Semi Annual Report November 2002–May 2003

Bolivia

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1. Introduction

This report considers the Swedish Development Co-operation with Bolivia and above all the co-operation financed from the appropriations for Latin America. The activities that Swedish NGOs are carrying out, which are financed from a special appropriation, are also dealt with. The report covers the period between November 2002 and May 2003.

2. Political Situation

In August 2002 a new Government took office in Bolivia. The fragmented result of the elections in June the same year had forced the two traditional rival parties Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR) and Movimiento de la Izquierda Revolucionaria (MIR) to enter into an unholy alliance with MNR's leader Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada (Goni) as President. The elections also brought new political actors to the national stage. Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), a party created around the coca issue and mainly supported by indigenous groups, became the second largest party in Congress.

After taking office the new Government faced an extremely difficult situation. The economic situation inherited from the previous Administration was very troublesome, with a deep recession for the past three years and extremely high unemployment levels. Many social demands had accumulated and the newly elected Government had a fragile majority in Congress, creating obstacles to pass its bills.

In order to restore growth and employment the Government launched the Plan Bolivia, which intends to substantially increase public investment in infrastructure, i.e. roads, irrigation, housing, etc. However, the process has proved to be very slow.

By the end of 2002 the Government also launched initiatives with a social drive, such as Bonosol, a general minimum pension scheme, and the Child and Maternity Social Insurance (SUMI).

At the same time negotiations were being conducted with multilateral financial institutions in order to re-establish the derailed Economic Reform Programme and to guarantee financing for Plan Bolivia.

The toughest negotiations where held, without any doubts, with the International Monetary Fund, who wanted the country to reduce the fiscal deficit by three percentage points, from 8,5% to 5,5%, during 2003. As always, IMF was the key negotiation, before an agreement was reached with them funds would not be released from most donors.

The negotiations dragged on and continued throughout January. In the same month many social movements, that had been relatively calm during the first months of the new Administration, started to raise their voices. Especially the coca producers supported by Evo Morales, the influential

politician and leader of MAS, started protests and roadblocks in the Chapare region. The Government decided not to negotiate under pressure and clashed head-to-head. During the confrontations between the military and the coca producers around 13 people died. Eventually the Catholic Church and the Human Rights Movement mediated between the two parties and negotiations started around a comprehensive agenda.

Bolivia entered into a phase of increased tension and endless negotiations. Without having managed to finalise negotiations with the IMF, the Government was unable to submit a budget for 2003 to Congress.

The February crisis

The crisis of February 12–13 was triggered by the Government's proposal to introduce a direct income tax, which thus far had not existed in the country. The tax, that was slightly progressive, was lunched to increase revenues and thereby reduce the high fiscal deficit.

The measure was very unpopular and induced a police mutiny, though this group almost not was affected by the tax proposal as such. The mutiny soon got out of hand and the military were called by the President to defend the order. Armed confrontations developed between the mutinous police and the military outside the Presidential Palace in La Paz. Both militaries and police officers died and were injured, as well as several civilians.

Lots of people also went out to protest, and to loot and destroy; as in fact almost two days passed before law and order were restored. There has, of course, been a lot of speculations about the riots being part of destabilising actions of irregular groups with some kind of political motivation, as well as talks that there was a deliberate attack against the President's life during those days. However, so far no credible proof has been presented in support of these allegations. Over thirty people died during those two days and approximately 200 people were injured and a vast number of buildings and shops were destroyed or looted.

The aftermath of the February events

The immediate results of these events were the reshuffling of the Government. In an effort to show austerity several vice-ministries were abolished and some ministers, such as the Minister of Government, were not confirmed in their portfolios. Because of the complicated negotiations between MIR and MNR, concerning the distributions of the vice-ministries, this nomination process took more than three months to complete.

The February events accentuated a number of complex problems in the Bolivian society; namely, the perception of a society in a comprehensive governance crisis, an increasing political vacuum and a vast lack of confidence in public institutions, and a general social pessimism.

Since February the President has tried to establish agreements with the Armed Forces and parts of the Police in order to ensure the country's internal security. As a result of the February events the Armed Forces have gained extensive political influence. There are indications that various political leaders have had meetings with the Armed Forces, some to ensure the democratic order, others to exploit alternatives to the present democratic system.

The Bolivian people are very discontent with the Government and with the judicial system's handling of the aftermath of the February crisis. It has been proved that snipers, probably both from the Police as well as from the Military, shot against innocent people during those days, but both the Police and the Military have obstructed the criminal investigations. Furthermore, the Armed Forces stated, without being contradicted by the Government, that they may only be judged in a Military Court and not in Civil Courts. This is just another example of the problem of impunity in Bolivian society, due to a judiciary system that is widely corrupt and far from independent.

The February events have led to a severely weakened Government, which is mainly fighting for its political survival, with a very short time perspective. Continuing strikes and social demonstrations forces the Government to countless negotiations, where social peace is bought through expensive deals, that are further straining a, still much too large, fiscal deficit.

Although there have been several attempts from the Government, especially before the February events, to reach an agreement with coca growers they have so far been in vain. The general weakness of the Government has made it less inclined to reach an agreement that substantially deviates from the interests of the US Government in this area. Notwithstanding several comprehensive alternative projects to stimulate cocagrowers to leave this illicit activity, the returns of coca growing are still much too high in comparison with any other alternative activity at hand for these farmers, which makes a conversion very difficult during the continued economic recession.

Congress has severe difficulties in reaching agreements on almost any decision, and an important part of the Government's Economic Reactivation Programme has been delayed due to prolonged discussions in Congress. Especially preoccupying are almost 50 nominations of judges, superintendents, civil rights attorneys, etc., which are delayed because of the Congress' incapacity to reach the necessary two-thirds majority.

At the same time, the rift between the governing parties MIR and MNR has become wider. MIR leader, Jaime Paz Zamora, is accusing MNR of being too slow in the execution of the agreed Plan Bolivia. MIR is also very discontent with the pact that MNR has made with VIMA, a party of retired policemen, mainly from the police intelligence branch, that some consider having been instruments of previous dictatorships.

The Catholic Church has, since February, tried to promote a social and political dialogue (Reencuentro Nacional) with all the important political actors in the Bolivian Society. So far progress has been very slow due to the mutual suspicion between the different actors. Similar efforts, however not totally co-ordinated with the Church, have also been done by the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights.

The main dilemma is that almost all of the country's problems are structural and are the result of decades of neglection to deal with the effects of exclusion and an extreme unequal distribution of income and fortune. Starting a process to solve these problems requires long term solutions, a high political will and consensus, which are very difficult to mobilise under the current political situation.

3. Poverty Reduction Strategy

3.1. Poverty

Poverty is still Bolivia's main problem, although a fairly successful Economic Reform Programme has been carried out during almost two decades. The indigenous population and women are the most vulnerable groups. The present growth policy is primarily based on extraction of the country's natural resources, without much added value and has, so far, not resulted in a significant reduction in poverty. Increase in income has mainly occurred within the upper and upper-middle classes. An already skewed distribution of income has, therefore, become even more unequal. In fact, Bolivia has one of the most unequal distributions of income in all of the Americas.

According to Bolivia's Statistics Institute (INE) in year 2001, 64 percent of the country's population were poor and 37% extremely poor. The difference between the urban areas and the countryside is compelling. Whilst 55 percent of the urban population is regarded poor, the rural population in the same predicament amounts to 80 percent. Due to the prolonged recession and a rapid population growth, poverty has augmented during the last two years.

3.2. National Strategy for Poverty Reduction, EBRP

During year 2000 a comprehensive National Dialogue was carried out in order to collect input to formulate a national poverty reduction strategy. The final version of the strategy was finalised in 2001. In June 2001 both the IMF and the World Bank agreed that the strategy drafted could form the basis for a final decision (completion point) on debt reduction under the HIPC II scheme. In August the same year, a special law – the Law on National Dialogue – was approved, which gave the framework for the implementation of the poverty reduction strategy – the Estrategia Boliviana de Reducción de la Pobreza (EBRP).

