



# Vincentian Solidarity Office

November 2024 Bulletin

## Bolivia: Strengthening economic resilience among women survivors of violence

The San Vicente de Paúl Farm, located in the Kewiña Pampa Indigenous Community, Cochabamba, Bolivia, is making significant strides in supporting women who have experienced domestic violence. This project, spearheaded by the Vincentian Lay Missionary Community (MISEVI), aims to provide technical training and job inclusion through poultry production.

The farm currently houses 6,000 laying hens, with plans to expand by constructing a new area for rearing chicks. This expansion will ensure a continuous production cycle, providing a sustainable source of income for the women involved. The project not only offers a safe work environment but also empowers women by equipping them with valuable skills and financial independence.

Women participating in the project come from backgrounds of extreme poverty and violence. Many have fled abusive homes with their children, seeking refuge and a fresh start. The farm offers them a chance to rebuild their lives, providing both employment and a supportive community. The women work in many different aspects of farm life. They care for the chickens, raise tomatoes and sell eggs. By participating in various activities,



Right: The team from San Vicente de Paúl Farm

they learn how to support themselves when they leave the farm.

The project has already seen significant success, with 60 women working on the farm, 129 receiving job training, and 341 benefiting from outpatient care for violence.

Additionally, the farm's income supports the operation of a women's shelter, further extending its impact.

Despite challenges such as economic instability and rising costs, the project continues to progress. The dedication of the team and the resilience of the women involved are driving forces behind its success. As the farm expands, it promises to offer even greater support and opportunities for women in need, fostering a future free from violence and filled with hope.



A member collects eggs from a coop



Egg selection and packaging

### Fr. Joel's Solidarity Notes

Adopting a 3-G Perspective on Vulnerability

A 3-G perspective that focuses on Gender relations, Generational dynamics and Grassroots contexts can be adopted to underscore the option for the vulnerable and most impacted sectors. The featured projects recount community-driven strategies to address cross-cutting agendas and facets of vulnerability:

Gender Inequality → empowering survivors of gender-based dominance or violence against women through social enterprise development;

Generational Gaps → promoting elderly care and

inclusion through community-based livelihoods and local market integration;

Grassroots Marginality → upgrading capacities of subsistence fisherfolk to harness and care for marine resources.

The developmental pathway advances from providing humanitarian services to enabling self-help promotion, and challenges shifting roles from 'providers' to 'enablers' of social change from below.

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Our goal: To assist the Congregation of the Mission with mobilizing resources for its evangelization and service of the poor.

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## Ethiopia: Empowering elderly and widows as backyard beekeepers and honey producers

Beekeeping in Ethiopia is a vital agricultural practice with deep cultural roots. The country is one of Africa's leading honey producers, thanks to its diverse flora and favorable climate. Ethiopian beekeepers often use traditional methods, such as log hives, alongside modern techniques to harvest honey and beeswax. This practice not only supports rural livelihoods but also plays a crucial role in environmental conservation and biodiversity. The unique flavors of Ethiopian honey are highly prized both locally and internationally.

This ongoing VSO project designed by Fr. Aklilu Woldeghiorgis, C.M., with the help of local experts, aims to support destitute elderly and poor widows by establishing beekeeping operations in Bonga and Buba parishes. This initiative will generate income through honey production,

providing a sustainable source of livelihood for the beneficiaries. The project will also create job opportunities for local youth. By leveraging Ethiopia's favorable conditions for beekeeping, the project seeks to improve the quality of life for these vulnerable communities.

Their plan is to use two methods for honey gathering. The traditional wooden boxes that are hung in trees and the modern boxes that are stacked on the ground.

The project has made progress, with some of the traditional hives already producing honey. It has also provided educational opportunities for young farmers. The project will be maintained through continuous expert assistance, environmental care, and honey sales. Future plans include expanding modern beekeeping boxes to other mission houses.



Above: The modern beekeeping boxes

Below: Beekeeper processing honeycomb



## Tanzania: Equipping grassroots fisherfolk to progress from subsistence to sustainable fishing



Above: Local fishermen with the new boats

Below: The group of participants after a training session



Tanzania's fishing industry is dominated by small-scale fishers and aquafarmers even though it is one of the largest fishing nations in Africa. The fishing community in Ununio, Dar es Salaam, has long struggled with inadequate facilities and equipment, limiting their ability to profit and sustain their families. To address this, a project was initiated in November 2023, aiming to provide better fishing equipment and organizational support to local families in this community.

Activities of the project led by Fr. Ansgar Lugomi, C.M. with the help of local facilitators, included purchasing five small

motorboats, conducting seminars on boat usage and environmental conservation, and obtaining necessary equipment like better nets. The project directly benefits 25 fishermen and their families, enhancing their ability to fish more efficiently and profitably.

Future maintenance will be ensured through financial literacy education, and with a portion of profits allocated for repairs and community benefits. This initiative not only improves the fishermen's livelihoods but also fosters a spirit of cooperation and community development, promising a brighter future for Ununio's fishing community.



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