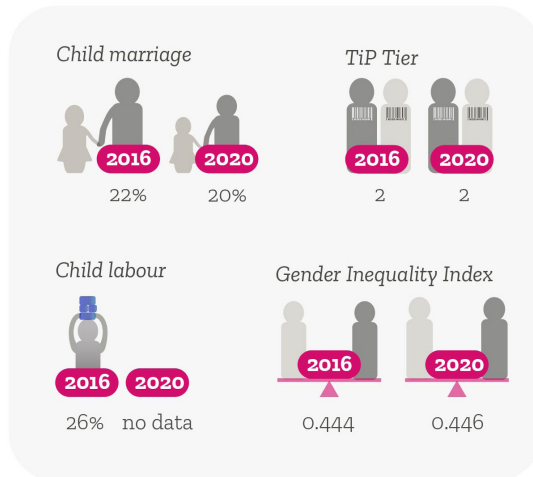


Bolivia

KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS IN 2016-2020



Despite improvements regarding the social economic situation in the last decade, large inequalities in Bolivia continue to exist. The patriarchal conceptions continue to reduce women, girls, boys, and adolescents to objects without rights. This has led to the feminisation of poverty, inequalities between men and women in terms of access to education, job opportunities and justice, as well as the increase of sexual exploitation of children.

The government of Bolivia does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, although it made some key achievements. According to the Trafficking in Persons Report 2020, Bolivia ranks in Tier 2.¹ In Bolivia, some of the progress made include investigations and convictions of traffickers, identification of victims, approval of a victim referral mechanism and training Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) on the newly-adopted victim identification

protocol. Bolivia's civic space is currently rated as 'obstructed' by Civicus, a global alliance of Civil Society Organisations dedicated to strengthening civil society. Since the beginning of 2017, the country has seen countless protests, while the government has introduced a strategy of repressive social control including smear campaigns.

FOCUS OF OUR WORK

Activities include training on how to report cases of sexual exploitation, discuss issues related to sexual exploitation and the detection of grooming on social media. The Down to Zero (DtZ) Alliance raised the awareness of online sexual exploitation of children (SEC) within various organisations and carried out advocacy activities towards city councils on protecting children from sexual exploitation, and provided support to SEC survivors to reintegrate into the educational system.

Budget 2016-2020

€ 1,243,315

MAIN RESULTS ON CHILDREN/YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The programme in Bolivia has been successful in creating access for children – in particular child survivors – to specialised services for protection, rehabilitation,

reintegration and reduction of their vulnerability to sexual exploitation. This included the design of personal development plans. In 2018, the programme's training for young peers resulted in children being mobilised in youth organisations in El Alto and La Paz. In 2019, SEC survivors shared their experiences through theatre plays at schools and with the general public, in coordination with the municipalities of La Paz and Tarija. Thanks to these efforts, several SEC cases were reported. In El Alto, boys and girls advocated towards the city council for the regulation of municipal committees for children against sexual exploitation. In La Paz, a committee for children and adolescents has been recognised by the city council as an advisory body for the protection against SEC. Further, in 2020, children from La Paz and El Alto have identified ways of talking about SEC on social media. Their inputs have been used in a number of institutional diagnoses. Children also trained their peers on detecting forms of SEC recruitment on social media and online platforms. Children from the municipal committees of La Paz, El Alto, and Desaguadero developed an awareness-raising video on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including SEC which was shared through social media with a nationwide broadcast for the World Day against Human Trafficking. Thanks to the DtZ programme many girls and young women survivors of sexual exploitation in La Paz managed to reintegrate into the educational system (including technical education), while others developed economic opportunities or entered employment programmes.

¹The Trafficking in Persons Report, or the TIP Report, is an annual report issued by the U.S. State Department. The report ranks governments based on their perceived efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking, from Tier 1 (full compliance with the minimum standards) to Tier 3 (no compliance and no significant efforts to do so).