



Word Made Flesh Bolivia

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020



# letter

## FROM THE DIRECTORS

Sincerest greetings from Bolivia, friends.

We are delighted to share with you our achievements and challenges of the past year, made possible only with your prayers and support.

2020 was exceptionally challenging. The impact of a global pandemic forced us to alter all of our plans, and we discovered both unexpected obstacles and new opportunities. We altered our outreach model, pausing the majority of face-to-face activities we value so much. Many families lacked devices and technological understanding to stay in touch, so we worked creatively to overcome the barriers and continued with online activities in the midst of instability.

Bolivia's overall death rate tripled last year, with one of the highest mortality rates in the world.<sup>1</sup> Political, economic, health and education systems collapsed almost entirely. In the face of so much grief, Word Made Flesh Bolivia (WMFB) continued to be a refuge for many struggling with the effects of the pandemic. Together with your support, we provided food staples and hygiene supplies, learning activities, emotional support and spiritual guidance to highly vulnerable women and children. SutiSana, the former social enterprise of WMFB, also launched to full independence.

As we look ahead, we recognize the pandemic's disproportionate impact on women and how these vulnerabilities will impact their children, families and communities. Leadership empowerment and gender equity are high priorities for the coming years. We also recognize the unique threat that technology poses as traffickers prey and exploit online, and we plan to expand prevention and outreach efforts beyond our current geographical limitations.

We thank you deeply for the impact your donations have achieved, and hope you are encouraged as you read how your hands and feet have extended to Bolivia. Despite the challenging year that you also faced, we thank you for journeying with us.

God bless your lives and your entire families!

<sup>1</sup>Jin Wu, Allison McCann, Josh Katz, Elian Peltier and Karan Deep Singh, "The Pandemic's Hidden Toll: Half a Million Deaths," New York Times, Feb. 9, 2021.



*Andrea Baker*  
**ANDREA BAKER**  
Executive Director



*Doris Monasterios*  
**DORIS MONASTERIOS**  
Director of Operations

# vision

Abundant life for those affected  
by sexual exploitation in Bolivia

# mission

Following the example of Jesus,  
we awaken hope and offer opportunities  
for holistic transformation



# women's program

VICTIM • SURVIVOR • THRIVER

SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION

INTERVENTION

RESTORATION

ABUNDANT  
LIFE

street visits

goal-setting

crisis support

job-training

bible study

discipleship

skills  
training

leadership  
development

trauma focused  
therapy

## 2020 goals achieved

- 2,854 women visited and encouraged on the streets
- 216 families received crisis support and 75% of program participants experienced a decrease in overall vulnerability
- 82 women participated in WMFB Bible studies
- 334 women received skills and job training
- 25 women began their own businesses and are now free from sexual exploitation

*"I used to walk with my head down because I didn't know who I was, but now, I know who I am. I'm a warrior!"*

- Women's Program Participant





# Julia\*

## she who seeks opportunity

Julia was excited to participate in the Women's Program workshops and gain new skills. She left prostitution, but was struggling to make ends meet as a single mother lacking a stable job and facing several health issues. She was committed to make the most of the opportunity, though, and showed confidence and entrepreneurship potential, making the most out of every situation, like selling tropical fruit her family would send her from another region in Bolivia.

She began counseling and set future goals for different areas of her life. And just as Julia was taking steps to begin monitoring her health and that of her children, the pandemic struck. Her son's treatment and several of her goals were put on hold as we all adjusted to a new reality.

Julia continued counseling sessions over the phone and stayed in touch with our social worker as the quarantine stretched on, faced with the mental health challenges of the pandemic on top of what was already a lifetime full of trauma. She reached out for help, and we were able to provide basic food supplies and support for her family during this especially challenging time.

All throughout quarantine, however, Julia had been planning for what would come next. When restrictions eased, she shared with us a plan she had developed to begin her own juice, smoothie and hot drink stand. WMFB supported her endeavor with a blender and mixer, and she assumed responsibility for the purchase of glasses, a table, juicer, and the remaining start-up materials needed.

Julia now wheels her stand outside her front door every morning and sells beverages to neighbors and passersby. She also knits clothing to sell to cover her family's remaining needs. We are so proud to continue to support her as she takes these steps of growth with determination and creativity.

