

20 22

IMPACT REPORT



PROJECT
SUMA

LETTER

from the
directors

Growth in Transition was our theme for 2022.

Most significantly, we became Project Suma, an independently registered 501c3. We now better celebrate our local context and identity with a more authentic representation of our service. Our vision and mission, essence and passion, remain the same: a commitment to serve others with humility and deep identification, with a connection to Jesus at the center of it all. Our new name and identity reflect a continued desire to support vulnerable women and children, and we're excited to continue under this new banner.

This year, the newly implemented Economic Strengthening Program made great strides, and we added key staff to the Women's Program. The Children's Program experienced a significant shift in leadership, propelling us to assess and evaluate our priorities. And finally, we made considerable progress toward expansion into our sister-city La Paz, targeting a younger population to tackle trafficking at its roots.

In the midst of the changes, Project Suma is now primed for prominent leadership by nationals for long-term effectiveness and sustainable growth. I thank you for your essential partnership through it all.



Andrea Baker
Executive Director



Doris Monasterios
Director of Operations

2022 was a year of seeking stability in different areas of the ministry and for the women and children we serve.

Because of the pandemic, our interactions had been limited to emergency interventions and zoom calls. But finally, last year we officially opened our doors again, and could see everyone's faces without masks. Little by little, everything became more normal. Women returned to in-person workshops; their laughter, conversations and presence filling *La Casa Esperanza* (the Project Suma drop-in center) once again. We reinitiated family retreats and international volunteers returned to help with various activities. The kids enjoyed much-needed friendship and play. Although the pandemic increased risk, mainly among the youth, the community responded assertively and with a lot of understanding and support to all our most vulnerable.

We enjoyed seeing the women and their children again and receiving those hugs we had missed so much. Thank you for supporting us this past year as we stabilized our activities. Nothing would have been possible without you. Your continued support will enable vulnerable people to continue to grow and reach their potential.

70%

**OF BOLIVIAN WOMEN ARE SURVIVORS
OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

Bolivia has one of the highest rates of violence toward women in Latin America.

Women are culturally less valued and so when violence and poverty are high, women are the most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.



VISION

*Abundant Life
for those affected by
sexual exploitation
in Bolivia*



MISSION

*We reduce barriers,
create opportunities
and impact culture
for full transformation*

INTEGRITY JUSTICE VULN
COMPASSION COMMUNIT
JUSTICE VULNERABILITY I
COMMUNITY INTEGRITY JU
VULNERABILITY COMPASS



Our work



PROTECT

We work alongside mothers and their children to protect the next generation from the systemic harm of exploitation and violence.



HEAL

Our presence begins in the streets, brothels and health centers. It continues as we address mind and body—providing aid, mediation, support, counseling and workshops.



EQUIP

We provide training, tutoring and opportunities for a brighter future. We also encourage leadership, service to others, discipleship and connection with local faith communities.





WOMEN'S PROGRAM

WE LISTEN TO AND WALK ALONGSIDE EACH WOMAN IN HER UNIQUE JOURNEY.

Weekly street outreach helps plant seeds of hope. But our most important work happens in the in-between moments, when we listen to and walk alongside each woman in her unique journey. By building a safe space, hearts begin to heal and confidence grows. Women can then envision a better and brighter future without exploitation.

4,021

women personally encouraged through street outreach

176

women welcomed into our drop-in center to build relationships and trust with staff and other survivors

93

women in emergency situations assisted to reduce vulnerability

41

women better equipped to recognize and overcome trauma through individual and group therapy

24

women gained skills in budgeting, savings and small business management

19

microloans helped women start their dream businesses

7

women fully free from sexual exploitation

5

survivors stepped into leadership roles to empower and encourage one another

LAURA'S* STORY

As a young teen, Laura fled from home escaping years of abuse by a family member.

While on the streets, she met someone who offered her a job as a waitress. "But it wasn't actually what she said [it would be]; it was in a brothel. When I entered that place, they locked me up and refused to let me leave."

Laura remained captive for six years. One night during a party she noticed that her traffickers were drunk and so she ran away. She immediately searched for her family only to find her siblings living in poverty. Overwhelmed once again, Laura returned to prostitution to support her family.

