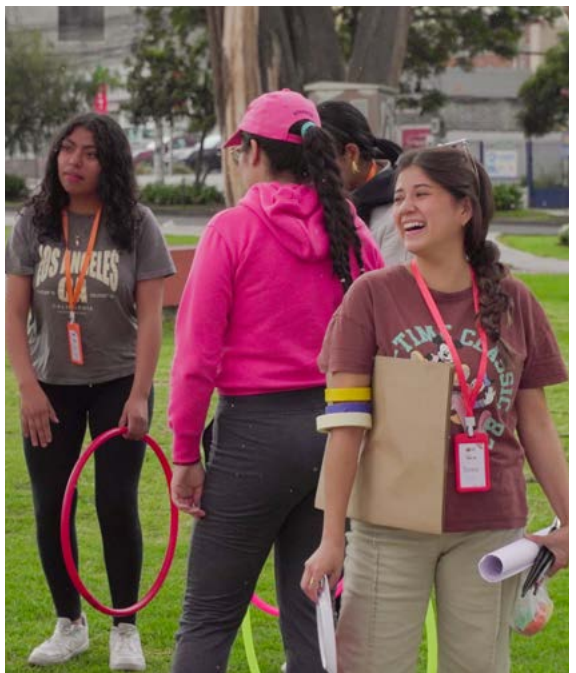
We drive territorial development by acknowledging the diverse populations within, and the vulnerable conditions faced by women, girls, boys, and adolescents.

We assist local governments in incorporating a gender perspective into their planning, policies, budgets, and legislation, to facilitate effective and sustainable local governance solutions.

We produce data on urban quality of life and advocate for public policy reform.

PROJECTS UNDER THIS PILLAR:

- **Cities for Women:** We work to ensure that women's voices are heard and their needs are genuinely addressed. Through citizen participation mechanisms, we strengthen female leadership and promote real changes in cities. Nine cities have already been part of this transformative movement!
- **Safe and Sound Cities:** We believe in cities where young people can grow, dream, and thrive. We promote fairer, more inclusive, and safer urban environments, with public spaces that foster well-being and positive connections. Together with **Huasipichanga Foundation**, we are working to build a future where youth drive change.
- **Territories of Equality:** Building equality requires more than intentions, it demands concrete actions. Alongside **Idea Dignidad Foundation**, we implement mechanisms to identify, prevent, and address gender-based violence, strengthening public policies, protection services, and women's leadership. Together, we create territories where safety and equity become a reality.





Cities for Women

Esmeraldas, Pastaza, Santa Clara, Tena, Pelileo, Machala, Chone, and Manta. Provinces: Tungurahua.

250 public officials

strengthened their capacities to integrate a gender perspective into local policies.

600+ women

trained to participate and influence decision-making in their communities.

6 municipalities

have baseline surveys on gender.

2 publications

compiling methodologies and tools to support citizens and municipal officials.

5 cities

have approved policies on safety, violence, public space, and citizen participation.

National Meeting of Cities for Women – 2024



2 spaces

intervened with placemaking implementations and the participation of the city's youth.

75 young people

engaged in a training process to improve their quality of life.

1 Placemaking school

to develop skills and empower youth.

Safe and Sound Cities

(In alliance with Huasipichanga Foundation) Ambato

Placemaking Ambato 2025



Territories of Equality
(In alliance with Idea Dignidad Foundation)

Tena

70+ women

strengthen their leadership to prevent gender based violence and exercise their rights.

Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Gender based Violence.

Participatory Design and Implementation.

60 municipal officials

strengthen their capacities to provide gender based violence response services.

Skill-Building Workshop with Civil Society Organizations

MORE ENGAGED MUNICIPALITIES



Urban Acupuncture Intervention in La Joya de los Sachas – Orellana



We work to strengthen municipal governance.

We drive participatory policy development to ensure it reflects the distinct realities of each community, while enforcing compliance with participation standards that secure this right.

Building the capacity of municipal officials allows us to deploy effective planning and monitoring tools for transparent and participatory governance.

To ensure these processes are sustainable and replicable, we create knowledge resources and practical guides for implementing citizen participation mechanisms.

PROJECTS UNDER THIS PILLAR:

- **Local Participation:** We enhance municipal participatory systems by

providing technical assistance to municipalities. This assistance focuses on refining legal frameworks and implementing participatory mechanisms, thereby fostering innovation in citizen participation management.