The main objective of the EBRP is to halve extreme poverty in the country before year 2015. The most important sub-objectives are:

- Reduce poverty from 63 percent to 41 percent
- Reduce extreme poverty from 37 percent to 17 percent
- Increase average life expectancy from 62 to 69 years

 Increase average coverage of eight-year (primary) education from 51 percent to 67 percent

An important point of departure/assumption was that the average economic growth during the whole period should amount to 5 percent in order to achieve the objectives of poverty reduction. The main responsibility for the implementation of the strategy was delegated to the municipalities, which were to receive 70 percent of the resources liberated through the HIPC II. The remaining 30 percent were to be allocated to a special fund, to be distributed between the municipalities financing costs for health and education. The annual debt reduction amounts to approx. US\$ 90 million per year during the first 10 years.

The new Government has stated that its short-term priorities are to implement the launched anti-recession programme Plan Bolivia. As mentioned before this is mainly directed to an important increase on infrastructure investments and efforts to stabilise the financial sector in the country and provide breathing space for companies threatened by bankruptcy; according to the plan it will stimulate employment. Furthermore, some more direct social reforms are to be implemented, such as Bonosol and a special child and maternity social insurance.

In the mid-term the Government plans to further stimulate growth and employment through the implementation of a revised version of the EBRP. According to the Law on National Dialogue, a new dialogue is supposed to take place this year. The intention of the Government is that the dialogue should serve to submit a revised version of the strategy for discussion, which will assign greater importance to economic growth and employment than the earlier version. The Government has announced to the donor community that the dialogue will probably start in June but there are imminent risks for delays depending on progress in the dialogue managed by the Catholic Church, who is promoting an overall social and political dialogue in the country (see POLITICAL SITUATION). If progress is not achieved in this endeavour, this will most probably make any effort to organise the EBRP dialogue more difficult.

In a document elaborated in preparation for the revision of EBRP (EBRP – Informe de Avance y Perspectivas) the Government states that the original targets for poverty reduction were far too optimistic and depending on an average economic growth rate that is impossible to achieve. The objective will therefore be revised and instead of decreasing poverty to 41 percent the goal is now set at 56 percent. The corresponding objective for extreme poverty is set to 27 percent instead of 17 percent. This would mean that the Millennium Development Goals formulated by the UN would not be met by Bolivia in year 2015, at least not in terms of poverty reduction. The main reason for this is that the extremely skewed distribution of income in the country implies that the average economic growth must be higher in order to achieve poverty reduction, compared to countries with a less unequal income distribution.

In a memo drafted by several bilateral donors, including Sweden, commenting on the above mentioned document, the importance of promoting pro-poor growth is underlined, taking into consideration the unequal income distribution in the country and the subsequent difficulty to achieve a substantial reduction of poverty. Furthermore, the importance of effective policies for redistribution is emphasised, taking as an example the regressive effects of the present tax system and the necessity to reform the latter and introduce a direct income tax. The importance of an effective dialogue with civil society is also stressed, as well as the follow up of the implementation of the revised strategy. Furthermore, the alignment of the National Budget with the priorities in the revised EBRP is also underlined.

A worrisome fact is the lack of implementing capacity at municipal level that has been detected during the first years of implementation of the strategy. In roughly half of the municipalities in the country approx. 50 percent of the allocated HIPC-resources have not been used due to lack of administrative capacity.

Due to the fact that a Stand-By Agreement was signed between Bolivia and the IMF in April instead of a Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) as originally planned, the planned PRSP Review assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of EBRP has been postponed until the second semester this year. At the same time the IMF is supposed to agree on a PRGF and the World Bank on a Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC).

3.3. Aid Co-ordination

During the Banzer and Quiroga Governments Bolivia developed a functional system for aid co-ordination. The basic aim was to reduce the number of projects striving for a more co-ordinated sector wide approach that is guided by a clear sector policy formulated by the Government with commonly agreed procedures for follow up and reporting. This also demands that the donors delegate more decision power to the Country Offices of the donor countries, as well as more long-term financial commitments by the donor countries. This new model of co-ordination was also supported by the World Bank and was further developed within the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF), a pilot scheme in Bolivia where both multilateral and bilateral donors as well as Government participated.

When the new Government took Office last year they declared that their intention was to follow this model of co-ordination, but it has showed difficult for them to put this in practice. As a result of weakening of the Government it has also been difficult for them to take the necessary lead in several sectors formulating policies. Nevertheless the practise of basket funding has continued in several sectors.

4. The National Economy

4.1. Economic Development

According to the Human Development Index for 2002, published by UNDP, Bolivia is located in position No 114, which is the highest index-number for the countries listed in South America. Ecuador is situated on the second place at 93. However, in Central America and the Caribbean, Haiti is further down at 146 but also Guatemala (no 120), Honduras (no 116 and Nicaragua (no 118) have a worse index than Bolivia.

Bolivia is the poorest country in South America, with a GDP amounting to US\$ 940 per inhabitant for year 2001. Natural raw materials and agricultural products with a low added value dominate national production. The domestic marked is limited and dependence on export is therefore fairly high. Year 2002 export represented 16 percent of GDP. Since products with a low added value dominate exports, there is a high dependence on the development of world markets prices for raw materials. The vulnerability to external shocks depending on economic development in neighbouring countries, the world economy and weather is high.

Since economic structural reforms/adjustment programmes were introduced in the middle of the 1980s growth accelerated to an average of 4,1 percent during the 1991 – 1998 period. However, Bolivia, as several other countries in the region, has been severely affected by the international economic crisis during 1998 – 99, the developments after 11 September 2001 and other external shocks, such as the drastic devaluations in Argentina and Brazil, which have severely affected the competitiveness of the national currency. The overall extreme reduction of demand in the Argentine economy also resulted in an important reduction of remittances from Bolivian guest workers in this country. Another important factor has been the stagnation in the development of international prices in the agricultural and mining sectors.

There are also important internal factors worth mentioning. The strengthening of the Customs administration and the substantial reduction of coca cultivation led to an important reduction of the informal economy that further fuelled recession and unemployment. During 2002 overall growth reached 2,75 percent (1,5 percent in 2001) which only slightly bypasses population growth (2,3 percent). Growth recuperated in the construction sector. The highest growth was found in the transport and hydrocarbon sectors.

The trade deficit kept approx. the same level 2002 as in 2001. Both exports and imports grew in volume with approx. 4 percent but not in value and the trade deficit represents 5 percent of GDP.

As already mentioned, the fiscal deficit increased from 7 to 8,7 percent of GDP during 2002. The net costs for the reformed state pension scheme represent almost 5 percent of these 8,7 percent. The main reason for this high cost is the lack of administrative capacity to manage the system, corruption and generous and political decisions to include new beneficiaries in the system. This high deficit is clearly not sustainable and according to the Stand-By Agreement signed with the IMF in April this year the deficit has to be reduced by 2 percent during 2003.

Investment is very low in the Bolivian economy and represents only 14 percent of GDP where public investment amounts to 6 percent and private 8 percent respectively. In comparison with 2001 this represents a minor increase of 2 percent but compared with the investment level in overall Latin America this is 5 percent lower for the same year.

The implementation of the above mentioned Plan Bolivia has been considerably delayed and effects of recuperation depending on the Plan are not yet to be seen. On the other hand economic outlook in the neighbouring countries seem to be more positive, especially in Brazil and Chile, and this might contribute to a future reactivation of the country's economy.

The situation in the financial sector is still very weak. Financial vulnerability in the highly dollar-dependant financial system has increased significantly. The average non-performing loan ratio almost doubled to 20 percent during last year. The Government has lately presented several laws in order to strengthen the financial sector. Further, a tax code has been submitted to Congress, which intends to penalise non-payment of tax debts. However, at the same time a sharp reduction of outstanding tax debts has been suggested, a controversial proposal still not accepted by Congress.

The effective depreciation of the Boliviano carried through last year amounted to approx. 5 percent notwithstanding significant depreciations in Argentina and Brazil. This means that the Bolivian currency is now sufficiently competitive after the late convolutions of the South American exchange rates.

Because of the deep recession inflation has without difficulties been kept under control and amounted just to 2 percent last year.

Unemployment has not improved since last year and is still very high. The official figure for 2002 was 8,7 percent. However, more than 2/3 of total employment is in the informal sector and therefore the levels of underemployment are much higher.