"A friend told me about *La Casa Esperanza* in 2019 when I felt trapped in a tunnel with no way out." Project Suma intervened with emergency support, helped her find stability and accompanied her healing journey. She completed pastry classes, and as part of the Economic Strengthening Program, received an oven and the necessary tools to start her business!

She is Suma.



“

Today I am a woman with new opportunities in life, stronger than ever. I know that I am never alone, because God is leading the way.

”

*Name and details altered to respect privacy. Her words and story have been shared with her express permission.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

A LIVELY, SPECIAL PLACE WHERE EACH CHILD CAN CONFIDENTLY GROW

We provide a safe, stable and joyful learning environment for children affected by sexual exploitation. We break harmful cycles of violence through a variety of holistic activities, so that children can confidently grow to be themselves and become leaders in their communities.

151

children enjoyed fun activities, learning opportunities and nutritional support to grow to their full potential

82

children trained to identify and prevent situations of abuse and trafficking

70

children received new backpacks, shoes and school supplies for academic success

46

children received after-school tutoring

19

children better equipped to overcome trauma and its effects through individual therapy

15

youth active in leadership roles to improve their future and that of their peers

10

children explored their passions and developed applicable skills through technical training

2

teens received university scholarships for further educational opportunities

DARIA'S* STORY

Shortly before she passed away, Daria's mother asked her family to bring her children to *La Casa Esperanza*. As a young orphan, Daria was at risk of violence and poverty.

At the drop-in center, we watched her grow, heal and learn. Initially, she struggled with school in the aftermath of traumas endured, but her determination to succeed was stronger than anything else. From food supplies to emotional healing and resilience development, Project Suma was there for her throughout her developing years.

"I would love to help other children as the educators at *La Casa Esperanza* have helped me," said Daria when she started to dream of studying Education as a career path.

Daria never gave up on her studies or her dream of getting into university. She worked side jobs to provide for her family while studying, and used her knowledge from the Economic Strengthening Program to save money. Last year, we received the following message:

"I got into university! Thanks for believing I could do it. Thanks for helping me dream and accomplish my dreams ever since I was little."

Daria* is an example of resilience, strength and determination.

She is Suma.

“

I would love to help other kids like the teachers at La Casa Esperanza have helped me. ”

*Name and details altered to respect privacy. Her words and story have been shared with her express permission.





ADVOCACY

WE BOOST WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S VOICES AS LEADERS IN CHANGE

With passion, faithfulness and integrity, we are a local and international community that advocates and works in Bolivia and beyond. Survivors lead us, working together for a future that they themselves design.

175

donors provided vital financial support to women and children on their journey to healing and freedom

144

local and international volunteers sacrificially served

38

international and local events where Project Suma was represented

12

teens from the Children's Program raised awareness about human trafficking in their local community

5

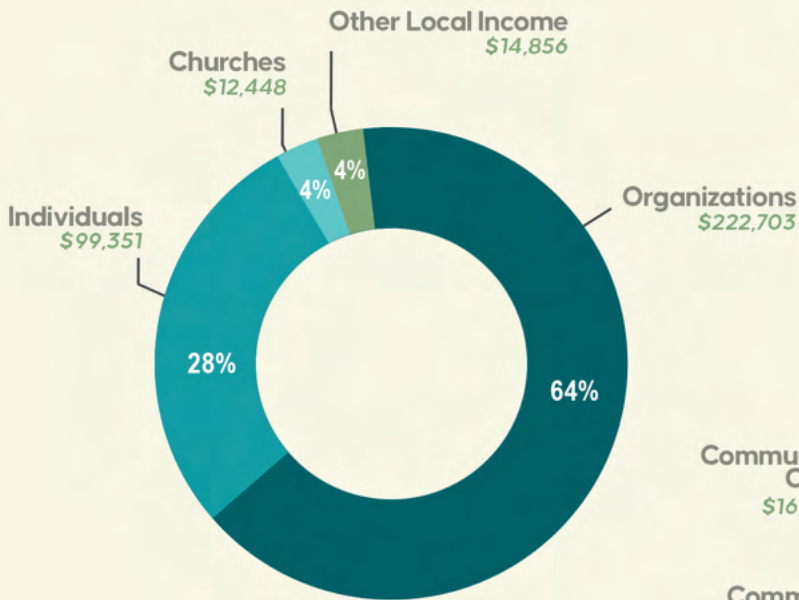
survivors advocating change for women whose voices are still silenced

