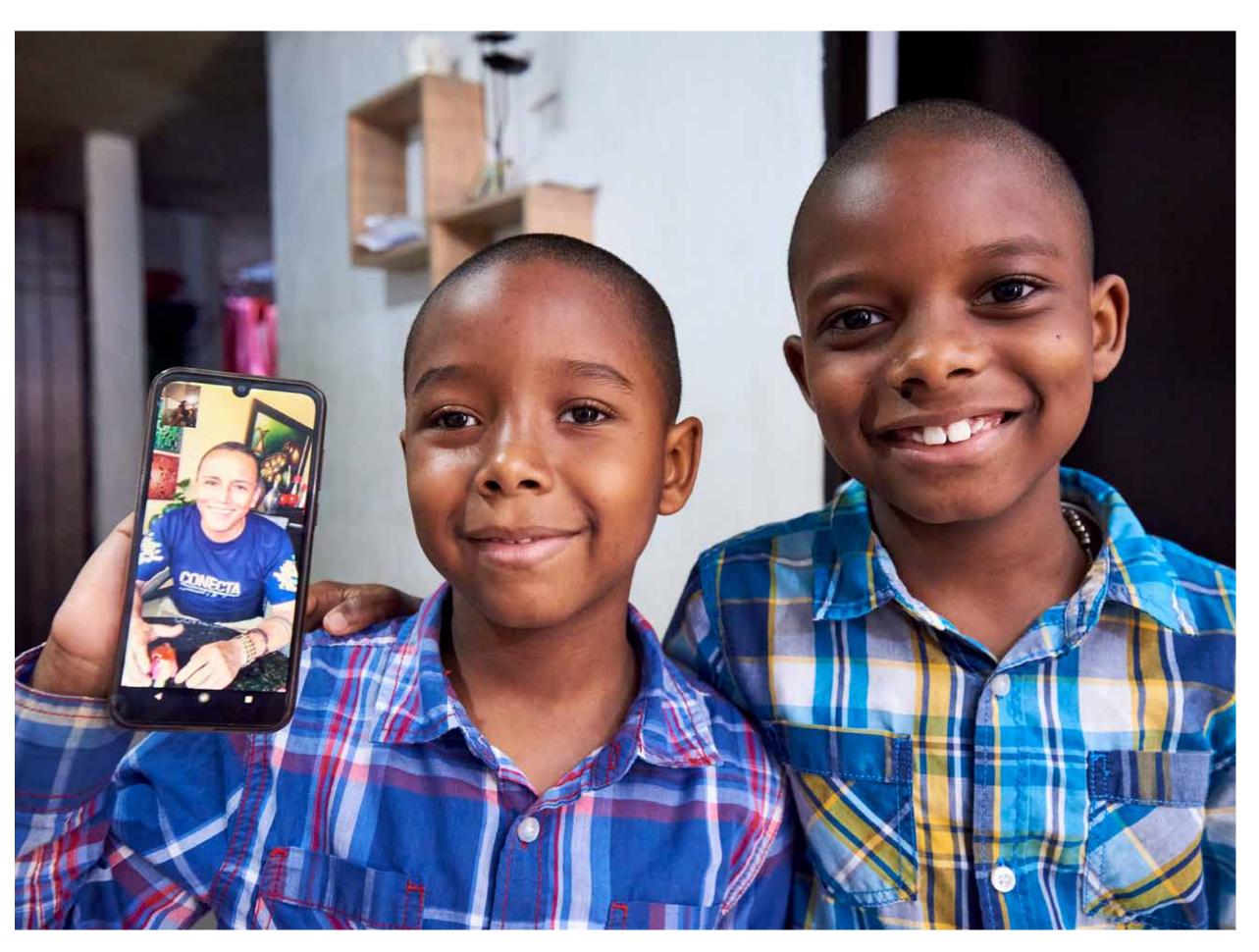
# FUNDACIÓN GRUPO ARGOS

2020 Report







# Letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors

#### **DEAR SHAREHOLDERS**

I want to begin by extolling and highlighting the fortitude with which the team of Fundación Grupo Argos assumed its role for positive transformation and contribution to social wellbeing, focusing its efforts and actions on the complexities caused by the pandemic in different sectors, but especially amongst vulnerable communities. In a year without precedent, that challenged humanity and tested the response capacity of all of society's institutions, Fundación Grupo Argos confirmed the importance of its existence, and became positioned as a relevant actor within the social ecosystem in support of the most vulnerable.

Its capacity for rapid and comprehensive adaptation of the Foundation's programs within an environment of uncertainty, ratified our unrestricted commitment to the purpose of positively transforming millions of lives through social management in the territories and a sense of transcendence that guides our decision-making, especially in times like these, where millions of people have been subject to complicated conditions, placed under great pressure, and where the role of wellbeing and hope played by Fundación Grupo Argos in society became more evident.

Thanks to the support and trust we received from you, the shareholders of Grupo Argos, Cementos Argos, Celsia and Odinsa, we achieved consolidation in 2020 as a powerful vehicle for social welfare that strengthened the Colombian healthcare system early on by providing beds for Intensive Care Units, and which, during the most critical peaks of contagion, have proven to be fundamental for preventing the collapse of the hospital system. Likewise, thanks to your generosity, support and trust, Fundación Grupo Argos contributed both resources and its capacity for articulation so that over 116,000 families could have food during the months in which isolation made it impossible for them to continue receiving an income. On the solidarity front, the Foundation developed a program to connect 460 collaborators from Grupo Empresarial Argos and make them available to 92 micro, small and medium enterprises to provide them with comprehensive assistance and help them overcome the complexities arising from the situation and safeguard the valuable entrepreneurial fabric that irrigates the economy.

