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## **EVALUATION**

# **“HUMANITARIAN AID TO INDIGENOUS FAMILIES OF BOLIVIAN CHIQUITANIA TO RESTORE THEIR LIVING SYSTEM”**

### **EXECUTING ENTITY:**

**Foundation Teko Kavi**

**October 2020**

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Teko Kavi Foundation carried out the project: "Humanitarian aid to the indigenous families of the Bolivian Chiquitania to restore their way of life" in the municipality of San Antonio de Lomerío, department of Santa Cruz, whose general objective was to provide quick responses to help humanitarian aid to 1827 people in 15 communities directly or indirectly that had been affected by fires in the Bolivian Chiquitania, from October 2019 to October 2020, with the financial support of the DERF of Denmark.

The project lasted six months due to the Covid-19 pandemic that affected the project, due to the closure of all access roads in indigenous communities for more than five months and due to the quarantine order by the Bolivian State and by the same authorities from Lomerío

The activities were focused on four work areas

- 1) **WATER**
- 2) **HEALTH**
- 3) **FSL EMERGENCY**
- 4) **PROTECTION**

The methodology developed included the participation of the different actors involved in the implementation, with an emphasis on the 15 indigenous communities, in focus groups, the members of the community meet in each of the visits and then proceed to develop group conversations. It was developed as a reflective and learning process, on how the accumulated experience can be used to strengthen the capacities of the different actors and in the perspective of new actions.

There was a guide of 16 questions that focused in a general way on the development of the activities, the dynamics carried out in the implementation, the perception of the beneficiaries with reference to the aid received and finally an analysis of the problems presented. The implementation of the questions varies depending on the type of assistance that has been provided in each community.

The evaluation was made based on secondary sources, such as the project document, and primary sources, field work. In **Annex 1** are the institutional interviews, in **Annex 2** the evaluation by community, in **Annex 3** the focus groups are presented.

### 2. ACCOMPLISHMENT

In general, the level of fulfillment of the project with respect to the planned activities is **satisfactory**, meaning that the planned has been achieved.

- 1) **WATER:** Water sources were rehabilitated through the provision of inputs, tools and / or equipment to guarantee access to water for human consumption, livestock and irrigation of

family gardens. Two mobile water tanks (Jichi del agua) have been donated to assist in the fires and in transporting water to the communities. **Satisfactory completed.**

- 2) **HEALTH:** Support was provided to local institutions of the health sector by providing equipment such as oxygen tanks and masks, it also assisted in the establishment of primary health care mechanisms in the prevention campaigns for diseases such as dengue and COVID-19. Additionally, emergency kits were delivered to the 15 communities. **Satisfactory completed.**
- 3) **FSL EMERGENCY:** The sustainable agricultural production system was strengthened to guarantee the food security of the communities, through the provision of seeds of vegetables, beans, peanuts and corn to establish family gardens. **Satisfactory completed.**
- 4) **PROTECTION:** Local capacities in fire prevention and management were strengthened, in conjunction with the organization APCOB, training on fire management was carried out by personnel from the Santa Cruz Government. **Accomplished**

### **Operational level**

In general, compliance with the activities at the operational level was observed, it is considered **good** or **satisfactory**. The good disposition of the communities, the commitment and creative and decisive capacity of the Teko Kavi staff, as well as their good relationship with CICOL and other institutions that work in the municipality, have contributed to overcoming the difficult obstacles that were presented in the execution of the project, in the first instance the social and political conflicts of the country in October and November 2019 and in March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic including quarantines until August. The relationship with the authorities has been constantly highlighted by the communities and the local authorities, Caciques.

### **3. RELEVANCE OF HUMANITARIAN AID**

The project is **highly relevant** to the situation, needs, and problems of the indigenous populations of San Antonio de Lomerío, a neglected population that has been left out of the state in reducing poverty.

The project has responded to their community needs and has strengthened local capacities in responding to the problem of fires and Covid-19, promoted the power to decide and act in the most difficult moments, according to information obtained through the group comments from people in different communities.

In October 2019, a social and political crisis was unleashed in the country due to complaints of electoral fraud in the national elections that were held in October. Civil society tired by the arbitrary abuse of power by the government takes to the streets in all the cities of the country demanding that their vote be respected. Later on, the peaceful demonstrations of civil society and the discourse changed direction and exerted pressure and demanded the resignation of the then president of Bolivia, Evo Morales. Civil society paralyzes the country completely for several days and achieves the resignation of the president. Subsequently, as established in the Political Constitution of the State, the presidential succession takes place in the face of the power vacuum. In this way, the current president, Jeannine Añez, assumes command of Bolivia in one of the most difficult and complicated situations of the country's political crisis.

