



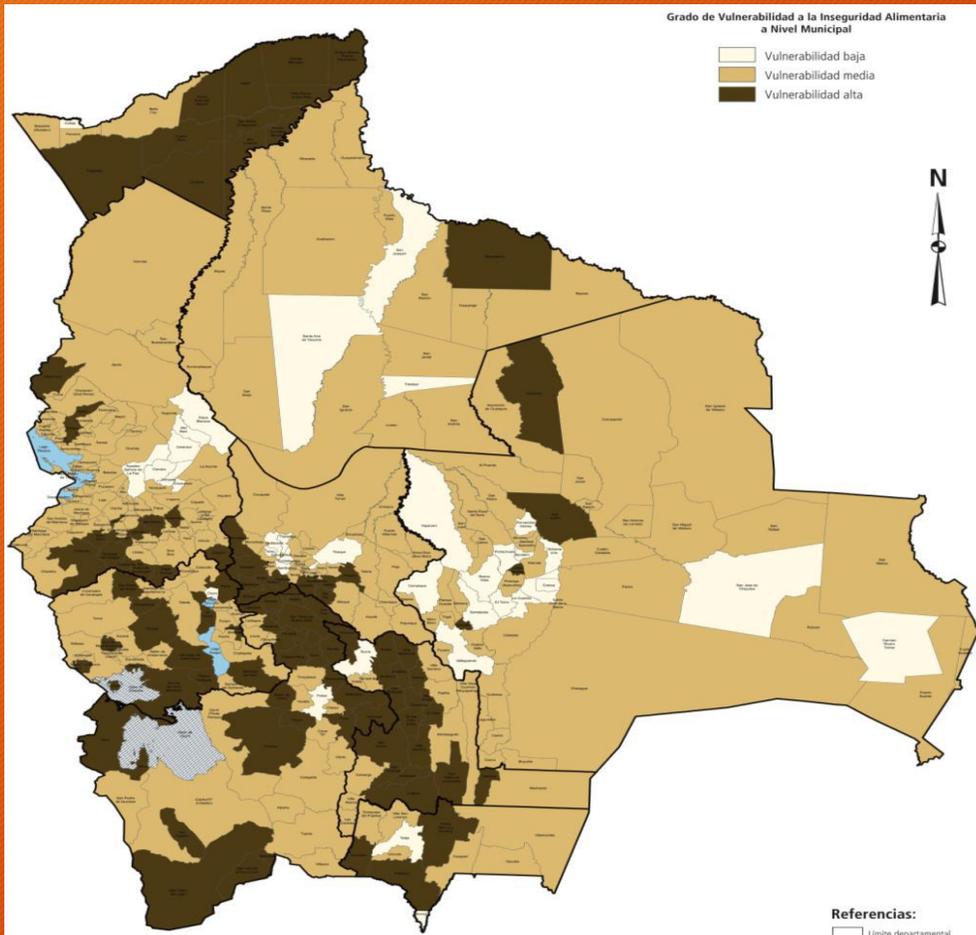
# Bolivia PICAR Community Investment in Rural Areas Project

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# Project Overview

- PDO - To improve access to sustainable basic infrastructure and services for the most disadvantaged rural communities selected in some of the poorest municipalities of Bolivia
- Credit amount - US\$ 100 million (including additional financing approved this year)
- Duration - 8 years (closing in 2019)
- 800 sub-projects financed: water and sanitation (37%), livestock facilities and other productive infrastructure (30%), small irrigation schemes (13%), and rural roads and bridges (9%).
- 90% of beneficiaries are indigenous populations
- Implementing agency is the Ministry of Rural Development and Land

# PICAR Targets Most Vulnerable, Food Insecure Communities



- PICAR has supported 870 most vulnerable, food insecure communities in 5 selected Departments (Regions).
- Geographically diversified: La Paz and Oruro are in highlands, Cochabamba and Chuquisaca are in valleys, and Pando is in Amazon Basin. Pando is newly targeted under the additional financing (effectiveness awaited).
- The project benefitted 150,000 rural poor, 50% of whom are women. 20% of these beneficiaries are female heads of households, who are most affected by availability, access, and use of food.

Source: *Vulnerability to Food Insecurity 2012*, Ministry of Rural Development and Lands (with support of the World Food Program)

# PICAR as an Indigenous People's Project

- Bolivia has 36 formally recognized indigenous nations. PICAR has been supporting 4 Departments populated by 2 major indigenous groups. The project is designed as an indigenous people's project, with an emphasis on consultations at every project implementation cycle.
- Indigenous leaders participate in selection of beneficiary communities and provide local insights. In social mobilization, local NGOs, who are familiar with local languages and customs are hired as facilitators to support sub-project identification and prioritization by engaging all community members.
- About 60% of beneficiaries are satisfied with mobilization, sub-project identification and implementation processes.
- Sub-project implementation is facilitated by the local NGOs or private sector. These partners hire field operators (acompañantes) to provide handholding support to sub-project implementation committees, including facilitating capacity building workshops in indigenous languages and supporting skills development in project management.

# Gives Voice to Women in Sub-project Identification and Prioritization

PICAR has also focused on women. Women only consultations are organized in sub-project identification. It is critical that facilitators speak indigenous languages, as women are not fluent in Spanish.



# Women Leading Sub-project Implementation

- The level of satisfaction in mobilization is also 60% among women.
- 40% of sub-projects have been prioritized and implemented by women only, such as livestock fencing. PICAR has developed about 660 female leaders, actively engaged in sub-project implementation committees.
- About 40% of project acompañantes are women.
- The project developed guidelines for participatory planning, which document these procedures. The guidelines are provided and used by communities and facilitating partners.

# Challenges - Working with Indigenous People in Pando

- PICAR is starting to work in Pando, which is considered most vulnerable and food insecure in Bolivia, with a mixture of indigenous and migrant populations. Over the last 10 years, the population in Pando has grown by 108 percent, due to the migration of about 57,000 people from highlands and valleys.
- Indigenous populations and migrants are ethnically and culturally different. Livelihoods of indigenous groups are dependent on fishery, forestry, agriculture, and livestock, while migrants depend largely on agriculture. The migrants brought exogenous productive practices that could increase deforestation. In northwestern Pando, there are tensions between indigenous and migrant populations over use of forest land.

## Challenges (Cont'd)

- PICAR will use tools and build on lessons learned from the original project in AF implementation. Additionally, the project will ensure transparency in the community selection process through public consultations. It will also promote locally adapted agricultural practices to the non-indigenous population.

Thank you