> **Delivery of food** packages Bogotá, Cundinamarca

**Donation of Intensive** Hospital San Vicente Fundación Medellín, Antioquia

During the pandemic, Fundación Grupo **Argos was positioned** as a relevant stakeholder within the social ecosystem to support the most vulnerable.











In 2020 we continued with Conservamos la Vida, our program for Andean Bear conservation, with commercialization and exports of the first Andean Bear coffee in Colombia, produced within the framework of the work done with farming communities. We also ensured the education of 174 scholarship recipients from the municipalities where we have a presence, providing them with computers so they could continue studying during this juncture and strengthening our mentorship processes.

Likewise, and honoring our commitment to the communities we have been privileged to work with in recent years, and even with the difficulties inherent to a world in pandemic, we continued our resolute work in water conservation, a vital resource for life and for the sustainability of our businesses, and towards the territorial transformation required for generating opportunities and capabilities within these communities. Throughout 2020, and in coordination with a network of allies, we planted over 300,000 trees, adding up to a total of 1.9 million between 2016 and 2020. Additionally, in 2020, through conservation and sustainable production agreements with different owners for water basin protection, we impacted 3,910 hectares in four departments of Colombia. We can say with pride that, to date, Grupo Empresarial Argos has planted over 7.8 million native trees.

Dear shareholders, I want to reaffirm that in 2021 we will continue working with a long-term vision and in a sustainable manner, but, above all, with the greatest commitment and conviction to contribute to the economic and social development of our companies' communities of influence, building ties with allies and beneficiaries to harmonize the relationship between human beings and nature and to contribute to territorial development through education and culture.

### **JORGE MARIO VELÁSQUEZ**

Chair of the Fundación Grupo Argos Board of Directors



Saldaña River, Tolima

Tatamá National Natural Park

Chocó, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca

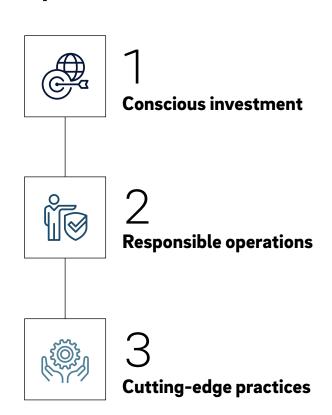


These contributions are

# Fundación Grupo Argos

With the purpose of potentializing voluntary corporate citizenship actions, the companies within Grupo Empresarial Argos integrated their equity, human talent, experience and business management capabilities to drive Fundación Grupo Argos as one of the most powerful vehicles for corporate social responsibility in Colombia.

# 3 pillars



### **Execution capacity in** 2020

COP **BILLION** 

\*Corresponding to cash revenue, and excluding accounting-type re-

### **Equity**

COP 542 **BILLION** 

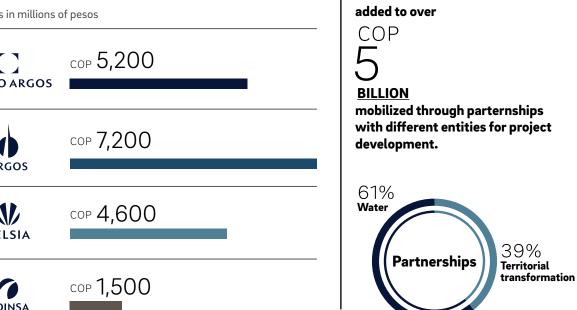
Yields on financial investments (shares)

COP

7.33 **BILLION** 

San Miguel Stream affluent of the Cucuana River Roncesvalles, Tolima







### **Our work**

Focuses on supporting fulfillment of five Sustainable **Development Goals** 











# **Two strategic fronts**

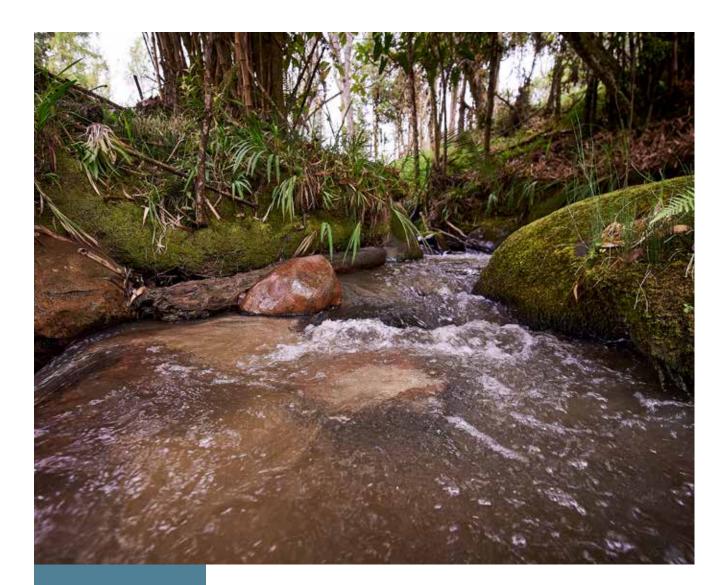




Positive territorial transformation helps improve the standards of living of the communities where we have presence, combining wills around education, culture and corporate volunteer work.

