

**Right to Identity in the Andes**  
Working with State and Civil Society to  
Promote Inclusive Citizenship  
**DFID Andes**



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## Documentation is the Starting Point for a Rights Based Approach as it is a pre requisite for exercising other human rights.

- The right to vote
- The right to hold a leadership position in a community
- The right to certify the birth of children
- The right to social security benefits, such as universal maternal and infant health insurance and pensions
- The right to marry
- The right to register property,
- The right to legally inherit
- The right to apply for loans under micro-credit programmes
- The right to file a lawsuit or defend against one, making people without ID cards vulnerable to harassment and exploitation by employers or the police and to file a lawsuit of defend against one,



# Circle of Exclusion from generation to generation



# Extent of Indocumentation in the Andes

## Bolivia

- 10% of the population (827,432 people) lack birth certificates
- 20 to 30% (1,654,865 – 2,482,297 people) lack ID cards

## Peru

- 5% of the population (approx 1 million people) lack any kind of documentation (birth certificate, military card, id card)



## What's the real situation? How many undocumented people are living in Bolivia?

- National Statistics Institute  
10% without documentation
- Bolivian National Electoral Court  
7.8% without documentation
- DFID national partner, NGO network CPC  
40% without documentation



## Bad Documentation

*“The real problem in Bolivia is not lack of documents, but rather bad documents”*

**71% of the people CPC worked with (total pop 123,000) did not have valid documentation**

- Spelling mistakes in their names or date of birth
- Expired documents (have to be renewed every 5 years)
- Process of correcting mistakes is more difficult than starting from scratch (red tape, bureaucracy)
- Time Consuming and Expensive to Correct



# Discrimination

- People most affected by indocumentation and bad documentation are people living in poor rural indigenous communities
- Bolivia: in some marginalized areas of the country, the lack of documentation rises to 55% for birth certificates and 84% without ID cards
- Girls and women less likely to have ID cards



# A new rights based approach to documentation with emphasis on inclusive citizenship

- **Past:** Many programmes and campaigns lacked coherency and perceived to be manipulated around political interests and closely tied to elections – voter registration
- **New Approach:** To work with both state and CSOs to promote more inclusive political participation through strengthening the capacities of the state and of citizens to demand rights and fulfil obligations.



**The problem of documentation is much more than a technical problem, therefore it needs much more than a technical response**

**Need to address:**

- Social and Cultural Exclusion
- Lack of Information about rights, as well as a perception that government fails to respond to people's needs, results in a low level of political participation and a sense of disenfranchisement among traditionally marginalized groups
- Structural and institutional barriers



# Implementation Partners

## Bolivia

### State:

- National Electoral Court (main state counterpart)
- Civil Registration Offices
- National Police
- Public Ombudsman's Office

### Civil Society

- Bolivia – Consortium for Citizen Participation (civil society counterpart)  
Network of 18 NGOs, peasant unions, indigenous organisations – working across Bolivia

**Funding:** DFID, Holland, Denmark and Sweden (basket fund)

## Peru

“La Coordinadora Nacional”

Made up of state organisations (Public Ombudsman, National Registration Office RENIEC, Ministry of Women and Social Development and 9 national NGOs, 2 national networks and two international NGOs)

**Funding:** DFID and Sweden



## Strategies to increase the number of documented people - particularly the poor, women and indigenous people

- Participatory mapping of sectors most affected by lack of documentation and bad documentation
- Focus on most excluded areas of the country – using mobile brigades
- Free birth certificates for children and young people 18 years and under
- Locally trained facilitators accompanied people through maze of red tape and interaction with local authorities



## Strategies to increase awareness about citizens' rights and responsibilities

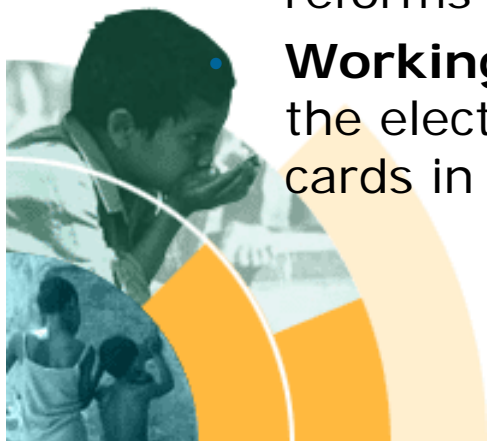
- Mass media campaigns: TV and Radio (Spanish and indigenous languages)
  - Advocacy aimed at Congress and key decision makers
  - Local fairs and expositions – theatre/ dance undertaken by community based organisations
  - Locally trained peer facilitators working in schools, peasant unions, women's organisation etc
  - Forums for consultation and debate between CSOs and candidates / decision makers to promote informed deliberation and decisions
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# Strategies to increase capacity of state entities

Without systemic change in institutions that handle registration and documentation and revision of the laws, procedures and processes, political and social exclusion will remain a problem

- **Investigation and Advocacy** to promote changes to legislation and requirements to obtain ID card (Peru military services card)
- Support to the **development of a strategy** for the institutional strengthening of the National Electoral Court drawing on lessons learned from past interventions and reforms both in Bolivia and other Latin American countries.
- **Working agreements** signed between provincial branches of the electoral court and the police (responsible for issuing ID cards in Bolivia) and local NGOs.



## Results in Bolivia

### June 2004 to present day

- 91,753 registered and/or with corrected documentation
- **Mass information campaigns** around citizens' rights and responsibilities around election processes – gas referendum, municipal elections, national elections.
- Network of CSOs reached **766 of the poorest and most excluded communities**, often in remote isolated areas, where state services do not operate.
  - **280 local facilitators trained** that worked directly with over **5,500 people who were undocumented or had invalid documents**
  - **22,500 people** participated in community based awareness raising activities



## Lessons Learned

1. Registration and Documentation should, where possible, be separated from electoral campaigns, in order to avoid the risk of political susceptibilities and manipulation. The right to vote and the right to be elected are only two of the many rights which documentation cards facilitate.
2. Whilst documentation and registration are important tools that allow for the exercise of citizenship, **they are simply a means to an end**. It is important to promote civic education and action through locally trained facilitators at community level and mass media campaigns, that help to ensure an active and empowered citizen base.



## Lessons Learned contd.

3. Without systemic change in institutions that handle registration and documentation and revision of the laws, procedures and processes - political and social exclusion will remain a problem in Peru and Bolivia.
4. The problem of documentation and registration is much more than a technical problem, therefore it needs much more than a technical response. State of the art hardware may help make the systems more efficient – however, in order to promote a truly inclusive citizenship the relationships between social actors and the state need to be addressed, so that people value and exercise their rights as citizens.

