

BOLIVIA

Bolivia is the poorest country in South America. Although classified as middle income, it is at the very low end of the scale. Indigenous people represent approximately 65% of the country's 10 million people. Bolivia's diverse and fragile ecosystems are extremely vulnerable to climate change.

Since 2006, the Government of Bolivia has introduced economic and social reforms designed to meet the basic needs of the poorest people. As a result, the rate of poverty has dropped from 59% to 39%, and extreme poverty has dropped from 39% to 17%. Women and girls have not, however, benefited equally from economic growth. They are often marginalized, suffer violence and have limited access to, and control over, productive resources.

Canada's development program focuses on:

- diversifying local economies;

- strengthening the technical education system;
- reducing maternal and child mortality;
- promoting women's rights, particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights; and
- encouraging the participation of women in all spheres of society.

Global Affairs Canada's programming in Bolivia targets vulnerable populations—Indigenous populations in particular. Programming is anchored in the needs of communities. It integrates the perspectives of the poor, promoting participation in decision making, notably through cooperatives and the development of municipal health plans. In 2016-2017, in addition to International Assistance Review consultations, Canada held scores of meetings with organizations and associations. It did so to gather information on the needs and perspectives of communities.



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