> **Delivery of housing** to the Torres family Maria La Baja, Bolívar

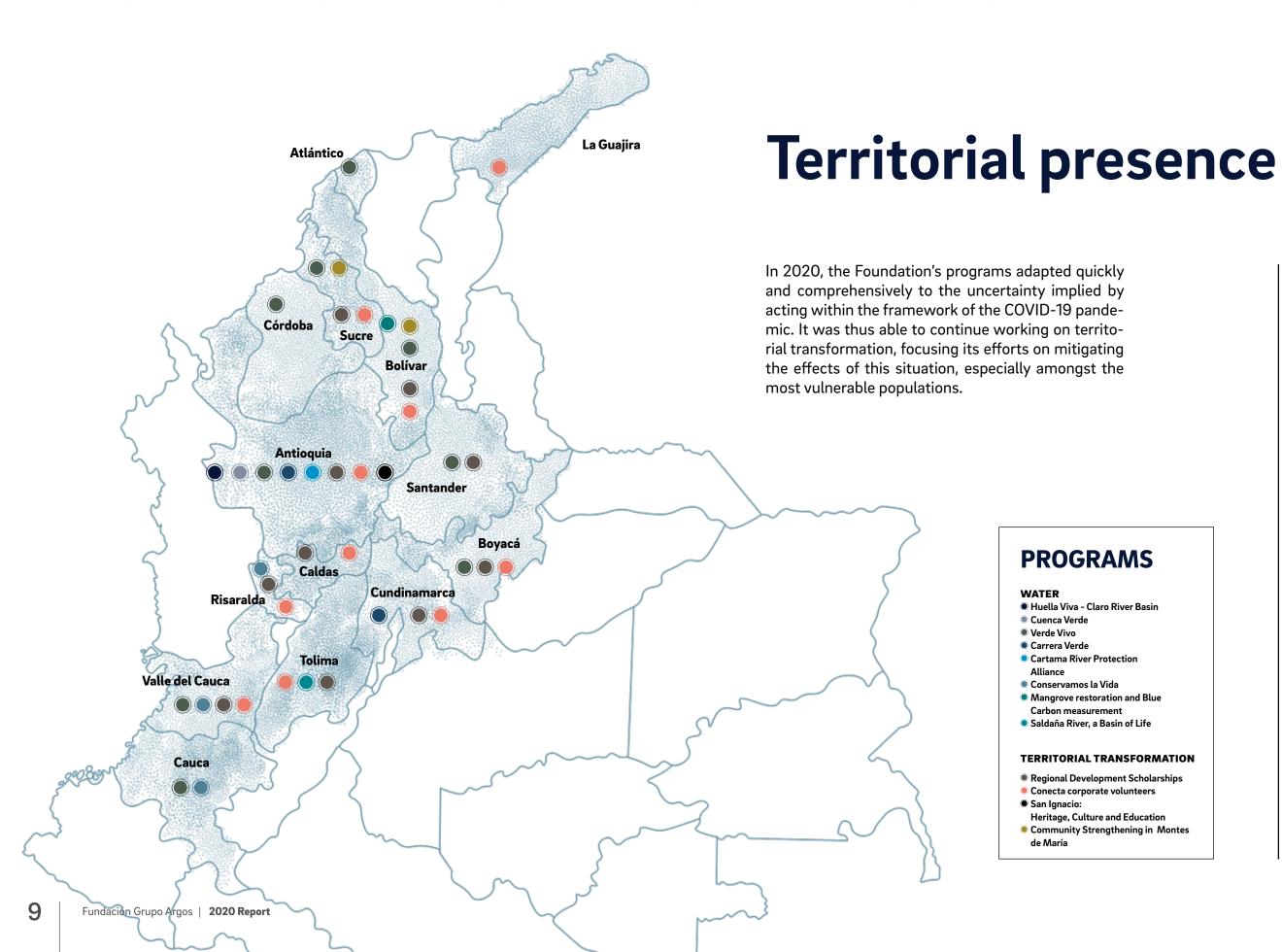
San Miguel Streamaffluent of the Cucuana River Roncesvalles, Tolima





We protect and conserve water as an essential element for life and of our ecosystems.





**DEPARTMENTS** with Foundation presence

**PROGRAMS** on the territorial transformation front

**PROGRAMS** for water conservation



# Milestones for the year

All Fundación Grupo Argos projects are conceived and developed in articulation with territorial actors, government institutions and partners to deploy coordinated, high impact actions.

# **COVID-19 situation**

### Programs to manage its effects



Health

Contributions in the amount of COP

to increase the availability of ICU beds in Antioquia by 25%





92 **MSMES** received assistance from our collaborators to deal with the most relevant challenges posed by the pandemic.





Food

116,000

received food aid during the strictest lockdown months through corporate volunteer work and partnerships.

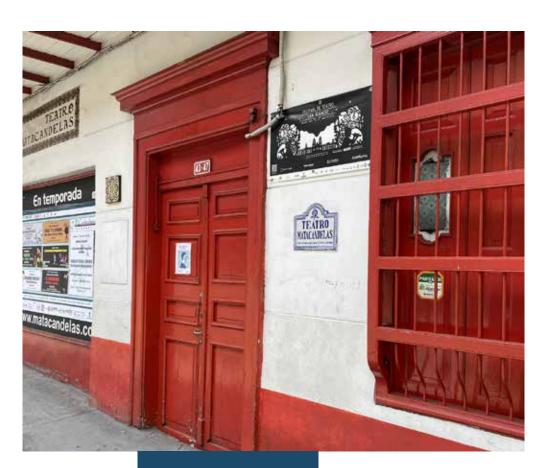


COP

**BILLION** 

to local government-led campaigns in Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cartagena, Medellín and Cali to care for the most vulnerable populations.





