



OVERVIEW OF Bolivia

Overview of Bolivia



YEAR OF
1825
INDEPENDENCE

POPULATION
10,290,003
MILLION

51%
Population
BELOW
poverty line

Languages

Spanish, Quechua, Aymara and Guarani

Maternal Mortality Rate: 180 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Under-five Mortality Rate: 54 per 1,000 live births. Bolivia ranks 55 in the world.

Human Development Index (HDI) for 2011: 0.663 (ranked 108 out of 187, indicating medium human development).

11.1% - Children under the age of 5 years underweight.*

*Source: ENDSA 2003 and VAM 2006, see http://www.unicef.org/worldfitforchildren/files/Bolivia_WFFC5_Report.pdf.

Brief History of ChildFund in Bolivia

ChildFund came to Bolivia in 1979

Number of enrolled children FY12: 25,917

Number of states where we are: 5

Number of beneficiaries: 484,541

ChildFund Bolivia began its activities in 1979 to strengthen the capacities of young people to promote human development. ChildFund first worked in Oruro and then expanded its programs to five out of the nine departments of Bolivia. This presence includes 21 municipalities working hand in hand with 47 local partner organizations in rural and peripheral urban areas including La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Oruro and Tarija.

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 during a five year period, including :

- Developing skills in children and young people to generate creative solutions to problems that affect their organizations and communities.
- Implementing child growth and community development programs.
- Contributing to the sustainability of local educational systems, facilitating access and retention of children.
- Carrying out community promotion, prevention and health care actions.
- Promoting understanding, mobilization and improvement of living conditions within the community.
- Supporting the formation and strengthening of community networks.
- Motivating sustainable community partnerships and alliances.
- Encouraging the creation of a learning organization.

2012 Program Achievements

Infants. ChildFund Bolivia's Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs foster care, child growth and development of children under 5 years of age. During last fiscal year, 6,735 infants received care and 100 technicians were trained to facilitate activities and skill development benefiting 555 parents, guides and community volunteers. In addition, a brand new ECD center with capacity for 700 children was built and opened in July, 2012 in the city of Cochabamba, with the funding support of ChildFund Sweden's Alliance member, Barnefonder.



2012 Program Achievements

Children. One of ChildFund Bolivia's main goals is to contribute to the sustainability of the educational system by facilitating school access and retention and reducing dropout rates. Last year, 13,100 children from 6-14 years, were enrolled in school and 12,830 of them were promoted to the next educational level with the support of our local partners' after school programs across Bolivia.



ChildFund also works in the implementation of CLASSE (Children Learning Actively in Supportive School Environments), an educational model aimed at strengthening the learning process and the exercise of children's and parents' rights and duties.

Youth. To develop skills that generate solutions to community problems, ChildFund Bolivia's youth were involved in the process of carrying out diagnostics of their communities.



Over 2,286 organized young leaders learned participatory tools to capture their needs and planned and implemented solutions at a small but significant scale, including parks and waste management improvement, local safety, health and educational campaigns.

These activities were carried out through newly established youth clubs, for children between 8 – 12 years old, and youth 13 and above.



2012 Program Achievements

Health. Our local partners implemented different health programs. More than 21,000 children, youth and family members received health care, including preventive controls, dental care and access to medicines.

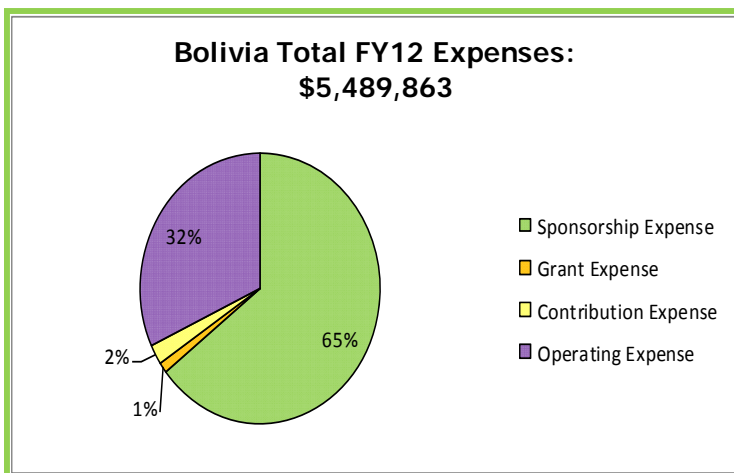
Society. Our local partners built four Community Centers for ECD, Sponsorship and Youth activities, three of them in the Cochabamba rural area (Quecoma, Matarani and Anzaldo) and one in the La Paz rural area (Sapahaqui). These were funded through a campaign developed by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) and the support of ChildFund Korea.

Child Rights. Between April and June, our Local Partners in Tarija, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and Oruro developed child protection plans, with the participation of parents, youth and children.

In Oruro, the Safety and Security Plan was presented to the local government, to approach support for public safety in schools and neighborhoods.



Financial Report



Bolivia FY12		
Sponsorship Expense	3,536,260	64%
Grant Expense	68,787	1%
Contribution Expense	131,100	2%
Operating Expense	1,753,716	32%
Total Expense	5,489,863	100%

Challenges

Bolivia is one of the countries in the Americas with the lowest human development indicators (HDI = 0.663 and ranked 108 out of 187 in 2011) and the highest percentage of population living below the poverty line (51%). Deprivation, difficult access to health services, basic sanitation and education, are some of the main challenges especially affecting people living in rural and pre-urban areas of the main cities.

