

FINAL REPORT

RAPID RESPONSE

The total report may not exceed 8 pages (excluding this page).

Danish application organization	DIB		
Contact person, name	Lykke Valentin	E-mail	dib@dib.dk
Implementing Organisation	TEKO KAVI FOUNDATION		
DERF Journal number	19-502-RR		

Title of Intervention	"Humanitarian aid to indigenous families in the Bolivian Chiquitanía to restore their life systems"		
Name of Call	Bolivian Wildfires (Rapid Response)		
Country of Intervention	Bolivia	What sectors did the intervention most relate to (please tick ALL that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> WASH <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition <input type="checkbox"/> Camp management <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency FSL <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Location(s) of Intervention	Municipality of San Antonio de Lomerío Santa Cruz, Bolivia		
Period of Intervention	15-10-19 – 15-10-20		
Total Budget of Intervention	969.044 DKK		
Method of Implementation	<input type="checkbox"/> Through local partner organisation		
Did your intervention include Cash Based Programming?	• No		
Target population reached: (take number from table 1.2)	Total:	3501	
	Hereof female:	1846	
	Hereof youth (under 18):	1522	
	Hereof particular vulnerable persons:	3501	

Aarhus, 19-11-20

Place and Date

Person responsible (Signature)

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Lykke Valentin

E-mail

Person responsible (Name in Block letters)

1. Objectives and results achieved

1.1 Describe the results achieved compared to planned objectives and outputs. Use your formulated indicators to describe the documented results. How have you succeeded to contribute to live saving and (if relevant) protection of the crisis affected persons and communities.

The objective of the intervention has been to provide humanitarian aid to 1,827 people from the 15 communities in Chiquitania most affected by the wildfires, with focus on WASH, Health, SFL emergency and Protection. Just after the approval of the project social and political turmoil arose in the country due to allegations of election fraud. This caused a two-month delay in the start up of the project, and also affected some of the initial planned intervention activities, as well as our ability to respond to the crisis immediately. The planned rapid assessment was conducted in December 2019, community consultations and implementation started in January 2020 but was paused again in March for five months, due to the pandemic. Despite the challenges, we have been able to achieve the following results, which is also confirmed by the external consultant in the evaluation report¹:

For WASH, 16 communities (where 6 communities were not in the initial target group) have been provided with clean water for consumption, for food production, for irrigation of home gardens and for personal hygiene. A total of 1864 people were benefited, 619 more than expected.

For Health, the planned primary health care campaigns were not initiated, because immediate problems related to dengue virus arose and the emergency was attended to by fumigating 90% of the houses in the municipality over 32 days, and disseminating information - in coordination with municipal health workers - on how to prevent the virus spreading. The mobile brigades were also not carried out as the COVID-19 problems began at the same time the activity was planned for. These activities were instead replaced with the provision of supplies to the hospital and with first-aid kits to 15 communities. The planned psychosocial support was already being provided by another local NGO, Maripositas, and we decided not to duplicate actions. In total 6,637 people benefited, which was 5676 more than expected. All 30 communities of the municipality were benefited.

For FSL emergencies, the communities were provided vegetable seeds including beans, corn, peanuts and seeds for livestock feed, depending on their expressed need. 21 communities benefited with a total of 2,390 people, 1,112 more than planned.

For Protection, 880 people were trained in 8 communities to assist in the fires and as volunteer firefighters, they were also trained in the management of the mobile water truck (Jichi del Agua). These activities reached 200 more than expected.

There has been a focus on ensuring the active participation of women in the intervention. Women have been actively engaged in the intervention, and have given all their support to the needs that they initially identified in their communities. They participated in the planning, execution and evaluation of all activities.

The intervention has been life-saving as it has provided urgent and needed help and support to vulnerable families and communities in an area deeply affected by wildfires and their related consequences that are causing great risks to their lives and livelihoods. Although not planned at the beginning, the presence of the intervention and project partners gave the target population support and tools to lessen the risk of other life-threatening hazards such as the viral diseases like dengue and COVID-19, in a country where the State's health sector virtually does not exist for these indigenous communities.