Regional development scholarships

**Territorial** 

transformation

**GRANTEES** continued studying despite the effects of the pandemic.

83 of them received computing equipment to continue studying remotely.

# **San Ignacio District:**

We made progress with materializing projects including:

- San Ignacio Theater Festival.
- Octubre Teatral [a meeting of four important digital and transmedia festivals].
- Inclusion in the Medellín Futuro 2020-2023 Development Plan.

### **Conecta Volunteers**

460 **COLLABORATORS** 

from Grupo Empresarial Argos invested 3,859 hours of their time in offering social welfare programs.





### **Environmental Education**

We expanded the environmental awareness of over 149 educational institutions, reaching over 50,000 students and teachers in 29 municipalities through our Verde Vivo, which now has a virtual platform to serve educational institutions.

Conservation We contributed to the conservation of

to protect basins and biological corridors in strategic areas of the country through the following programs:

- Huella Viva.
- Saldaña River: a basin for life.
- Partnership for the Cartama.
- Conservamos la vida.
- Canal del Dique with the Cartagena Water Fund



**NATIVE TREES** 

and mangroves planted in four regions of Colombia.





# Territorial transformation

We are committed to a positive transformation of the territories where we have a presence, through dedicated and careful management that will allow us to benefit the collective interest and help solve the problems we share as a society. During 2020, this strategic focus was strengthened to deal with the social effects of the pandemic upon the most vulnerable communities.

# Health as a priority

### Capacity strengthening for the healthcare system

Conscious of the situation to be faced by the country, and intending to contribute solutions so the Ministry of Health could deal with the effects of the pandemic, in March 2020 Fundación Grupo Argos contributed COP 10 billion to fit out 100 beds and specialized medical equipment to care for critical patients affected by the virus.

This donation was focused on the San Vicente Fundación and Pablo Tobón Uribe Hospitals, both widely recognized for their trajectory and the professional qualities of their teams.

25% increase in the

installed capacity of the Antioquia healthcare system thanks to these contributions

COP **BILLION** invested

100 <u>ICU</u> beds

**Provision of** specialized medical equipment





**Donation of Intensive Care Units** 

**Provision of medical equipment** Hospital San Vicente Fundación Medellín, Antioquia



# **Voices from** the territories

"Support from Fundación Grupo Argos has allowed us to grow from 107 to 153 intensive care units, and we hope to grow by another 30 units. We are certain that we will be up to this greate challenge we have, and that we will meet the requirements of Medellin and Colombia. Thank you for allowing us to continue fulfilling our mission to serve and protect life."

#### **MAURICIO TAMAYO**

San Vicente Fundación President

# **Food security**

A Call to Empathy: fulfilling our mission of mobilizing wills during the pandemic



Intending to bring wellbeing to the families most affected by the economic and social consequences of this juncture, the Foundation presented the A Call to Empathy campaign, an initiative that contributed towards food security for communities that, due to economic shutdowns, had limited possibilities to continue receiving the income necessary for subsistence.

• This initiative used a matching model where, for every peso raised, the Foundation contributed the same amount. This allowed raising COP 1.15 billion pesos.

COP **BILLION** invested

116 **THOUSAND PEOPLE** received food

**DONORS** involved

COP **BILLION** in donations were destined to local government campaigns for caring for the most vulnerable populations in Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cartagena, Medellín and Valle del Cauca

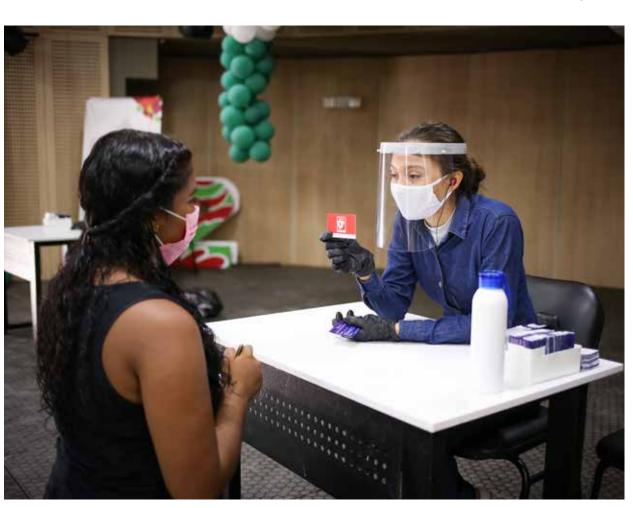
 Food packages delivered to 116,000 people in 14 departments of Colombia through strategic partnerships.

- Over 1,900 donors involved.
- These donors include 1,200 collaborators from Grupo Empresarial Argos, historical participation figures that can be attributed to the sense of empathy and transcendence inherent to the Group's culture.

A Call to Empathy achieved important partnerships with the Sura, Bancolombia, Nutresa, Santodomingo and Give to Colombia foundations, a network that helped multiply the strategy's impact and contribute to food security for more Colombian families.

> **Delivery of food packages** Barranquilla, Atlántico

**Voucher delivery for food purchases** Santa Rosa de Lima, Bolívar





# **Voices from** the territories

"I want to thank Fundación Grupo Argos for thinking about me at this difficult time. Not being able to go out to work really means that I have no income to support myself and my family, so your help means a lot to us."