- **Community Safety and Coexistence:** We strengthen neighborhood leadership and promote citizen engagement in decision-making to improve community safety and well-being. Employing tactical urbanism, we develop safer and more inclusive public spaces. We also provide municipalities with technical assistance and public management tools to facilitate collaborative community-municipal efforts in enhancing safety and coexistence.

Tactical urbanism intervention in the San Juan de Calderón neighborhood.



300+ local leaders

gain knowledge about citizen participation.

1 manual and 1 guide

to strengthen citizen participation mechanisms.

4 ordinances

approved to strengthen participatory systems.

6 mechanisms

activated by citizens.

600+ municipal officials

trained in the implementation of citizen participation mechanisms.

Local Participation

Chone, La Joya de los Sachas, Orellana, Mejía, Pimampiro, Puerto Quito, Santa Clara, and Tena.

Participation of senior citizens in tactical urbanism intervention in Orellana.



Community Safety and Coexistence
Quito and Manta

1 Manual

for the Creation and Management of Security and Citizen Coexistence Committees.

11 neighborhoods

in Quito and Manta with tactical urbanism interventions.

10 Neighborhood Committees

strengthened their participation and leadership capacities.

32% increase

in the perception of safety among residents in the intervened areas.



MORE EMPOWERED CITIZENS

We facilitate dialogue and participatory decision-making.

We build the capacity of civil society organizations to facilitate collaborative processes that contribute to policy development and advocacy strategies.

PROJECTS UNDER THIS PILLAR:

- **Safer Roads, Safer Users, Saved Lives:** We work with the Safe Mobility Coalition Ecuador to drive reforms in Ecuadorian road safety regulations, aiming to reduce traffic fatalities and save lives.
- **Strengthening Youth and Women's Political Leadership:** We collaborate with political organizations and their affiliates to foster the inclusion of women and young people in political spheres through capacity-building and advocacy initiatives.
- **Quito Cómo Vamos:** We produce reliable and technical information about the quality of life in Quito. This supports the development of an effective and transparent municipal government and an informed, co-responsible, and participatory citizenry.



Safer Roads, Safer Users, Saved Lives
Ecuador

Publication
of the White Paper on Safer Urban Roads.

65+ organizations
nationwide united in a coalition for road safety.

Safe Mobility Coalition Ecuador: A network of 65+ civil society organizations working for road safety.



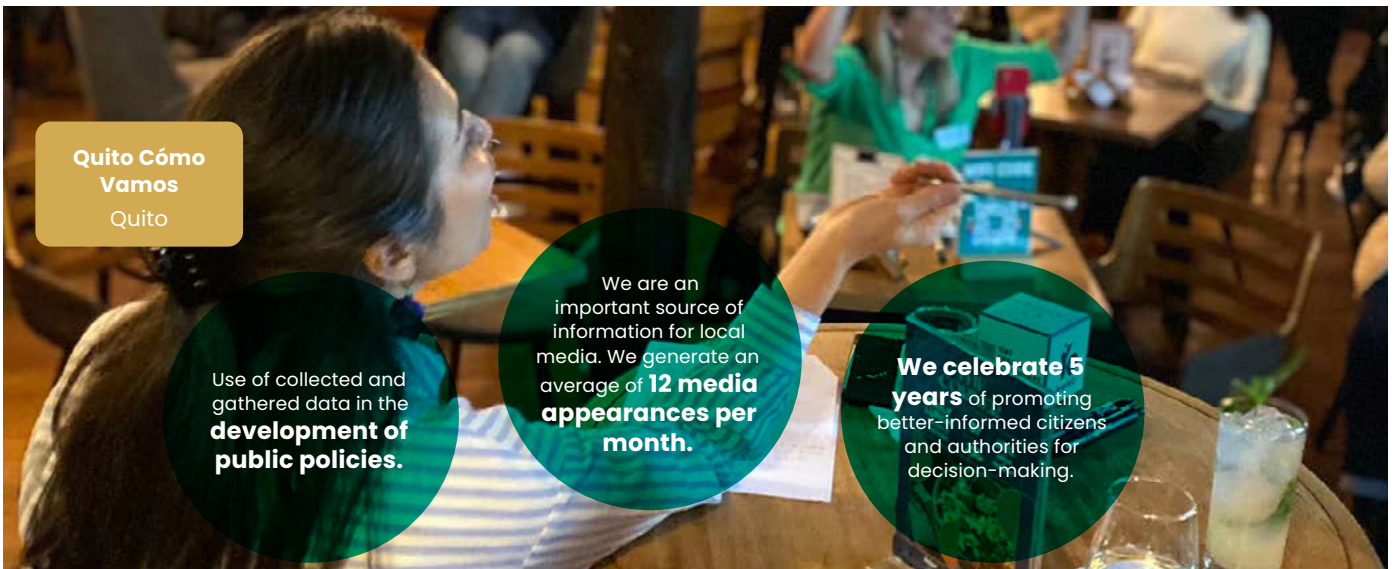
100+ women
trained to improve their leadership in political organizations.