¹ <https://www.dib.dk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Evaluation-DERF-Bolivian-Wildfires-19.11.20-english-version.pdf>

1.1a Timeframe of the Intervention

How many days after submission of a fund disbursement request was funding made available to your organisation?	Three days from CISU to DIB (11 th Nov – 14 th Nov) 10 days from DIB to TK (18 th – 28 th Oct)
How many days after the Danish CSO receipt of funds were you able to start implementation?	14 days
How many days after the Danish CSO receipt of funds were beneficiaries in receipt of assistance?	After 60 days, due to the country-wise paralysis caused by the political conflicts in Bolivia.
What internal or external factors negatively affected the speed of implementation?	The political and social crisis Bolivia experienced after the elections of October 18, 2019 due to alleged electoral fraud that paralysed the entire country for more than two months, and then the different COVID-19 quarantines for 6 months; These factors affected the implementation time.
Additional comments:	The delay in transfer of the funds to Bolivia was due to several administrative requests from the bank in Bolivia, and difficulties in placing the money in the right account in Bolivia as one digit was missing in the account number in the transfer from DIB.

1. 2 Describe the target groups reached in the table below

Planned target population: <i>(copy the exact number from the approved application)</i>							
Type of Activity	Female (by age)			Male (by age)			Total
	Under 18	Over 50	Between 18-50	Under 18	Over 50	Between 18-50	
WASH	297	143	306	206	96	176	1224
EMERGENCY SFL	128	89	401	100	54	506	1278
HEALTH	176	113	156	197	63	256	961
PROTECTION	0	0	200	0	0	400	600
Total:	601	345	1063	503	213	1338	4063
Total adjusted for double counting:	475	143	401	206	96	56	1827
Total vulnerable persons of the above:	475	143	401	206	96	56	1827

Actual target population reached:							
Type of Activity	Female (by age)			Male (by age)			Total
	Under 18	Over 50	Between 18-50	Under 18	Over 50	Between 18-50	

WASH	436	107	323	492	120	365	1843
EMERGENCY SFL	562	138	432	633	156	469	2390
HEALTH	1571	385	1164	1771	435	1311	6637
PROTECTION	0	0	414	0	0	466	880
Total:	2569	630	2333	2896	711	2611	11750
Total adjusted for double counting*:	757	210	879	765	237	653	3501
Total vulnerable persons of the above:	757	210	879	765	237	653	3501

*correct the number if the same persons are listed in more than one activity. Each person can only be counted once.

1.2.a **Describe** shortly your calculations above, and reflect on reasons for changes in current compared to planned targets:

WASH: One of the main needs is access to water and it has been a priority for the communities throughout the intervention. Therefore we reached 1843 instead of the planned 1224. Manual and electric pumps were repaired and changed in 5 communities. Maintenance was done to 4 hand pumps and water tanks were filled in 3 other communities. Other communities in the Municipality were supported: a manual pump was installed in a community, maintenance was done to 2 pumps and the water tanks of 3 other communities were filled. It is estimated that 90% of the people/households within the communities benefited from all activities.

EMERGENCY SLF: Seeds were delivered to build food security: garden vegetables and traditional crops such as beans, peanuts and corn, as well as grass seeds for livestock. The estimate was to reach 1278 people, but we reached 2390. Seeds were delivered to 478 families. The average family size is approximately 5 family members: $478 \times 5 = 2390$.

HEALTH: We expected to reach 961, but 6637 were covered, almost the entire population of Lomerío. The Hospital was equipped with a thermo nebulizer to fumigate houses to prevent viral diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and zika. In coordination with the Municipality, both the 15 communities chosen for the intervention as well as the other 15 communities not included in were fumigated, a total of 90% of all houses in the municipality. A first aid kit was donated to the 15 communities that will benefit approximately 6% of each community. Also several inputs and equipment were provided for the Hospital, that will benefit 3% of the entire Municipality. Thus, 6637 people were reached.

PROTECTION: In coordination with other organizations, we trained volunteer firefighters. Teko Kavi with APCOB, an NGO with a local presence and with which we coordinate various actions, provided firefighting and safety gear and tools for volunteers in 8 communities. The organisation Mariposa provided psycho-social support to the communities to face the psychological problem of fires. The intervention provided a mobile firefighter-type cistern pump to extinguish the fires, called Jichi del Agua. It can also supply water to communities, and it has already been used to combat the fires of 2020. This is benefiting 880 people.

1.2.b How have you managed to reach the **particular vulnerable persons** you identified in your application of the intervention? If you have conducted vulnerability assessment as part of the intervention, please also describe the results of this assessment and how you applied the knowledge in your humanitarian action.

