



SUPPORT TO PANDO

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a broad assistance program in Bolivia that supports the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan.



*USAID beneficiaries receive training in reading an operational map in Pando.
Photo taken by Luis Villagra*



*USAID beneficiaries harvest Brazil nuts in Pando.
Photo taken by Kristen Evans*

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports 4 projects in 3 municipalities in the Department of Pando. These projects seek to reduce poverty by increasing economic growth through business development, promote environmental protection and conservation, and support democratic institutions and practices. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations while promoting their social, political, and economic inclusion.

1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION

A USAID-supported program has identified two mid-sized companies in the wood processing sector to receive technology transfers, training, and technical assistance. The combined exports of wood products for the two companies are over \$US 120,000. All the products sold are made using sound production techniques and in compliance with international environmental standards. USAID support has resulted in the creation of more than 30 new jobs and 27 workers trained in wood processing techniques.

2. ENVIRONMENT

The USAID-supported environmental program focuses on improving poor business practices that have been a major cause of the decline of forestry exports, even as environmental certification expands. The program combines technical assistance to community-based organizations and private companies, linkages to internal and external markets for certified timber, venture capital investments, and the promotion and marketing of non-timber forest products. With nearly \$US 250,000 allocated to activities in Pando, the program has benefited nearly 3,000 producers.

3. EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENTS

With the installation of elected departmental governments in 2005, Bolivia took a significant step in strengthening accountable, decentralized government. As it does worldwide, USAID is providing basic institutional strengthening technical assistance and training to Bolivia's departmental governments to help them assume more effectively their new roles in planning, financing, and delivering services to citizens.