The development of the large gas deposits recently discovered in the country is of great importance for the country's economy and could be an important means for economic reactivation. However, the proposal of exploitation presented by a consortium formed by American, British and Spanish firms has led to great political controversy. Because of the historic rivalry with Chile as a result of the Pacific War at the end of the

19th century the financially much more favourable alternative to lead the necessary pipelines through Chile instead of Peru seems to be politically almost impossible to launch (the distance between the gas wells and the nearest possible Chilean port is approx. 600 km, whilst the distance to a plausible Peruvian port is twice as distant). According to opinion polls approx. 80 percent of the population is against a Chilean solution and lately the Armed Forces have also emphatically expressed the same point of view.

The development during the coming months will be critical for this issue. The Government has promised that it will make "popular consultations" in August before taking a decision on the port during the second semester.

A positive development in the relations with Chile is the ongoing negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement eliminating the customs duties between the two countries. According to the draft agreement Bolivia will receive an immediate elimination of the duties on its export to Chile whilst the Bolivian duties on Chilean import will be gradually reduced starting year 2008.

The negotiations in order to reach an American Free Trade Agreement (ALCA) where also Bolivia participate have started and are supposed to end in 2005. However, there is a lot of domestic criticism against the idea of entering such an agreement though not very well founded.

4.2. Debt Situation

At the end of 2002 the total Public External debt amounted to US\$ 4299 million which was US\$ 112 million less than year 2001. The multilateral debt (mainly owed to the IDB and the World Bank) represent 80 percent of the total foreign debt whilst the bilateral debt represents 20 percent.

In June 2001 the Boards of the IMF and the World Bank agreed on giving Bolivia a substantial debt reduction in accordance with the HIPC-2 mechanism. The yearly reduction in debt service as a result of this agreement amounts to US\$ 90 million during 2003 – 2010, thereafter it will be decreased to in average US\$ 50 million per year until year 2020.

The Stand-by Agreement with the IMF limits the increase of non-concessionary loans to US\$ 150 million (about 2 percent of GDP) in 2003. This will be a tough target to meet for the Government, since the World Bank (and the IDB as well), most probably will start giving Bolivia a mix of concessionary and less concessionary credits starting this year, instead of giving all credits on a concessionary basis – IDA – only status). At the same time the borrowing needs will increase as a result of the ambitious infrastructure investments in "Plan Bolivia".

A worrisome fact is that the debt indicators of Bolivia have started to increase again after the HIPC-2 decision. The net present value of debt/export are projected to increase until 145% in year 2004 from the 100% to which the indicator was reduced as a result of the HIPC-2 agreement. Furthermore, as a result of the increasing financing needs depending on the growing fiscal deficit, public domestic borrowing has also increased remarkably during the last years and now amounts to US\$ 1500 million or 20 percent of GDP.

5. Swedish Development Co-operation

5.1. Country Strategy and the Annual Revision of the Development Co-operation

A new country strategy for the Swedish Development Co-operation with Bolivia was adopted by the Swedish Government in December 2002. The new strategy is valid for the period 2003–2007 and is part of a wider strategy for the Swedish development co-operation with South America adopted at the same occasion.

The new strategy also provides the basis for the new Co-operation Agreement that was signed between Bolivia and Sweden on 11 February, during the Annual Revision of the Development Co-operation that took place 11–12 February with the presence of Göran Holmqvist (from the Regional Department of Latin America at Sida), and Martin Wilkens, Swedish Ambassador to Bolivia.

A Country Plan that guides the operational work of the Swedish Development Co-operation with Bolivia was adopted in December last year.

The February events have as mentioned before implied a weakening of the government and its capacity to direct and implement development co-operation projects. Therefore, the Development Co-operation Office is in the process of evaluating what the implications of this new situation might be for the possibilities of implementing the agreed strategy. An analysis will be done in a memo that will be presented to the Latin American Regional Department at Sida in early July.

5.2. Planning Situation

The total disbursement of the Swedish Development Co-operation with Bolivia amounted to SEK 160 million during 2002. Out of this, SEK 140 million was financed from the country allocation for Bolivia and the rest from other votes, mainly the vote for co-operation through NGOs. The planned disbursements for 2003 amount to SEK 207 million and the level of disbursement at the end of May amounted only to SEK 14 million (see attachment for more details on actual and planned disbursements for 2003).

Since January 2003, the Development Section of the Swedish Embassy in La Paz has been delegated further rights when it comes to take deci-

sions on new projects. This implies that only decisions on the Research Co-operation and decisions on projects amounting to more than SEK 50 million are still to be taken at Head Quarters, all other decisions are taken in La Paz.

5.3. Development Co-operation with Bolivia

5.3.1. Education

The support to the Educational Reform Programme amounts to SEK 105 million for a three-year period (2000–2003). This support aims at increasing the implementing capacity of the Educational Reform Programme, improving teachers' proficiency, the production of educational material and curricula, ameliorating the quality of education as well as promoting parental participation in schools. Gender equity and intercultural awareness are the most important cross-sectorial criteria for the entire programme.

From the change of Governments in August 2002 to March 2003, the Ministry of Education faced an internal crisis that induced the standstill of some of its activities, as well as delays in the submission of its strategic plan and other important documents. The crisis was spawn by various factors of political-strategic and organisational nature. The political situation of the country has indeed not aided the Ministry and since August 2002 two ministers, two vice-ministers and several functionaries have resigned/been replaced.

Following charges made by the then Vice-minister of Education, Ester Balboa, against officers of the Educational Reform, the National Secretariat for Corruption Control, at the Vice-president's Office, opened an investigation at the end of 2002. The purpose of this secretariat is to investigate accusations of nepotism and corruption within State institutions and programmes, yet it has no power to impose sanctions.

In February 2003 the Commission presented a report that generated strong distrust and concern among donors. The report states that while corruption could not be proved, there are strong indications of nepotism. Additionally, according to the Commission, wages for consultants and Heads of Units are excessively high in the light of the country's reality. To that, the Commission questions whether the Educational Reform has indeed reached schools throughout the country and positively affected schoolchildren.

Through one of its newly appointed Vice-ministers, the Ministry responded that it would address the accusations with an information campaign about the attainments of the Educational Reform. However, the campaign was never undertaken, thus several technical officers left their work at the Ministry. It is important to stress that the report submitted by the Commission does not provide proof for the statement made that the Educational Reform does not reach its target population. Yet the observations of nepotism and high salaries are founded and should be evaluated by the competent authority (Contraloría Nacional de la República). The donor community has expressed its concern about the content of the report, as the Anti-Corruption Commission has neither the power nor the capacity to follow up, prove and sanction the pinpointed irregu-

larities. Hugo Carvajal, the current Minister of Education, has thus requested an investigation by the competent authority. The whole situation has induced Carvajal to promote openness and transparency towards civil society in his policymaking.

Sweden has for some years, in close co-operation with the World Bank and the Netherlands, launched the idea of working for a sector wide approach. Therefore, it is positive that the Ministry of Education has demonstrated willingness to continue with the reforms, after the change of Governments in August 2002 and has submitted a preliminary draft for a sector strategy for the whole sector including the Fast Track Initiative in February this year. Still the document was overly general and lacked financial programming. Moreover, it did not include an analysis of the current situation of education in Bolivia nor the results attained by the Reform. After several meetings with the donor community, in March 2003 the Ministry of Education submitted a new proposal, which covers 2004–2015.

According to the new policy of the Ministry of Education, this new plan must be based on a consensus with the civil society and grass-root organisations. According to the Educational Reform Law, a national convention is to be held annually to find an agreement on educational policies. The very first convention is scheduled for next November. In its preparation, consultations will be held with departmental councils.

The Ministry of Education is currently being restructured: the VEA (Vice-ministry of Alternative Education) will be merged with the Vice-ministry of Initial, Primary and Secondary Education (following political pressure to downsize).

5.3.1.1 Alphabetisation

Within the framework of the new aid programme, Proandes, through UNICEF, the alphabetisation programme targeting women has been extended. This includes alphabetisation, micro-credit and institutional strengthening of the Vice-ministry of Alternative Education. The achieved results over the last few months are: alphabetisation programmes have reached and alphabetised a target population of 18 750 in 2002, i.e. 84% of what had been programmed for the departments of Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and Potosí. Of the target population 70% were indigenous women. In parallel, 750 municipal educators, 750 women in leadership positions and 80 technicians have been trained.