The initial plan was to select 15 communities out of the total 35 communities in 2 municipalities. As part of the project, a Rapid Assessment was carried out in the two municipalities: in 23 communities in San Antonio de Lomerío and 3 in San Javier. As a result, 15 communities were prioritized in San Antonio de Lomerío, because they were not receiving support from other institutions, and because of their distance from urban centers. They also had experienced a greater number of fires in their territory. Planning was done with their

authorities, the native leaders (caciques) and their main needs were prioritized. The rapid assessment was prepared by the local partner Asociación Huellas as part of the coordinated work between the institutions. It involved authorities, community members and health service providers. During the intervention activities, and in the discussions, decisions were taken on the specific activities. This methodology made possible a common understanding of the problems and allowed the local authorities to hear the needs and demands of the indigenous people.

1.2 Describe shortly how your interventions were **appropriate and relevant (CHS1)** for the identified target group and for the particular vulnerable persons, as well as the effectiveness and **timeliness** of your response (CHS2). If you have received any feedback on this from your beneficiaries, please share.

Teko Kavi worked directly with the communities, and engaged them in actions and in deciding the appropriate humanitarian support. This work methodology allowed us to bring together the authorities and define with them the scope of our intervention, making decisions with the 15 beneficiary communities. All planning of the work was done with each of them. This strategy has been a success because we quickly, clearly and directly identified the needed intervention in each community, with its priorities and needs. The support was highly appropriate and needed, as the forest fires have a negative impact on the indigenous communities' development, rights and poverty reduction.

During evaluation sessions the communities have highlighted the timeliness of the seed endowment which has reduced food insecurity, the spraying of houses throughout the Municipality to reduce risk of mosquito-borne viral diseases, the medicine kits which have been of value to remote populations, the installation and maintenance of their water pumps, and the Jichi del Agua mobile water truck that has and will allow them to prevent fires and fill their water tanks in times of drought. Especially the seed endowments mitigated and reduced food insecurity among vulnerable people: women, children, young people and older persons. With the cultivation of beans it was possible to improve nutrition and have greater variety with other products at the most critical moment of the pandemic, with more than 5 months of quarantine and isolation due to COVID-19.

Considering that humanitarian support was short-term, and the intervention was carried out under conditions of high health risks and with a political crisis of lack of governability, the support has been both effective and timely.

1.4 Describe how your intervention has contributed **to strength local capacities** and to make communities and people more **prepared, resilient** and **less at-risk** as a result of your humanitarian action (CHS 3). Include in your description also how you have involved the communities in a participatory way, and ensured **communication, participation and feedback** (CHS 4).

The intervention has strengthened the leading role of the indigenous organization of Central Indígena de Comunidades Originarias de Lomerío (Indigenous Federation of Native Communities of Lomerío - CICOL) and each community organization has been strengthened internally. An information culture has been created to strengthen the local capacity of identifying the problem, asking for help, and problem-solving. During the intervention the locals developed an understanding of their most significant and current needs. Demands were made of the leaders themselves to act in a timely manner, and in presenting specific points of action required to the relevant authorities. E.g. CICOL has enhanced its demands to the State to achieve its territorial autonomy to prevent fires and water scarcity, because during these events it observed many weaknesses and is now demanding improvements by the Government of its health centres and water for the communities.

At community level women's leadership was promoted and strengthened which also have led to increased resilience. They were the ones who participated the most in the planning of activities and decision-making. For example women are the ones that work at home and during the pandemic they encouraged the whole family to work and take care of the family gardens and crops. Everyone took care of the vegetables: men, youth and children, as a result of which they had a good harvest and learned to manage their family crops jointly.

The internal communication in the communities was important because it increased protection and resilience through the recognition of threats, actions to prevent them and their ability to resist and respond to the problems that arise.

To strengthen the local capacities, two local technicians participated in the intervention; they were the link between the communities and Teko Kavi. Their proximity to the population allowed more agile and flowing communication, and it also strengthened the organization with relevant information that the intervention generated, particularly with data on COVID-19, in addition to information on other topics. The general population had permanent access to the actions and to making suggestions to improve the intervention. CICOL and Teko Kavi also coordinated actions during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the transfer of patients and support to health centers.

In each of the communities an agreement was reached between them and Teko Kavi, which has allowed the communities to monitor and control the actions committed and achieved until the end of the intervention, at which a participatory evaluation was done, the result of which was very positive as to the perception of the action.

2. Risk management, safety & security (including safeguarding)

2.1 Describe the usefulness of your risk management strategies. If you conducted specific security and risk assessment as part of the intervention, please describe how the results of this assessment were used to guide your activities (CHR 3).