\*Name and details altered for respect and privacy.



# children's program

VULNERABLE • RESILIENT • THRIVING

HIGH-RISK

INTERVENTION

RESTORATION

LEADER

medical support

nutrition  
and health support

legal assistance

family  
counseling

Bible Study

discipleship

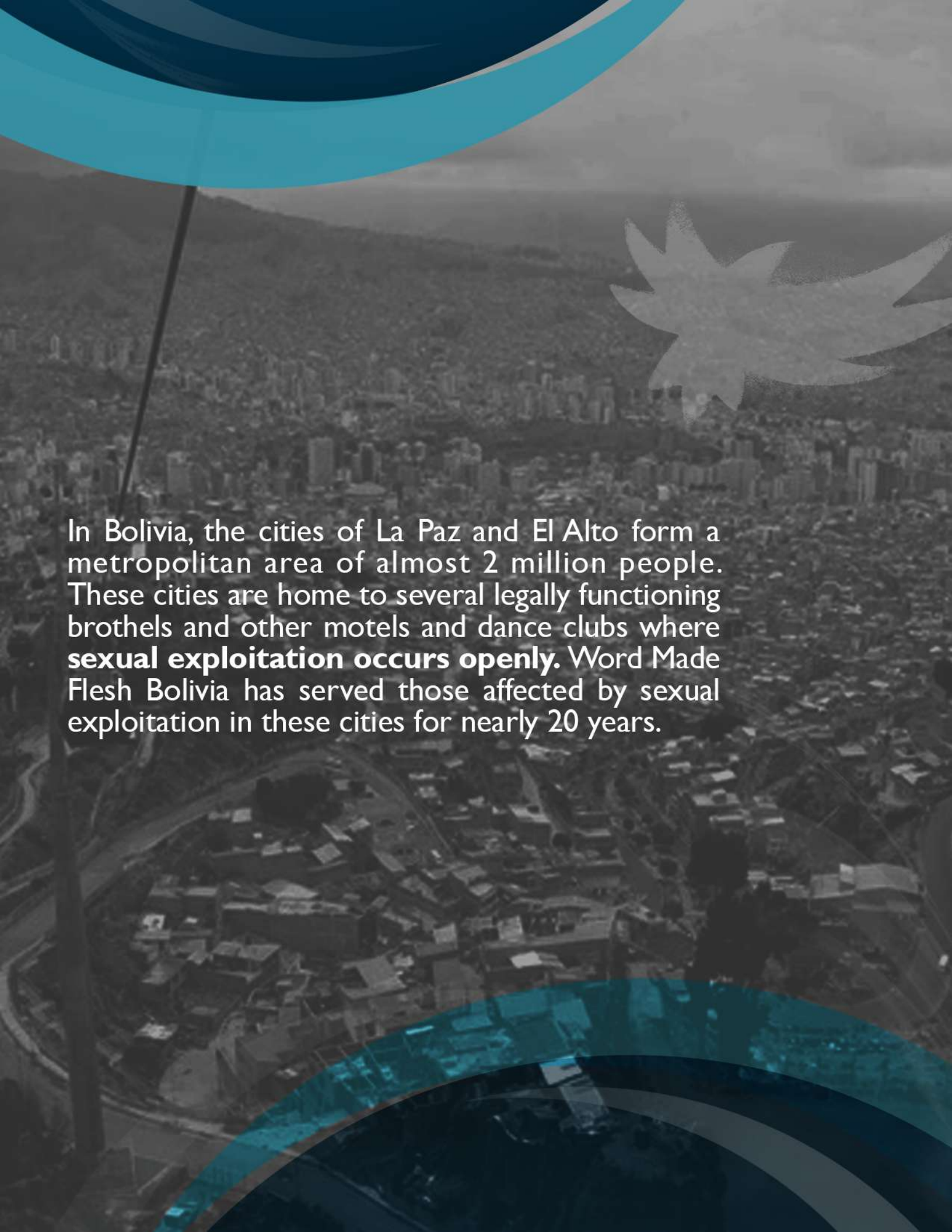
prevention  
workshops

leadership  
development

## 2020 goals achieved

- 81% of program participants experienced a decrease in overall vulnerability
- 119 children received support and protection in emergency or high-risk situations, a 239% increase compared to last year due to pandemic realities
- 125 children participated in WMFB activities
- 98 children participated in Bible studies and spiritual growth activities
- 15 children received one-on-one spiritual and emotional mentorship
- 90 families received technological support to remain connected virtually to school and WMFB programming
- 94% of program participants improved their grades