**VIVIANA PARRA** 

Informal worker in Bogota

# **GRUPO ARGOS Fundación**

**Voices from** 

the territories

"Special thanks to

Fundación Grupo

of professionals

Argos whose group

differents meetings

we had the chance

to be heard until they

understood how they

They defined training

and negotiations."

**MÓNICA MEJÍA** 

Pastelería Santa Elena Manager

could help us the most.

lines in purchasing costs

supported us during this

challenging year. During

# Mobilizing wills within the territories

**Progress and achievements of the Conecta Volunteer Service** 



With our corporate volunteer service, we promote a sense of transcendence and solidarity by mobilizing collaborators for high impact, sustainable and transformative projects. We help build a more empathetic and solidary society, and provide evidence of our role as agents of transformation by multiplying our efforts to support children, youths, teachers, families, seniors and small businesses in enduring a year full of uncertainty and challenges.

With Conecta, our purpose is to have a positive impact on some of the sectors affected the most by COVID-19, applying transfers of knowledge and using virtual platforms as intervention models to respond to new dynamics.

# **Conecta's targets**

**VOLUNTEER** satisfaction with the initiatives promoted



#### **Social Inclusion**

Safeguard business fabric to guarantee and protect jobs and investment.

92

**COMPANIES** benefitted

Over

**VOLUNTEER** initiatives promoted during the year

**VOLUNTEERS** involved in volunteer

initiatives

**MILLION** 

invested



Education

Initiatives aimed at helping children and young people's ongoing participation in the education system.

**CHILDREN & YOUTHS** benefitted



### **Mental Health**

Support and assistance for senior citizens who, due to the situation had to isolate to mitigate health

benefitted from assistance.



**SENIOR CITIZENS** 





### Spotlight on experience

**TOWARD BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY:** SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS

With the certainty that all efforts made during this situation are vitally important to contribute to the country's recovery, the Conecta Volunteer Service led an initiative to contribute to the sustainability of micro and small businesses and protect business fabric.

#### **Approach**

A strategic assistance program was defined, placing the talent of 130 collaborators from Grupo Argos, Argos, Celsia and Odinsa at the service of 92 small businesses and entrepreneurs to help drive their businesses, helping them to:

- Strengthen digital business strategies.
- · Improve brand positioning.
- Potentialize strategic planning.
- Design entry into new markets.

COP

**MILLION** invested

**COLLABORATORS** volunteered

92 **ENTREPRENEURS** benefitted

# **Allies**

- Proantioquia
- Andi del Futuro
- Bancolombia
- Fundación ANDI

#### IMPACTO

The initiative grew exponentially in 2020. In 2019 a pilot was carried out, supporting entrepreneurs with participation from sixteen volunteers and benefitting four companies.

Thanks to excellent program results and ample receptiveness from volunteers, this program will continue execution year on year, seeking to potentialize the transfer of knowledge as one of the most powerful tools for social inclusion.



Andrés Joya, beneficiary of the business mentoring volunteer work. Bogotá, Cundinamarca



# **Voices from** the territories

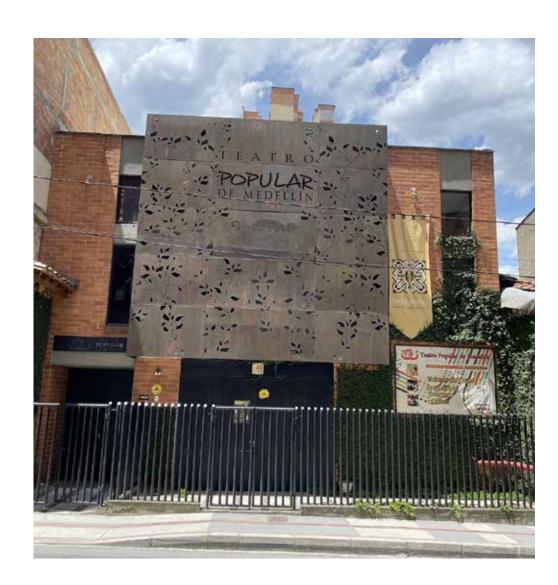
"We owe our mentor the capacity to rethink ourselves as a company during the pandemic and learning how to prioritize market models or niches that will provide us with more revenue and improved sales at this time. We have managed to increase our sales by 40% since we began the mentoring process."

**CAROLINA NIÑO** Manager Alivital

# A place for culture and art

### Commitment and progress of Distrito San Ignacio

During 2020 we reconfirmed our commitment to art, culture and heritage in Medellin with Distrito San Ignacio, a project that seeks to strengthen art and heritage in the city center by accompanying and articulating experiences and initiatives that help reinforce cultural expressions and continue building a new way of sharing and inhabiting public spaces.



COP **MILLION** invested

**ALLIES** for territorial development

Inclusion in the 2020-2023 **Medellin Futuro Development Plan** 

# **Allies**

- Proantioquia
- Universidad de Antioquia
- Comfama
- Medellin Town Hall (became involved in 2020)



#### 3 lines of work

- · Mobilization of culture as a tool to attract residents and visitors.
- Urban intervention to potentialize and promote the cultural and education heritage recognized in San Ignacio.
- Sustainable rehabilitation proposal for social and economic integration.

In 2020 we continue making progress with important relationship processes with the public and private sectors and with realizing certain projects like the San Ignacio Theater Festival, the implementation of Octubre Teatral, that gathered together four large festivals using digital and transmedia, and inclusion in the 2020-2023 Medellin Futuro Development Plan.

