



Bolivia



MANDATE

Handicap International aims at strengthening the social and economic inclusion of the most vulnerable people, enabling them to benefit from rehabilitation care, and implements natural disaster risk management actions that take into account the most vulnerable people, particularly people with disabilities.

The Andean countries programme covers Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru. The organisation currently only operates in Bolivia, but plans to extend its operations to other countries shortly.

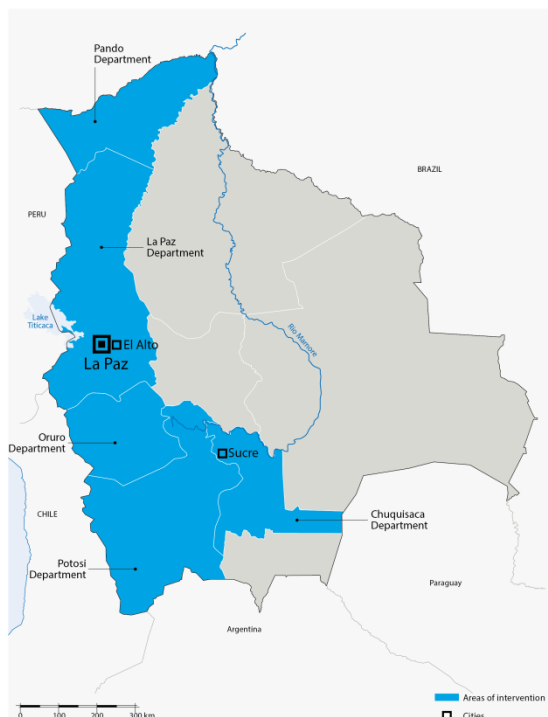
In Bolivia, where 39% of the population lives in poverty¹, the organisation works in conjunction with civil society and local and national authorities, and is active in the Bolivian Altiplano, where most of the population lives and where average incomes are lowest.

SITUATION

Bolivian society and institutions have been transformed since 2005, the year² the president of the Republic, Evo Morales, was elected for the 1st time (and reelected in 2009 and in 2014). His election marked a decisive turning point in the recognition and inclusion of the country's 36 ethnic groups and indigenous cultures. However, inequalities still exist and people with disabilities are still marginalised.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Handicap International has been working in Bolivia since 2011 and, until 2013, implemented an inclusive local development project³ in the department of Potosi. Since 2014, Handicap International's programme has implemented a pilot physical and functional rehabilitation project by supporting the creation of seven rehabilitation centres in the departments of Potosi and Oruro, a socio-economic inclusion pilot project for people with disabilities and guardians in the municipality of El Alto and, since 2015, an inclusive disaster risk management project in the departments of Potosi, Oruro and La Paz.



STAFF

- National staff: 11
- Expatriate staff members: 2

KEY FACTS

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| Human development index (HDI)* | 119/188 classified countries |
| Life expectancy* | 68.3 years |
| Gross National Income per capita * | 5,760 US\$ PPA per annum |
| Population** | 10,85 million inhabitants |
| Surface area** | 1,098,580 sq. km |

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| Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD) | Ratified 16-11-2009 |
| Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo) | Ratified on 30 April 2013 |
| Mine ban treaty (Ottawa) | Ratified: 09 June 1998 |

*Human Development Report 2015

** UNSD 2015

¹ In 2011, according to World Bank data (<http://data.worldbank.org>), September 2014.

² Re-elected in 2009 and 2014.

³ The project plans to work with municipal authorities and to increase the involvement of people with disabilities in projects designed to improve access to education, housing and work.

Current projects 2016



Socio-economic inclusion

GOAL

Enabling people with disabilities to access decent employment.

METHOD

- Institutional: Building the capacities of institutions working in the field of disability and/or inclusive employment, including the unit for people with disabilities in the municipality of El Alto, in order to improve their structural organisation and the quality and visibility of their actions
- In technical terms, the project aims at building the capacities of its partners responsible for the inclusive employment of people with disabilities, strengthening the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities (by assisting businesses and people with disabilities), supervising and advising on the management of microenterprises, managing data and conducting advocacy with local authorities.
- Sociocultural: Awareness-raising activities are conducted by members of the community or by professionals with an in-depth knowledge of the customs of the Quechua community, who make up a majority of the population in these departments.

BENEFICIARIES

- People with disabilities and their families. Particular attention is paid to the most vulnerable people, including young adults and women with disabilities.
- Municipal disability case-management unit; disabled people's organisations; inclusive businesses and public and private institutions in El Alto.

PARTNERS

- Municipal government of El Alto
- Fautapo Foundation
- Unifranz University
- Mayor San Andres University

LOCATION

Department of La Paz



Functional and physical rehabilitation

GOAL

Enabling people with disabilities in the departments of Oruro and Potosi to access the functional and physical rehabilitation services they need.

METHOD

- In institutional terms, the pilot project supports the creation of seven rehabilitation centres that will provide a model for the extension of this project to 30 rehabilitation centres. The project was implemented at the request of the Bolivian government authorities, as part of plans to set up a national network of rehabilitation centres.
- In technical terms, to ensure all patients receive the treatment they need, staff working for these centres are provided with training accredited by the Ministry of Health. The response tools developed will be used subsequently in the country's other rehabilitation centres.

BENEFICIARIES

People with disabilities and their families (including children); health and rehabilitation professionals, doctors, community officers, local, departmental and national health authorities

PARTNERS

The local NGO Ayninakuna, the Ministry of Health and departmental health services (SEDES), the University of San Andres and 7 municipalities in the departments of Potosi and Oruro.

LOCATION

Departments of Potosi and Oruro



Inclusive natural disaster risk management

GOAL

Raise the awareness of civil society on the need for natural disaster risk management inclusive of people with disabilities, based on standards, information, community education, the commitment of local government players and non-governmental actors in Bolivia, and vulnerable populations (particularly people with disabilities and older people).

METHOD

- In institutional terms, by providing support to public authorities (national, departmental and municipal) directly involved, in order to reduce the risk of natural disasters by taking into account people with disabilities;
- In technical terms, by training and providing technical support to public authorities and project partners on disability and inclusion issues, the development and implementation of inclusive early warning systems (IEWS), community awareness campaigns targeted at school students and neighbourhood committees;
- In terms of people with disabilities, building the capacities and skills of people with disabilities and older people to implement inclusive risk management during natural disasters.

BENEFICIARIES

- People with disabilities and their families, older people, targeted municipal authorities, public authorities and project partners.

PARTNERS

- Members of the NGO consortium Care International, Oxfam, Caritas Bolivia, CRS and COOPI
- Civil Protection Department
- National drinking water and sanitation department
- Civil society risk and disaster management organisations

LOCATION

Departments of La Paz, Oruro, and Potosi.

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

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| <p>Directorate General of Cooperation for Development and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)</p> <p>LA COOPÉRATION BELGE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT .be</p> | <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg</p> <p> THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</p> <p>Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs</p> | <p>European Union</p> <p> Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection</p> |
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