

Country strategic plan summary for 2004 – 2009

“This document describes how Plan Bolivia and its partners will mobilise resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from July 2004 to June 2009”.

About Bolivia

Bolivia is a truly diverse and beautiful country. It has a range of topographies that include the vast, flat, windswept high plains of the Altiplano. Lake Titicaca, the shimmering body of water that according to legend gave birth to the first Inca; sub-tropical valleys that drop away from the mountains into dense jungle; great rivers that eventually lead to the Amazon and huge crusted salt pans, the remnants of ancient lakes, as well as animals that range from roaring jaguars to docile llamas.

Plan in Bolivia

Plan has been working in Bolivia since 1969 and currently benefits over 300,000 people.

Plan’s child-centred community development enables girls, boys, teenagers, their families and their communities to carry out and promote positive change in their lives.

Plan helps them to become involved in deciding how to improve life by working together for lasting changes in the lives of girls and boys.

- ✓ Plan works in six departments in Bolivia
- ✓ It implements projects, develops partnerships and alliances in approximately 1,000 communities in nearly 50 municipalities
- ✓ More than 47,000 girls and boys are sponsored by Plan and are ambassadors for other children in the communities.

Current issues affecting children

1. Over the years, Bolivia’s social, economic and political structure has led to the exclusion of children, adolescents, young people and women, even more so if they are indigenous. This is shown by the violation of their rights and a weakness in their capacities to assume their role as citizens, thus jeopardizing the very democracy of the country.
2. In Bolivia, children below the age of six are exposed to childhood diseases and an unhealthy

environment. They suffer from low levels of development and the violation of their rights. Also, their mothers are at risk of complications or death during pregnancy, birth and post-delivery.

3. In the communities where Plan works, children six to fourteen years old have few opportunities to participate in quality education that is relevant, effective, adapted to their basic learning needs and that promotes their rights.
4. Insufficient family income, lack of participation of women in the use of household income and the non-exercise of sexual and reproductive rights tend to increase socio-economic vulnerability and food insecurity amongst women, children and adolescents.
5. Many of the children and their families in Bolivia are at risk of contracting diseases because they live in an unhealthy environment both in their homes and communities or in endemic zones which limit their survival and development.

How Plan will address these issues

Plan has designed five programs to address the issues affecting children in the country through the different stages of their life cycle:

Social governance in favour of children and adolescents

The program implements interventions to build democratic communities and municipalities which will operate with the participation of traditionally excluded groups (boys, girls, adolescents, women, and men of rural communities). It also strengthens organized groups of children, adolescents, youth and women for the exercise of their rights, improving their participation in alliances and networks promoting their agenda.



Children have the right to make decisions
“We want our voice to be heard”

Healthy and happy children and mothers

Through this program Plan implements neonatal, infant and maternal health involvement and home-based and center-based early childhood care and development which contribute to improve child survival, development and growth, and their mothers improve their quality of life.



We love our children and are taught how to take care of them even before they are born



Children deserve quality education

Learning for life

The actions implemented by the program provide children six to fourteen years old access to quality education that develop skills, abilities and awareness of their rights.

Program approach

The program approach put forth in this strategic plan outlines activities to support the communities' claim for their rights and support the municipalities' responsiveness and ability to deliver on these rights. This effort, as well as inputting to strategic alliances at local and national level, is designed to encourage communities and municipalities to prioritize and deliver on a child-centered agenda. Plan Bolivia will work within the policy framework and in coordination with government institutions at all levels. A key level of intervention will be enhancing the current community and municipal planning to achieve a more child-centered focus.

The likely impact from this approach, in line with child centered community development, will be co-management and more closely coordinated activities at the municipal level. Plan's efforts will also be linked upwards to agencies that do not have the community and municipal operational capacity such as UN organizations, the European Union, international agencies and others, which work at a macro level to support the municipalities.

These favour students' organizations and school-making processes related to quality learning; and reinforce the management capacities of municipal governments and educational districts.



Improving our self-esteem and capacity to decide about our lives

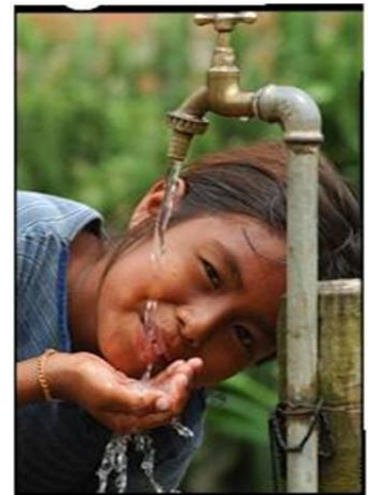
Deciding our lives

This program gives families diverse opportunities to improve the lives of their children through greater income and increased participation of women and adolescents in the decision-making process. This is achieved through several productive and income generating projects, vocational training and reproductive health

and rights projects for women, adolescents and their families.

Managing a healthy environment

The program builds the capacities of children, families and community organizations to maintain family and community healthy environments through the appropriate use and access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the active control and prevention of diseases like diarrhea, parasitism and Chagas disease.



"I don't get sick anymore because I have clean water at home"