

Situation Report Template

Situation Report [1]
Coronavirus – [Bolivia]
[March 20, 2020]

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[Date Range Covered by Report - March, 17th to 20th, 2020]

Part 1: The Overall Situation

(already included in IMT reports) NO NEED TO FILL

Part 2: The Situation in Areas Where Educo/ChildFund Works

- What issues are children, families and communities in these areas facing? (closed schools, home confinement, food shortages, safety concerns, health issues, etc.)
- Child protection risks caused or exacerbated by crisis (for example mental health problems/psychological distress, domestic violence, elder care, child labor, discrimination etc.)
- How many of our beneficiaries and families are affected?

The main issues related to COVID-19 currently affecting children and families are the fact that since all schools as well as all formal educational center -both private and public were officially closed until March 31st; children, adolescents & young people are supposed to remain at home under the care and supervision of their parents or caregivers, yet most of the public offices – in La Paz, the city where the office is placed, public sector is the main source of jobs- as well as the private ones did not close, but changed their working hours from 08:00 to 13:00, which means a lot of people had no care or educational spaces to leave their children while they are working, with the consequent risks of having to leave them alone or under the care of a third person. In the best of cases, this person is someone that will keep children safe and protected, yet not every family has someone that fulfills these profile, this fact represents a risk for children and adolescents protection and security status.

As the days pass by more and more people has started taken the pandemic more seriously and remained confined at home, yet that has caused a change in the normal dynamics of families. Children are home most –if not all- the time and that means they have to study there, make their homework and carry out all of their activities, consequently demanding much more attention and guidance from their parents/caregivers, which can cause an increase in the stress levels of adults, because those who have assumed the work-from-home mode have to do so as well as to pay attention to their children and tutor them on their school contents and homework. This additional stress can increase the occurrence of violence –physical and psychological, mainly- against children & adolescents.

Finally, most of people in Bolivia do not have a formal source of employment that provides them of a steady income, but belongs to what is called the “non-formal” area. This means that they do not have a fixed amount of money received by the end of the month, but work on a day-to-day basis and receive/spend money according to how much they earned on the day. The families where this day-to-day working method is the main –or the only- source of income are seeing their already precarious

living conditions worsened by the uncertainty of how will they meet their and their children's daily necessities. This situation is causing a lot of people to ignore the government's measures and consequently risking their and other people's lives.

There have not been food shortages or lack of other supplies, but there is a growing concern about how will the health care system answer when the cases of COVID-19 start to spread, hence there is a growing demand of population to the government to declare a state of full quarantine, even though this measure will have a great economic impact on a vast part of the population.

We have no information on the amount of participants of our projects/programs that have been affected by the presence of COVID-19 in our country. We have issued a communication to all partners to stop all activities that require the gathering of more than 10 people but preferably to suspend all activities, both preventing risks for participants as well as for LPO (local partner organizations) staff. As of today, we know that the situation of our current LPOs is as follows:

- Fundación Munasim Kullakita (FMK): has continued working but on a minimum level complying with the new working hours set by the government.
- Centro de Estudios y Apoyo al Desarrollo Local (CEADL): total compliance of the new working hours as well as tolerance for staff that has symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Fundación Estrellas en la Calle (FEC): same as CEADL.
- Fundación Centro de Cultura Popular (FCCP): same as both CEADL and FEC, plus the determination of having mothers of infant children as well as older employees, not attending.
- Gobierno Autónomo Municipal de La Paz (GAMLPA): since this partner is also the highest authority in the municipality of La Paz, they have not stopped activities, since most of them bring assistance to impoverished or in need population, but have shortened the working hours of their services to the timeframe set by the government -08:00 to 13:00-, have also – since yesterday- sent home all their employees who have children under 5 years old as well as people with any chronic or acute illness. We have been informed that 2 of the projects regarding the care of children under 5, will not start yet pending on the determinations of the national government regarding the pandemic. It is important to mention that the GAMLPA has started and intensive campaign to inform and sensitize the population on the importance of social distancing and self-isolation to prevent the spreading of the virus, the main actors of this campaign are the Cebras –literally, the Zebras-, a group of urban educators part of a program implemented by the GAMLPA with which we collaborate, in the following Facebook link <https://business.facebook.com/CebrasLaPazoficial/>, you can find information on this program, and below you can see one of the memes they have been circulating on social media.