At national level, the development of educational policies in alternative education is sustained through the creation of a support and technical assistance team in charge of the study and the design of policies. A more systematic implementation of this policy has been delayed because of the reorganisations of the Executive in general and of the Ministry of Education in particular.

5.3.1.2 CEPOs Project

A project in support of Educational Councils of the Native Populations (CEPOs), has been launched, focusing on the design, implementation and control of educational policies.

Results attained to date:

The Councils have gained visibility, presence and recognition on the public scene as valid interlocutors and representatives in the area of education. Further, they have gained legitimacy and recognition from indigenous members of Parliament and from the Ministry of Education.

CEPOs have been active within the community (working with parents, mayors, town councillors and grass-root organisations), executing co-ordination and training activities while spreading the intercultural bilingual education programme.

5.3.2. Gender Equity

Sida has supported Gender Equity in Bolivia with a total amount of SEK 30 million during the period December 1998 – December 2002. Only SEK 22.5 million were finally used for Gender activities in Bolivia due to the severe institutional crisis within the Vice-ministry for Gender and Family Issues in 2000. Four components were included in the Agreement. The amounts represent the final execution of funds:

- Vice-ministry for Gender/Women Issues (VAM), SEK 11.5 million (budget: SEK17.5 million) for the implementation of the national gender policies.
- 2) Bolivian National Institute for Statistics (INE), SEK 4.3 million (budget: SEK 4.3 million) for the elaboration of a system for gender indicators. 3) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), SEK 4.2 million (budget: SEK 4.2 million) for youth education in sexual and reproductive health with a gender perspective.
- 4) Bolivian National Statistics Institute (INE), SEK 2.5 million (budget: SEK 4. million) for household surveys as an instrument for poverty and gender analyses.

The past few months have been dedicated to the preparations of the final reporting and auditing of the different projects. The DCS has also presented its Management Response to the 2002 Gender Evaluation and in this task emphasised the need for an improved mainstreaming within the whole country programme. The main priority is to organise capacity building in gender equity for the programme officers, taking the Sida Policy and the National Gender Policies as a point of departure. Due to the delays in the national process of preparing an up-dated Gender Plan, the work has been postponed until January 2004, due to the many changes of Programme Officers planned for.

5.3.2.1 National Gender Equality through the Vice-ministry for Women Issues The three National Plans for gender equality of June 2001 have gained a status as public and national policies through their adoption as Supreme Decree. The three plans contain a number of activities to be carried out in co-operation with other Bolivian counterparts. These activities were slightly modified in September when the new Government introduced a new leadership for the Vice-ministry. The Plans gained a general support from Sweden and Holland. The Swedish support amounted to SEK 7.5 million during 2001–2002, which is SEK 1 million more than expected.

There were three important activities during the past three months that should be mentioned:

- 1. The conclusion of the activities under the Annual Operative Plan (POA) 2003 including results such as the adoption of the Household Workers' Law, the Gender Capacity Building of 640 Mayors and Municipal Counsellors, the further instalment of the national mechanisms for civil society supervision of National Gender Policies, the fulfilment of the proposal on how to gender sensitise the Law for the Need to Make Constitutional Reforms, the proposal to adapt the Land Reform Law (INRA), in order to submit gender structures and the insertion of instruments in the teachers' education for prevention of school violence through agreements with universities.
- The elaboration of a five-year-plan for the Vice-ministry and a proposal for a basket fund modality presented to the international cooperation.
- 3. The elaboration of a National Gender Analysis with the objective to serve as a base line for future national gender policies.

The politisation of the Vice-ministry is still a major challenge for the institutionalisation and sustainability of the work carried out. A reminder of this became obvious during the two months following the violent demonstrations in February. Only a few days after, the Government took a decision to reorganise the executive body. However, as late as the 21 of April a new viceminister was appointed – this time belonging to the Ministry for Sustainable Development. The changes imply that the future of the five-year-plan and basket fund modality remains unclear and that the international donors are awaiting a new Programme Document, which could possibly serve as a base for a new support.

5.3.2.2 Sexual and Reproductive Health for Youth with a Gender Perspective, through the United Nations Population Fund

The overall objective of the UNPFA project has been to increase teenagers' knowledge about sexual and reproductive health. Schools, health centres and youth leaders should provide the information to the teenagers. The activities have been planned with a base line study as point of departure. The project has been concentrated to three pilot areas in La Paz, Sta. Cruz and El Alto. The cascade methodology has been used for capacity building, which means providing education in several steps starting by the Directors/Civil employees, continuing with health personnel/teachers and finally reaching the teenagers.

The pilot project came to an end in December 2002 and was afterwards evaluated by external consultants. The evaluators found that the application of the Model for Integral Attention used in the project has proved to be very successful and showed many examples of teenagers and teachers who have changed their life styles after having been trained. The project has been particularly successful in areas where the public networks – education-health-gender – have been well organised, i.e. in Sta. Cruz, and where the project has efficiently reached the parents. The education made by youth leaders shows results, but it is yet to be proved that this way of educating teenagers could be successful without the parallel class

room education. The consultants conclude that if the project should be extended, it should be clearly incorporated into the state structure and be attributed with a budget of its own in order to gain sustainability and that quality indicators ought to be elaborated in order to more efficiently measure the results. Sida has received the final reports and the evaluation, and is awaiting the public presentation of the evaluation, and further on, a new Project Document.

5.3.2.3 Household Surveys as an Instrument for Poverty and Gender Analyses, MECOVI through INE

The project's objective has been to generate trustworthy information about the living conditions in Bolivia, which could complement the statistics elaborated from the census and the administrative registers. The actual project has been carried out for four years, although Swedish funds were only used during the second half of 2002 due to administrative restrictions and misunderstandings between the World Bank - which channelled the Sida contribution to INE – and the INE. The major part of the Swedish investment was used for the 2002 Survey carried out in November 2002. The Sida funds have mainly covered staffing and purchase of computers, although a change might be at hand when having received the final reports covering the last months of 2002. The World Bank has been very absent in the follow-up and monitoring tasks and was not even present when the last annual meeting was held in December 2002. Sida has also felt the absence of an organised donor co-ordination, not only to secure a more transparent use of funds but also to relieve the INE from some administrative burdens. The above-mentioned dialogue between the donors and the INE about a more Programmatic Approach will be followed up closely within the next months. Sida trusts that MECOVI could be further supported within this new and more holistic framework. The World Bank, INE and Sida have recently terminated the negotiations about terms of reference for a final audit.

Procurement can start as soon as the final report has been submitted to Sida. In the negotiation of a new and more general support to the institute, a central task for Sida is to promote a further development of the results achieved within the SIIG project. In order to further develop the gender statistics it is necessary for INE to establish technically qualified personnel at the institute and count on interested and competent users demanding user friendly results. Sida has during the past months initiated a dialogue between the donors and the institute in order to explore the possibilities of giving a future programme support with institutional strengthening elements. In the meantime, Sida supports two consultants (a generalist and a gender expert) who would help INE out in the design of the more general support to the institute. INE's crucial role in the measuring of the EBRP and the previous administrative problems will be an important point of departure in the analysis of the final programme document. A new programme is supposed to be ready in September.

5.3.3. Social Contributions through UNICEF

Sida has supported three programmes (Proandes, Bilingual Primary Education and Health Education) since 1999. The agreement was extended until December 2002. A methodological organisation of experience in

Bilingual Primary Education support will be done this year for an additional amount of SEK 750000. The other two programmes have concluded and the final reports will be produced until June 2003.

5.3.4. Water and Sanitation

Support to the Water and Sanitation sector includes two projects 1) the project of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Environment through UNICEF and 2) the Project of Technical Assistance to the Vice-ministry of Basic Services (AT-VMSB).

5.3.4.1 Project of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Environment through UNICEF The new project with UNICEF has among its objectives an increased coverage and quality of the water and sanitation services as well as the strengthening of the local capacities for an integrated design, implementation, administration, operationalisation and maintenance of the water and sanitation systems. The period of duration of this new Agreement is 2002–2005; the amount of the agreement is of SEK 32.0 million.

Among the most important results until now are the installation of

- a) 28 potable water systems constructed with 370 public sinks, benefiting 2,630 inhabitants,
- b) 263 ecological latrines benefiting 1287 people and
- c) 5 units of ecological latrines in schools, benefiting 841 school children.