"I learned a lot from the women that I worked with. One young woman, around my age, came on our annual family hike with her six-month old baby. She carried her baby on her back all the way up the mountain, and she was excited to do so. We were worried that she would not enjoy the hike having a small baby, but she loved taking her child on a new adventure. She had never been on a hike before, but now she could say that she had accomplished something new for the both of them."

- Charissa Johnson, Project Suma Intern

FINANCIALS

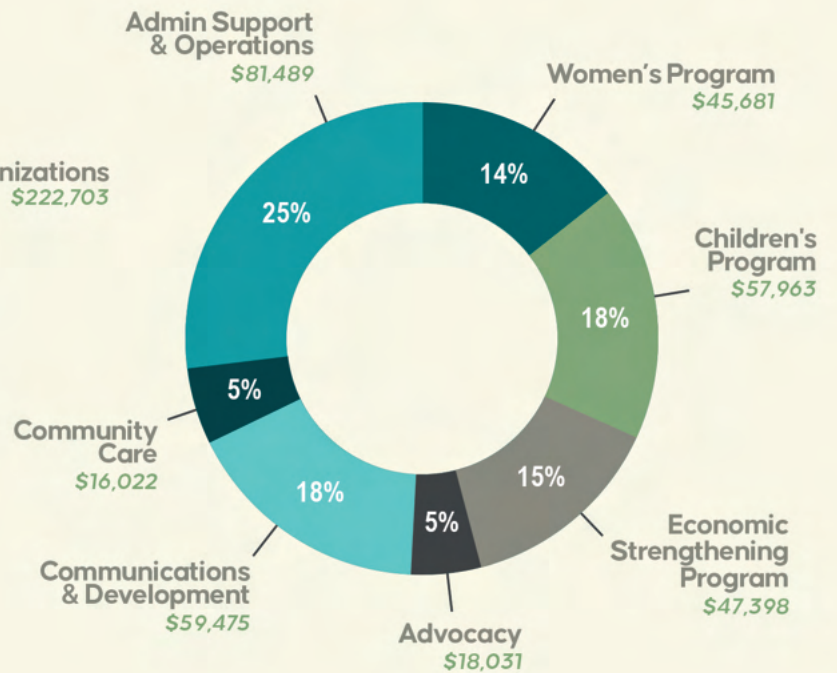
Income



TOTAL

\$349,358

Expenses



TOTAL

\$326,059

Thank you, partners and friends, for giving so that others may live more fully! Every dollar invested touches individual lives. When resources increase, so does our ability to expand services, fight exploitation and see more lives impacted and free. We are so thankful for your partnership!

SHE IS **SUMA**

Our name is inspired by our context
and the dreams we have.
Suma means:

Good, excellent = Aymara

Growing = Spanish

Complete = Latin

Project Suma communicates all that we hope and strive for: renewed identity, goodness, health and wholeness for sexually exploited women and their children in Bolivia.

First abused when she was five years old and then forced into prostitution to support herself as an adult, Analise* had to put her dream of pursuing her education on pause. When she found La Casa Esperanza she found the support she needed to leave prostitution for good. She got her degree and is now thriving with hopes to start a business on the land she owns. Analise's journey from victim to survivor to thriver is miraculous. Her resilience and capacity for hope are unmatched.

She is incredibly brave.
She is flourishing.
She is free.
She is excellent.
She is precious.
She is whole.
She is strong.

SHE IS SUMA!





Together we can help others have a chance to dream for a better future, sometimes for the first time. From prayer partners to youth activities, to outreach and giving, we deeply value the presence, support and hard work of those who graciously provide their time and resources to extend Abundant Life to prostituted women and their children.

Would you like to learn more about our work and be part of the change?


Ask about becoming a member of the Project Suma Donor Anchor Society today.




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