



United Nations Literacy Decade

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

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Programme name: Quechua-Spanish Bi-Literacy Project in Reproductive Health with a Gender-based Approach and Interculturality

Implemented by: UNFPA Bolivia

Basic facts

Country: Bolivia

Starting year: 1998

Outreach: 161,091 persons in 32 municipalities

Target Population: Indigenous women (15-45 years old)

Language of instruction: Bilingual Quechua - Castellano

Facilitator/Beneficiary ratio: 1/20

Main Funding: UNFPA

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<http://www.unfpa.org.bo>

Brief Description

Bolivia has high levels of illiteracy, maternal mortality and extreme poverty. Illiteracy puts people at a clear disadvantage socially and regarding work, as reflected in low self-esteem, little or no participation in decision-making, and ignorance of their rights, particularly sexual and reproductive rights.

The Bi-Literacy Project seeks to contribute to the recovery and strengthening of personal self-esteem and to participation in the country's social and political life. People who can read and write are more likely to break the generation-to-generation transmission of poverty because literate parents value education, know and exercise their rights, and discover and spread the importance of encouraging the training of their sons and daughters. This project is therefore concerned with educational schemes mainly for indigenous women in municipalities with high levels of illiteracy and of maternal and infant mortality.

The project follows a bilingual method that strengthens ethnic and cultural identity, raises self-esteem, contributes to health care with emphasis on maternal and infant health, makes people more attuned to gender equity and makes for productive initiatives that improve the participants' income. It is based on the principles of learning from experience, action-reflection-action, group learning and learning for change, and helps to raise awareness of the socioeconomic, cultural and historical reality of the participants, both men and women.