The Community Development component emphasise

- a) training of 12,305 inhabitants of 90 communities in personal hygiene,
- b) training of 156 communal people in charge of operation and maintenance of the water systems.

5.3.4.2 Project for Technical Assistance to the Vice-ministry of Basic Services (AT-VMSB)

The agreement for the project AT-VMSB, was signed by the Government of Sweden and the Government of Bolivia in July 2002 with a duration of four years (2002–2005) and totalling an amount of SEK 5.5 million. The process for the establishment and operation of the Executing Unit, operating within the structure of the VMSB since October of 2002, was immediately completed. The primary objectives of the project are a) the completion and dissemination of the norms and policies of water and basic sanitation and b) the training of municipalities in the application of the norms and policies. The project will be implemented in small rural municipalities in different areas of at least three departments of Bolivia.

At present this project has already initiated activities disseminating the main policy document of the sector.

Human Development Report Bolivia through UNDP

Since May 2001 Sweden supports UNDP for the dissemination and communication of the Human Development Report for Bolivia 2002. The total support amounts to SEK 2.8 million. The main theme of the report was political capacities and its connection to poverty, social integration and development.

The communication and dissemination strategy is in its end phase and a number of activities have been successfully implemented. A number of regional and thematic reports apart from the main report, one of them on gender equity, have been prepared and presented with good results. A massive communication campaign in a variety of media has been carried out in order to spread the findings of the report and to put the theme of human development on the public agenda. Various focus groups have resulted in a number of books in which perspectives ranging from the poor to the country's leaders, on the situation in Bolivia today have been presented.

Sida is now in the negotiating phase for supporting the dissemination and communication strategy for the Bolivian Human Development Report 2004, which will deal with the role and possibilities of Information Technology within the Bolivian society and its potential role for reducing poverty.

5.3.6. Institutional Reform Programme

Since June 2000, Sweden gives support to the Institutional Reform Programme that aims to create a more efficient, professional and less corrupt public administration. The Swedish support amounts to SEK 66 million and runs until 2005.

The project has lost some of the pace gained during the Presidency of Jorge Quiroga since the installation of the new Government of President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada. The Government is formed by a coalition between the two parties MIR and MNR; to be able to form a Government the president had to create space for many MIR militants (and from his own party) in the public administration. The ministries and authorities already institutionalised were basically left alone, which is a good sign, but in the rest of the public administration lots of people entered on the basis of their political affiliation. This goes against the whole philosophy of the Institutional Reform Programme (PRI) and questions the political will of the Government to carry out these reforms.

The Government is weak and has many acute problems to deal with, many of which are decisive for its possibilities to continue governing. This means that the Government does not want to, or does not have the possibility at present to give priority to the reforms in the institutional area.

After the events in February there was a reshuffle of the Government which meant that people from the institutionalised ministries have been spread out in a number of ministries and vice-ministries. This has created a problem as it means that there are smaller islands of institutionalised personnel in institutions where the majority of personnel are not institutionalised.

At the moment a number of important definitions for the future of PRI are still pending. The Government has proposed a division between the reforms in ministries and the reforms in the national authorities, of which the first would be led by the executive power and the second by the vice-presidency. The proposal of the division has its logic, as the conditions for reform in ministries are very different to the ones in the na-

tional authorities. In the national authorities the reform is working well, but in the ministries it is more conditioned by the political reality, something that has to be taken into account.

The idea is that the Government works together with experts during June to August in order to develop a concrete proposal on how they want to adapt the reforms in ministries and national authorities. The Government and donors are in agreement that there has to be a greater focus on outputs and service delivery that can be sensed by the public.

The Government has also presented a proposal on reforms in the justice sector. In last year's annual meeting, donors and the Government agreed on some basic conditions that have to be fulfilled before starting with the reforms in the sector. Those conditions have not yet been fulfilled and even if the Government has shown its will to push for the conditions to be fulfilled, we have to evaluate if we think it is worth supporting these reforms in the mean time.

5.3.7. Decentralisation Programme

Since 2001 Sweden supports the Decentralisation Programme (PSAC), together with some bilateral donors and the World Bank, with a total of SEK 30 million until the end of 2003. The programme is one of the pillars of the Bolivian reform process. The main objective is to make the fight against poverty more efficient by transferring more responsibility and resources to the municipalities, at the same time as extending people's participation on the local level.

The programme has had a very slow execution for quite a while now. The change of Governments and of directors of the responsible implementing unit have contributed to this. The donors have conditioned their last payment upon the submission of a Supreme Decree for Procurements.

What has advanced during the period is the preparation for an evaluation of PSAC 1. This has been a constant pressure from the bilateral donors, which have pushed for the advancement of this issue. The idea is that the evaluation will take place at the end of May and in June and most donors see it as a valuable input when deciding on how to continue supporting decentralisation in Bolivia.

The Government and the World Bank have already started to prepare an operation for PSAC 2 and 3 but the bilateral donors have not participated as we believe it is too early to start negotiating another phase before having a better idea of how the first PSAC worked.

In general terms we are waiting for definitions from the Government on what their areas of priority are. This has not been easy, the Ministry of Municipal development was abolished in the Government reshuffle and since then we have been waiting for over two months to know the name of the new Vice-minister for decentralisation and just recently he was appointed. This means that Government leadership in the area of decentralisation has been weak during the last months, something that clearly affects many donors (Sweden one of them) that are in the process of redefining their support to the Bolivian decentralisation process. A conclusion might be that we should look for new actors to support in the area of decentralisation.

5.3.8. The Bolivian Ombudsman

5.3.8.1 Project Support and Construction of a Central Office

Since 2000 Sweden supports the Bolivian Ombudsman (Defensor del Pueblo) with SEK 6.4 million, in a parallel financing arrangement with Denmark. The contribution, which was extended until 2003, has the objectives to strengthen the regional offices, distribute information about Human Rights, organise capacity building activities and carry on with the construction of a Central Office. The implementation has been speeded up and nearly been concluded as regards the above-mentioned Ombudsman project activities. This is due to the fact that the Basket Fund (see next paragraph) now works and also supports the same activities and that the Defensor del Pueblo, therefore, is anxious to terminate old projects, financing project activities now carried out by the Basket (exit from double financing arrangements). As for the construction works, the original construction in August proved to be too weak to bear the new office, and the building had to be demolished in October. After having changed the architects' plans somewhat, a new construction was initiated. The changed plans did not have any implications for the budget and were approved in the Annual Meeting held in December 2002. The construction has been delayed, but today the construction works have advanced and all major walls and floors are at hand. However, the Defensor del Pueblo has provided Sida with an application for a six-month-extension of the Agreement needs (until 31 of December 2003) in order to have the Office equipped.

5.3.8.2 Five-year-plan with Basket Fund Arrangement

Sida supports the overall five-year plan of the Defensor (2001–2005) with SEK 25 million together with eight other donors within a Basket Fund Arrangement. The activities contain management of complaints; target group related information and capacity building projects as well as activities for institutional strengthening.

The Defensor del Pueblo has proved to play an important role within the Bolivian society by its constant work for the implementation of the civil rights. Also for its way of openly critiquing those public institutions which for one reason or another not comply with the rights of individuals in their handling of cases. It has also actively participated in mediation processes between the Government and the coca producers. Some of the recent activities have been: supply of equipment for the regional offices in La Paz, Cochabamba, Sta. Cruz, Sucre and Beni, ex officio investigations about conditions for indigenous and ethnical groups and the further introduction of HR in the formal education system. Furthermore, the Defensor has continued with its national information campaign emphasising civil rights and discrimination. The Defensor has also carried out investigations about social benefits for household workers leading up to the adoption of a new law for this group and about the living conditions for prisoners.

The five-year-plan has been modified to better serve as a follow-up instrument, in accordance with the logical framework approach. A new financial system is about to be adopted and the first audit will soon be presented. One of the largest worries for the future, is the outcome of the election of a new Defensor del Pueblo for the next five-year period. Eight candidates have been presented. One of them is Ana María Romero de Campero, the previous Defensor, who left her office for a temporary Defensor on March 31. Several of the candidates are not as impartial as the donors would have liked them to be.

