FUNDESTEAM
Pensando • Construyendo • Creciendo



IMPACT REPORT

2026

What we did this year with students, teachers and families in Panama and across the region: robotics, science, technology and programs for girls.

802
students registered for the WRO Panama 2026 National Robotics Olympiad

4,247
applications to Samsung Innovation Campus 2026/27, from 7 countries

153
students completed EcoSTEM in 5 public schools

178
new members at Rincón Clubhouse



Message from the President

In 2026, FUNDESTEAM sustained and expanded its programs in an especially difficult year for institutional funding of education in Panama.

Much of that result traces back to the investment we made in 2023. With sponsorships from the WRO International Final, which Panama hosted that year for the first time, the foundation acquired competition fields, tables, chairs, an LED screen, a cargo van and a bus to transport the judges. That equipment allowed us to hold 12 regional olympiads and the national final in 2026 despite budget constraints at Panama's Ministry of Education (MEDUCA). WRO Panama 2026, the National Robotics Olympiad, brought together 802 students from 111 schools.

We are especially grateful to the Minister of Education, Ventura Vega, for covering the airfare of the winning students and teachers who will represent Panama at the WRO International Final 2026 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The delegation of 24 students and 7 coaches is also supported by the OEI. Chevron, as Gold Sponsor, together with Cobre Panamá and Puma Energy as Silver Sponsors, made the regional olympiads and the WRO Panama 2026 National Olympiad possible, with the collaboration of Agua Cristalina.

With the Alstom Foundation and PADF, we completed the first phase of EcoSTEM in 5 public schools in Panama City: 153 students graduated, and their interest in STEM careers rose 19.2 points, from 64.8% to 84.0%. With SENACYT and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), we ran two technology training programs for girls: Pioneras Digitales (Digital Pioneers) and Innovadoras en Acción (Innovators in Action). With SENACYT, Rincón Clubhouse marked its fourth anniversary and brought in 178 young people.

Regionally, we coordinated Samsung Innovation Campus, which received 4,247 applications from 7 countries for its 2026/27 cohort, and we organized WRO in Argentina while coordinating with Fundesteam México A.C. in Mexico. Panama competed at the FIRST Global Challenge 2026 in Korea, and together with Grupo Medcom we launched the FIRST Tech Challenge Panama league. In July, together with the Archdiocese of Panama and USMA, we co-organized the Magnifica Humanitas International Forum, three days on artificial intelligence, human dignity and education, in which I presented CROSS Olympiad.

Since the first National Robotics Olympiad in 2015, FUNDESTEAM has shown that it delivers results. We remain the leading organization implementing STEAM programs in Panama, even in a year as demanding as 2026.

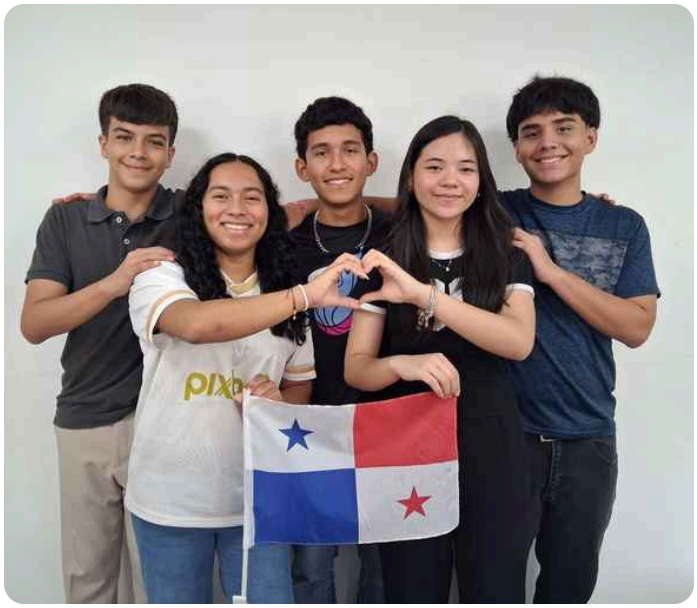
These results are possible thanks to a team of 12 professionals, a network of volunteers from across the country, and the trust of the public institutions, international organizations and companies that support our work. For 2027, we have new funding approved by F5, Linde and United Way, and the second phase of EcoSTEM is in preparation.

I thank each of them for their commitment.

Marvin Castillo

President, FUNDESTEAM











2026 Key Figures

Figures recorded by each program and reported to the partners that fund them. Data as of November 25, 2026.

