



FOOD SECURITY PROJECT REPORT ARTICLE

July to September, 2025

Food Security Project 2025 - Seed potatoes

In August at the FIBC office we started making arrangements to distribute seed potatoes in three different indigenous communities in the highlands this year. Sara, our coordinator of the Food Security Project, met with the local authorities from the communities of **Cohachijo, Villa Circaya and Iquiaca Grande** to learn the number and names of families who were in the most need in each community. We decided to give support to 171 families in the planting season (October and November) 2025. Because there is no regular transportation to those communities, we also planned how to transport the seed potatoes to these families. And with the hope that we would receive enough donations to support this project, we coordinated to purchase seed potatoes in big quantities before October.

Volunteering at FIBC

In September Julia Redemacher-Wedd came from Chicago to volunteer at FIBC for 6 weeks. She wrote about her experience with the Food Security Project, "Volunteering with the FIBC's Food Security Project provided a chance to witness life in the Bolivian countryside. On September 20th I joined the distribution of 100 pounds of seed potatoes each to 74 families in the community of Cohachijo. They lost their crops and homes in the flooding which lasted over 4 months. Due to intense rains, the nearby Katari River overflowed. Once we arrived in the community of Cohachijo, the General Secretary of the community began the program of the distribution by speaking about the present difficulties in their town due to stream weather. Then volunteers led hymns and prayers in both Spanish and Aymara, the indigenous language spoken in the community. We shared a potluck known as an **Apthapi**. Then volunteers divided into groups and requested help from community members to open the large sacks of potatoes. They put them into bags to weigh with handheld scales, ensuring that each family received the promised amount. I took photos of recipients and helped them carry their 50-pound sacks to bicycles or vehicles. A few people even brought donkeys, joking about this form of "rural transportation" that does not require diesel fuel, of which there is a nationwide shortage. After 3 hours of work in the intense sun, the sacks we had brought were empty. And we, the volunteers, were dusty but cheerful!"



JULIA HELPING OUT WITH THE FOOD SECURITY PROJECT IN THE COMMUNITY OF COHACHIJO

www.centrobilingueinternacionalamigos.org/en/donaciones

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA