National ICT Programme for Education in Bolivia
Providing additional facilities for primary and secondary students

The Bolivian Ministry of Education is implementing a national ICT for education programme benefiting over 1,000 schools throughout the country. In this process, IICD and its Bolivian partners support the programme with their experiences and knowledge.

Promoting the use of ICT for Youth and increase employment opportunities

The national ICT programme for education is focused on assisting primary and secondary education in Bolivia by providing digital educational content through the education portal www.educabolivia.bo and enhancing access to ICT for teaching and learning. This is done by setting up of 1,000 education community telecentres and a portal providing educational materials for primary and secondary schools in all nine departments of Bolivia reaching more than 100,000 parents, teachers and students.

The programme addresses access and quality of primary and secondary education. ICT is expected to increase access to on-line education materials and to promote the development of local content . The government considers the programme as a chance to combine advanced ICT with recuperating local indigenous knowledge. Furthermore, the programme enhances capacities of teachers and prepares students for their professional future.

A key pillar of the educational policy

The ICT programme is a key pillar of the government's education policy next to a national alphabetisation programme. The Bolivian Ministry of Education is a member of the IICD-supported national ICT network 'TIC Bolivia', a network that brings together people in various sectors (livelihoods, governance and education) who work with ICT. The total programme is funded through basket funding by the Government of Bolivia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark and agreements with IDRC, IICD and Spain.

IICD and partners' assistance
The programme is directly advised by IICD and its partners in Bolivia. Since 2003, IICD together with Global E-schools and Communities Initiative and the Spanish

Teachers and students of 1,000 primary and secondary schools are the main focus of the programme.

development cooperation has directly supported the Ministry in the development of an ICT for education policy, strategy and implementation plan.

In addition, partner organisations in Bolivia working together in the national ICT network bring their experiences to the table. The partners including AYNI, APCOB, CHASKI and CEPAC have successfully integrated ICT in the teaching and learning processes in over 100 primary and secondary schools throughout Bolivia.

These schools have all set up computer labs managed by parents-teacher-student committees. In addition, teachers are supported in the development of interactive education support materials for curricula subjects such as mathematics and languages. For the particular case of Bolivia, also interactive material is developed on indigenous culture, used as cross-cutting education material in various subjects. In a new phase, a digital education platform will be introduced to strengthen the teaching and learning process.

On the basis of the experiences of Bolivian partners and experiences of IICD in other countries, the Ministry is assisted in:
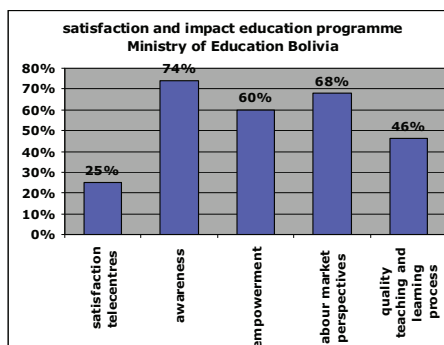
- General strategic advice to the programme
- Specialised ICT training of the ICT programme team of the Ministry including connectivity, web applications and e-learning
- Advice on the capacity development programme for teachers
- Monitoring and evaluation of satisfaction and impact of the programme

The satisfaction and impact of the Ministerial programme is assessed by IICD's, monitoring & evaluation approach. The approach helps to find out what is and is not functioning in the project thereby enabling partners and IICD to learn from past experiences and make improvements.

The evaluation approach for the national ICT programme for education in Bolivia includes the collection of on-line questionnaires and focus group meetings with participating parents, teachers and students.

Experiences so far

An evaluation of ICT training for staff members of the Ministry, members of the telecentre committees and teachers shows that in agreement with the planned focus, there is a strong participation of rural schools in low-income areas (80%). The evaluation also shows that there is a high overall satisfaction level about the training courses (90%).

satisfaction and impact education programme
Ministry of Education Bolivia

In two years time the programme has now implemented 135 educational community telecentres with computers using open source applications and trained 500 telecentre committee members. More than 2,500 teachers are trained in basic ICT and the education portal www.educabolivia.bo. The teachers are using the centres the search for educational content, development of teaching materials and teaching of their pupils.

The first evaluation exercise among teachers and students indicates that only 25 of the participants are satisfied with the telecentres. There are still challenges related to the access and organisation of the telecentres. Also more time is needed to secure that the program actually improves the teaching and e-learning process. Meanwhile, already high levels of awareness, empowerment and improved position on the labour market among both teachers and students are found.