

Situation Report Template

Situation Report [2]
Coronavirus – [Bolivia]
[March 29, 2020]

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[Date Range Covered by Report - March, 21th to 29th, 2020]

Part 1: The Overall Situation

(general information is already included in IMT reports. You don't need to fill it. Just give the required info in green)

Please provide information about how the government and/or other institutions are ensuring the continuity of education or child protection services provision during the quarantine/confinement period (homeschooling, online education, distance education with homework, distribution of books, guides/brochures and educational or recreational material, education via radio, TV, among other alternatives).

Luego de la suspensión temporal de las clases en todos los niveles –inicial, primario y secundario- y todas las áreas –regular y alternative- del sistema educativo comunicado por el Ministro de Educación¹ no se ha emitido ninguna comunicación más. El Ministerio de Educación y todas las instancias departamentales y distritales están cerradas acatando las normas de Emergencia Sanitaria emitidas por el gobierno central. A nivel individual en todas las unidades educativas –públicas, privadas y de convenio- el plantel docente ha tomado medidas para tratar de garantizar que la curricula escolar se cumpla según establecida para este año, por lo que en la mayor parte de los casos maestros y maestras han enviado contenidos para revisar en casa y tareas diarias a los y las estudiantes, por lo que se podría decir que se ha generalizado un proceso de “homeschooling”, que está a cargo de padres, madres y responsables de NNA, con los consecuentes efectos adversos. Estos temas se están implementando en algunos casos a través de plataformas virtuales o moodles, y en otros a través de Whatsapp o soluciones similares entre padres, madres, docentes y estudiantes.

En cuanto al sistema de protección, este está descentralizado y son los gobiernos departamentales y municipales los que están tomando diferentes medidas para garantizar que a pesar de la Emergencia Sanitaria los servicios de protección infantil continúen funcionando y atendiendo casos. Sin embargo, la mayor parte de los esfuerzos a nivel de los municipios está enfocado a la implementación adecuada de las medidas de prevención de propagación del COVID-19.

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

- What issues are children in these areas facing? (closed schools, home confinement, food shortages, safety concerns, health issues, etc.)

¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=38&v=FWbzLjfmffo&feature=emb_title

- 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 (GAMLP): 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 GAMLP has started an 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 GAMLP 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.

#LaPazSolidaria

ES UNA OPORTUNIDAD

- * Para ti
- * Para tu familia
- * Para la comunidad

ORGANÍZATE

- * Infórmate de fuentes oficiales
- * Planifica tu tiempo
- * Distribuye tareas
- * Abastécete con lo necesario

APROVECHA TU TIEMPO

- * Conversa con los tuyos
- * Comparte divirtiéndote en familia
- * Aprende cosas nuevas
- * Concluye temas pendientes

SÉ SOLIDARIO

- * Conoce a tus vecinos y organízate
- * Brinda tu ayuda a quien lo necesite
- * Preocúpate también por tus vecinos más necesitados
- * Ocúpate también de los peluditos

HAZ TU PARTE #QuedateEnCasa

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.

El día 21 de marzo, la presidente constitucional emitió el Decreto Supremo 4199 de declaratoria de Cuarentena Total a nivel nacional, estableciendo medidas para prevenir la propagación del COVID-19 en el país, sin embargo ante el agravamiento de la situación y los continuos incumplimientos de las normas por parte de diferentes sectores de la población, el 25 de marzo, se emite el Decreto Supremo 4200, donde se declara la Emergencia Sanitaria y las medidas se endurecen, quedando en vigencia las mismas desde el 26 de marzo –se adjuntan los dos decretos supremos citados- y se implementa en el país un mayor control del cumplimiento de medidas, el que es implementado por la Policía Boliviana y por el Ejército Boliviano.

Todas nuestras socias al momento están acatando por completo las normas de Emergencia Sanitaria, trabajando desde casa, con excepción de algunos servicios que Fundación Munasim Kullakita continúan brindando y que están relacionados al seguimiento y apoyo a población en situación de calle, probablemente esto también está ocurriendo con Fundación Estrellas en la Calle pero no hemos podido conseguir al momento confirmación oficial sobre el tema.

Por otro lado, los gobiernos municipales están trabajando en estado de emergencia, buscando proteger los derechos de la población más vulnerable: tercera edad, situación calle, etc., habiendo montado en el caso del GAMLP albergues y servicios de apoyo para población en riesgo.

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). PLEASE SPECIFY IF DESIRED OR ONGOING
- Do any of the above initiatives cover the areas where we have sponsored children? If yes, please indicate which initiative and the area it covers.
- 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.

Durante la última semana se han estado coordinando posibles acciones de trabajo con el Joining Forces, relacionadas a la emisión de mensajes sobre prevención de la violencia hacia NNA y la posible donación de equipos o insumos para los centros hospitalarios y el personal de salud, que son lo más demandado hasta el momento para atender los casos confirmados de COVID-19. Por otro lado, se está participando del Equipo Humanitario de Emergencias, que está integrado tanto por instancias de la sociedad civil como del gobierno, específicamente en lo que toca a Protección Infantil, por lo que se está viendo que medidas se pueden implementar a este nivel. Estas dos actividades están en etapa de coordinación, por lo que se podría decir que son planned.

Se está coordinando también con el GAMLP para apoyar a la atención de personas de la tercera edad y familias y NNA en situación calle dentro del municipio, que es el área donde tenemos nuestras escuelas apadrinadas, ya se ha solicitado autorización a Sede y se está empezando a gestionar los pasos necesarios para implementarla, por lo que podríamos decir que está ongoing.

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 ²		X		

Please indicate any communication established with external donors in relation to current and potential grants, especially with such donors that are directly managed through the Country Office. The purpose of this information is to keep HO informed, specifically the Resource Mobilization unit.

Las coordinaciones con los donantes españoles –posibles y actuales- se ha realizado a través de HO.

Las gestiones para el financiamiento de UNICEF se han seguido avanzando, sin embargo, se está esperando que nos fijen fecha para la siguiente reunion virtual, que sería –al menos en teoría- la reunion final antes de empezar los procesos de formalización del acuerdo. Sin embargo, al momento el personal de UNICEF está muy atareado apoyando en la emergencia por lo que todavía no se podría decir cómo avanzará este proceso.

² 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.

Además de los mensajes que se está pensando coordinar y emitir como Joining Forces precautelando la protección de NNA, también se quiere emitir un pronunciamiento de la red, esta propuesta fue planteada por nosotros y contó con el acuerdo de todos los miembros, es así que se estará coordinando con Visión Mundial su elaboración en la siguiente semana.

Por otro lado, nuestra participación en el Equipo Humanitario País, nos permite acceder a más espacios para hacer incidencia y promover el cumplimiento de los derechos de NNA en esta situación de emergencia nacional.

NUMBER OF CASES INFECTION IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE WE SPONSOR AND HAVE PROJETS 8IF APPLICABLE)

None as of today

No se está emitiendo este dato oficialmente por municipios o distritos, sino más bien a nivel departamental.

DONORS

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

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.

PROGRAM SUPPORT NEEDED OR REQUESTED FROM HO – whether onsite or remote.

None required at the moment