In Bolivia, the cities of La Paz and El Alto form a metropolitan area of almost 2 million people. These cities are home to several legally functioning brothels and other motels and dance clubs where **sexual exploitation occurs openly**. Word Made Flesh Bolivia has served those affected by sexual exploitation in these cities for nearly 20 years.





## a new start for **Daniela\***

At 12 years old, Daniela dreams of helping others as a doctor or lawyer someday. She believes she can make a difference for children in the future, hoping to be available when others need help. She's working hard at improving her grades, but even more importantly is working on her self-confidence to be able to reach her short and long-term goals.

It's tough to be in a new place sometimes, and initially Daniela was shy when she joined the Children's Program. But she enjoyed meeting others like herself and began to connect with the other kids. She was friendly and sincere with everyone, although educators noticed she was uncomfortable with male children. Over time we learned of her abuse by a close family member.

While staff collaborated with her family to prioritize her safety, Daniela bravely began taking steps toward her own restoration. She began healing her heart and building resilience in the discipleship and therapy spaces that WMFB offers. Now, she is participating in self-care and violence prevention workshops, and is showing leadership characteristics that will serve her well for the future ahead.

WMFB

\*Name and details have been changed for respect and privacy.



# advocacy

WMFB addresses root factors of sexual exploitation to generate societal change. In coordination with national and regional authorities, local organizations and churches, the Advocacy Team provides awareness and prevention education as well as volunteer opportunities.



- Over 200 government officials, church and non-profit leaders trained in issues regarding violence, trauma and human trafficking
- 12 anti-human trafficking awareness events hosted in conjunction with local government authorities
- 52 volunteers connected with programs
- First online prayer event, reaching more than 900 viewers

“I support Word Made Flesh Bolivia, because they give dignity to, and share God's love with, marginalized women and their families.”

- Kathy Crook, WMFB supporter for more than 20 years





# sutisana

“When are you going to give me a job?” one friend lamented, feeling trapped by the lack of opportunities outside commercial sexual exploitation. And thus, a dream was born - vocational training and full-time, empowering employment - for that friend, and so many women like her.

In 2010, SutiSana began as a project of Word Made Flesh Bolivia. Over the years, we’ve worked to nurture this mustard seed-sized adventure. We’re proud to announce that in 2020 SutiSana launched to independence, no longer a program of WMFB, but operating as a distinct and separate entity.

Though now officially two separate organizations, our focus remains the same, with more room to grow in our unique spheres. Word Made Flesh Bolivia will continue to provide holistic and therapeutic support to prostituted women and their families; SutiSana will continue to employ survivors of sexual exploitation. And together both institutions will continue to partner together for a more just world for all.

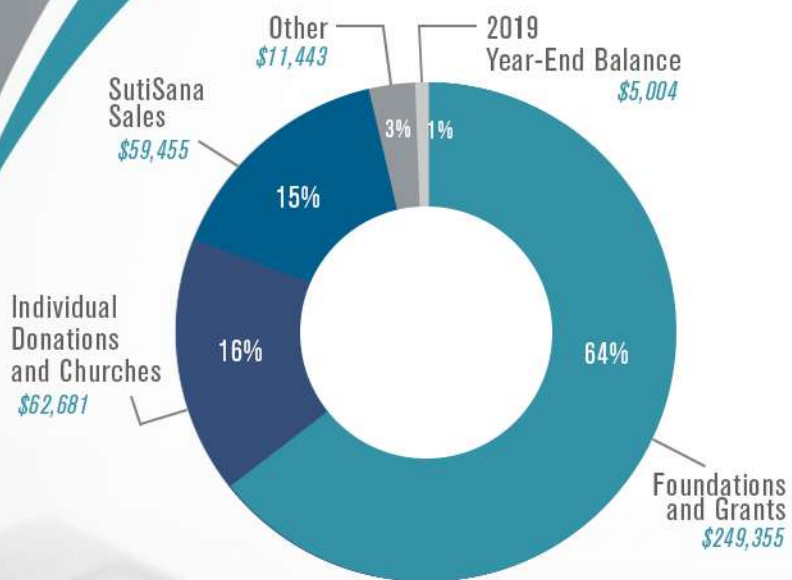
- During the strict social isolation protocols, SutiSana was able to work from home for the safety of the artisans and administrative staff
- 1,000 biohazard suits and 700 facemasks gifted to the local police department, produced by SutiSana and sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse
- 11 artisans empowered through full-time employment and 1 artisan now enjoying retirement





