



Newsletter No. 6 – October 2022
By Sabrina Maass -
An assignment from Comundo

Dear family, friends and interested people



"Calle de las Brujas" - der Hexenmarkt in La Paz (Wikipedia).

"Buen vivir" (=good life) in Bolivia does not mean being happy or having consumption. For the indigenous peoples, these are western concepts. It is much more about living in harmony and balance. In Bolivia there are 36 indigenous peoples, which represents 60% of the total population. The largest peoples are the Quechuas and Aymaras. In El Alto, about 74% belong to the Aymaras. Andean rituals and ceremonies are strongly anchored in Bolivian culture and are performed by all classes of the population, rich and poor alike. Together with Fundación Encuentro, ENDA decided to provide care/treatment for two cases of sexual abuse not only psychologically but also with the support of amautas. Amautas are people with the ability of "seeing", can give advice and perform rituals. Brujas are witches and shamans can communicate with the forces of nature and the dead.

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Things are moving forward... even if only very, very slowly...

Municipality of El Alto

After the idea to collaborate with the Municipality of El Alto and with the feminist Maria Galindo burst as quickly as it was born, we are still looking for a promising contact that could serve us in optimizing the process *from the report to the conviction of the perpetrators of violence against children*. Juan Carlos Baldera is a director in CEADL (Centro de Estudios y Apoyo al Desarrollo local) and vice president of Capítulo Boliviano de Derechos Humanos Desarrollo y Democracia. He was recommended to us by third parties. A first conversation already took place and there is interest from both sides for a common cooperation.

ENDA's Handwork

ENDA's handmade production is at a standstill again. Four prototypes are already created of the redesigned products, but the last adjustments as well as the fabric selection are still missing. Due to a new site opening of the designers of Arte Sano Mutante, further meetings are delayed and production could not be resumed yet. However, we are still in contact with all parties involved.

Six Sigma training of other NGO's

After a person and a virtual training of the Six Sigma method with the trainers of ENDA was carried out, the sale of the training should actually be arranged. However, due to internal restructuring, these trainers will have to be dispensed with in the future. It is still unclear which of ENDA's employees will be able to conduct the training, to generate another source of funding for ENDA.

Extension of my contract

Normally, my contract would expire at the end of this year. However, ENDA and I have requested an extension from Comundo as many goals have not yet been completed. 1 year with an option for 2 years, with the condition of more support from ENDA, was granted.

Cooperation with other experts

With the experts Florine Salzgeber and Marie Rappaport, on the one hand a trauma training for psychologists and on the other hand a pilot project "Psychological care with the support of Amautas" were realized.



Trauma training with Florine Salzgeber.



Ritual "Mesa negra" to rid the family of negativity.



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The girls at "Casa Fraternidad"

The "Casa Fraternidad" of my partner organization is a therapeutic residential community for girls who have been affected by violence and are particularly vulnerable. There they receive psychotherapy as well as social-therapeutic care and medical treatment. They learn about their rights and how to claim them, and are also supported in developing plans for the future. Due to financial difficulties, ENDA had to temporarily close the residential community at the end of September.

Here are a few impressions of the last weeks at Casa Fraternidad.

English course

Every Tuesday and Thursday I was given the opportunity to spend time with the girls for 1.5 hours each. I decided to share my English knowledge with them because it will help their future. In Bolivia, it is common for schools to teach English only one hour per week. Some have even never received English lessons. Through small conversations, memory game with English-Spanish pair, counting games and regular repetitions, a new language could be introduced to them in a playful way.



1st English lesson: Introductions (name, age, hobbies).

Handicrafts with the girls

In addition to individual, group and family therapy, various activities took place with the girls such as homework help and handicrafts, monthly excursions such as to Lake Titicaca, the Tiwanaku Inca ruin or hikes through the Valle de las Animas also took place.



Crafting bracelets with the girls.

Cooking with the girls

Normally at Casa Fraternidad, there were always people in charge of the day among the girls, who were then responsible for different tasks. This was also the case for cooking. The last two weeks, however, this was different and so ENDA's staff cooked their favorite dishes together with the girls. There were tucumanas, German chicken fricassee, French tartiflette, pique macho and Brazilian feijoada stew.



Cooking with the girls: today we had tucumanas.



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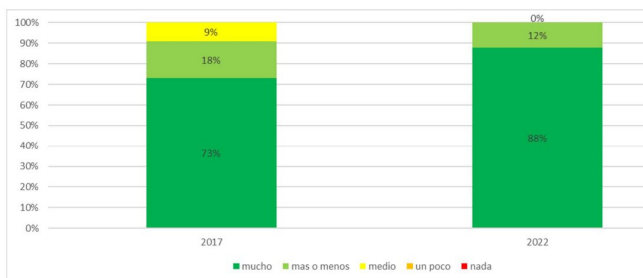
Sharing Excel knowledge

In August, a monitoring of Caritas took place at ENDA. Some suggestions for improvement were shared with the management. These include the creation of databases and the automatic presentation of project-specific data. Together with the operational director, I was entrusted with this task.

