

Project information

Bolivia

Drinking water and basic sanitation

In recent years, the supply of drinking water and sanitation in Bolivia has significantly improved. In 2018, around 86 % of the population had access to drinking water and 60 % to basic sanitation.

As a result of population growth and the high influx of people migrating to large cities, access to drinking water and sanitation is low, especially in urban peripheral areas, and the quality of service poor.

In addition, most of the people who live in these areas get their water and sanitation services from small, cooperatively organised service providers that often lack management skills and resources to maintain their drinking water and wastewater systems, which is why the services are inefficient and of poor quality.

Context

The services are even worse in terms of basic sanitation and have an even lower coverage rate. As there is no sewage system, most people rely on alternative disposal methods for wastewater. Even though there are usually toilets or a septic tank shared by one or more families, if they are not properly maintained or cleaned, wastewater can seep untreated into the soil and groundwater.

As there are no alternatives, residents with no access to the sewage system often empty their grey water (dirty cleaning water or dishwater) right into the street. This promotes the spread of mosquitoes and flies that can lead to outbreaks of disease such as dengue or Zika.

Project approach

The programme “Drinking water supply and sanitation in urban peripheral areas” aims to create access for 400,000 people living in poor residential areas in the metropolitan area of Santa Cruz to a continuous supply of hygienically safe drinking water and improve the connection rate to environmentally sound wastewater disposal and treatment. This is intended to contribute to improving the living and health conditions of the population and the environmental situation in the programme area. In addition, the programme aims to improve the management and administrative capacities of the water utilities and guarantee sustainable operation over the long term.

Project title	Drinking water supply and sanitation in urban peripheral areas
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/region	Santa Cruz urban peripheral areas
Project partners	EMAGUA / city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra





Wastewater treatment in a wastewater treatment plant.
Source: KfW photo archive / Bernhard Schurian

Impact

The central government agency for water projects (EMAGUA) is responsible for the first phase of programme implementation; the municipality of Santa Cruz will assume this role starting in the second programme phase. Under the programme, the Ministry for Water and the Environment prioritised investments in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the largest city in Bolivia; here, the main aim is to expand wastewater collection and proper treatment.

Germany, through KfW Development Bank, has pledged a loan from budget funds amounting to EUR 60.9 million and grant financing of EUR 2.2 million. The grant will, among other things, be used to implement advisory measures for the participating water utilities to increase their institutional capacity for operating and maintaining the planned infrastructure investment projects.

The loans provided will be invested in the urban peripheral areas of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. The first phase will involve EUR 15.7 million, the second EUR 15.9 million, the third EUR 11.5 million and the fourth EUR 20 million. The municipality of Santa Cruz de la Sierra together with the SAGUAPAC water utility have contributed around EUR 28.2 million. Moreover, the municipality will be the project-executing agency for the second to the fourth phase and is responsible for repaying the debts.

The first project, which was already finalised as part of the programme, is the “Construcción Alcantarillado Sanitario, Distrito 12” project. It costs approximately EUR 13.2 million. The main goal of the project is to improve the health and living conditions of the population living in poor urban districts outside of the sixth city ring. This will be achieved by building a sewage system. Around 75,000 people in 12 surrounding communities in the southern zone of Santa Cruz de la Sierra will benefit from the project.

To identify investments for the drinking water supply and wastewater disposal in the next programme phases, KfW financed a feasibility study with grants from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The study identified investments for the smaller COSPAIL and COSCHAL cooperatives and, for the area covered by the SAGUAPAC cooperative, the construction of a new large

wastewater treatment plant and the expansion of the main collection system in the northeast of the city of Santa Cruz.

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