



USAID | **BOLIVIA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM

SEGE programs focus on providing productive opportunities through promotion of sustainable agriculture and natural resources-based value chain integration and market linkages in rural and urban areas of Bolivia.



Production of organic fertilizer

*USAID/Bolivia
working together*

Sustainable economic growth and environment

Increased Sustainable Income through Promotion of Natural Resources-Based Business and Productive Opportunities

Note: In June 2009 USAID/Bolivia's Office of Economic Opportunities merged with the Environment Office to form the Office of Sustainable Economic Growth and Environment (SEGE).

SEGE programs focus on providing productive opportunities through promotion of sustainable agriculture and natural resources-based value chain integration and market linkages in rural and urban areas of Bolivia. SEGE programs provide support to: improve agricultural productivity to increase incomes and reduce food insecurity; promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity goods and service to increase incomes and promote economic growth; improve the competitiveness and productivity of micro, small and medium-sized businesses and their service providers to generate sustainable employment opportunities and increase sales; and strengthen Bolivia's ability to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by climate change. The following projects make up the SEGE Office core portfolio:

Integrated Food Security (IFS) Project

The IFS Project is a major new USAID/Bolivia-funded initiative which began in October 2009 and seeks to empower municipal governments, local organizations, the private sector and communities to identify technologically appropriate and culturally sensitive solutions to the problems of chronic malnutrition and low levels of food security.

The overall goal of this program is to increase food security and reduce chronic malnutrition in rural areas of Bolivia through an integrated approach that addresses the issues of food availability, access, use and vulnerability in support of the Government of Bolivia's Plan Vida.

The program has the following objectives:

- 1) Improve access to food through the provision of modern agricultural production technologies;
- 2) Increase incomes and thus enhance access to food through improved sales and marketing methods;

- 3) Promote the protection and sustainable use of the natural resources and environmental services upon which productive activities are based;
- 4) Support communities vulnerable to food insecurity to mitigate the impacts of climate change;
- 5) Reduce maternal and child malnutrition and improve how food is used.

The design of this program drew on the lessons learned by USAID's Food Security Title II Program. It responds to the Food Security Strategy paper produced by USAID/Washington's LAC Bureau in December 2008.

Bolivian Productivity and Competitiveness Project (PCB)

The main purpose of the PCB, which began in October 2009, is to increase the productivity and sales of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in order to generate and sustain employment and increase the income of families in urban and peri-urban areas. The specific objectives are to: improve the competitiveness and productivity of selected value chains; strengthen local institutions that support the development of MSMEs; promote dialogue between key stakeholders to improve the business environment and competitiveness of value chains and MSMEs; and leverage funding from the private sector, other donors and public institutions to create partnerships for development.

Integrated Development and Conservation in the Bolivian Amazon Project (Integrated Amazon Project)

The main purpose of the Integrated Amazon Project is to provide support to promote the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the region's biodiversity, goods and services; increase household income and promote economic growth through the sustainable use of biodiversity; strengthen the capacity of local governments to improve environmental management; and strengthen the capacity of national and sub-national government institutions to promote biodiversity conservation, mitigate the impacts of climate change and support sustainable economic development.

The project currently works in Northern La Paz-Beni and Santa Cruz. It builds on the successful work of USAID/Bolivia's Landscape Conservation Program and Bolivia Forestry Programs - BOLFOR I and II.

El Alto-Lake Titicaca Pollution Management Project

The objective of the El Alto-Lake Titicaca Pollution Management Project, which started in October 2008, is to contribute to the improvement of environmental quality in the El Alto - Bahía Cohana watershed, reducing risks to environmental health and biodiversity in the project area while at the same time improving the lives and wellbeing of the people who live there. The project is supporting local organizations to implement pollution abatement and best management practices in the Katari River basin and its tributaries, which have been identified as major sources of pollution in the Cohana Bay area of Lake Titicaca. The project is supporting activities that reduce water pollution emanating from urban areas, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources in communities on the shores of Lake Titicaca and in the municipalities of Pucarani and Puerto Pérez, and strengthening the institutional capacities of public and private stakeholders to encourage positive behavior changes to reduce environmental pollution.

Agriculture Program

The purpose of the Agriculture Program is to increase the income of families living in the valleys and altiplano regions of Bolivia by facilitating access to agricultural technologies, improving crop irrigation systems and promoting direct access to markets, mainly within Bolivia.

Program Impact

- Since 1994, USAID has supported Bolivia to create and implement a new forestry regime, which helped set international standards for sustainable forest management. Key outcomes include the democratization of access to forest resources for community and indigenous groups, improvements in value-added wood processing, and assistance for Bolivia to become the world leader in forest certification.
- Since 2003, USAID has contributed to exports of value-added products worth over US\$42 million, generated more than 12,600 full-time jobs (many of these for women), and helped over 780 small enterprises to join export chains.
- Since 2008, USAID has been supporting the program in the Cohana Bay area of Lake Titicaca to reduce and manage pollution coming from local sources and from industries in nearby cities such as Viacha and El Alto. The program is aimed at preserving one of Bolivia's natural wonders, while also improving living conditions for communities who live on the shores of the Lake.
- Since 2000, USAID has worked with more than 50,000 farming families in the valleys and altiplano regions to improve the production of onions, chilli peppers, peanuts, oregano and other crops. USAID's support has led to new sales worth US\$25 million and the farmers have increased their incomes by an average of 50%.
- From 2002 to 2008, over 600,000 people in the most food insecure areas of rural Bolivia benefited directly from USAID food security project activities. A new USAID food security program initiated in 2009 builds on the successes and lessons learned from the previous program.

The program is inclusive of the community and directly supports Bolivia's National Development Plan. Its work is coordinated with teams of technical staff in the municipalities it supports, and a constant flow of information and coordination with central government institutions is maintained at all times. The budget for Agriculture and Environment activities in 2010 was US\$16.3 million. The budget requested for 2011 is US\$14.3 million.