802
students registered in WRO Panama 2026

111
schools in WRO Panama 2026

4,247
applications to Samsung Innovation Campus 2026/27

460
young people certified in the 2025/26 Samsung Innovation Campus cohort

153
students completed EcoSTEM, with a graduation rate of 93.3%

15
teachers trained in EcoSTEM

68
girls in Pioneras Digitales

55
active girls in Innovadoras en Acción

178
new Rincón Clubhouse members

1,169
visits to Rincón Clubhouse, January to November

125
enrolled in the FUNDESTEAM Academy (Cisco)

182
young people at the first meeting of the Youth Network for AI Ethics, with UNESCO









REACH MAP

Regional presence 2026

Our headquarters are in Panama. From here we coordinate programs in other Latin American countries and accompany Panamanian teams at international competitions.



Panama

Headquarters. WRO Panama, EcoSTEM, Pioneras Digitales, Innovadoras en Acción, Rincón Clubhouse, FUNDESTEAM Academy, IA Originaria (Indigenous AI) and Samsung Innovation Campus.

Samsung Innovation Campus 2026/27

Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay.

WRO Mexico and WRO Argentina

Fundesteam México A.C. organizes WRO in Mexico; FUNDESTEAM is the national organizer in Argentina.

Puerto Rico

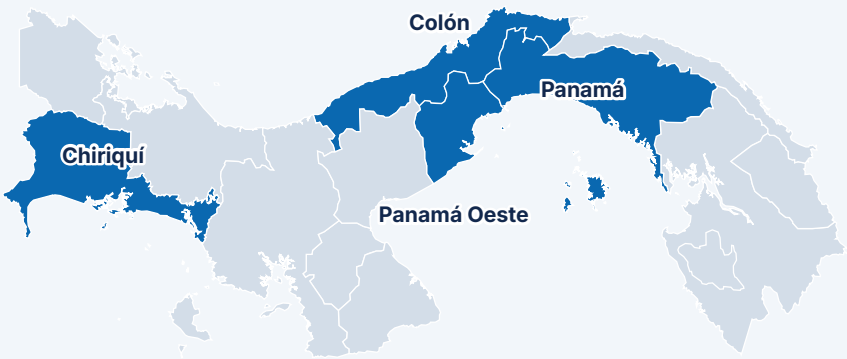
Host of the WRO International Final, December 7 to 11.

Incheon, South Korea

FIRST Global Challenge 2026, October 7 to 10, with Team Panama.

Panama · Pioneras Digitales

Home provinces of the enrolled girls: Colón 27, Panamá Centro 24, Chiriquí 10 and Panamá Oeste 7.





WRO PANAMA 2026

National Robotics Olympiad

12 regional olympiads from June 12 to July 23 in 9 regions, and the national final on September 10 and 11 at the Arena Roberto Durán, on the theme “Robots Meet Culture”.

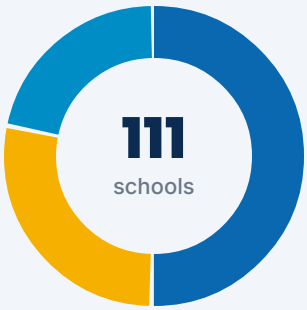
802
students registered

299
teams registered

111
schools

142
coaches

Registered schools



Private	56
Public	31
Independent teams	24

From regional events to the national final

Teams registered	299
Teams in the national final	129
Students registered	802
Students in the national final	358

The national final had 8 categories and awarded prizes to 24 teams.



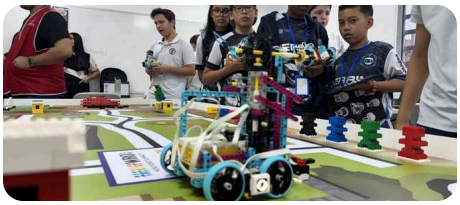




Judges, partners and the Puerto Rico team







JUDGES

68 judge applications and **46** judges at the national final, **20** of them from the Technological University of Panama (UTP). In addition, **40** volunteers were registered and certified at the national final.

PRESS

11 publications in **7** media outlets covering the first regional olympiad.

INTERNATIONAL FINAL

24 students and **7** coaches travel to Puerto Rico from December 7 to 11. The delegation is sponsored by MEDUCA and the OEI.

