

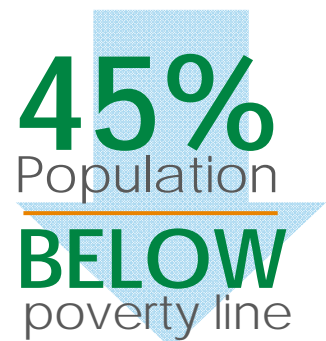


OVERVIEW OF Bolivia

Overview of Bolivia



YEAR OF
1825
INDEPENDENCE



Languages

Spanish, Quechua, Aymara and Guarani

Maternal mortality rate: 190 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Under-five Mortality Rate: 41 per 1,000 live births. Bolivia ranks 60 in the world.

Children under the age of 5 years under-weight 4.0%.

Human Development Index (HDI) for 2013: 0.667 (ranked 113 out of 187, indicating medium human development).

Brief History of ChildFund in Bolivia

ChildFund came to Bolivia in 1979

Number of enrolled children FY14: 23,184

Number of states where we are: 5

Number of participants FY14: 84,861

ChildFund began working in Bolivia in 1979 in rural and peri-urban communities in Oruro, a mining town in the west side of the country. Since that time, ChildFund has expanded its program coverage to the rest of the country.

Today, ChildFund works with 36 local partners within five of the nine departments in the country, including 21 municipalities, providing interventions for infants, children, youth and their families in urban, peripheral and rural areas.

Where We Work



ChildFund works with:

- 21 municipalities
- 739 neighborhoods & communities
- Approximately 372,885 inhabitants
- 183,699 youth under 19 years of age
- 23,903 enrolled children

Local Partners

- **Cochabamba**—5 LPs: urban and rural area
- **La Paz**—18 LPs (including **El Alto City** with 1 LP): urban and rural area
- **Oruro**—9 LPs: urban and rural area
- **Santa Cruz**—2 LPs: urban area
- **Tarija**—1 LP: urban and rural area

Brief Program Overview

Bolivia's long-term strategic approach considers the most important aspects of child poverty, and uses a results framework to establish expected outcomes and outputs, covering a five year period (2011-2015).

The outcomes are:

- Develop skills in children and young people for the creative solution of problems that affect their organizations and communities.
- Develop child growth and development community programs.
- Contribute to the sustainability of local educational systems, facilitating access, retention and promotion of children.
- Develop community promotion, prevention and health care actions.
- Promote understanding, mobilization and improvement of living conditions from a community level.
- Assist with the formation and strengthening of community networks.
- Motivate sustainable community partnerships and alliances.
- Create a learning organization.



2014 Program Achievements



Healthy and Secure Infants

During FY13, ChildFund Bolivia focused on strengthening its Early Childhood Development (ECD) program by creating new and improved training guides and materials and rolling out programs across the country. As a result, the following results were achieved in FY14:

- Nutritional improvement in children under 5—At the beginning of the fiscal year, healthy children with no risk represented 60.26% of the population. By the end of the fiscal year, this healthy population increased to 66.57%
- Children with nutritional deficiencies and delays in development decreased from 5.3% to 4.8%. These children had the most severe malnutrition indicators.
- The population with low nutritional deficits also improved—decreasing from 18.55% to 11.8%.
- Children with mild nutritional deficit increased from 11.5% to 12.8%.

Educated and Confident Children

In FY14, ChildFund Bolivia was heavily involved in creating safe school environments for children, with a special focus on bullying. A violence prevention project was carried out in the city of Oruro to tackle the issue of bullying in schools. A baseline study was conducted in 10 schools in the area, involving surveys with 1,150 students, 142 teachers and 75 parents, regarding school security. The results showed that verbal abuse was the most common form of bullying, with approximately 20% of children frequently being bullied, while 65% of children perceived that bullying was happening in their classrooms on a regular basis and also on the playground. Further, the study noted that teachers would engage in name calling with students.

The second phase of the project worked closely with the three target groups, i.e., students, teachers and parents, in order to tackle the problem of bullying. A series of workshops were conducted with 325 teachers and 729 parents regarding the concept of bullying and its impact and child rights. Also, practical tools in communicating with children were offered, such as alternatives to punishment. With teachers, there was more emphasis on creating a safe classroom environment. Workshops were also conducted with 3,832 children and youth, looking at their experience of bullying, their rights, and how to promote a culture of peace in their schools.

