



BOLIVIA



National Civil Defence Service

(Servicio Nacional de Defensa Civil)

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1. Legislation :

- Supreme decree no 1936 of 17 January 1983 created the national civil defence system as an integral part of national defence and outlined the objectives and the attributions of a national civil defence system.
- Supreme decree no. 25154 of 4 September 1998 converted the national directorate of civil defence into the National Civil Defence Service (SENADECI) in application of law no. 1788.

2. Mission :

The specific duties of the Bolivian civil defence are to:

- mitigate the vulnerability of persons and communities throughout the territory after they have suffered disaster-related damages;
- create a service capable of bringing rapid and organized relief to people and properties affected by disasters;
- elaborate and support information programmes on the civil defence system instruct the population how to react and assume responsibilities themselves in case of disasters;
- coordinate and manage assistance supplied by foreign governments and international organizations, centralize donations so that relief is dispatched with greater speed and efficiency;

- authorize everyone concerned by prevention and rehabilitation programmes administered by national and international organizations, to avert, take preparatory measures and launch relief actions in case of catastrophes and coordinate their action.

3. Regulation and execution :

The Bolivian National Service for Civil Defence is structured to function at several levels: national, departmental, provincial and cantonal according to the administrative structure of the country.

4. Organization :

The President of the Republic rules the structure and directly controls the National Civil Defence system which is placed under the authority of the Ministry of Defence. The National Civil Defence system directs the National Civil Defence Service and all basic organizations (armed forces, national police, public health, Red Cross) and national civil defence organizations (national solidarity and social development council, community activities, local councils, Bolivian radio club, scouts, youth associations...).

The National Directorate of Civil Defence is a permanent organ dependent on the Ministry of National Defence. The Directorate is headed by a General of the Republic from one of the three armed forces chosen for his capacity to direct military and civilian staff in case of catastrophes and who, through his professional training is able to facilitate the organization and execution of relief actions during catastrophes. As an executive and coordinating organ, the main objective of the Directorate is to determine the targets and measures to be used during the three phases of natural or man-made hazards: prevention, relief and rehabilitation. The Directorate comes to the assistance of the population of disaster zones to facilitate their return to normal social, economic and productive activities. Furthermore, the Directorate centralizes coordination of all private and public, national and international organizations, voluntary workers and associations the objectives of which are to perform efficiently in prevention, assistance and rehabilitation in disaster-affected zones.

The National Directorate is made up of the National Director, the Auditor General, four sub-directors (operations, financial management, coordination, legal matters). Furthermore, the National Directorate federates the ten district directorates and directs the actions of the departmental, provincial and cantonal committees. National and international associations and foundations contribute to the action of these different structures.

5. Finances :

The budget of the National Directorate of Civil Defence proceeds from three sources:
- working budget: covered by the budget of the National Defence Ministry and includes daily expenses for the functioning of administrative services.

-investment budget: earmarked by the General Treasury of the nation. It includes payments for operational activities studies aimed at prevention, relief and rehabilitation of zones-at-risk.

In addition the National Directorate for Civil Defence benefits by the financial support of national and international organizations, governments, NGOs through inter-institutional conventions for cooperation and assistance (USAID, UNICEF, European Union, WFP, ADRA/OFSA, Caritas, WHO, Foundation against Hunger, friendly States through their diplomatic representations...).



General Enrique VACAFLORES CASTRO

National Director