At the beginning of the year, dengue diseases also occurred in the communities that were aggravated by the Covid-19 health crisis that drastically affected the entire world population and also the Bolivian one who has deficiencies in health access, with limited access to medicines, lack of timely and effective health services, limited access to food and water sources for family

consumption. In addition to this series of situations, the strict confinement established as a measure of prevention of contagion of COVID-19, which caused a negative effect that increased the social and economic problems and the needs already existing in the lives of the people who lived in these indigenous communities.

Faced with this scenario, the humanitarian aid provided by Teko Kavi responded in a timely manner, as one of the few organizations that, during this period of pandemic, continued to provide direct assistance and to attend to the priority needs of the communities; guaranteeing, on the one hand, sources of access to water through the work carried out with the installation of the pumps, assistance to strengthen the agricultural production system with the delivery of vegetable and cereal seeds, health control through fumigation of households in the 15, of the 29 communities of the municipality, beneficiaries of the project.

The intervention was pertinent since through the work carried out, social relations and coexistence among the community members have been strengthened, since they have participated directly assuming responsibility and decision-making capacity to define and prioritize common needs over individual interests. Given the high numbers of infections by Covid-19, these cooperation ties within the community have been consolidated. For example, subsistence on food, seeds were used and the production of some vegetables and beans, generated an internal exchange or sale of products and food produced by themselves.

There is no official data on the number of infected because most of them were not tested, the Caciques reported that around more than 100 cases were treated and 17 people have died from Covid-19. In the communities they indicate that there have been more cases of the disease and that they used traditional medicines to combat the disease.

#### 4. EFFECTIVENESS

In general, it can be concluded that the project has been **highly effective** with respect to the results that have been proposed. This must be highlighted due to the complexity involved in the implementation of the project due to social problems and Covid-19.

The aid has been effective in its entirety since it has been possible to meet the 15 communities affected by the fires in their communities, benefiting a total of 3,501 people (adjusted) between men and women between 18 and 50 years old, according to the document of the project and also reached people over 50, who had been defined as the project's target group in the first instance. The first phase of the aid has been positive and effective since the established plan for gathering information has been fulfilled through the Rapid Assessment and the coordination of meetings with local authorities and representatives of the community prior to the intervention.

WORK AREAS	TARGET	RESULT
WATER	1224	1843
HEALTH	961	6637
FSL EMERGENCY	1278	2390
PROTECTION	600	880
TOTAL	4063	11750

\*Total, without adjustments

#### 5. EFFECT/IMPACT

The project took advantage of opportunities and through its actions a better degree of self-esteem of its population is observed, it generated environmental awareness in the care of water, it managed to install or improve home gardens, it promoted health care and the use of plants for traditional medicine. He also achieved a good relationship in the family doing intergenerational work, contributed to improve the organization of CICOL and its work with the communities, gaining recognition and legitimacy, strengthening its capacity to build alliances with the municipality and civil society.

- Today, it is already a fact that communities have access to sources of water through water pumps that allow them to extract this element in the selected communities. The impact that has been generated with the direct or indirect actions provided by Teko Kavi, either through the tools necessary for the installation of the pumps or the local technical assistance provided, have been classified as positive for the community in improving living conditions, especially for women, children and the elderly who no longer have to travel to distant places in search of water.
- The donation of the two mobile water tanks (called Jichi del Agua) have had a positive impact on the 15 communities since they become a tool that allows to provide support against fires that greatly affect the area, allows to have this alternative means of transporting water in drought situations or to provide water to your tanks, when there is a shortage of water, thus ensuring that access to water is not impeded. They have decided that they must carry out efforts by the community to make use of said tanks, respecting the line of communication established through the Caciques, at the same time exercising social control regarding the use of donations.
- Through the donation of the emergency kits delivered to the Caciques in the communities, the primary health care systems have been strengthened, in some way helping the communities to face the situation of the pandemic and the wave of contagion of COVID-19 that still persists in the area and in the country.
- The concept of home gardens has been established in the community as an alternative to strengthen agricultural production systems. The impact generated with this action has been positive, despite the fact that the uses of the seeds did not generate good results in their entirety, due to external factors, for example, they did not sow at the right time and the ignorance of how to deal with pests and diseases in the roots, plants that affected the crops.
- It has been possible to build relationships with solid and satisfactory work bases between the foundation and the chiefs of the 15 communities in which the intervention has been carried out.
- Most of the communities have requested that Teko Kavi continue its support to work on the continuous improvement of people's living conditions.