2014 Program Achievements (continued)



Skilled and Involved Youth

Bolivian youth have been taking a strong stance against violence in their communities. With the help of educational modules that guide youth through a project management process, starting with a social diagnostic, youth have been designing projects to help prevent violence in their neighbourhoods and promote a culture of peace.

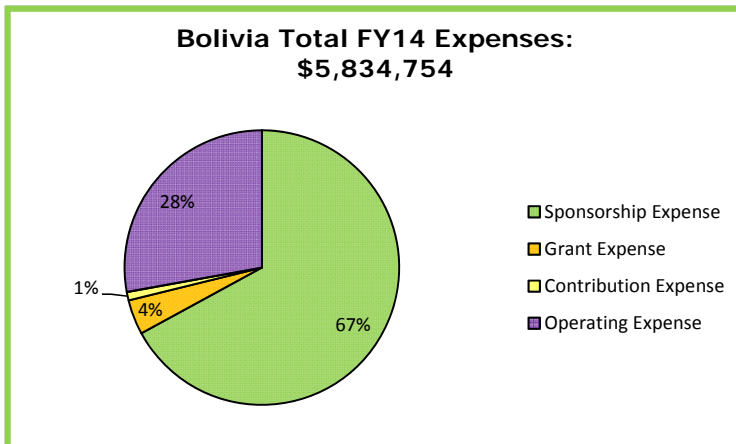
Within their youth clubs, youth leaders participated in workshops that explored the subject of violence and guided discussions regarding their experiences. The youth also explored specific problems around violence in their communities in depth, and each club chose a specific problem to work on. For example, one club scheduled a fair which denounced domestic violence. This club made banners and flyers to distribute to families attending the fair. A group of youth performed a mime to portray the violence situation in their communities. Further, they created games, such as puzzles with anti-violence messages so that families would interact and participate in the fair. Another youth club organized a public march through the streets of the city of Oruro, in which 55 youth participated. In total, the youth clubs reached over 1,400 people in the city of Oruro, with their message of peace and zero tolerance for violence.

Civil Society

ChildFund Bolivia successfully implemented programs involving Community Guides for more than 10 years. The Community Guides are volunteer mothers who visit families at home, especially in rural areas, where extended distances make it almost impossible to visit the Local Partners' offices. These Community Guides teach mothers how to take care of their babies, including improving their nutrition, providing early stimulation and meeting all vaccination dates. With the 36 Local Partners, ChildFund Bolivia prioritizes the rural areas where technicians, community guides and volunteers visit families.

This year, this work was still successfully in practice, involving 99 Community Guides, 33 technicians, 18 educators, and 14 members of rural Local Partners. Through support from Barnfonden, a ChildFund Alliance member, new ECD material (ECD backpack with teaching materials, scales to measure weight and an infantometer to measure height in accordance with WHO indexes) was developed and the workshop "*Advanced ECD Training Tools Improve Children's Lives*" was offered.

Financial Report



Bolivia FY14

Sponsorship Expense	3,912,714	67%
Grant Expense	238,438	4%
Contribution Expense	58,590	1%
Operating Expense	1,625,012	28%
Total Expense	5,834,754	100%

ChildFund Alliance

Sponsorship: At the end of FY14, ChildFund Bolivia had 17,517 active sponsorships from the following Alliance members: (1) ChildFund International—10,852; (2) ChildFund Deutschland – 1,459; (3) Barnfonden – 1,456; (4) Taiwan Fund for Children & Families—1,230; (5) ChildFund Australia – 765; (6) BORNEfonden—755; (7) ChildFund Korea—459; (8) Un Enfant par la Main – 326; and (9) ChildFund New Zealand – 215.

Grants: In January 2013, ChildFund Bolivia received a two year grant, Clean Water and Healthy Families In Sapahaqui, for a second phase for this project. The total award is \$748,262. In FY14, ChildFund Bolivia expended \$238,604.

Contributions: During FY14, ChildFund Bolivia received \$38,168 contributions for its projects and programs from ChildFund New Zealand and ChildFund Deutschland.

Challenges

Economic and cultural differences in urban and rural areas in Bolivia are still a big challenge. In rural areas where ChildFund works, the main problem is the lack of access to basic services (water, electric energy, sewage system). Thus, illnesses among children under five are a big issue.