It is foreseeable that the President will call for total quarantine in the following days or even hours, this measure will force all institutions to come to a halt.

Part 3: Educo/ChildFund's Preparation, Response and/or Recovery action

- Planned, desired or ongoing response action – inside or outside current operational areas. (just mention it. It will be further developed in a separate template)
- Who are we partnering or collaborating with to provide our action?
- What kind of response activities or interventions are being provided? What support are needed (or have been collected/distributed)?
- How is Educo/ChildFund linked with humanitarian coordination structures, i.e. in which clusters or working groups do we participate at country level?
- Next steps

As CO we have already created our IMT, which is integrated by the CD, the Programs Manager, the Finance & HR Responsible, the Sponsorships Responsible & the Comms Responsible. We are yet to name a Humanitarian Focal Point, since few of the staff has any formal training on this area. We will address this issue on next Monday meeting.

Currently we are not carrying out or participating of any response coordinated by civil society organizations, since as we know, at least by the organizations that work on child's rights, none is being implemented, this is caused by two main reasons: one, any response would require the deployment of specialized staff on field and the main recommendation made is to avoid actions that would involve the gathering of population and the interchange of any goods, and the second, we do not have the expertise to participate or implement any action on field guarantying the security of our staff .

We will start tomorrow to share messages regarding COVID-19 through our social media, also, we are in contact with the Joining Forces members and will be informing on the event of any response being coordinated.

We, as Educo, are not a member of either the Security Cluster of the UN since having this liaison was subjected to an annual fee –which was considerably high- as of this year and we did not have the funds available to pay it, or the Consorcio of Agencias Humanitarias (CAH) de Bolivia –a network integrated by several civil society agencies- since we do not have staff that has specific training on emergency interventions as well as a lack of funds to participate in this group's initiatives, yet since Save the Children and Plan International do participate of this initiative, we could be able to have information on any action being implemented by the CAH through them.

We do not have information of the relationship of ChildFund in Bolivia with the UN's Security Cluster but know that they are not a member of the CAH either.

PROGRAM STATUS

- - Projects funded by internal and/or sponsorship funds

Project N°	Not affected	Low/medium incidence (ej. activities in suspended schools/communities, with the possibility of extension)	High Incidence	Expected response (if relevant)
BO1928		X		
BO1930		X		
BO1931		X		
BO1999		X		
BO2014		X		

Regarding Sponsorships activities, all the sponsored schools are closed hence the activities of the Sponsorship team have been suspended pending the development of the situation. We have already informed on the current situation to Sponsorship in HQ and are awaiting further instructions.

- Externally funded projects

Project N°	Not affected	Low/medium incidence (ej. activities in suspended schools/communities, with the possibility of extension)	High Incidence	Expected response (if relevant)
BO1805 ¹		X		

¹ This is the PROTEJERES Program, Funded by AECID which includes as partners FMK, CEADL and FEC.

- **Advocacy and communication actions at network and platform level**

We are in contact with the Joining Forces members, but no advocacy or communications actions have been issued since most organizations have stealth their activities due to the pandemic and were mainly focused on trying to define the better measures to ensure both, the safety of their staff and the protection of their participants.

- **Number of estimated cases of infection in the communities where we sponsor and have projects (if available)**

None as of today

- **Possible sources of funding**

- o Provide information about potential sources of funding for these emergency response efforts using the chart below.

Donor	Projects	Amount (Euro)	Requested? (Y/N)	Confirmed? (Y/N)

- **Budget**

- o Outline if there is any need of internal project reorientation (in terms of budget and activities) or any extra budget needed

We will assess on Monday 23rd the possibility and pertinence of making either adjustments or reorient any of our current projects to provide any possible response action pending the new measures to be announced by the President tonight.

- **Media/Communications**

NO NEED TO FILL.

This information will be informed through IMTs

- **Program support needed or requested from HO – whether onsite or remote.**

None required at the moment