Sponsors of the delegation to Puerto Rico

GOBIERNO NACIONAL
CON PASO FIRME
MINISTERIO DE EDUCACIÓN

LEAD SPONSOR
Panama's Ministry of Education (MEDUCA)

OEI

LEAD SPONSOR
Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI)

Sponsors of the regional olympiads and the WRO Panama National Olympiad

Chevron (Texaco)
GOLD SPONSOR

Cobre Panamá
SILVER SPONSOR

Puma Energy
SILVER SPONSOR

Fluge Audiovisuales

Agua Cristalina
collaborator

UTP
judges

Thank you to the 11 host schools of the regional olympiads

St. Peter's · Colegio Bilingüe de Panamá · Integral de Azuero · San Vicente de Paúl · Santa Rosa de Lima · Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles · Visión del Saber · Colinas de las Cumbres · Howard Academy · Eben-Ezer · Panama Christian Academy



INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS AND FIRST

Panama in Incheon, and WRO in Mexico and Argentina

FIRST GLOBAL CHALLENGE 2026

October 7 to 10 in Incheon, South Korea. Team Panama traveled with **5** students and **5** mentors. Before the trip, the team presented at the Embassy of Korea in Panama.

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE PANAMA

Official launch on October 21, 2026, with Grupo Medcom. The first competitions take place in 2027.

WRO MEXICO 2026

Fundesteam México A.C. organizes WRO in Mexico: regional events in different states, **60** teams at the Future Innovators national final, and **21** teams advancing to the Open in the United States.

WRO ARGENTINA 2026

FUNDESTEAM is the national organizer in Argentina. **11** teams with **25** students took part, and the national final was held from October 17 to 19.

FIRST GLOBAL TEAM DONORS

Almacen Sun Wah · METRIC PANAMA, S.A. · criptotec · DonLee · udm · Discovery Store

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE PANAMA · LAUNCHED WITH

FIRST · medcom

WRO ARGENTINA · HOST AND COLLABORATORS

Los Robles · mis ladrillos PROBOTS robótica educativa







ECOSTEM · ALSTOM FOUNDATION + PADF

Robotics and mangrove stewardship in 5 public schools

Phase I of the program, December 2025 to August 2026.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF ALSTOM FOUNDATION | PADF

The schools were Homero Ayala, Instituto José Dolores Moscote, Villa Catalina, Richard Neumann and Federico A. Velásquez, in Juan Díaz, Boca La Caja and Panamá Viejo. Students built robots from kits, designed projects on environmental problems in their communities, and took part in mangrove cleanup days.

164
students enrolled

153
completed the program

93.3%
graduation rate

15
teachers trained: 10 women and 5 men

Interest in STEM careers

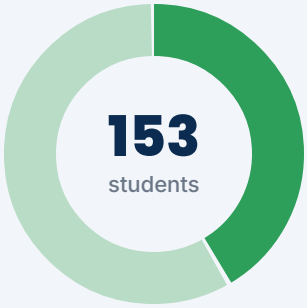


64.8%
Before (88 responses)

84.0%
After (75 responses)

+19.2
percentage points difference in the student survey.

Who completed the program



64 girls, 41.8% of those who completed.

ECOSTEM · PHASE I

Phase I delivery

51	25	6	88	32
classes	student teams	standout projects	certificates	robotics kits

Robotics kits

Olibots	12
LEGO WeDo	10
Expansion kits	10

Mangrove cleanup days

May 16	33
July 18	49

Participants at each cleanup day.





EcoSTEM Fair · July 24, 2026

Students	121
Teachers	12
Families	10





GIRLS IN STEAM · SENACYT

Pioneras Digitales

A SENACYT project, year 1 of 3. Opening on May 25 and progress showcase on November 21.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF SENACYT Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación | BID

68
girls enrolled

78.6%
come from public schools

87.1%
had no prior programming experience

280
girls: the project's 3-year goal

Girls by province

Colón	27
Panamá Centro	24
Chiriquí	10
Panamá Oeste	7

Methodology

The girls learn programming in **8** synchronous and **8** asynchronous sessions, and present what they built at a progress showcase.

The project runs for three years. In 2027, year **2** and year **3** continue, with the goal of reaching 280 girls.