5.3.9. Election Support

During 2002 and the beginning of 2003 Sweden supported a consortium of NGOs with the main aim to increase the inclusion of Bolivian society.

Bearing in mind that the project was a small-scale pilot project it was quite successful. The way of working together, a broad number of NGOs and society organisations were new elements. The project has also contributed to put the issues of exclusion on the political agenda. Further, it opened up spaces for informal collaboration between civil society and state institutions, something that is rare in Bolivia.

The idea with the pilot project was that it would form as a basis for a broader and more long-term programme in the area of democratic citizenship. The programme would include both civil society and state actors. It has been a long process to try to get state institutions and civil society actors to act together and co-ordinate their actions. Years of mutual susceptibility slow down the process. What has been agreed on now is that a neutral consultant will work for about a month with the task to create a conceptual framework for the area of democratic citizenship. He will then dialogue with the different actors, like the National Elections Court, the Consortia, etc. and see if it is possible to incorporate their different initiatives into one programmatic framework with one global aim, co-ordination and without duplicities.

The hope is that this framework programme will be possible, and in that case, Sida aims to support it.

5.3.10. Emergency Employment Programme

During 2002 and the beginning of 2003 (programme extended 6 months on request from the Government) Sweden has given support to an emergency employment programme with the overall aim to create temporary employment for the poorest people in society, whom have been hit hard by the economic downturn of recent years. The Swedish support amounts to SEK 20 million.

Until the end of 2002, 124.015 workers and 5.950 professionals have been registered to participate in PLANE. Over 372.000 work months have been generated and 4.459 projects have been executed all over the country. A total of US\$ 32,7 million have been approved, which is far under the estimate of US\$ 100 million that the Government originally expected.

An impact evaluation undertaken by the Economic Policies Analysis Unit (UDAPE), a Government institution, shows that there has been a monetary benefit for the people participating in PLANE, as compared against a control group that did not participate. It also shows that more than 76% of the income from PLANE was destined to alimentation. This in-

dicates that the programme really reached the target group, which are the poorest Bolivians in working age. Over 80% of the people registered to participate in PLANE considered it to be an important initiative.

There have been problems though, mainly due to an excessive bureaucracy. For example, payments to beneficiaries took unacceptably long time. Some of these issues have been addressed in the preparation of a PLANE 2.

As the economy shows no signs of recovery and the social situation in Bolivia is more turbulent than ever, the Government has announced that it wants to continue the programme for another year. The Government has decided to be more realistic this time and expects to get around US\$ 30-35 million for the execution of the programme. Some adjustments have been made on the basis on what did not work well in the first PLANE. The responsible agency for the execution of PLANE 2 will be UNDP and not GTZ as in the first phase. This creates concerns that PLANE 2 will not be able to build on the experiences of PLANE 1 and therefore donors have stressed the importance of experience sharing and of building on past experiences. Sweden and other donors have been quite active in the preparation of PLANE 2. This is due to a feeling that the Government has been more focused on speed than on quality, which for us is unacceptable. A final project proposal of improved quality is still required for Sweden to be interested in supporting PLANE 2, but we are slowly getting to the point at which we would consider its support.

5.3.11. Productive Sector Support

Sida's support to the development of the productive sector aims at enhancing Bolivia's long term competitive capacity, and its main objective is to strengthen, modernise and develop the productive infrastructure. The support to economic growth, the development of greater employment opportunities and the improvement of the resource distribution, is in accordance to the current Bolivian Strategy for Poverty Reduction.

According to Sida's Country Strategy for Bolivia 2003–2007, the productive sector support will be directed to 1) improve the institutional framework to foster a better climate for local and international investors and to promote efficiency and a higher added value; and 2) provide a greater support to the forestry industry, bearing in mind special poverty issues in that particular sector.

5.3.11.1 The Bolivian Entrepreneurial Development Programme (PDEB) Support through Departmental Chambers of Industry and Commerce from La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz together with CAINCO.

The projects of the current Programme PDEB are described below.

Conciliation and Arbitration Centres

The last Programme Report shows that the activities planned to implement the project's information, communication and training strategies are coming to an end. The project's target is to consolidate alternative methods for the resolution of commercial conflicts in Bolivia. This contribution is part of a project co-financed with the Inter American Development Bank, which is being executed by the PDEB, and was approved

by consensus with the Bolivian National Chambers of Industry. The total amount contributed by Sida is SEK 1.6 million.

The Commerce Code

Due to the incidents in the past months and the weak governance of the Bolivian Government, the final version of the Draft Bill of the Commerce Code has not yet been passed through the Bolivian Parliament. However, the PDEB has held meetings with the new Vice-minister of Justice and representatives of the National Chambers of Industry to facilitate the submission of the Draft Bill to the new cabinet of Ministers. The Draft Bill of the Commerce Code project has at this stage complied with the modernisation and updating of the Code and in the future, upon parliamentary approval, we foresee its dissemination and implementation among the participants in the entrepreneurial and commercial environment. Until now the total cost of this project is SEK 2.5 million.

Entrepreneurial Statistics Data System

In order to develop the Entrepreneurial Statistics Data System in Bolivia, the PDEB has prepared a diagnosis and proposal to develop this system. To achieve this purpose workshops have been carried out in association with the country's Chambers of Industry, the Economic Policies Analysis Unit (UDAPE) and the National Statistics Institute (INE). In the future it is necessary to have access to organised, reliable and timely statistical data regarding the industrial sector's performance. During the next phase surveys will be carried out regarding the needs of the actors involved in order to establish an entrepreneurial data system that can be integrated and work with INE. The amount spent for this project until Dec 2002 was SEK 0.22 million.

Company Registry

The implementation of a modern entrepreneurial registry system, which will replace the current –inefficient– centralised Company Registry, is in its final stage. FUNDAEMPRESA Foundation, a consortium between the National Chambers of Industry, including CAINCO, and the Construction Chamber, is responsible for recording companies in Bolivia since mid-2002. With the support of Sida and the Inter American Development Bank new Entrepreneurial Registry Offices are being opened in the nine Bolivian departments. This new institution will provide expedite services in the opening process of small enterprises. Sida contributes with a total amount of SEK 2.8 million and it is expected that the training phase of the human resources for this registry will be completed during 2003.

5.3.11.2 Standard Accounting System in Bolivia

In 2002 Sida took the decision to support the Bolivian Standard Accounts System Project design, whereby public and private companies shall use a low cost standard accounting system, which will work under internationally accepted accounting principles.

The signing of this Agreement with the Bolivian counterpart and the project's launching was planned for the second semester of 2002. Unfortunately some institutional problems arose and the plans were not met.

Nonetheless, during the first semester of 2002 the project's leading agency was changed to be the Bolivian National Commerce Chamber. This institution, together with the Superintendence of Stocks, Securities and Pensions (SPVS), the National Tax Service (SIN) and CAINCO will sign a new inter-institutional agreement for the project's execution. After this is done, Sida will sign a Specific Agreement with the National Commerce Chamber, which will be Sida's counterpart and project leader. The total amount of the project is SEK 15.5 for a 24-month term. Sida contributes with a total amount of SEK 8–12 million.

5.3.11.3 Bolivia's Industrial Forestry Programme

The objective of Bolivia's Industrial Forestry Programme is to create sustainable conditions for the development of the forestry sector. Activities range from forestry care to industrial wood handling and marketing. During the 18-month period, which began in January 2002 the activities, aimed at institutional strengthening of the Bolivian Forestry Chamber, the consolidation of the Centre for Industrial Services and the development of new investment proposals in the Bolivian wood industry sector. The total amount financed by Sida is SEK 5.1 million. During this first semester of the project, the Bolivian Forestry Chamber submitted a new proposal to expand the Centre for Industrial Services project into a second phase, Sida is studying this proposal and will take a final decision during this semester.

5.3.11.4 Environmental Project for the Bolivian Industry, PAIB II

In March 2002 Sida approved the support to PAIB II, Environmental Project for the Bolivian Industry II, for execution by the National Chambers of Industry and the Regional Chambers of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Oruro, Potosí, Chuquisaca and Tarija. This second phase is a consolidation process of the first phase called PAIB I. Its specific objective is to continue with the training process of specialised consultants in the area of environmental care by Bolivian industries and public sector professionals. The core target is to reduce industrial waste disposal in the air and water resources. The bidding process to contract the consulting company that will execute this process is in the final stage and we foresee that the project will begin during the second semester of 2003. The total project amount is SEK 18.24 million for a three-year term, from which Sida will finance SEK 10.5 million, the balance will be financed by the Bolivian counterpart.