Forest fires in Bolivia's Chiquitanía are alarming and their spread is accelerated and uncontrolled. 3.6 million hectares of forest burned in 2019 and already more than one million in 2020. The "slash and burn" is nothing new and fires are thus provoked by human activity from the month of July to October of each year, increasingly with the recent year's extractivist development policy of the Bolivian government.

Institutions and CICOL coordinated strategies to prevent or mitigate the risk of fires. The fires that come from outside the Municipality are impossible to prevent because they are started by businessmen or private individuals who do slash and burn on their lands, with no control. Internally in the indigenous territory, it has been possible to avoid slash and burn practices with internal rules. Among the strategies proposed is avoiding that the fires reach the communities, to avoid the risks of losing lives, animals and crops. During the training sessions for volunteer firefighters, safety and the risks to people living in the communities were emphasized.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the indigenous population deployed their own protection and security measures, completely isolating themselves to prevent propagation and to cope with the disease. The entry routes to the communities were closed, a decision taken jointly by the entire population. Therefore Teko Kavi staff did not have access to the work area from March until August because of the quarantine, only the local technicians who are living in the communities. They used all appropriate security measures in their contact with the population. When quarantine and restrictions were lifted, Teko Kavi staff and external consultants were again allowed to enter the area, respecting community and government norms of protection. As organization, Teko Kavi had no occupational risks during the pandemic unlike the local communities and the local technicians. As to the fires, our activities began when the fire was extinguished and all that remained were burned forests and heavy rain. The biggest hazard for

the staff was the viral diseases like dengue and COVID-19. As mentioned, steps were taken to prevent the risk of infection, both through the intervention and through the protective measurements.

2.2 Describe the measures taken to safeguard staff/volunteers as well as the target group of the intervention from sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse? This may include preventive measures and dealing with cases reported.

There were no cases or reports of sexual harassment. Each community has their own internal rules and is responsible for acts of violence or harassment of its population, as well as from CICOL and the Municipality. During the project there were no cases of complaint during the assemblies to the chiefs or local authorities, nor were there any complaints received from part of volunteers or staff who developed and was involved in the intervention.

3. Monitoring and learning

3.1. Reflect on how the established monitoring systems worked in practice and how evaluation of the rapid response gathered any learning. Include also (in bullets) the most important learning from your humanitarian intervention which stands out for you?

Since the start of the action, follow-up was done in the beneficiary communities, in relation to their needs, as well as of the planned activities. As mentioned we had difficulty in implementing the activities (political unrest and COVID-19). Despite these restrictions, we implemented a communication mechanism with the beneficiaries and they shared information among themselves on the benefits that the communities were receiving and in particular with the caciques. At this point other communities requested support on specific points, as well as technical support, particularly in water and seeds. These internal information and monitoring mechanisms were important.

A monitoring visit was conducted by DIB in early March, which gave an opportunity for DIB to visit the communities, meet the beneficiaries and the organisations involved and to experience the context. A final visit was planned but not possible to carry out. Instead an external consultant was appointed to carry out end-evaluation activities as well as lessons learned sessions with beneficiaries, local partners, and stakeholders. The report can be found on DIBs website². Some of the main learnings from these sessions are:

- The intervention has shown and confirmed that it is possible to strengthen the production of family gardens, as well as to develop new forest products in the future, for food security.
- Coordination of the intervention with the different institutions and exchange of information on who is doing what was crucial for avoiding duplicating actions.
- To improve results in the recovery of livelihoods, the supply of seeds for home gardens must be accompanied by training in the management of pests that attack vegetables.
- The solution to an immediate problem, such as dengue prevention in the communities, has been effectively dealt with in coordination with the Municipality's health personnel. The dengue problem was detected at the beginning of the year and in coordination with the Municipality and the Hospital the partners acted quickly, spraying 90% of the homes throughout Lomerío.
- Strengthen capacities and prevention mechanisms in the local population, given the probability each year of droughts and fires that can generate greater disasters due to the vulnerability of the population.

² <https://www.dib.dk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Evaluation-DERF-Bolivian-Wildfires-19.11.20-english-version.pdf>

- Proposals such as home gardens that satisfy basic needs that produce profits with alternative production is an alternative to threats such as fires, droughts and COVID-19.
- The practical gender equality strategy has been key in the intervention to improve living conditions and fire resilience in the entire family.
- Communicating with the communities and the activities themselves increased awareness on fire prevention and mobilized the population for the care and conservation of groundwater springs.