> San Ignacio Park Medellín, Antioquia

Teatro Popular de Medellín located in Distrito San Ignacio. Medellín, Antioquia



# **Voices from** the territories

"San Ignacio is like other places around the world where all groups are one, where all groups are family, where all groups have one vein that fills them and positions them within a brotherhood, and where people find a sector with living, active people, together with a part of the city where they can feel, experience, learn about and respect art."

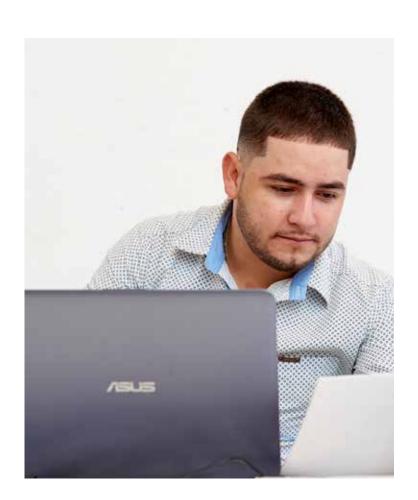
#### **WILSON ZAPATA**

**Executive Director Elemental** Teatro, Medellín.

# Education, a driver of transformation

### **Regional Development Scholarships**

Convinced that education is a driver of transformation, we created and continue offering Regional Development Scholarships, a program that provides access to higher education for young people inhabiting the areas of influence of Grupo Empresarial Argos' businesses.



COP **BILLION** invested

**RECIPIENTS** in 2020

**COMPUTERS** provided to enable virtual learning

**PERMANENCE** in educational processes

After finishing their studies, students commit to returning to their territories and working to develop their communities.



### Methodology values

- Psycho-social assistance for beneficiaries that need to travel from rural areas to large cities.
- · Guidance from mentors during the study period.

We currently have 174 scholarship beneficiaries. Eight of them are carrying out professional internships at Grupo Empresarial Argos companies. The retention rate for this program is 100%.

To facilitate the migration to virtual education, we delivered 83 computers to students that did not have this resource. Equipment was purchased with donations made by collaborators of the organization and contributions from Fundación Grupo Argos.

To mitigate the effects of this situation amongst students, we provided food aid to twelve families, set up a support group and provided psychological assistan-

> Juan Esteban Quirama Fundación Grupo Argos Grantee Santa Bárbara, Antioquia

Dina Alejandra Grajales Fundación Grupo Argos Grantee Santa Bárbara, Antioquia



# **Voices from** the territories

"I want to extend all my gratitude to the Foundation for their unconditional help during this important time in my life. I think I will never tire of thanking them for their support. My greatest commitment is to carry the values they have given us and work hard to make great contributions to my village, community and country. I will never tire of thanking you for helping make my dreams come true."

#### **DANIEL PORRAS SERNA**

Law Student. Universidad de Medellín



**Fundación** 

1,239 **HECTARES** conserved

830 **SPECIES** of wildlife reported

632 **SPECIES** of useful native plants indexed

# **Allies**

- Grupo Empresarial Argos businesses
- Cornare
- Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander Von Humboldt
- Fundación Natura
- Portafolio Verde
- Communities

# Water

We work to contribute to water safety in the territories. Fundación Grupo Argos' strategy focuses on protecting water from the mountain to the sea.

To define the basins for intervention, we carry out a systematic analysis with a social and ecological focus, using water, biodiversity and social impact as its main variables. This model has allowed us to go deeper into aspects like water resource risk, quality, demand and governance, and has provided us with a vision of endangered species and ecosystems in Colombia, leading us to focus our interventions on the Claro River and Cartama River basins in Antioquia, Saldaña River in Tolima and Canal del Dique in Sucre.

# **Huella Viva** Claro River basin

#### Area of influence

37.723 hectares located between the municipalities of Sonsón, San Francisco, Puerto Triunfo and San Luis in Antioquia.

We contribute towards the sustainable development and standards of living of the communities in the Claro River basin through conservation, restoration and sustainable production activities.

### **Progress in 2020**

- · Leadership in education on environmental topics and sustainable production.
- 17 new conservation agreements signed to continue protecting water resources and biological corridors for species like jaguars and pumas, equivalent to 1,239 new hectares that will strengthen ecosystems.
- Basin species checklist developed reporting 830 species of wildlife.
- Creation of a freely accessible list for sustainable regional use containing information on 632 species of useful native plants. This is a contribution to develop green business opportunities together with the communities.
- Execution of the Jerusalén sewer system begun. This work is being implemented in partnership with Cornare and the Sonsón Town Hall, benefits around 1,300 people in the community, helps improve standards of living in the area and reduces wastewater pollution of the Claro River.
- We developed Fondo para el Cambio, a fund that promotes care for the environment and socio-economic sustainability through training fro community leaders, providing them with tools to manage their territory. The Fund fosters proposals and projects that will provide solutions or alternatives for community problems, which receive up to COP **10 million** in financing for implementation.
- Close to 40 community leaders participated in training sessions.

The Claro River basin is one of the most relevant ecosystems in the Río Grande del

Magdalena hydrographic region, with unique biological riches due to the proliferation of endemic species.





- Virtual meetings were held over four months.
- Topics covered: citizen participation, community leadership, project formulation, water, sanitation and hygiene, biodiversity and green businesses, cooperation and communication for development.



# **Voices from** the territories

"Thanks to Huella Viva I can now start doing what I've always wanted to do with my land, to fulfill my dreams while I care for the forest, I hope that more people can get ahead with project help like I did."

