



PROTECTED AND PARTICIPATING IN BOLIVIA



PROGRAMME & PROJECT

Long-term Area Programmes in Khantati and Mosoj Punchay – with a focus on education and child protection projects in the final phase.



TIMELINE

2005-2023



LOCATION

Bolivia, Mosoj Punchay and Khantati Area Programmes in three municipalities: Sacaca, Caripuyo and San Pedro de Buena Vista, in the Department of Potosí, Alonzo de Ibañez Province.



OVERALL PROGRAMME GOAL

The Sustained wellbeing of children within families and communities, especially the most vulnerable.



PROJECT GOALS IN FINAL PHASE 2019 - 2023

Skills for life – Contribute to the comprehensive and holistic training of children.

Protected childhood – Strengthen the protection of children against psychological and sexual abuse.



Introduction

The Mosoj Punchay and Khantati Area Programmes began in October 2005, where we worked with 11,000 people in 123 communities for over 15 years. The area is rugged and rocky, with slopes, plains and mountains, and has a range of climates (cold to temperate). Water resources are scarce, mainly small rivers and lakes, springs and wells. Floods, droughts, hailstorms and frost were regular challenges which meant that families struggled to maintain a reliable income and grow food.

At the start of the programmes there was little crop diversification due to a lack of training, fragile soils and topography predisposed to wind and water erosion in all communities. Migration of families to nearby cities in search of employment increased especially during Covid, affecting children's education as they dropped out to follow their parents. There were high rates of

chronic malnutrition due to poor quality food and water, and little access to health services. Many children could not read or write, schools did not have furniture, there were no playgrounds, and few children were able to access secondary schools. Institutions in charge of protecting children did not function well and violence towards children was common. Young people described their homes as, "abandoned communities without support, with many deficiencies, without schools, without health centres, and abandoned children. It was completely unknown about universal rights". (River of life drawing group, Khantati Evaluation). The first task was to engage the community and work through child wellbeing committees who have since led a movement for change in all communities.



Changes in food production and child nutrition Education

The focus on food production and nutrition included training in horticulture and irrigation; soil conservation and potato production techniques; and support with appropriate equipment. A network of mothers was developed to promote nutritional vigilance and help others, alongside a nutritional rehabilitation programme targeting children under five. There was also a focus on improving access to community health workers and services. Malnutrition has more than halved in Mosoj PuncHay¹, now roughly in line with the national average where it was 31.6% in 2014 compared to 11.5% in 2022. Khantati was further behind and still has a challenging level of malnutrition. In 2011, 68.5% of children in Khantati were chronically malnourished – by 2022 this had reduced to 39.6% in children under five². The work to improve nutritious food supply continues. Families grow more vegetables while farmer groups in Khantati will still produce peas, corn and wheat for the complementary feeding of children under five, for as long as it is needed.

Across both programmes, teachers were trained in education strategies, and classrooms were improved so children have access to spaces for their development in reading and maths. We provided play and educational material, as well as furniture. Training and vocational guidance was given to 345 adolescents and young people, and book fairs were developed. There are now playgrounds, toilets and classrooms. All school children – over 5,000 – received learning materials during Covid.

More children complete school now and have higher rates of literacy³ and numeracy when they do. In both programmes the ability of children aged eight to read fluently and do basic mathematics improved – in Khantati from 25% to 69%, and in Mosoj PuncHay from 14.5% to 47%.

OPPOSITE: “World Vision has trained us in child protection and care. We are now the caretakers of the children, and we ensure that the children in our community do not lack education, health and care” - Sandra and Martina, members of a child wellbeing committee. ©2023 World Vision

ABOVE: “Before, we did not eat many vegetables because we did not produce them due to the cold climate, but since World Vision set up the solar tents in the communities, we now eat a lot of vegetables, which helps us to grow health and strong” - Teodoro, 12 picture taken by Efrain aged 18 years old ©2023 World Vision

¹ Bolivia National average (point estimate) for chronic malnutrition (stunting) in 2005 was 29.6 % reducing to 11.1 in 2022 UNICEF Malnutrition in Children - UNICEF DATA

² Despite these advances, persistent social disparities between urban and rural areas continue to blight the prospects of many poor and vulnerable families. Unicef country Office Annual Report, 2020. RAM3 End-Year Summary Narrative 2.rdl (unicef.org)

³ Corroborating indicator % of children who can read with comprehension up to 3rd grade of primary school according to the STAR tool increased in both programmes: Khantati from 25 to 50% and Mosoj PuncHay from 21.4 to 27%. Unlock literacy was used to achieve this change. Unlock Literacy | Education | World Vision International (wvi.org)

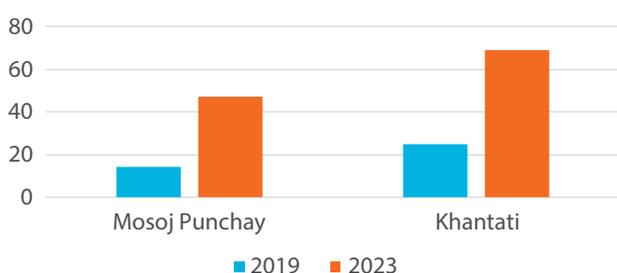


Table 1 - % of children in primary school who fluently read a story according to context and solve problems using addition and subtraction.