Violence is a massive problem in Bolivia and appears to be more and more a main preoccupation for Bolivian children and youth. In Bolivia, a large part of the population still considers it normal to smack or beat children to discipline them and make sure they respect their elders (UNICEF, 2012). Another preoccupying fact is that a vast majority of domestic and sexual violence complaints brought to prosecutors never make it to trial or are dismissed. Also, there are at least 100 daily cases of sexual attacks on children within schools. According to a nationwide study on abuse in schools carried out by Child Defense International (CDI-Bolivia), 50% of children suffer physical punishment on some occasion, and 6% suffer this constantly at school (UNICEF, 2012).

Despite making up almost 50% of the population, there is a general perception in Bolivia that children and youth are viewed as objects or commodities and that they are their parent's property (UNICEF Bolivia, 2010). Public policies for children and youth focus more on newborn health and nutrition and there are very few government policies that encourage the active involvement of children and youth in mainstream society or which promote their participation. Therefore, ChildFund in Bolivia supports children and youth to grow as young leaders of development in their communities. They are encouraged to explore important topics in their communities and take action through the implementation of small projects which are designed and led by youth.

Migration trends both nationally (from the rural areas to the main cities) and also abroad, are particularly strong in Bolivia's population, which creates many challenges for children and youth whose families migrate into big, urban centers, in particular, creating poverty belts around them. Some of the cities with the largest migrant populations include Cochabamba (77%), Santa Cruz (65%), and Tarija (63%) (PNUD, 2011), cities where ChildFund Bolivia has its largest child population enrolled and where it currently works in child protection and child development programs with the involvement of families, and communities.

Migration abroad is also very common in Bolivia. Parents leave children and families behind looking for work in countries such as Spain, the United States, Argentina and Brazil. Children are left to the care of relatives and neighbours and are therefore more vulnerable to situations of abuse, mistreatment and neglect.

In terms of health, the most common diseases the population is exposed to include malaria, dengue fever, *chagas* disease and tuberculosis in endemic risk areas. In children these diseases are closely related to lack of proper access to water and sanitation services as well as poor nutritional habits.

Access to education as well as quality of education is also a challenge in the Bolivian

Challenges

school system where high indexes of inequality and discrimination persist. In Bolivia, the average number of years a child attends school is 9.2 and the ratio between girls and boys with education is 0.76. Child labour is also still a common practice in urban and rural areas. In 2008, more than 850,000 children between the ages of 5 and 17 performed work activities.

In terms of environmental hazards, ChildFund Bolivia develops its work into vulnerable areas commonly exposed to floods (Santa Cruz), drought (Tarija, Cochabamba, Oruro's rural area), hailstone storms (Cochabamba, La Paz's rural area), and landslides (La Paz).

Why Sponsorship is Important

Rosana Lorena became a sponsored child when she was 6 years old. At first, she and her family lived in La Paz, and Rosana was enrolled at "Ninas San Gabriel" local partner. When she was 7, she started a great relationship with Mrs. Diane Rackneil, her sponsor.

Her father, Silverio, got a better job requiring the family to relocate to Tarija, a smaller city where Rosana had to start a new life. "Fortunately my sponsor encouraged me to keep going no matter the circumstances," remembers Rosana.

While in Tarija, Rosana continued having her sponsor's support through ChildFund's partner "Guadalquivir" in that city. For many years, she lived with her mother Maria and siblings in small rented houses, while most of the time, her father lived in other cities where he could find work.

Being a sponsored child, Rosana was able to engage in ChildFund programs that helped her gain more confidence and self-esteem. She was part of the first *Youth Club*, leading in many activities. "We launched the Youth Club with five or six friends, and we did a lot! We had a folkloric dance group. We also helped with sponsorship activities, such as visiting some families and working with children in writing letters and teaching them handcrafts. Some other kids admired us," Rosana says, "because it's not usual having a girl leading these activities. There's still a lot of machismo in our culture."

Many children in Bolivia can make it only until 5th or 6th grade at school, because they have to work in order to help their families. Rosana's family life had lots of financial problems, however, her sponsor encouraged her to finish school and also to pursue a professional career. "At first I couldn't believe that a person who already has her own family would show concern about me, even without us knowing each other face to face," says Rosana. "I felt they were like my other family."



Why Sponsorship is Important

Now she is a Business Administrator and works at CADEMA Foundation, an organization focused in strengthening women's leadership skills and also gives her free time by helping "Guadalquivir" the local partner association that helped her when she was a sponsored child, where now Rosana contributes as a professional.

Franz is a 15 year-old boy enrolled with "Kusit Ajantunaka" (Smily Faces), ChildFund's local partner in El Alto. He has four younger siblings and takes care of them while his mother goes out to work. Franz sometimes feels like a "father" more than the older brother, and usually invests his sponsor's donation on clothes and shoes for his siblings.

"I've been saving money for four years to buy a computer but finally I decided to buy a sewing machine, so that me and my mother can work at home and improve our income."