#### **ILUMINADA OSPINA**

Project beneficiary Huella Viva



2,671 **HECTARES** conserved

**SOLUTIONS** for safe access to water

# **Allies**

- Cementos Argos
- WCS
- **Parques Nacionales** Naturales
- Cortolima
- Corporación Manantial
- Communities

# Saldaña River, basin of life

#### Area of influence

Saldaña River basin, Department of Tolima.

Using conservation and sustainable production strategies, we work to protect and restore the Saldaña River basin, an affluent that supplies approximately 46% of Tolima's inhabitants, strengthening community capacities to foster alternative water access solutions, sanitation and sustainable water resource usage.

### **Progress in 2020**

- 19 convservation agreements signed with owners in the prioritized sub-basins of Amoyá, Siguila and Cucuana for protecting 2,671 hectares.
- Adaptation of territorial intervention approaches and creation of action plan for twenty-seven educational facilities. We fulfilled the training plan using virtual channels and visited the plots of the families involved.
- Delivery of 50 safe water access solutions, installing bio-sand filters at educational institutions and houses in nearby areas, preventing the appearance of viruses and bacteria that could affect their health and reducing families' expenses related to the treatment or purchase of drinking water.



Amparo Sanabria, beneficiary of the delivery of water purification filters

Cucuanita Village, Roncesvalles, Tolima

Alfonso Cerquera, Saldaña River project beneficiary San Miguel village, Roncesvalles, Tolima





# **Voices from** the territories

"We are very happy with the water filter because it will bring us many health benefits. Receiving the filter at home was as exciting as when we brought the refrigerator or the stove, it will bring us great wellbeing."

ISIDRO PINZÓN

San Marcos Village, Roncesvalles

# COP

5,491 **CHILDREN & YOUTHS** involved in environmental education processes

**HECTARES** impacted for the Andean Bear corridor

## **Allies**

The Conservamos la Vida program is led by Fundación Grupo Argos, in alliance with:

- WCS
- Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia
- Corporación Autónoma Regional del Valle del Cauca
- Smurfit Kappa

### Conservamos la Vida





**Oso Andino Coffee Grower** El Águila, Valle del Cauca

**Spectacled Bear** 

### **Progress in 2020**

- 59 families benefitting from conservation agreements optimized their production processes to improve their income.
- 5,491 students and 200 teachers from 14 educational institutions in Valle del Cauca and Cauca continued environmental education processes from the Verde Vivo en Casa strategy, for which virtual forums, a web platform and WhatsApp groups were used.
- Oso Andino Coffee moved forward with commercialization:
  - First product in its category harvested by Colombian farmers with the purpose of protecting this emblematic species and contribute to forest sustainability.
  - The second coffee harvest, over 2,300, had important allies for comercialization, allowing it to reach domestic and interational consumers.
  - 10 families participating in the program have destined 365 hectares of forest exclusively for Andean Bear conservation.
  - Families receive technical and organizational assistance for coffee production and commercialization, to make sales viable allowing them to obtain additional income and improve their standards of living.



# **Voices from** the territories

"It is gratifying to hold the product in our hands, it's a personal satisfaction. We were used to selling the coffee and never hearing about it again, but with support from the organization we know it has been exported and that while that happens, that it's nearby, and that it's kept well."

### **JAIME LEONARDO** DUQUE

Coffee Grower - Conservamos la Vida program beneficiary.

Thanks to 59 conservation agreements we have managed to set aside 2,500 hectares to give continuity to the Andean Bear's biological corridor.

The Conservamos la Vida project protects the habitat of Andean Bears, considered the protector of water and cataloged as an umbrella species due to its capacity to guarantee water availability through its presence in the high mountain ranges. We work to prevent conflicts between bears and farming communities, implementing actions to care for its environment through forest conservation, ecological restoration, the development of sustainable productive processes and environmental education.





María José Alfonso Verde Vivo beneficiary Jericó, Antioquia Tatamá National Natural Park



54,393 **STUDENTS** benefitted throughout the country

## **Allies**

- Cementos Argos
- Celsia
- Corporación Social Manantial
- Portafolio Verde

### **Verde Vivo**

This is an environmental education program developed to create awareness around topics like water resource protection, good environmental practices and health, generating capacities in the persons attending educational institutions, to assist the community with consolidating an environmentally friendly culture, and, in turn, with the process of strenghtening their School Environmental Project, PRAE.

### **Progress in 2020**

- · During the pandemic we created a digital ecosystem for Verde Vivo made up of a website, group conversations over WhatsApp and Facebook and publication of a podcast to generate spaces for interaction.
- The system allowed 283 teachers from 149 institutions around the country to meet with environmental experts, benefitting 54,393 students.
- This ecosystem allowed bringing together the entire educational community in Antioquia,

Atlántico, Barrancabermeja, Boyacá and Valle del Cauca, where teachers and students shared experiences with good environmental practices in their territories.

30 Grupo Empresarial collaborators got involved with Verde Vivo through the corporate volunteer program. They contributed to environmental education projects with knowledge and capacity transfer from the talent to the educational institutions' processes.



# **Voices from** the territories

"I want to congratulate you for the important work you do, where you accompany from a distance without losing your line of knowledge, focus, mission and vision. The strategies used have had a great impact on all the educational communities. Personally, I am very happy to share with teaching colleagues from other regions. I am happy to see how other colleagues in other educational institutions are doing such beautiful work caring for the environment."