Employee survey

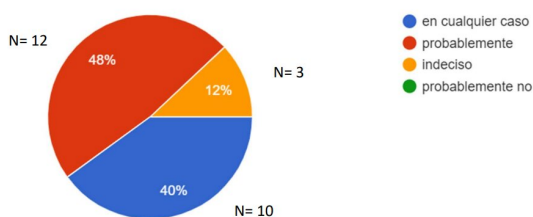
The first employee survey took place in 2017. In addition to the same questions, more were added, and the questionnaire comprised a total of 36 questions. Employees had two weeks to complete the digital questionnaire. The response rate was 80.6%.

¿Cuánto te gusta tu trabajo?



Translation: How much do you like your work?

¿Si pudieras decidir otra vez hoy, ¿Elegirías ENDA de nuevo?



Translation: If you could choose again today, would you choose ENDA again?

Continuous information for employees

Every month ENDA holds an employee information event. In addition to project progress, information is also provided on progress in the area of quality management. This includes news from the improvement group and the already implemented measures of the quality standard ISO 9001 as well as repetitions of the different quality methods.



Repetition and progress in QM.

Document revision

With the introduction of the process map, it has become apparent that many documents exist, in part, several times and on different computers. In addition, it is not always clear which document is the most current and whether it contains all the necessary information.

The quality standard 9001 also requires that each document is labeled with the creator and a date or version number. Furthermore, it must be clarified who approves documents, how they are protected against misuse, how long and where documents must be stored, as well as their destruction upon expiration of the documentation obligation.



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From now on there is also personal info

I am often asked "what do you do in your free time in Bolivia and how do you compensate for the cultural differences?". To give you a little more information, I have decided to add an additional page at the end of the newsletters.

21.06.2022

On this day the new year of the indigenous populations is celebrated. With the sunrise, people receive the energy for the new year, give thanks to Mother Earth and make their wishes for the new year. We celebrated in Tiwanaku - the largest and most important Inca ruin in Bolivia.



With the hands you catch the new energy.

Yoga and Acroyoga

Besides yoga I discovered my passion for acroyoga. Both classes help me to find my inner peace again.



Two or more people represent figures.

Huayna Potosi

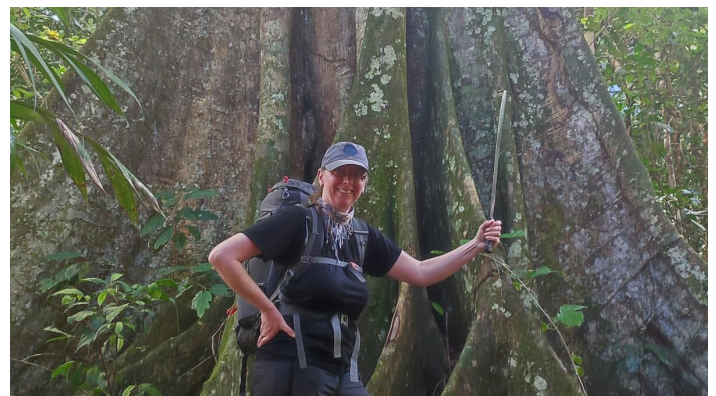
One of the three local mountains of La Paz has been my goal already for the second time; this time I made it to 5900MüM from 6088MüM. The first time it was 5500MüM. Often medicines are taken to move without discomfort in the height. I did without them both times and moved up like the locals with coca leaves (either these are prepared as tea or "sucked out" in the cheek cavity).



Beautiful sunrise for the birthday.

Mit meiner Verlängerung erhalte ich zwei Wochen Heimaturlaub als Dankeschön. Diesen werde ich im Juni/Juli kommenden Jahres beziehen. Besucht wird nicht nur Deutschland, sondern auch die Schweiz. Wer mich sehen möchte, melde sich bitte bei mir.

Herzliche Grüße, Eure Sabrina



On jungle tour in Madidi National Park.



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Fachleute im Entwicklungseinsatz

Was, wenn das Recht auf ein gesundes, gewaltloses und unversehrtes Leben nicht mehr gilt? Wenn der Schulbesuch als wichtiger Schlüssel zu Bildung und einem würdevollen Beruf verwehrt bleibt? Oder wenn nur die Flucht ins Ausland die Familie zuhause ernähren kann?

Comundo verbessert mit über hundert Fachleuten die Lebensbedingungen von Menschen in Lateinamerika und Afrika mit einem Fokus auf Kinder, Jugendliche sowie alte Menschen. Dies dank dem Austausch von Wissen und Erfahrung mit lokalen Partnerorganisationen, mit Vernetzung und mit der Förderung von gegenseitigem Lernen.

Als eine Schweizer Organisation der Zivilgesellschaft trägt Comundo zur Erreichung der Ziele der Agenda 2030 bei. Sie verknüpft die konkreten Erfahrungen der Fachleute vor Ort mit politischem Handeln in der Schweiz.

Comundo

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