

STRATEGIC OUTLINE

BOLIVIA 2019-2021



Background

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has 11,4 Mio inhabitants and is almost the same size of Ethiopia (with 100 Mio inhabitants). Currently ranking the second poorest country of South America after Guyana it is on 118th place of 187 countries. Light for the World works in Bolivia since 1994.

In 1825 Bolivia became independent, following several wars, military rule, hyperinflation and an escalation into violent protests against the neo-liberal policies in the new millennium, which ultimately led to the election of president Evo Morales with the Movement for Socialism (Movimiento al Socialismo) as the first indigenous and majority-elected president of Bolivia in 2006.

According to the census 2012, Bolivia has a population of 10.027.254 with 388.119 persons with disabilities (3,88%; 51% f and 49% m). Only 67.912 persons with disabilities had a disability card in December 2016, which is the starting point for social protection schemes and for advocating for the implementation of their rights including their right to employment.

Recent years saw significant advances in terms of improving opportunities for women and men, girls and

boys with disabilities. In 2009, Bolivia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and several laws have been adopted to include persons with disabilities in all sectors of society.

In 2010 the law “Avelino Siñani – Elizardo Pérez No. 070” was approved stating in Article 3 that education needs to be fully inclusive of the diverse population in Bolivia.

The government adopted a new labour inclusion law in September 2017, which states that in public institutions at least 4% and in private institutions at least 2% of the employees must be persons with disabilities, their parents or caretakers. With only 6% of persons with disabilities in Bolivia in formal employment and 35% in informal employment, this law has raised hope. Within the same law the government agreed to a monthly benefit payment to persons with disabilities of 250 BOB (about 30 EUR) starting in 2018.

Despite these positive developments, government initiatives and efforts of civil society, practical implementation of these laws, differs greatly from the written ideal as negative attitudes and behaviours towards persons with disabilities still persist.

History of involvement and principles of cooperation of Light for the World

Light for the World started working in Bolivia in 1994 and has since systematically built up its programme, especially in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR). The Country Strategy has been revised in September 2017 and Light for the World's efforts focus in ensuring that the local partner organizations have the necessary capacities to a) advocate together with the government for a better inclusion of persons with disabilities as well as b) to fundraise locally and become more independent. This shift in the strategy resulted in focussing on CBR and gradually shifting out of the Eye Health sector in 2018.

Light for the World works currently with 8 partners in 15 programmes reaching around 7.500 persons

Strategic Lines and Priorities

Light for the World's programme in Bolivia aims at disability inclusive conditions via strengthening and building up capacities through CBR at:

- ▶ National level
- ▶ Community level
- ▶ Individual level

Light for the World will develop high-profile programmes based on the CBR backbone on national and regional level with the focus on livelihood, rights and gender.

Finally, a Theory of Change for the Strategic Outline Bolivia 2019-2021 has been developed, to be able to measure Light for the World's impact.

with disabilities and their communities through CBR, Inclusive Education, and Disability Inclusion within government institutions.

With this programme Light for the World is contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular to SDG 1 "End poverty in all its forms everywhere", SDG 3 "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.", SDG 4 "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.", SDG 8 "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.", and SDG 10 "Reduce income inequality within and among countries."

Main objective:

Contribute towards an inclusive and equitable society in Bolivia, where women and men, girls and boys with disabilities are fully included and empowered, and enjoy an improved quality of life.

Result 1:

Civil Society Organizations (including Disability People's Organizations - DPOs) are strengthened and established as key actors to promote inclusion and rights of women and men, girls and boys with disabilities.

Activities:

- ▶ Partnerships and engagements with national umbrella organisations working with people with disability
- ▶ Building capacity of local DPOs for greater disability inclusion at the community level
- ▶ Piloting a gender-focused empowerment school for women and men with disabilities

Result 2:

The government offers services to women and men, girls and boys with disabilities that have the same quality and ensure the same access as offered to others.

Activities:

- ▶ Network Building: Joint collaboration on the UNCRPD Monitoring with other players (Humanity and Inclusion, Action on Disability and Development, MyRight, Latin American Network of non Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families, etc.)
- ▶ Lobbying and Technical Engagement: Partners work with local governments on CBR implementation and disability inclusive laws

Result 3:

Women and men, girls and boys with disabilities in 10 municipalities/districts actively participate in the social, economic and cultural development of their communities.

Activities:

- ▶ Capacity Building of CBR partners in local fundraising, programme development, press relations, and disability mainstreaming
- ▶ Skill training of partners in Child Protection, Gender
- ▶ Complete diagnostics and action plans for mainstreaming disability by partners within training and vocational education institutions
- ▶ Referral to and direct support to vocational trainings, internships and skill development opportunities
- ▶ Health interventions: awareness raising of families, home-based interventions, screening and referral, assistive devices
- ▶ Advocate (community level) for the need and means of including girls and boys with disabilities into mainstream schools
- ▶ Education Workforce: Training of Trainers for inclusive education





Light for the World International

Niederhofstraße 26

1120 Vienna

Austria

TEL: +43 1 810 13 00

EMAIL: bolivia@light-for-the-world.org

www.light-for-the-world.org

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER:

Light for the World International

Responsible for content: Rupert Roniger * Editors: Jenni Jerabek, Jaime Duran Tamares * Graphics: Julia Weiss * Photo: Gregor Kuntscher