



## Improved Water Quality in Rural Areas Drinking Water for Achocalla, Bolivia

Together with local partners, Siemens Stiftung is developing a project to improve the supply of drinking water in Achocalla, Bolivia. Achocalla is located in the catchment areas of La Paz and El Alto and, thanks to its small lake, serves as a popular recreational area for these cities. Because of the municipality's rapidly growing population, water is becoming an ever more scarce resource for local residents, animals and agriculture alike.

Water supplies in Achocalla are organically contaminated and not suitable for drinking due to pollution from agriculture and livestock farming, as well as the lack of sewage systems. Water pollution also accounts for the high rate of gastrointestinal disorders in the area. The "Drinking Water for Achocalla" project aims to improve the quality of drinking water for local residents and visitors. The goal is to develop solutions that can be transferred successfully to other rural areas in the region.



## New Job Opportunities in Small Businesses

The cooperation project consists of two parts: a small enterprise has been established to manufacture affordable water filters from local clay for households in Achocalla; and a water kiosk equipped with a "Skyhydrant" filtration unit has been installed to supply drinking water to the small snack bars that are located on the shores of the lake and cater to tourists' needs.

Both project initiatives are dedicated to economic sustainability. The manufacturing and sale of the water filters creates jobs. At the same time, the sale of drinking water finances the operation of the water kiosk and promotes local tourism. And, of course, excellent water quality significantly improves the general health of the local population. The documentation of both parts of the project allows the Achocalla experience to be transferred to other regions or countries as an example of "good practice."

## Partners

- Swisscontact, Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation
- Cooperative of small business operatives around the Achocalla lagoon
- Municipality of Achocalla
- Private small business owners in Achocalla

## Contact

Ulrike Wahl Haber  
Tel. +56 / 9 / 75 71 91 55  
Mobile +56 / 9 / 56 88 41 86  
[ulrike.wahl.ext@siemens-stiftung.org](mailto:ulrike.wahl.ext@siemens-stiftung.org)

**Siemens Stiftung**  
Kaiserstraße 16  
80801 München  
Deutschland

[www.siemens-stiftung.org](http://www.siemens-stiftung.org)

  
**swisscontact**  
GERMANY