The distance children must travel to attend school is another challenge. It is common for them to walk 2 or more hours each day to attend classes. Further, during harvest season, families require their children's help, preventing their school attendance and affecting their formal education.

Machoism is still a cultural practice affecting families, schools and society. It is very common for people to accept discriminative practices against women as common and normal. Another consequence of this machoism belief is violence inside the family, school and community.

Why Sponsorship is Important

A guardian angel for Denis

Denis says he met a Guardian Angel when he was enrolled in the Obispo Anaya program and met Brian at the age of 8. Brian, as his sponsor, became one of his main moral supports when his father passed away one year later. Denis and his relatives were devastated but were fortunate to receive the support and genuine concern from Brian and his family. Just a few months later, Denis' mother was diagnosed with cancer and once again Brian was there to help and provide support. Each month, their letters brought joy to Denis and his siblings, Alfonso and Inés. They felt they had a close friend in Brian. Fortunately, Denis' mother recovered after receiving medical treatment through the help of ChildFund and Denis' sponsor.



Desiring that her children continue attending school and not be obligated to find jobs to help support the family, Denis' mother became the main economic support for the family. Although Denis' sponsor helped the family establish a meat selling store at the market, needs still continued to get bigger and bigger. Finally Denis' mother had to travel to another country in order to find a better job. They children understood this and Alfonso, the older son, took care of the family. As time passed, Alfonso became a dentist.

At the age of 18, Denis' enrollment with ChildFund and the Obispo Anaya program ended, but the relationship between Brian and Denis' family was so strong that Brian decided to sponsor Denis' younger sister Inés. Friendship goes beyond any barrier.



"With the help of my sponsor, I was able to overcome sadness and problems, and he changed my life." Very moved by the support and care provided by Brian, Denis share, *"I had the chance to get to know Brian and his family and felt very close to them, and sometimes I felt he was like a father to me. He watched me grow up through the pictures I sent to him and he was there when I was happy or sad and supported me in reaching my dreams."* Today, Denis and Inés are studying at the university. To express his gratefulness, Denis says, *"I can only say, thank you very much for everything dear Brian - I wish the Lord protect you and bless your family. Thanks for your support, and as a result, I am a better person."*

Why Sponsorship is Important (continued)

COMMUNICATION CORNERS

In 2005 Bolivia's Sponsorship team and Local Partners recognized that children needed a space that would encourage them to communicate with their sponsors and strengthen their writing creativity through engaging activities that would capture their attention. As a result, the Communication Corners were implemented, with appropriately designed materials and furniture, conducive to engaging children in creating sponsor correspondence.

Currently the Communication Corners are part of the Education Program and use four modules to strengthen writing and creativity skills: (1) Writing; (2) Art and Creativity; (3) Technology; and (4) Sponsorship and Child Protection. The Corners aim to teach children and youth how to build the relationship with their sponsor, through letter writing.

The Communication Corners aid children and youth in writing letters to build the relationship with their sponsor.



HARVESTING OUR OWN NUTRITION



In November 2012, one of ChildFund's sponsors visited Local Partners in Oruro, a community dependent upon the mining industry. Another notable characteristic of Oruro is that it is subject to extreme weather conditions and because of these conditions, the ChildFund sponsor wanted to introduce a new way of solving a major problem affecting children in the community: nutrition. His solution involved building solar tents in the Oruro area, at the community's schools, so that children and their families could grow vegetables for their consumption. When children are well-nourished, they perform better in school, grow into healthy adults and in turn, give their own children a better start in life.

Beginning in October 2013, solar tents were built at schools in 10 rural communities. To support this effort, teachers and students were trained on the proper use and management of the solar tents and how to grow crops. By August 2014, the tents were up and running. Through the sponsor's donation of a little over \$7,550 USD, seeds, tools and materials (wooden slats, mud bricks and other accessories) were purchased.

"The first harvest was a success," says Nicandro, a teacher from the Sur Totora School. *"This is a big step for this rural school because children stay here for lunch and with these fresh vegetables, their meal is more nutritious and substantial."* Yamil, one of the students agrees: *"The food is more delicious and we know it came from our garden."* More than 500 participants in the CALazaya, Uaraque, Totora, Sora Sora, Chojnacota and Cultay Wacanapi communities benefited from this project.

