

# BOLIVIAN POOREST MUNICIPALITIES CONSIDER TO BRING THE DEVELOPMENT POLICY CLOSER TO THE LOCAL NEEDS



PRESS NOTE

15 de junio de 2015

*Municipal authorities, public servants and grassroots organizations representatives from the Bolivian municipalities of Batallas, Charagua, El Alto, Gonzalo Moreno, Riberalta, Urubichá and Yamparáez, last week analyzed the transition of the Millenium Development Goals (MDG) to the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), goals that will define a new global agenda of development to be implemented until 2030, which will be debated in September of this year in the United Nations General Assembly.*

These municipalities have urban and rural population, and present a high and very high average of extreme poverty and food vulnerability incidence (Source: Diagnostic model and atlas of food safety in Bolivia UDAPE 2008)

The assistants, in a number of twenty three, agreed that their needs and priorities to overcome poverty are potable water, water for the irrigation of peasant lands, health services, financial support for the economic activities of the poorest livelihoods, the creation of jobs and the construction of local roads. By analyzing the public policies and the budgetary execution of last five years, the participants concluded that, with few exceptions, the development policies did not answer to their urgent needs, rather they focused on investments in basic infrastructure.

In this respect, Reynaldo Gutiérrez Mayor of the Municipality of Batallas stated: "There are municipal governments that are not attacking the central issue -our region problematic-, and as a consequence we suffer the detrimental of the progress and the development of several municipalities. We have more infrastructures but less support for the regional productive system"



Photo: Reynaldo Gutiérrez—Mayor of the Municipality of Batallas

The meeting concluded with the assertion that the development planning is to be constructed "bottom up". In other words, the local needs and priorities have to pay attention to the convergence of national, departmental and municipal resources to respond these requirements. Likewise, it's necessary to overcome political criteria that do not answer to the needs and that determine the persistence of the extreme poverty.

The participants agreed that the implementation of new agenda of development Post 2015 will only be possible with a suitable and participative prioritization of the needs, the coordination of the different levels of the State and the concurrence of different resources in strategic and impact projects.

# Beyond 2015

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Omar Nuñez, Riberalta's Mayor, said: " we have to fight against the poverty from any point of view, from all the optical possible ones; for that we have to deepen the democracy we have to make the whole population more participatory of this process, not only us but along with all the municipal, departmental and national authorities "

*The event was organized by the Urban Program of UNITAS, CED-LA, Christian Aid on June 12th, 13th, 14th in Cochabamba's city, as part of the actions of the Beyond 2015 campaign, a global alliance of more than thousand organizations of the civil society of the whole world that since the year 2013 has sought to make the voice of the poorest is taken into account in the design and implementation of the new agenda of global development that will substitute the Millenium Development Goals (MDG).*