50+ men
sensitized on gender parity in politics.

125+ young people
trained in advocacy processes.

Inclusion of Youth and Women in Politics
Ecuador

Training workshop to strengthen women's political leadership.



Quito Cómo Vamos
Quito

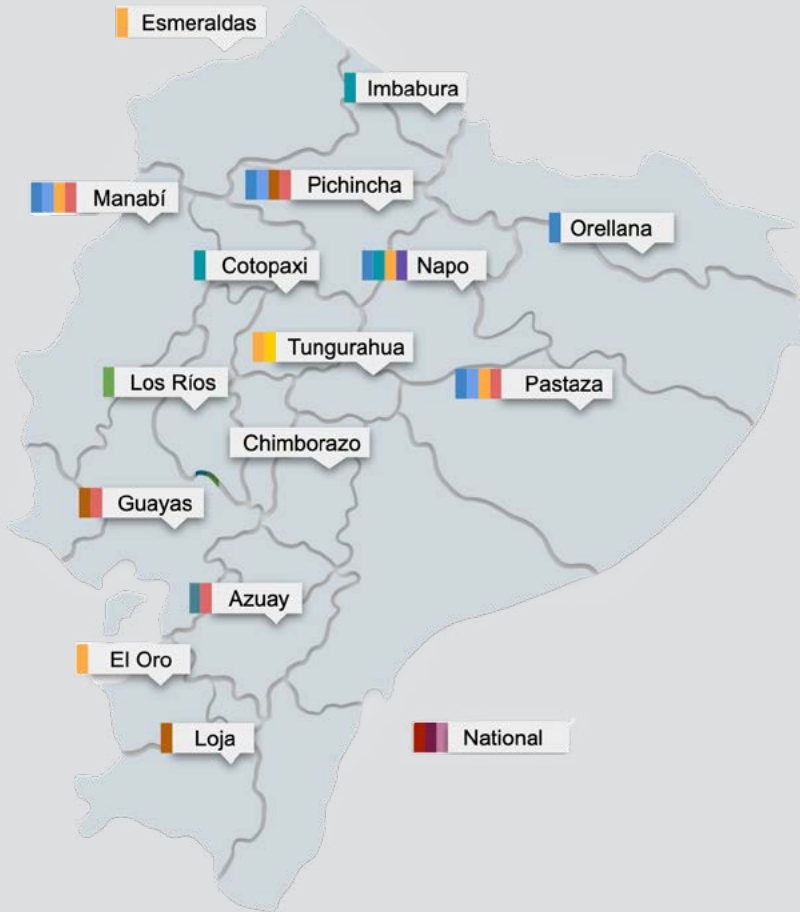
Use of collected and gathered data in the **development of public policies.**

We are an important source of information for local media. We generate an average of **12 media appearances per month.**

We celebrate 5 years of promoting better-informed citizens and authorities for decision-making.

Tu Quito, Tu Voz Meeting, a space for data and dialogue.

TANDEM IN ECUADOR



Our Projects	
More People - Centered Cities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities for Women Safe & Sound Cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Territories of Equality
More Engaged Municipalities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Participation Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety and Coexistence Participatory Budgeting
More Empowered Citizens	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Roads, Safer Users, Saved Lives Quito Cómo Vamos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Woman's Political Leadership New Politics Citizen Legislation

Impact

For every 10 dollars we receive in international cooperation, 7 go straight to our projects, which benefit communities and drive the national economy by generating indirect jobs and contributing to tax revenue.

Our projects have benefited thousands of people in **15 of Ecuador's 24 provinces.**

We prioritize **local suppliers** and businesses in the regions where we implement our projects to support the local economy.

We are members of



Those who believe in our work

