#### **EXPERTISE FIELDS**

HELVETAS Bolivia has several lines of thematic expertise, which act in an integral approach with the incorporation of gender and social equity; strengthening partnerships and capacity building, as well as encouraging the exercise of dialogue and advocacy in public policy; work that is deployed from and towards knowledge management.



#### Sustainable water management

Adequate water management in a context of climate change is vital, because it is related to the availability of the resource in quantity and quality. HELVETAS has extensive experience in the sustainable management of water and watersheds, through support for the implementation of natural resource management actions at national, regional, municipal and local levels, within the framework of the National Watershed Plan and other public policies. Sustainable watershed management involves the design and application of territorial governance models with a watershed approach that include measures for disaster risk reduction, territorial planning, water source protection, water harvesting, decontamination, hydrological risk reduction, resilience and adaptation to climate change, drinking water, irrigation and sanitation services, as well as conflict-sensitive project management. HELVETAS works in water-sanitationhygiene (WASH) with actions related to wastewater treatment with appropriate technology and reuse of treated water and sludge for irrigation and agricultural production. The actions extend to environmental sanitation services, with a focus on co-responsibility, to improve the quality of life of the population, reducing the negative impact on the environment.

#### Integral waste management and circular economy

It is aimed at maximizing the reduction of solid waste generation in terms of volume and hazardousness, destined for final disposal, and to maximize the use, promoting the separation at origin and selective collection with the inclusion of recyclers and the treatment of the organic fraction to obtain compost, humus and other subproducts, so that reusable and usable waste is no longer sent to final disposal. This will extend the life of the environmental complex and save natural and economic resources, in addition to promoting the safe and sanitary final disposal of the non-usable fraction at the municipal and/or joint level. The action approach is participatory, co-responsible and concerted, towards the achievement of efficient and quality local services, adapted to climate change in order to achieve resilience. It promotes the co-responsible inclusion of the population and private sector for the change of habits and behaviors that make a sustainable and institutionalized management. Based on the circular economy approach, we work on the reuse and utilization, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.



#### THE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS

Integrated Water Management benefited 378,000 families in improving water access and availability and consolidated a water resource management model at the local level, within the framework of the National Watershed Plan, with practices for climate change adaptation and mitigation, water harvesting, protection of water sources, effective use, soil management and conservation, vegetation cover, river protection, awareness raising and capacity building. More than 7,600 families improved their economic income by more than 15%, based on the availability and access to water and the development of soil conservation and protection practices. Suches and Cotagaita mining watersheds are developing actions to mitigate water contamination. Water availability (Khora Tiquipaya basin) for irrigation was increased with the improvement of a mini-dam, 6 circular tanks and technified irrigation, achieving an additional annual volume of approximately 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

The Municipal Environmental Management project enabled 18 municipalities in three regions of the country: Valle Alto in Cochabamba, Chaco Boliviano and Chichas in Potosí, to optimize sanitation services (wastewater treatment) and solid waste, involving the population in the sustainable management of these services and improving institutional capacities for their adequate provision. There are 147,000 people living in less polluted environments, adequate sanitation and solid waste management, improving their public health. There are 14 municipalities that have Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP), reaching 65% of the total sewage collected. In solid waste, the service reaches 82% of the population covered. 53% of the waste collected is deposited in sanitary landfills, surpassing the phase goal of 50%. 54% of the coverage population applies co-responsible behaviors in environmental management: separation at source and reuse of solid waste, composting, and proper use of sewage systems. 60% of the schools in the project regions have formed environmental brigades and replicate communication/education initiatives. Twenty-three local governments and two departmental governments have regulated environmental management.

The Zero Waste in Bolivia project has developed tools for calculating the carbon footprint, adjusted to the local context of the city of La Paz, Tarija and for municipalities of the Mancomunidad del Chaco de Santa Cruz de la Sierra. In La Paz, 98% of the carbon footprint corresponds to final waste disposal; in Tarija it is 99%, and in Camiri, Boyuibe, Cuevo, Gutiérrez and Lagunillas, it corresponds to municipal dumps. The project has expertise in incorporating affirmative actions to reduce gender gaps.