# financials

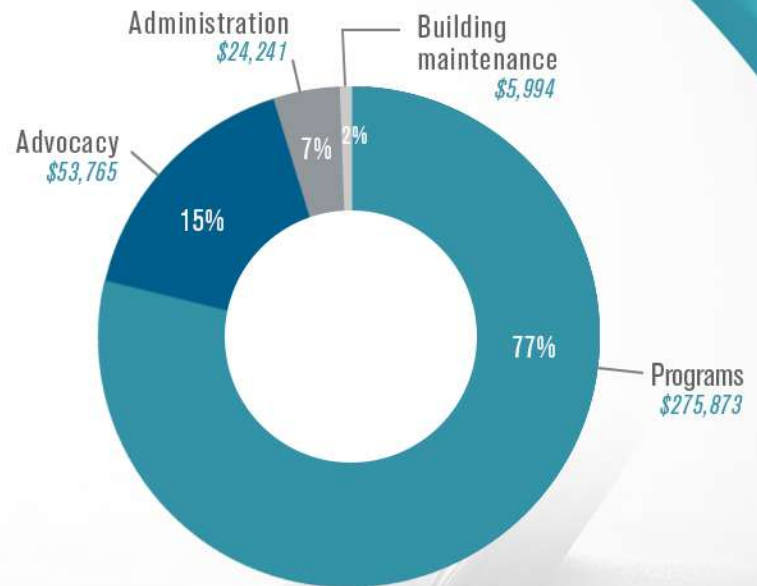
## income



## TOTAL

**\$387,938**

## expenses



## TOTAL

**\$359,873**

Thanks to the faithful support of foundations, churches, individual donors and sales from SutiSana all of our 2020 expenses were covered, including emergency assistance and support for program participants during the worst of the pandemic lockdown.

# honoring you!

Many people helped us change realities and serve others in 2020, such as those who worked as volunteers, donors or prayer supporters. The ministry continues to grow thanks to those who put their trust in us and open their hearts to serve together. We are really grateful for all of you being a part of this dream.

Thank you to all the doctors and staff from Global Health Outreach (GHO) that helped more than 300 people with free medical attention in February. With a team of volunteer translators, these servants took care of many who didn't have access to basic medical care because of their economic situation, bringing hope and attention to those in need.

Thank you to all of our volunteers that helped us accomplish these goals throughout the year, in spite of constantly changing circumstances. These volunteers continued teaching children, helped us clean every area for activities, took care of babies, facilitated skills training, guided Bible studies and supported staff in their tasks.

Thank you to all of the financial supporters that have helped us with their own resources, who donated every month to keep the work going during an unprecedented year. Also, to all the institutions that trust us and believe in what we do: Rescue Freedom International, Rope, Wellspring International, Imago Dei Fund, Trinity Church Kelowna and Improve Group.

Thank you to our friends who constantly advocate for us by praying every day and treating us like part of your own family. Thank you to this army of people that has joined together as one heart for change and justice for the most vulnerable.

To all of you who gave of your time, effort and heart,

## THANK YOU

from the bottom of our hearts!







*Your support has made all of this possible, and we invite you to continue partnering with us in 2021. We will continue to serve on the front lines, as the effects of the pandemic stretch on. And more than that, we will continue providing support and opportunities for many others.*

*Become a prayer or sustaining partner by visiting us online through one of the website or social media links below.*