

Engagement of Liechtenstein Development Assistance Program LED in Latin America

The focus of the Liechtenstein Development Assistance Program (LED) in Latin America lies on improving the quality of Intercultural Bilingual Education (IBE) in countries with a large indigenous population and a high poverty level among such populations. Indigenous people worldwide speak about 4,000 different languages. For them often the national language taught in school does not correspond to their mother tongue. This means that children from such indigenous groups are put at a disadvantage in school and are unable to bring their full potential to fruition. Intercultural Bilingual Education takes the cultural background, particular features and the mother tongue of children into account, thereby setting off positive developments which strengthen the children's identity. Studies have shown that Intercultural Bilingual Education leads to improved performance in school which in turn improves the living conditions of the children's families.

The assistance provided by the LED is aimed at:

- The education of teachers among the indigenous population;
- The administrative support, consulting, continued education and coaching of teachers;
- The development and publication of teaching material conforming to the culture and language of the targeted pupils;
- The involvement of parents in educational projects;
- The engagement and cooperation with authorities responsible for education;
- The sensitization of the population in educational matters; and
- The pursuit of application-oriented research in new, innovative approaches in education,

The LED has been supporting projects and has so far invested more than USD 30 million in Peru since 1976, primarily in education-related projects. In the 1990's Peru became a priority country in the funding policy of the LED. In Latin America, the LED nearly exclusively operates through partnership arrangements with local partners. In 2017, the LED is providing support to 16 institutions in Peru with a budget of about USD 2 million, and in Bolivia to 18 institutions with a budget of about USD 1.7 million.

Typical objectives of related partnership programs are:

- Train new primary teachers to provide IBE indigenous communities, so that they can understand their environment, build and manage educational propositions centred on good living standards, with the participation of the community.
- Improve the performance of indigenous teachers, as well as learning the indigenous language as a second tongue, through the elaboration and publication of educational materials pertinent to the sociolinguistic and cultural reality of indigenous communities.
- Value and revitalize indigenous cultural practices so as to improve the quality of life of indigenous people through the appropriate management of local resources and the improvement of IBE.
- Improve the teaching-learning processes of English as a second language in public high schools in Metropolitan areas.
- Strengthen the human capital through good education that is fair, adapted to local circumstances, integrating and inter-cultural.
- Support democratic leadership styles and involvement of social actors.
- Achieve the spreading, exercise and protection of civil rights with the objective of improving the living conditions of the rural population and marginalized urban population.
- Improve the ability and capacity of regional and local education authorities to allow them to perform their roles more efficiently (e.g. through enhanced intercultural education).
- Implement model in the field of education which allow pedagogical, institutional and administrative improvements in the management of schools.
- Exploit the potential of audiovisual media and digital technologies for the purpose of facilitating and improving education, information distribution and cultural development, by promoting the use of small cinemas and own-label productions of movies by local communities.