



## Newsletter N° 7

Cochabamba - Bolivia

January 2026



# 5 Years of Sowing Hope

Five years ago, in the midst of the pandemic, a group of friends decided to organise and deliver bags of food and medicine to vulnerable families. This initiative provided them with a deeper understanding of the different forms of inequality that limit the exercise of fundamental rights by social groups from disadvantaged backgrounds.

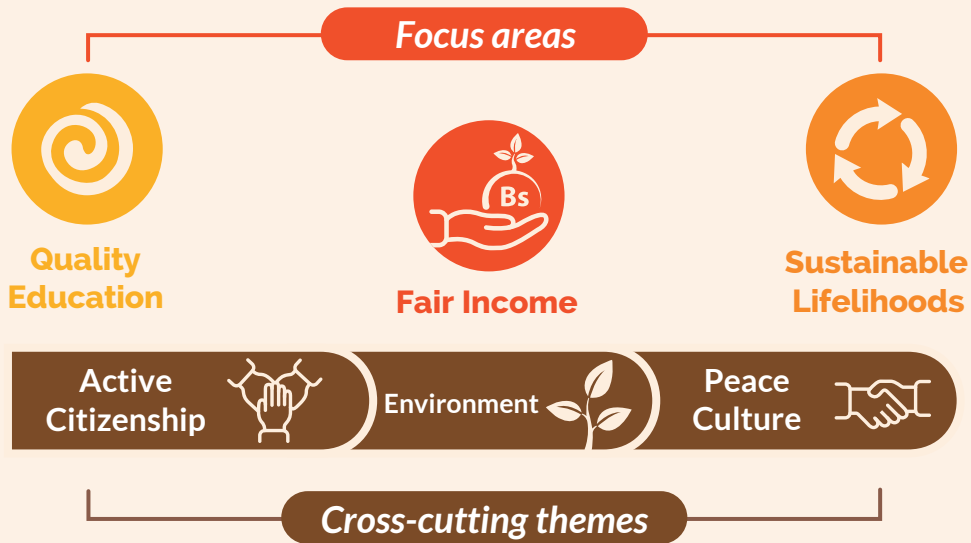


Thus, in September 2020, Kawsay Muju (Seeds of Life) Foundation was legally constituted, with the purpose to contribute to improving life quality of vulnerable populations in two fundamental aspects:

Skills development

Building supportive environments

According to our Strategic Plan (2025-2027), the focus areas and cross-cutting themes that guide our work are as follows:



Our strategic action is based on three interconnected components:

Capacity-building

Transformative Action

System Change



## Project: 'Semillas de Esperanza' (Seeds of Hope)

Its goal is to increase educational and development opportunities for socially disadvantaged children and youth to improve their future perspectives. The project includes the two programmes "Sembrando Saberes" and "Jóvenes Abriendo Caminos".

### 1. 'Sembrando Saberes' (Sowing Knowledge)

#### Working towards quality education

##### Problem

In Bolivia, around 75% of primary school students do not reach the minimum level in mathematics and language, due to socioeconomic factors and ineffective teaching methodologies. This limits their future opportunities and perpetuates poverty and inequality.

##### Proposed solution

**Sembrando Saberes** promotes strengthens and consolidates contextualized and innovative educational methodologies among teachers through training and guided practice. Thereby, the programme contributes to improving the educational quality of hundreds of children in Cochabamba.

##### Achievements 2025



Two Teacher Training Colleges and 13 primary schools promote innovative teaching methodologies.



94 teachers in service and in training completed a Programme in Teaching Methodologies.



52 teachers in service and in training are replicating these methodologies with students.



1,640 children access quality education.



##### Voices of participants

"The **Sembrando Saberes** programme enabled me to grow as a teacher, providing me with useful materials and strategies. I very much appreciate the close support and dedication of the team, which is strengthening my teaching skills and my bond with the community."

Nelvy M., student at Teacher Training College Ismael Montes.