### **TANIA ÁLVAREZ**

Teacher I.E. San José de Jericó, Madre Laura facilities, Antioquia **FAMILIES** involved in the process

The mangrove ecosystem can capture up to five times more carbon than tropical forests, and so it plays a fundamental role in mitigating the effects of climate change.

# **Allies**

We articulate our work with Fundación Promotora del Canal del Dique and the communities

# **Mangrove restoration**

### Area of influence

Department of Sucre

We seek to protect and restore mangrove ecosystems in Sucre, acknowledging their importance for biodiversity conservation, blue carbon capture and the standards of living of the inhabitants in the area of Canal del Dique. On this mission we have contributed 223 million pesos between 2019 and 2020.







### **Progress in 2020**

- Over 28 hectares of mangrove restored in the area of the Canal del Dique.
- Implementation of environmental education projects with the community to sensitize them to the fundamental role of mangroves and how to protect them.
- 70,000 seedlings planted and creation of a community mangrove nursery in Boca Cerrada, San Onofre, where close to 90 families work. This work was done in articulation with the communities and the Fundación Promotora del Canal del Dique.



# **Voices from** the territories

"The mangrove is life, riches. That is why we need to care for it, because we eat the fish that grow there, and we get everything from it, it protects us from the tide, it is a source of life. For these and other reasons we need to restore it."

**ALEJANDRO QUINTERO** 

Bocacerrada community leader

### Carrera Verde

For the fifth consecutive year we were involved in Carrera Verde (the Green Race), a Fundación Natura initiative for the ecological restoration of natural reserves and locations of interest for water, forest and biodiversity protection.

In 2020 we invested COP 250 million in the Race, with participation from 6,045 runners in Bogota, obtaining resources to plant 18,135 native trees in Antioquia and the Encenillo Biological Reserve in Cundinamarca.



COP

18,135 **NATIVE TREES** planted

**Carrera Verde Race** Bogotá, Cundimarca

150,000 TREES planted

# **Allies**

- Celsia with its ReverdeC program
- Odinsa through the Pacífico II concession
- Corantioquia
- Government of Antioquia
- Biosuroeste
- Municipality of Támesis

# Alliance for the protection of the Cartama River





Tree planting Támesis, Antioquia

### Area of influence

Province of Cartama

We contribute to the design, implementation and promotion of conservation, restoration and ecological regeneration actions, within comprehensive water basin management, contributing to improving plant cover and ecosystem connections for the Cartama province.

### **Progress in 2020**

- Cooperation and conservation agreements signed with allies to join forces for restoring the province by planting 150,000 trees.
- Signed conservation agreements for the upper part of the basin.
- Implementation of pilot plots at Biosuroeste that have provided examples of species and their usefulness for communities in the area.



# How we view the future

# Fundación Grupo Argos is aligned with global challenges

The 2050 vision for living in harmony with nature proposed by the Convention on Biological Diversity, which Colombia has signed on to, is a challenge that will require significant, transformative changes in the way in which human beings understand ourselves and relate to nature. This past decade and the crisis generated by COVID-19, highlighted more strongly the delicate balance existing between the ecosystem, health, the economy and human welfare. In this vein, climate change is one of the main risks we face as humanity, and its mitigation and compensation is a collective task, hence the importance of including general unified strategies by different nations. Fundación Grupo Argos understands global challenges, and its intervention strategies include plans that make positive contributions to interventions that intend to meet them, including SDG aligment and global warming reduction, for example. We envisaged the transition to a low carbon economy that has already commenced, and the general quest for a carbon-neutral planet in 2050. Specific strategies, including the development of a program that will lead to us planting one million trees in 2021 are aimed at contributing to these goals.

### Transition towards a culture of regeneration

From our focus on conservation, understanding the challenges and opportunities we have as humans to revert the trend of climate change impacts, loss of biodiversity and exhaustion of natural resources, Fundación Grupo Argos is inspired by a search for regenerative models that go beyond sustainability.

In this new era, regenerative development is a call to become responsible members of a community of life, seeking a change of mentality that will allow us to work with the potential inherent in living systems, both human and the rest of nature, to develop higher synergy and collaboration levels, as highlighted by Daniel Wahl and Bill Reed, experts on the topic.

Our work in upcoming years will be focused on contributing to Grupo Empresarial Argos' achievement of ambitious goals aligned with global challenges on topics like: 1) climate change mitigation, compensation and adaptation, 2) integrated management of prioritized water basins, 3) conservation of strategic ecosystems for biological diversity, 4) work with communities and allies to achieve a regenerative culture in the territories and 5) social value generation. Achieving this view of the future is only possible through a meeting of efforts, creativity and the innovative spirit of our entire stakeholder community to develop a more intelligent restoration, that will enable an improved understanding of ecological dynamics and propose new forms of production and conservation that will make it possible to keep our system in ecological balance.

#### We create social value

Within our focus on territorial transformation, our vision targets the development of initiatives to expand and make visible the company's social role, aimed at providing opportunities and contributing to the economic, social and environmental dynamics within the



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zones prioritized by the organization. In this regard, in upcoming years, Fundación Grupo Argos will continue creating social value through education and entrepreneurship proposals for women and young people, comprehensive scholarship programs, knowledge transfer by volunteer mentors, support for small businesses and startups -the latter have been the population most economically affected by the pandemic-, through capacity generation and conversations around social innovation. Finally, global and local dynamics in the territories put us on the forefront of providing models and projects that will transform our way of life on the planet to the benefit of all.

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