GIRLS IN STEAM · SENACYT

Innovadoras en Acción and Girls in Aviation

A SENACYT project with 100 planned hybrid hours.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF SENACYT Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación | BID

55
active girls as of September

60
in-person hours at the UTP

UNIVERSIDAD TECNOLÓGICA DE PANAMÁ

40
virtual hours

Girls by province

Panamá Centro		40
Chiriquí		16
Colón		12
Panamá Oeste		4
Other		2

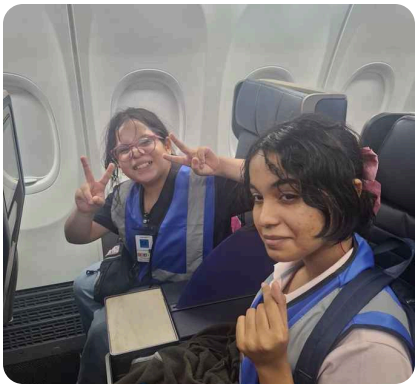


GIRLS IN AVIATION

On September 24, 2026, the girls of Innovadoras en Acción visited Tocumen airport with United Airlines, where they saw the inside of an airplane.

UNITED











SENACYT

Rincón Clubhouse

A technology learning space for young people ages 10 to 18. It celebrated its 4th anniversary on November 21, 2026.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF SENACYT
Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación

178	1,169	22	17
new members	visits	activities	workshops

January to November 2026. The program runs under a three-year agreement with SENACYT.











SAMSUNG INNOVATION CAMPUS

Artificial intelligence and programming for young people across the region

A PROGRAM BY SAMSUNG with stratego

We thank Samsung and Stratego for making Samsung Innovation Campus possible in the region.

2025/26 cohort

Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama and Dominican Republic. Classes from August to December 2025, closings in March 2026.

Applications	**2,576**
Selected	**511**
Certified	**460**

90% of those selected earned certification. 104 projects were presented at the hackathon.

2026/27 cohort

Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay. October 2026 to March 2027.

Applications	**4,247**
Selected	**456**
Active as of Nov. 25	**450**

24% women, 14 classrooms and 56 project groups.

8,473
applications, 2021 to 2025

1,934
graduates, 2021 to 2025

29.6%
of graduates are women

YOUTH NETWORK FOR AI ETHICS · UNESCO

The network's first meeting, on September 10, 2026, brought together **182** young people.

unesco









IA ORIGINARIA PANAMA

Artificial intelligence in Ngäbere, built with the community

WITH THE SUPPORT OF f5 | CAF America | In partnership with | UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE LOS PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS PANAMÁ

The project aims to make artificial intelligence work in Panama's Indigenous languages, starting with Ngäbere and its native speakers. 2026 milestones:

- **Jul 29** — F5 approved funding for the project, channeled through CAF America.
- **Aug 22** — Visit to UAPI: working session with **20** Intercultural Bilingual Education students and the rector.
- **Oct 15** — Project presentation at the CLIPP Forum 2026, at the headquarters of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (Parlatino).
- **Oct 28** — Signing of the project's letter of commitment.











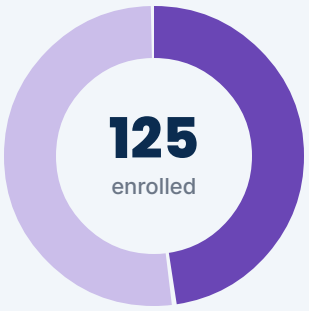
FUNDESTEAM ACADEMY

Cisco Networking Academy courses

The FUNDESTEAM Academy delivers the Cisco Networking Academy courses.

COURSES BY Cisco Networking Academy

2026



- Completed 60
- In progress 65

16 classes during the year.

Cumulative 2023–2026

78
classes

769
enrolled

FUNDACIÓN BENÉFICA DEVEAUX

HIGHER EDUCATION · PARTNERSHIP

Deveaux Foundation Scholarships

In 2026, the Deveaux Foundation awarded **5** new university scholarships in STEM fields, at universities in Panama. Four scholarships went to WRO Panama alumni and one to a STEAM Girls 360° alumna.

5 new university scholarships in STEM fields	**4** to WRO Panama alumni	**1** to a STEAM Girls 360° alumna	**US$500** maximum monthly support per scholarship recipient

Each scholarship recipient receives support of up to US$500 per month, a laptop program, a mentor and soft-skills workshops.

The partnership with the Deveaux Foundation dates back to 2023.