5.3.11.5 Technical Assistance for SIF's Institutional Reengineering

In January 2003 the Bolivian Forestry Superintendence (SIF) contracted HIFAB International, to provide technical and administrative assistance. The objective of this support is to provide SIF with an administrative and organisational system, an institutional strategic plan and a data handling system to improve the procedures for administrative paper work and forestry concessions. Implementation began in February 2003 and in April 2003 the Inception Report was submitted. It will be used as the basis for the project's continuation. Sida contributes with a total amount of SEK 10.3 million.

5.3.11.6 New Support to CAINCO

During the last semester CAINCO and the Bolivian Entrepreneurial Development Programme (PDEB) submitted a proposal for support to the development of the Bolivian private sector to Sida. This new phase, that was approved by Sida in May, will have a three-year life span and will execute nine projects with a total cost of SEK 17.44 million. The Programme's general objective is to contribute to Bolivia's economic development, by means of improving competitiveness and modernising the entrepreneurial environment.

5.3.11.7 Support to the Forestry Industry

In December 2002, NATUR and INEC from Sida Stockholm sent a mission to Bolivia that participated in a roundtable to debate on possible interventions to support the development of the wood industry and the forestry sector. At the roundtable the growth potential of the forestry sector was confirmed, and it was also noted that it could generate employment and contribute to an increase of Bolivia's GDP. Bearing the Country Strategy and the positive results from this field visit in mind, Sida has decided to begin the preparation of a Programme Paper.

5.3.12. Research

The second agreement period of Sida/SAREC's support for research cooperation with Bolivia started in January 2003. It is a continuation of previous contributions for strengthening of institutional research capacity at Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA) in La Paz and Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS) in Cochabamba. At both universities, the co-operation programme focuses on natural science, technology, social sciences and the humanities. At UMSA, some additional projects in the area of health research are now being planned.

At present, 43 academic staff is registered for MSc/Ph.D. degree programmes in Swedish and Latin American universities following the "sandwich model". It means that the Bolivian research students stay part of the year abroad in their counterpart universities participating in research courses and part of the year at home university conducting research and lecturing. The research programmes are designed on a thematic basis, and all universities address problems related to their own district.

The Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA) investigates conditions around the lakes Uru-Uru and Poopó on the Andean High Plateau, where drought and intensive mining have produced vast damage on the environment. The research programme looks into opportunities for water management and biochemical cleaning of mining residues and examines the partly unexplored bio-diversity of the region.

The programme at the Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS) focuses on Carrasco National Park, with several climatic zones and a great ecological diversity. The sociocultural situation of Carrasco is characterised by traditional rural communities with deep roots in the ancient Andean culture, as well as by settler communities of a more recent age. The research programme combines support for natural and social sciences in a broad-based research approach.

The UMSS has elaborated its first comprehensive Master Plan for Research Management. It provides a framework for UMSS' scientific policy, including policies and priority areas of research, and system for selection, evaluation and follow-up of research projects. The work is based on internal studies of the present research situation and assessment of research quality at UMSS, carried out with assistance of external experts. Plans have also been prepared for modernisation of the organisational structure of research management at UMSS.

At UMSA, a computer network infrastructure has been planned in collaboration with Lund University to satisfy high requirements of information and communication technology. The network will be installed in 2003 –2004 and interconnect all the UMSA faculties, libraries and administrative buildings. An Internet access will be available for staff and students.

A third component of the research programme deals with support to studies aimed at contributing to the formulation of a national plan for scientific development and research at Bolivian universities. The Viceministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology co-ordinates the project, which is carried out at UMSS. The first report "Pensar la Universidad" was published in April 2003.

5.3.13. Consultancy and Programme Fund

During 2002 the Consultant Fund aimed to support project preparations and interventions related to Sida's projects and programmes. During the year it supported consultancies for: guidelines on alphabetisation, the preparation for the Institutional Reform phase 2 (PRI 2), the elaboration of an application for Budget Support as well as auditing consultancy services to the office.

For the year 2003 a new Programme Consultancies and Development Fund has been opened, with a budget of SEK 3 million and with the same objective. Among the interventions initiated so far are the translation of the Swedish human rights report for Bolivia 2002, the participation in the Water Committee Advisory Meeting (GWP) and the methodological organisation of the experience in communal forestry in Bolivia.

5.3.14. Minor Environmental Contributions

In 2002 the Environmental Fund continued supporting projects and actions related to the subject. The amount assigned was SEK 0.5 million for the year. The most important intervention was the completion and dissemination of the National Biodiversity Strategy (Dirección General de Biodiversidad under the Ministry of Sustainable Development), the support to the project for Zonification of the Wet Jungle in Pando through an NGO and the support for the execution of the third Seminar for the evaluation of socio-environmental impacts in agricultural production, that was facilitated by the Nuestra Señora de La Paz Foundation.

The REDESMA project continues in a second phase with the same objectives, having consolidated a pioneer network for environment and sustainable development in Bolivia.

Some projects approved in the 2002 budget are still being implemented during part of 2003, but it has been decided that the Fund will not operate during 2003.

5.4. Support from other Appropriations

5.4.1. Support to Economic Reforms

In 2000, the Swedish Government decided to provide Bolivia with a budget support for three years—SEK 50 million in 2000, SEK 35 million in 2001 and SEK 35 million for 2002. Then, in May 2001, the Government decided upon an additional support of SEK 25 million for 2001, and the support thus totalled SEK 60 million in 2001. Its aim was to increase the country's possibilities to implement social and poverty reducing policies in times of recession. The agreement was signed in September 2001 and support was disbursed before the end of year.

Apart from the foreseen budget support of SEK 35 million for 2002, another budget support of SEK 25–35 million was prepared during 2001 for year 2002. However, considering that the IMF was off-track, the Swedish Government never entered an agreement on the support. Once the IMF signed a Stand-By Agreement in April 2003, Sweden went forward with the planned budget support, and an agreement was signed between the Government of Sweden and the Government of Bolivia in May 2003 for a total amount of SEK 35 million. Sida is at present considering the possibility of granting further budget support during the second semester of 2003.

5.4.2. Civil Society Support through Swedish NGOs

The support to Bolivia through Swedish Non-Governmental Organisations has increased from SEK 12.4 million in 2001 to SEK 19 million in 2002. The organisations supported are 1) Diakonia (SEK 5.2 million), 2) Forum Syd, including Las Golondrinas/Syalorna (SEK 7.3 million), 3) Misión Sueca Libre/Pingstmissionen (SEK 3.9 million), 4) Misión Sueca Técnica/UBV (SEK 1.6 million), 5) Swedish Cooperative Centre/ Utan Gränser (SEK 0.7 million) and 6) Olof Palmes Internationella Center/OPIC (SEK 0.3 million). The organisations receive the Sida funds from the appropriation for Swedish Popular Movements and have to top up the funding with a further 20%. The only exception is Diakonia, which receives half of its funds from the appropriation for Latin America which it is not obliged to top up with funds of its own. The overall objective of Sida's support to the Swedish NGOs is to strengthen the Civil Society in order to facilitate democratisation processes. Furthermore, the organisations also contribute to spread information in Sweden on how it is to work in a developing country in general and what local Bolivian reality is like.

5.4.2.1 Diakonia

Sida supports Diakonia's work in Bolivia with SEK 16 million for the period 2001–2003. Diakonia has co-operated with 14 permanent partner organisations during the actual period (of which nine have been supported from the Appropriation for Popular Movements and five from the Appropriation for Latin America). Two new partners have initiated co-

operation: Organizacion Indigena Chiquitana (OICH) and Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos (APDHB) in Sta. Cruz. The activities are concentrated to the La Paz and Sta. Cruz regions. The thematic areas of work are principally gender equity, local democracy and human rights. The counterpart organisations work with capacity building as well as organisation and participation of marginalised groups. Many of these take their local experiences as a point of departure for a regional and/or national lobby work. Some of them also perform networking, research and information campaigning.

