



<http://www.care.org/vft/bolivia/>

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CARE in Bolivia

Bolivia is the second poorest country in the Americas. Six per cent of the population are indigenous - 64 per cent live below the poverty line and only 24 per cent of the mostly indigenous rural population have access to water services.



Economic Development

CARE's economic development programs assist impoverished families by supporting moneymaking activities, especially those operated by women. CARE initiates community savings-and-loan programs and provides technical training to help people begin or expand small businesses that will increase family income.

2008-09 Donations from 19 H

41 clubs contributed a total of \$11,545.00

Total contributions from MD19 = \$47,566.27

Thank you to all those who helped "Make a Difference in the Lives of Others"



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With more than 30 years' experience in Bolivia, we are known for our expertise in water and sanitation, as well as our innovative work in human rights, child labour, education and food security. We have supported the efforts of more than 100,000 families to gain access to clean water throughout the country. We are also recognized as experts in emergency response - as shown by the swift relief we gave to the 25,000 people left homeless in the 2006 floods.

Combating Child labour

Children are frequently put to work at a very young age in Bolivia, which means they miss out on valuable schooling. We work to improve access to quality education for child labourers in the mining sector and help communities involved to earn a decent living outside of the mines.

Working with indigenous communities

We have a long track record and excellent reputation for working with local communities, listening to their concerns. We work to ensure government policies take the needs of the poor into account. One of our key projects with indigenous communities runs along Bolivia's borders with other countries. Here, high in the rainforest, we tackle the poverty that migrant workers face - helping them find long-term employment by selling jewelry or local produce, such as Brazil nuts and bread.

MD 19 Project for 2009-10 is a continuation of the last year's project.

Our current project is an effort to stem the practice of child labor in the mines of Bolivia. CARE takes a unique approach in developing educational plans for project areas by specifically targeting the women of the area. These women are at best treated as second-class citizens. They have little or no education, few if any rights, and are often relegated to cooking, cleaning, and raising children. CARE teaches women skills they can use at home to earn additional money that can support their families. We're not talking about a lot of money, but it may be just enough to keep her children out of a Bolivian mine. CARE believes that a woman can change a family, that a small group of women can affect change in a village, and that more women can help improve lives in an entire region.

The children of the region are not forgotten. The program has established an education center which offers preschool education to young children and tutoring, extracurricular activities and meals for primary school students. The idea is to get the children out of the mines and equip them with the skills that will keep them out.

CARE's approach to development and this project is best captured by the old proverb: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for life."

For more information visit the [CARE website](http://www.care.org) or the [MD19 CARE web page](#).

In Bolivia we:

- improve health care
- provide access to clean water and sanitation
- teach women and men about family planning
- improve agriculture, for example by teaching farmers new farming techniques