



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CASE STUDIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

BOLIVIA CONTEXT

The Uru peoples in Bolivia are in communities ancestrally established near rivers and lakes. Since 1992 they have been organized under the Uru Native Nation (NOU), as the highest organic entity, which brings together all their populations. The NOU is an Indigenous Peoples population at risk of disappearing due to the loss of their livelihoods that generates a continuous and growing migration of families.

The Uru families develop their productive activities around their relationship with the waters, including hunting, fishing, and egg gathering as the main activities that have allowed them to subsist until today. However, due to environmental pollution problems, and prolonged droughts due to climate change, among others, these activities have been diminished. Consequently, the inhabitants have sought alternatives through subsistence activities, both agricultural (with the cultivation of potatoes and quinoa), livestock (raising camelids, sheep, and pigs), and in addition to the development of handicrafts in ch'illawa straw and totora, the weaving of sheep and llama wool, or temporary or permanent migration in search of work.

The project **“Respuesta a los efectos del cambio climático en comunidades Indígenas del Lago Poopó (Uru Murato) y Río Lauca (Uru Chipaya)”** aims to: *Improve the food security of Uru families through interventions aimed at women, men, girls, boys, and adolescents to increase their productivity, income, and resilience to climate change, allowing their sustainable development over time.*

The project consists of an initial phase from May 2022 to December 2023, to eventually be the basis for a longer term (3-5 years) integrated resilience operation. The interventions are exclusively oriented to assist 442 families (approx. 2,000 people) in critical situation in 7 Indigenous communities in four municipalities of the department of Oruro, according to the following table:

Table 1. Number of Participating Families

N°	Municipal	Community	Total # of families	Resident families
1	Poopó	Phuñaka Tinta María	83	14
2	Huari	Llapallapani	90	90
3	Challapata	Vilañeque	66	50
4	Uru Chipaya	Aransaya	114	74
		Manasaya	125	74
		Vistrullani	124	70
		Ayparavi	190	70
TOTAL			792	442

Source: WFP. Community participatory appraisal (April 25-29, 2022)

The expected results are detailed below:

1. *Improve the resilience of Uru families, through the creation and/or recovery of productive assets, which allow them to guarantee their food security and nutrition.*
2. *Strengthen the capacities of Uru families in different fields such as water management, agricultural production, transformation, commercialization, and association.*
3. *Gradually reduce the migration of Uru families by improving their production, linking them to markets and diversifying their income.*

IMPACT

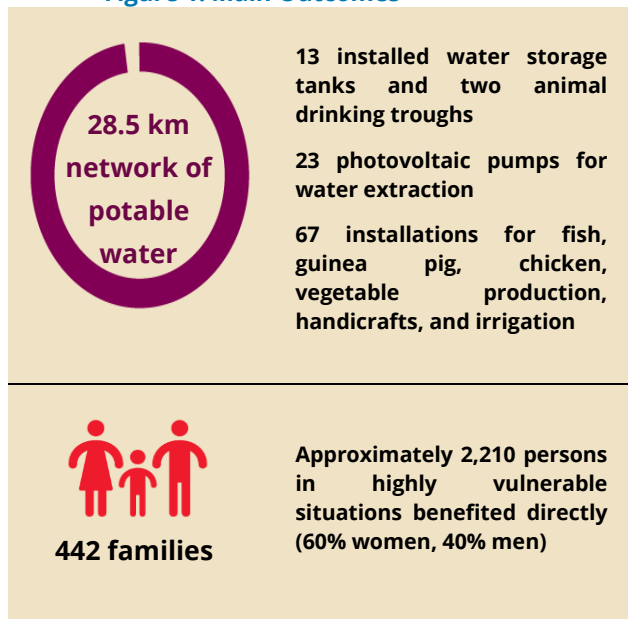
The actions implemented in this first stage improve access to water and the management of water resources, as well as food security and local livelihoods.

Training processes in technical areas such as management of productive enterprises and digital banking aimed at Indigenous women are helping to eliminate the barriers that limit women's economic growth and financial autonomy.

Table 2. Main Outcomes

Description	Unit	Amount
Potable water network	Kilometers	30
Water storage	Tanks	4
Photovoltaic pumps	Pumps	31
Pilot fish farms	Installations	3
Guinea pig farms	Installations	4
Chicken hatcheries	Installations	2
Greenhouses (for vegetable production)	Installations	14
Craft production centers	Installations	2
Training in management of productive enterprises and digital marketing for three associations of women artisans	Training sessions	12
Training in management and digital banking for women artisans	Training sessions	8
Training in management and use of productive infrastructure in educational units (production of vegetables, chickens, guinea pigs)	Training sessions	8

Figure 1. Main Outcomes



LESSONS LEARNED

Project design must be developed through **participatory community planning processes**, consulting with community members, ensuring equitable representation of women and men, and respecting their knowledge, uses, customs and ancestral norms.

Prior to implementation, a participatory community appraisal was carried out with the participation of the seven target communities, having identified their main needs and demands, which were then reflected in the operations plan.

Language restrictions can pose a challenge, particularly for the elderly. Therefore, it is important that a local language interpreter is available on the technical team to ensure the participation of everyone.

When designing training methodologies for Uru communities, it is essential to adapt them to the context and particularities of the participants. This includes: i) prioritizing face-to-face learning sessions, such as workshops and community meetings, to facilitate direct interaction and hands-on learning; ii) providing printed training materials, such as handouts and manuals, to have tangible resources, even without access to digital devices; iii) designing hands-on activities for participants to learn through direct experience, especially in environments with technological limitations; and iv) providing continuous follow-up and personalized technical support during the implementation of new technologies, such as the use of digital banking (QR codes), to immediately resolve any problems that arise.

The leadership of local authorities is a key element for the proper implementation of the project; however, the promotion of new leadership, especially of women and young people, is a challenge to creating more resilient communities.



WFP, 2023. Aritisan Puñaca Tinta María Community

For more information, contact Luis Rico and visit [WFPGo Indigenous Peoples Collection](#) for more information on WFP's work with Indigenous Peoples.