



Provision of equipment, materials, and other means
for the efficient accomplishment of missions

Group to Provide Civil Support to the Police PILOT PROJECT IN BOLIVIA "TIMELY PREVENTION AND ASSISTANCE"

Context:

The city of Oruro is the capital of the Oruro Region and is located southwest of Bolivia. This city has around 250000 inhabitants, and frequently reports different types of accidents affecting part of its population, one of the most recurrent being car accidents.

Due to this situation, and with the support of the Regional Police, the Police Support Group (GACIP, Spanish acronym) has formulated strategies to provide its voluntary support in response to emergencies, mainly in the field of prehospital care. These initiatives are a proof of progress in the Bolivian context since they contribute to local capacity building in emergency response.

What does the experience consist on?

The experience consists on formulating and managing a pilot project to allocate resources to the handling of prehospital emergencies in ORURO by the GASIP volunteer group. This type of initiative, due to its characteristics, is the first one to be implemented in Bolivia, where volunteers had to finance actions with their

scarce resources or jeopardize their own lives because the country did not have the minimal economic or material resources required for the work.

Under the agreements derived from this project, GACIP is currently receiving vehicles, fuel, vehicle maintenance, communication equipment and support equipment, all of which are essential to carry out the work with volunteers throughout the Oruro region. These resources are given to the Regional Police Commando of Oruro, for the exclusive use of GACIP.

By adequately using material and economic resources, it is expected that the loss of human lives be avoided or reduced. For this purpose, the people from Oruro now have a 24-hour free prehospital emergency service operated by volunteers, university students and practicing professionals who form part of GACIP.

Some of the achievements are:

- A group of 63 people who provide voluntary support in emergency response and who are dully trained for that purpose.
- Availability of basic equipment for emergency response.
- Coordinated work with the Regional Police Commando of Oruro-Bolivia.

Why is it considered a good practice?

- It improves volunteers' conditions for the provision of their voluntary services by giving them the adequate material and equipment for missions.
- It seeks a greater support from the national government to volunteers.
- It builds greater trust from regional authorities and the community in actions carried out by GACIP's volunteers.

What innovations have been made?

In the Bolivian context, this project is a pioneer in the search of alternatives for the management of resources aimed at facilitating the voluntary support of organizations in emergency response.

- International standards for emergency response have been incorporated, and this is a breakthrough in the Oruro Region.
- The main responsibility for prehospital emergency response in the region has been assigned to the organization.

Positive Impact:

- It substantially improves volunteers' work due to the availability of equipment and material.
- There is a timely emergency response, i.e. local response capacities are improved.

Gender and non-discrimination:

Inside GACIP, there is no difference in gender- or minority-related roles. It is clear that strategies to strengthen the gender and non-discrimination approach must be expanded and strengthened.

Lessons learned:

- If the proposal submitted to the authorities is serious, it will be possible to obtain their commitment and support.
- To get projects approved, requirements established by funders must be completely fulfilled.
- Remarkable persistence is required to solve the problems related to bureaucracy and time availability of those in charge of getting the project off the ground.
- Other organizations are afraid of losing their role in emergency response since new organizations with improved capacities are emerging.

Improvements to be made:

- Monitor the volunteers activities according to the organisational principles and values, their seriousness and quality of the actions.
- Raise awareness on the characteristics of the service (voluntary and free) among people, but also on the fact that they must be valued.

Transferability:

To replicate the experience, GACIP has information on the formulation of the project.

In similar contexts, it is recommended to seek the support of professionals knowledgeable about project formulation, financial management and response to prehospital emergencies to identify specific needs in terms of equipment and logistic material.

Additional Information:

www.policiaoruro.com/gacip-3.html



Contacts

Grupo de Apoyo a la Policía—GACIP
Oruro –Bolivia
ricardocasper@hotmail.com
Tel: 591 70412590

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.