STEAM Preschool 2026: this year the program was limited to equipment delivery.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Magnifica Humanitas: AI, Human Dignity and Education

ORGANIZED BY

From July 22 to 24, 2026, FUNDESTEAM co-organized, with the Archdiocese of Panama and the Catholic University Santa María La Antigua (USMA), the Magnifica Humanitas International Forum on artificial intelligence, human dignity and the future of education, drawing on Pope Leo XIV's encyclical. The forum took place in the P. Benjamín Ayechu Auditorium at USMA, in person and online, with one day devoted to education, one to young people and one to the media. On opening day, July 22, 429 participants were registered. FUNDESTEAM presented the CROSS Olympiad experience and was responsible for the forum's registration, outreach and press.

3

days of sessions: education, youth and the media

429

registered participants as of July 22, opening day





PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

2026 Strategic Partners

2026 Sponsors

GOLD SPONSOR

SILVER SPONSOR

SILVER SPONSOR

Sponsored airfare 2026

Grupo Medcom (Telemetro Radio)

2026 Partners

2026 Collaborators

In-kind contribution: robot transport case

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

2026 Collaborators and Contributions

Security and emergency response at events

Ambulancias Panamá Responde

EMS Ambulancias

Panama Fire Department

National Police

Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil SINAPROC

Vital Service

Emergencia Móvil

WRO Argentina 2026

Host and lead sponsor

Mis Ladrillos PROBOTS robótica educativa

FIRST Global team donors

Almacen Sun Wah Ventas al por mayor

Metric Panama, S.A.

criptotec™

DonLee®

udm

Discovery Store

Collaborating institutions

unesco

United

f5

United Way

Cisco Networking Academy

Universidad Autónoma de los Pueblos Indígenas Panamá

WRO World Robot Olympiad™

FIRST





Outlook for 2027

Projects that are approved, in preparation or continuing next year.

IN PREPARATION

EcoSTEM Phase II

With the Alstom Foundation and PADF, the second phase will reach 8 schools, 15 teachers and 150 students.

APPROVED

IA Originaria Panama

F5 approved funding for the project, through CAF America.

APPROVED

STEAM Girls 360°

Linde (through CAF America) and United Way approved funding for the 2026–2027 cycle. The Faro Family Foundation supports 10 girls at Instituto Técnico Don Bosco, in mechanical engineering.

ONGOING

Pioneras Digitales, years 2 and 3

The project with SENACYT continues throughout 2027.

ONGOING

Rincón Clubhouse

The three-year agreement with SENACYT continues in 2027.

ONGOING

Samsung Innovation Campus 2026/27

The 7-country cohort has classes through March 2027.

FIRST COMPETITIONS

FIRST Tech Challenge Panama

First competitions in 2027.







JOIN US IN 2027

Grow your brand alongside Panama's next generation of talent

Every year, students from public and private schools across the country learn to code, build and solve real-world problems in FUNDESTEAM's programs. Your company can stand alongside them and be present at the competitions, in the classrooms and in the results we share with the community. We invite you to choose the program that best reflects your organization's values.

WRO Panama · National Robotics Olympiad
Twelve regional olympiads and one national final bringing together students from across the country.

FIRST Tech Challenge Panama
A robotics league launched with Grupo Medcom; the first competitions take place in 2027.

STEAM Girls 360°
Girls discovering engineering and technology, with the 2026–2027 cycle approved.

EcoSTEM
Robotics and mangrove care in public schools, with measured results.

Rincón Clubhouse
A technology learning space for young people aged 10 to 18.

IA Originaria
Artificial intelligence in Indigenous languages, starting with Ngäbere, built with the community.

STEAM Labs
Robotics and technology labs donated to public and private schools, in three levels.

STEAM Preschool
STEAM methodology in early childhood care centers, with the Office of the First Lady.

Samsung Innovation Campus
Free training in Python and artificial intelligence for young people across Latin America.

STEAM Diploma for teachers
Teachers in public and private schools learn to teach with robotics, coding and projects.

Employability
From the classroom to a first job, with the Ministry of Labor and companies that welcome graduates.

University STEM scholarships
With the Deveaux Foundation, WRO Panama and STEAM Girls 360° alumni pursue STEM degrees.

Let's discuss the partnership that best fits your company's goals.

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ABOUT US

FUNDESTEAM

A Panamanian nonprofit foundation, legally established as a foundation in 2017; the team has worked in STEAM education since 2014. Training provider accredited by MEDUCA since 2021. It has a team of 12 professionals and a network of volunteers from across the country.

115

labs in 106 schools

FUNDESTEAM
Pensando • Construyendo • Creciendo

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