3.2 Which complaint mechanisms did you put in place (type and structure of complaint mechanism)? (CHS 5) How did the system work (functionality of the complaint mechanism)? What type of complaints did you receive?

In the intervention we chose to respect local customs on this matter. In the community assembly and the general assembly of CICOL, which brings together the entire population, is a mechanism, according to their custom, to make complaints. When the project began, CICOL established that any problem, complaint or lack of attention on the part of the project should be reported in each communal assembly and then to CICOL, either in writing or verbally before the caciques. In each monthly meeting of the communities, no complaints of any kind were received, and CICOL reported this in its assembly with the communities. Furthermore In the evaluation process, no complaints were made about the project.

Complaints in numbers

No. of complaints received:	0
No. of complaints responded to:	0
No of complaints still pending to handle:	0

4. Resource management

4.1 How did you evaluate your performance in efficient, effective and ethical management and use of your resources to achieve their intended purpose (CHS 9)? And how did your financial management systems work to control expenditure against budget?

The external evaluation mentions activities with visible results have been generated in a short time despite political problems and COVID-19, with work on water, health, protection and emergency SFL highlighted in this framework. To the extent that the action was built on achievements and learning from the problems and circumstances mentioned, which has meant high levels of efficiency.

At the end of the project we have a 100% budget implementation, which reflects a good level of execution and allows us to finish off with a good planning basis, budget allocation, and implementation capacities.

The relationship between the resources invested and the activities and results achieved is noticeable in the work done. Work was done with scarce resources and their contribution to the communities has been successful. This is also what the beneficiaries themselves consider. Commitment and dedication to the indigenous territory of Lomerío has been a key factor that has contributed to efficiency.

There was good coordination and interaction with institutions. CICOL has made it possible to improve efficiency and effectiveness levels, avoiding duplication of activities and enhancing resources.

Another important factor is the flexibility of DIB and the DERF fund, leading to a better use of resources, in such a way that the number of beneficiaries exceeded what was planned. At the same time the extension of the duration of the intervention positively affected the quality and

consolidation of activities, and the ability to support the communities during the COVID-19 pandemic as well.

4.3 Human resource and volunteers: Please describe shortly, how you supported staff and volunteers in order to do their job effectively (max 3 bullets) (CHS 8).

Teko Kavi has extensive experience in fieldwork and with vulnerable populations and its human resources are trained to face different problems and adjust to the given setting. The management provided continuous support and logistics. Local technical staff appropriated the methodology and also performed effective work, even though the Municipality of Lomerío was isolated for more than five months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Coordination and synergies

5.1 Did the implementing organisation(s) participate in the coordination mechanism?

- **Yes** x
- **No**

5.2 Describe the coordination bodies that existed and how you participated or collaborated with these contributing to ensure crisis affected communities received coordinated and complementary assistance? Include a short description of the different stakeholders taking part in the humanitarian action. How did your intervention complement that of local and/or national authorities and other humanitarian organisations (CHS 6)?

Coordination was done with different actors of Lomerío's civil society. CICOL was the focal point of coordination to ensure the active participation of communities, local leaders in logistics, and especially the communities, who have been active participants in the entire process. Furthermore Teko Kavi has been coordinating and collaborating on the activities with local NGOs. Asociación Huellas did the rapid assessment and APCOB contributed to the training sessions of the volunteer firefighter. The appearance of the private institution PROBIOMA (Productividad Biosfera Medio Ambiente) (in providing training on family crop topics in some communities), IBIF (Bolivian Institute for Forestry Research) (fire control management and monitoring plans) and Maripositas (emotional psychosocial training) also contributed with their work for the fulfilment of the objectives of this intervention.

The staffs of health centres, the Departmental Health Service (SEDES) of Santa Cruz, and the Government of the Department of Santa Cruz and the Municipality of Lomerío have also been important actors who supported all the actions of the intervention. The State could not be included because firstly, there were no government authorities and then they were dedicated exclusively to COVID-19 care until October 2020.

This coordination prevented duplications of effort and work on the part of civil society institutions and the Government.

5.3. Please describe how the humanitarian action created synergies, maybe with the DERF modality Early Action, or with activities supported by CISUs Civil Society Fund. Describe synergies with other interventions of your organisation, and has there been any opportunity to share your humanitarian experience for a Danish audience through the media or other communication channels?

The project partners have submitted an application to the new funding opportunity for Rebuilding Civic Space, which involves the 15 communities in the Municipality of San Antonio de Lomerío as well as other locations.

DIB has shared some of our experiences in the intervention through our own communication channels.