Strategies were designed and implemented by Communication for Development to promote healthy habits to prevent infection by COVID-19, from hand washing, proper disinfection process with the use of bleach and solid waste disposal.

The SODIS project in its second phase (Promotion of safe water, hygiene and sanitation with community empowerment 2015-2018) actively contributed to the Municipal Government of San Pedro de Buena Vista (North of Potosi) to lead and articulate the health and education sectors for the implementation of actions to promote safe water consumption, hygiene and sanitation. Within this framework, more than 85% of tage and 360 men) have access to safe water and perform key hygiene practices: hand washing, proper use of toilets and disposal of waste, and consumption of safe water at fixed points.

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## TRANSFORMING LIVES, EMPOWERING PEOPLE





HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, founded in 1955, is the largest international development NGO based in Switzerland. It has more than 300 projects under implementation in more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe with an annual budget of about USD 150 million. Its vision is to achieve a fair world, where women and men determine the direction of their lives, with dignity and security, using natural resources in a sustainable way.

It has been present in Bolivia for more than 30 years. It operates in the Altiplano, Valleys and Lowlands (Llanos), in the departments of La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, Chuquisaca, Tarija, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and Beni.

Resilient Territories, and Economic Development and Inclusive Enterprises, are the two sub-programs of HELVETAS Bolivia, with shared capacities in climate change. It has extensive experience in the design and implementation of regional projects in Latin America, as well as interventions from urbanrural to urban-peri-urban.

Its strategy has a programmatic approach, reflecting an agile, efficient and matrix structure that responds to the demands of a country program articulated among its areas of work. The program's objective is to contribute to improving the development opportunities and living conditions of the disadvantaged, vulnerable and poor population in rural and urban areas.

In Bolivia, the Country Program Office works with three management units: the Resilient Territories Sub-program, the Economic Development and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Sub-program, and the Finance and Services Sub-program.

HELVETAS Bolivia has been implementing an annual portfolio of CHF 7,000,000 (seven million Swiss Francs) from international and national cooperation sources: Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC), Global Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Embassy in Lima, European Union, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNICEF.

The institution is aligned with the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals, SENDAI, NDC, Habitat III; as well as the Political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the key public policies of integrated development of cities; watersheds; solid waste and wastewater, among others; promoting multi-stakeholder, multilevel and multidimensional articulation.





#### **NETWORK**

HELVETAS Bolivia develops learning at the local and regional level, promoting scalability, generating partnerships with partners who are agents of change at the national, regional and local levels, as well as from the public, private and civil society sectors.



#### **THEMATIC EXPERTISE**



- Experience in strengthening ٠ local governance to improve WASH service supply for the most disadvantaged in rural and urban areas.
- Sustainability assessment of WASH services.
- Advice on the design of actions that address behavior change to effectively improve water quality, hand washing and latrine use.
- Support in the development of sanitation actions in rural and semi-urban areas, and in the design of domestic water treatment and safe storage, including supply chains for water treatment products.

- Implementation of approaches that provide water security, e.g., master plan for water use, water reserve (recharge, retention, and reuse), and water management.
- Support in institution building including strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, and in advocacy and policy development.
- We strengthen the capacities of key local stakeholders in developing national strategies, improving governance and creating innovations.

#### **OUR TEAM**

HELVETAS Bolivia has a team of experts in water and watershed issues, in the context of climate change; integrated solid waste management; wastewater management and treatment; carbon footprint studies; and research considering gender mainstreaming, social equity and interculturality.





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#### **RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Portfolio from 2017 to 2021

### **FINANCING SOURCES**

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaf Confédération suisse onfederazione Svizzera

Embajada de Suiza

Cooperación Suiza en Bolivia







Suecia

Sverige











