

Bolivia

"Promotion of the Quality Infrastructure to Support the Consumption Measurement and Quality Analysis of Drinking Water"

(Project-No.: 2006.2039/ PTB-No.: 95230)

Brief description

In its new Constitution, the Bolivian State has declared the access to water a basic right of the population. In reality, however, the water suppliers do not have the capacities required to ensure the provision in a resource-saving and economic way and to guarantee, at the same time, that the drinking water is not harmful to health. Only very few of the thousands of water suppliers in the country have laboratories of their own with the respective staff and the facilities required to control the water quality and the consumption measurements.

The quality infrastructure of the country (metrology and testing, standardization, accreditation and certification) cannot yet sufficiently guarantee that the supporting services for the metrological supervision of the consumption and the control of the drinking water quality are offered in accordance with existing requirements. Fundamental technical and metrological controls are, thus, simply omitted.

In the first instance, the project promotes the national quality infrastructure for the consumption measurement and quality analysis of drinking water with the objective of achieving that the water suppliers persistently improve their consumption and quality measurements and will, thus, be able to guarantee the provision of the population with clean and harmless drinking water. This is mainly realized on the basis of consultancy and training of the staff at the quality institutions, water suppliers and laboratories. In addition, the cooperation between the responsible persons and institutions will be promoted with the aim of establishing a sustainable national network for quality matters and consumption measurements in drinking water supply.

Eventually, the project shall produce two effects: 1) contribute to the consumers obtaining drinking water not harmful to health so that water-related diseases will decline; 2) ensure exact and reliable consumption measurements so that the efficient handling of the scarce resource "water" will be improved and the security of the supply increased.

Target groups

Consumers of drinking water

Mediator

The National Metrology Institute IBMETRO (Instituto Boliviano de Metrología) and the integrated Accreditation Body DTA (Dirección Técnica de Acreditación), other relevant institutions of the quality infrastructure and public agencies, as well as water distribution companies.

Project executing agency

Bolivian Ministry for Productive Development and Plural Economy
(Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo y Economía Plural)

Term and value of the commission

Prospective total promotion period:	2009-2015
Present phase:	10/2009-09/2012
Total amount of German contribution:	EUR 500 000