

# FIBC Food Security Project 2024 - Report 2

## **FAMILIES GETTING FOOD ITEMS IN THE JUNGLE AREA IN BOLIVIA COMMUNITY TRAPICHEPONTE**

***By Gabriel Gutierrez, a young adult Friend volunteer***



***Some families of the community Trapicheponte and the volunteers***

On Friday the volunteers Sara and Gladys traveled 6 hours from the city La Paz to my town of Caranavi in the jungle area. They brought with them a lot of food items in a big truck. We offloaded all the food items that night. Two young adult male volunteers from my Friends church came to help us. There were nine volunteers doing all this work. After that we went to bed late. Of course, we were very tired.

The next morning, Saturday March 16th, with the blessing of our Almighty God, seven volunteers loaded all the food items onto a truck. It was exhausting because the weather was hot and dry. Once we finished loading many bags of sugar, rice and boxes of oil, we made the trip from Caranavi to the community of Trapicheponte. The trip took almost three hours. We passed through several other small communities such as Santa Fé, Alcoche. The two female volunteers and I went on the top of the truck where we enjoyed the wonderful natural scenery the whole way.

When we finally came near the community of Trapicheponte we reached a huge river. When we went to see if the road was safe for the truck, we found a long hanging bridge. It seemed exciting, and I wanted experience walking over it. This bridge is the only way to get to Trapicheponte.



***Local people helping to transport the food items over the hanging bridge***

The local people and their authorities said that the community was flooded by the rushing river a few months ago. It rained for many hours, the river rose, and they lost almost half of their town. Families lost their homes and their crops of rice, bananas and other local products. These families belong to the indigenous communities in the jungle called Laicos.

Mrs. Jhannet, who is the general secretary of the community, stayed with us during the whole trip. When it was time to transport the food over the long-narrowed hanging bridge, the local people from the community came to transport the rice, sugar bags and boxes of oil. Some people came with wheelbarrows, and others carried the food items on their back. Children, young people, women, and elderly people all helped carry food items.

Together we transported all the food over the hanging bridge. It was an unforgettable and wonderful experience for all of us. When we had all crossed the bridge and reached the other side of the river, we went to a community soccer field where we held a worship service to praise our Lord Jesus Christ. We were more than one hundred people, including children and parents, giving thanks to the Lord for those food blessings that were brought for the families in need.



***Working together cheerfully***



When it was time to distribute the food to the 75 families we did it according to the list of the families that was provided to us by the local authorities. Each family got 25 pounds of sugar, 25 pounds of rice and 5 liters of oil. The families had an average of 4 to 6 members, so this project gave food for more than 359 local people. During the distribution the other volunteers did interviews with the families and took photographs of them. Once we had finished the work we were ready to return to the town of Caranavi. We said goodbye to the locals of that community. With the grace of our Almighty God we felt blessed with the words of God. We sang hymns and praised our Lord. At almost 8:00 PM we left the community, arriving at the town Caranavi at 11:00 PM.

*Sara who is the leader of the volunteers said, "Everything went well, thanks to God. And the families were grateful for such help with food items. The community of Trapicheponte is a very beautiful place, in spite of the heat. It has lots of plants and a variety of trees. It is located at the banks of the river, and families in the community suffered from a terrible flood that swept away eight houses. I feel very grateful that God allows me to be part of this food security project to see the wonders of God as we give food and help to the families."*



***Mrs. Jhannet, the local authority speaking on behalf of the families***



**PHOTOS OF THE FAMILIES GETTING THE FOOD ITEMS**



**Volunteers distributing 25 pounds of rice, sugar and a gallon of 5 liter oil to each family**

