

What activities is Broederlijk Delen undertaking in Bolivia?



Broederlijk Delen has a unique working method. We support groups of people in the South so that they can achieve their plans to fight poverty and injustice. Worldwide, we support 250 organizations, in twenty countries in the South. Twenty of these organizations are from Bolivia. We support their plans in three ways: providing financial support and/or a temporary co-worker, the exchange of experiences between project partners and/or (inter)national political actions on the causes of poverty.

Who do we support?

Broederlijk Delen supports the most vulnerable groups in society: those who suffer social, cultural and economical exclusion. In Bolivia, this is the indigenous population. They make up a majority of 60% of the population. Since the Spanish colonization in the 16th century, social exclusion has been a big problem. Today this is demonstrated by a lack of access to education, health care and basic services. In recent decades, indigenous social movements came to the fore with a political programme demanding respect for their own identity and way of life. They have representatives in councils and in parliament. They voted for 'their' Evo Morales as the president of Bolivia and they massively supported the new constitution (see page 22). Their expectations are very high, but whilst the 'new Bolivia' is being created the indigenous populations are still the poorest inhabitants of the poorest country in Latin America.

Where do we provide support?



> In the cities of La Paz and Cochabamba we have **national partner organisations**: organizations that play an important role supporting the farmers' organizations, lobbying, defending the rural rights of indigenous groups, distributing information, etc. In La Paz, the Fundación Solón has an important role in lobbying on issues that affect the country, such as climate change. Feria is a network of second-chance education centres, called CETHA's, for adults in rural areas, many of which are also supported by Broederlijk Delen. In **Cochabamba we have the CEDIB**, one of the rare national documentation and information centres. **CENDA** works on issues such as the defence and accessibility of land and territory for the indigenous population.

> In the region around **Oruro**, on the Bolivian Altiplano, there are important mining areas that create a lot of pollution in the lakes and rivers, as well as many conflicts between mining companies and the indigenous communities. **CEPA is strongly involved in working on the issues of environment, indigenous cultural identity, good governance and the defence of communities that are affected by the mining industry.**

> The **North Potosí** region (to the north of the city of Potosí), also an important mining area, is the region where **Equipo Kallpa works**. We also support the **CIJ**, a small organization that works directly with a group of around 20 different youth organizations. Exchanges, leadership training and cultural activities give young people more opportunities to develop and participate in society.

> **FRUTCAS** is in **South Potosí** (to the south of the city of Potosí), the regional division of the national farmers' trade union CSUTCB. They support regional development through proper management of land and natural resources.

> In the **Tarija** region, in the southern lowlands of Bolivia, the indigenous communities also have to deal with the pollution of the Pilcomayo river. This is caused by petrol refining and the poisonous silt that is transported by the river from the mining sites in Potosí. **CERDET aims to develop the indigenous communities and the sustainable management of their land. They focus on education and lobbying on the environment issue. ECAM** specialises in human rights, opportunities for inclusion and women's micro companies.

Network of partners

Support means more to us than just assisting individual projects. Our partner organizations are stronger together than they are apart. Broederlijk Delen chooses to develop a solid network of partners in a restricted area. In this way, the organizations can cooperate and improve their mutual work. They can also launch common initiatives, for example on climate change. Broederlijk Delen has a BD local representative, Brigitte Williame, in Bolivia. She supports partner organizations and organizes mutual dialogue.

You can read blogs by Anais (CEPA), Niels (Equipo Kallpa) and Rebekka (Fundación Solón) on www.broederlijkdelen.be. You will also find a list of all our partner organizations in Bolivia and more information about their activities.