## 2. 'Jóvenes Abriendo Caminos' (Youth Forging New Paths)

### Promoting youth employment and entrepreneurship

#### Problem

In Bolivia, many young people face difficulties in earning a fair income. 85% work in the informal sector, 70% in precarious conditions. 80% of start-ups fail. The lack of opportunities to strengthen skills and gain work experience limits their chances of economic independence and a dignified life.

#### Proposed solution

The **Jóvenes Abriendo Caminos** programme strengthens young people's skills during their transition towards economic independence. It promotes the acquisition of basic work experience, increasing their opportunities for job placement. It also supports entrepreneurs in developing profitable and sustainable businesses.

#### Achievements 2025



42 youth completed a Training Programme in Employability and Entrepreneurship.



122 youth completed short courses related to specific technical training.



29 youth completed pre-professional internships at 22 partner institutions and companies. 7 of them were hired directly after their internships.



-10 youth entrepreneurs strengthened their businesses and increased their income.



#### Voices of participants

*"In the programme, I learned to organise my time, manage my emotions, and perform better in the workplace. I also received tools to prepare my CV, face job interviews, and the opportunity to do a professional internship."*

María M., participant of the Employability Programme.



# Project 'Jóvenes en Movimiento' (Youth Exchange)

## Accompanying young agents of change

### Problem

In Bolivia, young people represent about 27% of the population; however, limitations in education and organisation, as well as a lack of opportunities for participation, restrict their involvement in development.

### Proposed solution

The **Jóvenes en Movimiento** is an initiative created by MariaMarina Foundation to promote networking among partner organisations in Bolivia and among their target groups. The project promotes the consolidation of youth as agents of change, offering relevant training and supporting them during the implementation of social advocacy projects, in coordination and networking with the public and private sector to achieve greater impact.

### Achievements 2025



33 youth completed a training cycle on youth advocacy.



81 youth designed 16 ideas to contribute to dignified youth employment and entrepreneurship.



6 ideas are being implemented in partnership with 13 institutions.



35 youth have completed a small training cycle in social advocacy and digital outreach.



9 initiatives to promote and activate a Digital Training Platform for Youth Leadership and Advocacy were implemented, engaging 80 youth.



### Voices of participants

*"Jóvenes en Movimiento marked a turning point in my life. It strengthened my understanding of social advocacy, my leadership skills, teamwork, proactivity, and commitment, preparing me to contribute to social change."*

Alejandra A., REDES,  
participant and co-facilitator



# Project 'Comunidades Resilientes' (Resilient Communities)

## Coping with climate change

### Problem

In the Andean region of Cochabamba, climate change causes losses of up to 80% of smallholder agricultural production due to droughts, frosts, and floods. This puts families' food and economic security at risk, pushing them to migrate to the cities. However, in the city, poverty persists in other forms.

### Proposed solution

The **Comunidades Resilientes** project seeks to improve food and economic security for smallholder farmer families in Tacopaya. Through implementation of risk management measures, transition to agroecological practices, and diversification of income sources, the project is committed to creating and consolidating sustainable alternatives that strengthen the climate resilience of communities.

### Achievements 2025



105 smallholder farmers and their families have reduced their agricultural losses through the implementation of water storage systems, irrigation, and retaining walls.



78 community members replicate risk management measures in 6 communities.



47 women and men strengthened their skills and micro enterprises related to beekeeping and medicinal plants.



1 municipal government and 1 departmental government have actively contributed to the project.



### Voices of participants

*"I participated in workshops on organic fertilisers and was able to see their good results. I appreciate caring for nature and dream of improving my family's life by keeping bees and growing flowers, although I see that many people are discouraged by the lack of markets and the workload."*

Hilaria Ch., community member from Miro.





*We express our sincere gratitude*

*To each and every child, young person, woman, and man, who has been part of this journey;  
To donors, institutions, companies, team members, and all the people who have supported us,  
making our work possible.*

*Thank you all for enabling the seeds to germinate, grow, blossom, and bear their first fruits.*



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**Do you want to contribute to change?**  
To continue with our work, we appreciate donations:

**Gertrude Wurm – Kawsay Muju  
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