Child protection involves working with local leaders, schools, child and youth clubs, police, local justice mechanisms, churches and local government. Child protection committees increase awareness in the community and encourage reporting to the police and social services. Parents and caregivers have been encouraged to reduce violence and harmful traditional practices,⁴ through the “Parenting with Tenderness” approach. Young people learned skills for resilience and protection of others through the “Pathways of Peace” approach.

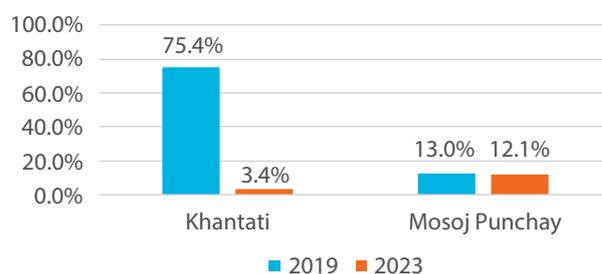


Table 2 - Proportion of adolescents who have experienced sexual violence in the last 12 months by any perpetrator.

There has been a reduction in sexual violence towards children, though other types of aggression persist.⁵ The evaluation suggests the Covid pandemic created extra challenges in reducing violence. However, the same report also pointed to an overall reduction in reported cases of violence against children.

One of the indicators we looked at was whether traditional practices that harm children have decreased, including early marriage. In Khantati (see table 3) people reported that harmful practices have decreased. Similar data was not available in Mosoj Punchay though 64% of focus group

⁴ World Vision Bolivia Technical programme document states that the programme tackled “physical abuse, neglect, child labour, and other culturally accepted harmful practices (e.g. early marriage)”. This was affirmed in the evaluation where the indicator also included harmful aspects such as consumption of alcoholic beverages and conflict between different groups.

⁵ Proportion of adolescents who reported having suffered physical violence and/or psychological aggression in the last 12 months, by any perpetrator, 69% in Khantati and 57.5% in Mosoj Punchay (2023) with less than 5% decrease in either programme. However, Child Protection projects were implemented only in the final cycle and indicators do tend to rise with greater awareness before falling. This is also a compound indicator, so it is not possible to see which specific behaviour persists.

“We can protect ourselves by being united and organised, inform ourselves about our rights, know where to make complaints, knowing that there is an Ombudsman and people who can listen to us in any situation of violence against us.” (Female adolescents focus group in Khantati Evaluation report 2023)

members said that while early marriage exists it is now “rare” or “very rare”. Alongside this, the proportion of adolescents who have a strong relationship with their parents increased, from 63% to 69% in Khantati, and from 66.4% to 72.6% in Mosoj Punchay between 2019 and 2022.

“Parenting with Tenderness” was found by the evaluation focus groups to have promoted tenderness towards children and eliminated physical punishment and violence. One girl cried after her father, having attended the sessions, hugged her for the first time.

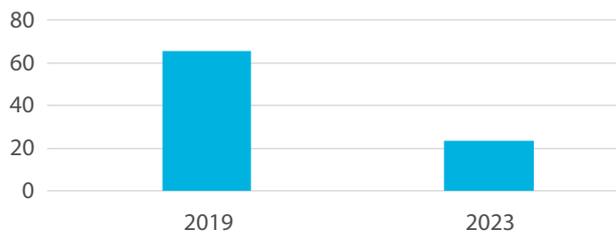


Table 3 - % Harmful traditional or customary practices are the norm in the community (Khantati)

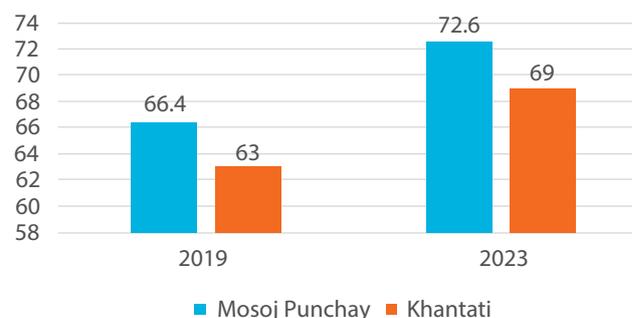


Table 4 - Proportion of adolescents who have a strong relationship with their parents (%).

OPPOSITE: “Now we like to read a lot because we understand what it says. They are very nice books with pictures. Thanks to World Vision who gave us materials and trained our teachers” - Nelson pictured with Hortensia, both 10. ©2023 World Vision

BELOW: “We did not know much about the types of violence against children in families. Now we know and we are mobilising so that there is no mistreatment in families, at school or in the communities,” says Martha, 10 years old (left). ©2023 World Vision