During the period the following results have been achieved:

- Gregoria Apaza's work with women leadership has resulted in increased (69%) female participation in the El Alto Neighbourhood Committee FEJUVE.
- Colectivo Rebeldia 400 women in poor areas educated about the role of Servicios Legales Integrales, the municipal advisory offices for family issues and violence.
- Coordinadora de la Mujer Law proposals to improve national gender policies.
- Fundación Solon and CEDLA Law for Household workers finally adopted. PASOC HR education for 300 pupils from poor areas in Sta. Cruz, for 20 lawyers and 70 law students (for the latter group also education in new Penal Code).
- CEADES Established an education centre for Guarayo Indigenous People about resource management and with Guarayos elaborated plans for sustainable resource management within their territory.
- APG Five-year-plan for strengthening of Guaraní women in suborganisations.

Diakonia led activities:

- Regional seminar on Trade Issues and PRSPs
- Organisation of Forum for Land Issues with purpose of supporting indigenous people's participation in elaboration of proposals for improvements of INRA.
- Support to grassroots organisations' participation in international meetings on ALCA and in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre.

Diakonia will require additional support to cover its campaign work for impunity, gender equity, human rights activities as well as the introduction of its programme on national level.

5.4.2.2 Forum Syd, including Svalorna

Forum Syd is an umbrella organisation distributing funds to small Swedish NGOs. Its most prominent partner organisation in Bolivia is the volunteer organisation Svalorna. Svalorna's activities in Bolivia during the period included:

Seven volunteers (Institutional Strengthening, Recreational Pedagogue, Physiotherapist, Social Worker, "Networker", Financial Manager and Co-ordinator); the "Networker" is a pioneer being the first

volunteer with these tasks in Svalorna.

- Project support to nine organisations amounting to US\$ 11,195, with the Aymara people as the principal target group working with children/youth, women and elderly people. The main objective for the project support is capacity building within agriculture, handicraft and culture.
- Networking with the partner organisations Red Info Nayra with the purposes of sensitising Bolivians and Swedes of the present situation of the indigenous populations (mainly Aymara) and of re-establishing the cultural and religious values of these groups. Svalorna's reference group – Grupo Nayra – consists of five partner organisations.

5.4.2.3 Pingstmissionen (PM)

The Pentecostal movement performs its activities in Villamontes and Cochabamba. In Villamontes PM has supported a project for bilingual education for the Weenhayek people. In order to adapt to the demands of the fishing season, PM has promoted the idea of a regional and adjusted school year. The model has been tested but not yet approved on a permanent basis. Presently, there are 16 bilingual schools working, one of which belongs to the Tapiete people using Guaraní as their native language. PM has also supported bilingual education for teachers (approximately 20 persons) for two terms, but does not yet know if and when a third term could be initiated, due to an ongoing evaluation of the first experiences carried out by the Ministry of Education. In the meanwhile, four 'Weenhayek have graduated from secondary school and initiated a bilingual education with funds from PM at the teacher's university in Camiri. In November 16 'Weenhayek graduated from the secondary school, mainly within the education programme for adults. PM has also translated and in March published the first version of the New Testament in Weenhayek. Within the area of alphabetisation, PM has during the period supported capacity building for church leaders in their geographical areas of co-operation. During 2002, 575 persons were reached with literacy training; being trained in 63 newly opened literacy centres. PM has also continued its efforts to reach street children and families with high risks of loosing their children to this kind of life. Six children were taken care of permanently, while 70 children/teenagers were reached with social activities.

5.4.2.4 UBV

UBV has during the period employed an average of five volunteers and one Co-ordinator. All of them have at least one year of experience in Bolivia. An Information Volunteer is busy editing the newsletter "Latinamerika" and co-ordinating the information desk at UBV during half of his time. The remaining time he spends at a partner foundation supporting the communication work. A Personnel Manager works for a youth organisation in El Alto dealing with gender, democracy and HR. UBV also has an Occupational Therapist placed in Alto Munaypata, a poor suburb outside El Alto. This volunteer is active in supporting teenagers and women in an integrated health, democracy and education project.

A Journalist Volunteer in Santa Cruz works with information and communication tasks in a couple of indigenous people's organisations. He has photo documented a Sida supported democracy project. UBV also arranged a youth conference in December, focusing on globalisation and the ALCA trade agreement. 55 young Bolivians belonging to UBV's partner organisations participated together with 25 students from Färnebo in Sweden.

The identification of new partner organisations has gained results. In April a new Pedagogue Volunteer will start working with an adult education organisation in Oruro. UBV Bolivia prioritises work on indigenous', children's and youth's rights focusing on democracy and information issues and popular lobbying activities. Another important task for UBV is to inform in Sweden on how the Free Trade Area of the Americas will effect Bolivia. Together with UBV Ecuador and their partner organisation, a regional co-operation has been initiated.

5.4.2.5 Swedish Co-operative Centre/Utan Gränser (UG)

UG has no Swedish representation in Bolivia and initiated its activities in the country in 2002. The principal objective is improving poor household housing.

5.4.2.6 Olof Palmes Internationella Center (OPIC) – ABF

ABF (Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund) Gävleborg and ABF Gästrikebygden will this year in co-operation with OPIC (Olof Palmes Internationella Center) initiate a new three-year co-operation with the Bolivian adult education organisation ABC (Asociación Boliviana para la Cultura). The overall objective is to strengthen the local population in its work to promote social, economic and cultural development on its own conditions. This should be achieved by supporting the creation and strengthening of democratically organised adult education organisations, which carry out popular education on local level and with the local culture as a point of departure. ABC also co-operates on national level. The ABF support is co-ordinated by ABC Oruro promoting development of popular adult education organisations not only in Oruro, but also in Potosí, Cochabamba and Beni. The principal target groups are the local indigenous people and within this group especially youths. In May an UBV volunteer comes to Oruro to work for ABF with youth leader education.

6. Administration

The Swedish Ambassador to Bolivia, Martin Wilkens, was accredited to Bolivia in December 2002.

Since 1 January 2003 Sida has given the Embassy section full delegation.

The Embassy section has a staff of 14 employees, one counsellor, one head of administration and three programme officers (one of them is a BBE). There are also two national programme officers, one economy administrator, one receptionist, two assistants, two drivers and one messenger.

Since 1 January 2000 all programme officers at the Embassy section are financed from the development fund allocation (FU 20), while all other staff are financed from the administrative allocation (FU 61). For year 2003 a budget of SEK 5.0 million has been provided for 2 $^{1}/_{2}$ Swedish programme officers and for 2 $^{1}/_{2}$ national programme officers in order to cover salaries and benefits as well as other administrative costs.

The Embassy's Administrative Budget for 2003 amounts to SEK 3.7 million for current costs and SEK 235 000 for investments.

Annex 1: Planning Situation in Swedish Development Co-operation

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TOTAL OUTSIDE COUNTRY ALLOCATION

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1,225,584 635,054 13,583 242,006 170,763 140,011 33,700

Annex 2: Personnel at DCS



Embajada de Suecia, Sección de Cooperación La Paz, Bolivia

Direccion: Pasaje Villegas entre 20 de Oct. y Av. 6 de Agosto, Edificio Anexo Artemis, piso 1 SAN JORGE

P.O. Box 12452

Actualización: 23 de jun. 2003

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Water Tames Cillaria		
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Pedro Avilio Ibañez Mamani		
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Agustin Nistaza Huanca Mansaiara		
Mensajero		En caso de emergencia:
Consulado General de Suecia, La Paz		Edif. Multicentro Torre C, piso 7
Viceconsul: María Bertha Arduz	El horario de atención: todos los	Telefono 2443184
Av. 14 de Septiembre # 5080, esq. Calle 5	dias de 9:00 a 12:00	Cel. 715-50479
Obrajes / telf./fax: 591-2-2787903 sweconsul@kolla.net		
SWECONSULE KONA. NEL		
Viceconsulado Sueco, Cochabamba		En caso de emergencia: Calle
Viceconsul: Margareta Arvidsson Casilla #	El horario de atención: de lunes	Barquisimeto, Villa La Glorieta s/n
1627 Telefono/fax 591-4-4245358 E-mail:	a viernes de 9:00 a 12:00	entre Castro Rojas y Murguía Telf.
viceconsulado@hotmail.com		591-4-4246289 cel. 717-28427

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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