ChildFund Bolivia

THE ECO-GUARDIANS METHODOLOGY

Empowering Indigenous Children and Youth for Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction

1 BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Bolivia faces growing climate challenges driven by wildfires, droughts, and floods.

THE PROBLEM:

- **Over 12 million** hectares burned in 2024.
- **Low response capacity** in schools and local communities.
- **High risk** of indigenous communities, affecting health, water, forest ecosystems and educational continuity.

2 PROGRAM INTERVENTION

It integrates indigenous knowledge and practices into WASH and Disaster Risk Reduction through cultural, play-based learning, and community action.

The methodology: Culturally adapted components and gamified tools to strengthen adequate WASH practices and disaster risk management.

The structure: Creation of Community-School Emergency Brigades and Emergency Preparedness Plans, adapted to the indigenous culture and linked to EWS of the municipality of Concepción.

3 METHODOLOGY: LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

It delivers hands-on, intercultural learning:

- **Cuentacuentos (Storytelling):** Puppet shows using local traditions to promote hygiene and environmental care.
- **Rayuela Safe Adventure Game:** A traditional game adapted for healthy habits and emergency response.
- **WASH Labyrinth:** Interactive learning on water care, hygiene, and menstrual health.
- **Forest Defenders:** Activities on forest protection and fire prevention.
- **Eco-Guardians Magazine:** Comics and activities reinforcing WASH and DRR knowledge



4 Results & Impact

Almost **500 children in 8 Indigenous Communities** became ecoguardians

Emergency Response Committees trained and equipped at both school and community levels.

Youth-Led Advocacy through children and youth participating in communal decision-making for climate adaptation.

Intercultural Integration by merging scientific DRR and WASH with ancestral local knowledge.

5 Program Implications & Scalability

Sustainability:
Community-owned and grounded in Indigenous traditions.

Policy Influence:
A scalable model for Indigenous-led climate resilience.

Integrated Approach:
Health and environmental education in one methodology.

Scalability:
Adaptable to diverse cultural and regional contexts.



SCAN ME