## 6. HUMANITARIA LEVEL OF SATISFACTION IN RELATION TO HUMANITARIAN AID

Num.	Community	Level of satisfaction in the Programs				
		Water	Jichi del Agua	Health	FSL Emergency	Protection
1	Santa Anita					
2	Las Trancas					
3	Puesto Nuevo					
4	Florida					
5	Bella Flor					
6	San Andres					
7	Holanda					

8	San Ignacio					
9	Salinas					
10	San Lorenzo					
11	Coloradillo					
12	San Martín					
13	San Antonio de Lomerío					
14	San Pablo					
15	Puquio					

Measurement scale	
Very Dissatisfied	
Dissatisfied	
Satisfied	
Very satisfied	
Neutral	

According to the results in the focus groups during the evaluation process of the 15 communities (A community that was not considered in the initial objective was incorporated), the degree of satisfaction, in relation to the different areas in which the work was carried out they are in the range of satisfied and very satisfied since the aid was delivered in a timely manner and mostly responded to the needs already defined as priorities.

Seeds were also delivered to communities that were not on the list of beneficiaries, to people from 6 communities, who are not included in the evaluation.

## 7. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

- The type of help provided has not generated any type of discrimination, on the contrary, it has generated intergenerational integration both between women and men in the communities.

Experience has shown that strengthening and local technical training contributes and empowers the general population. This points to the strategic need to strengthen local technicians. The pandemic has confirmed the importance of having this strengthening at the local level.

- Institutional and technical fragility in the municipalities is a difficult situation to change in the short term. Therefore, strategies must consider it as part of the context. Few actions were carried out with the municipality in the project.
- Good relationship and articulation between the foundation, institutions and organizations such as CICOL to carry out activities in a coordinated way with the communities. These actions generate greater trust with the communities. It is a relationship that should be preserved for similar and / or other actions in the future.
- Teko Kavi's teamwork, coordination and monitoring have contributed to strengthening its capacities to guide results and decision-making in times of crisis.

- A prior and in-depth analysis should be taken into account before implementing actions, for example, in the provision of seeds and care of vegetables for family gardens, some community members had no knowledge or information, despite the fact that several institutions worked and provided seeds before Teko Kavi's intervention.
- Methodologies of field schools and agricultural calendar are suggested for family gardens to train families in the cultivation of vegetables, a need in the population, beyond the duration of a project. Weakness in the communities in vegetable crops.
- The steps taken to guarantee access to water have been received as positive in all cases.
- The need to promote actions focused on improving leadership and communication skills with the new Caciques is evident, otherwise it limits the help actions that the community can receive.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

The degree of satisfaction and the positive response achieved by the community members reinforce the fact that the aid in this regard was timely since it responded to a primary need and guaranteed access to water sources for the consumption of the beneficiary communities, and another 3 were benefit from technical support. These results have been achieved despite difficult moments of social and political upheaval in Bolivia at the end of 2019 and in the period of greatest contagion of COVID-19.

The assistance and the work developed jointly between Teko Kavi and the local health institutions were positive with the fumigation of their homes against dengue and that not only benefited the 15 beneficiary communities, the action had an impact on the other 14 communities of the municipality that were also fumigated, this time by the municipality. With the delivery of emergency kits, with the donation of oxygen tanks and equipment necessary for care in the hospital and health centers, it was guaranteed that the entire municipality benefits from health care.

The agricultural production system of the communities through family gardens could have had a greater impact, if the technical assistance tasks had been carried out on time and with more training for the beneficiaries. It was explained that this action could not be performed due to quarantine. In any case, it was possible that some vegetables, such as tomatoes, carrots and onions, have been produced for family consumption and others, such as beans, have served to exchange products and even generate income for the family from the sale of these products.

As it was about humanitarian aid and quick seed delivery, it is logical that technical support was not considered, it is observed that there is a technical weakness in the area on the part of the communities and an external dependency by not generating or seeking solutions practices and premises.

The project has contributed to generating strategic alliances, for example, training communities jointly with APCOB in fire management, the Government of Santa Cruz and the municipality of San Antonio de Lomerío, and its team of volunteer firefighters has been strengthened. With the donation of a small tank car that the communities have called "Jichi del agua", which means "owner of the water".

In terms of compliance with what was planned, the evaluation maintains that it is satisfactory. Some technical problems have been identified in the planting of vegetables and the actions to follow have been recommended to take into account for the next actions.

In terms of effectiveness, the evaluation concludes that in general the project has been effective in achieving the results and considers that it is an initial experience in the area and has great potential that must be exploited in the future.

As an institution, Teko Kavi has a challenge in the future that consists of awareness-raising and advocacy work, expanding in the future to departmental and national instances to develop projects that generate greater local training in agroforestry, in water care and conservation environment internally and externally.



