

# Nexus – Water, energy and food security for Bolivia

German Development Cooperation supports the integration and systematic implementation of multi-sectoral development measures

Project name	Nexus – Water, energy, food security
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Bolivia
Lead executing agency	Ministry for Development Planning (MPD)
Duration	November 2016 – October 2019

## Bolivia under pressure to act

With 39% of its population living below the poverty line, Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Its National Agenda 2025 seeks to eliminate extreme poverty hunger and undernourishment, and ensure access to drinking water, sanitation and energy for all its citizens by 2025.

These ambitious goals require more intensive irrigation farming, which increases demand for water and energy – potentially causing higher contamination and harming soils. At the same time, climate change will reduce water availability in Bolivia. Economic and population growth have already created inter-sectoral conflicts of interest over resource use, which stand to increase.

## Challenges

Bolivia has created the legal foundations for multisectoral planning and development. These include the new planning tool, 'A System for Comprehensive Planning' (Sistema de Planificación Integral del Estado, SPIE), and the 'Plan for Economic and Social Development in the Context of Comprehensive Development for a Good Life' (Plan de Desarrollo Económico y Social en el marco del Desarrollo Integral para Vivir Bien, PDES).

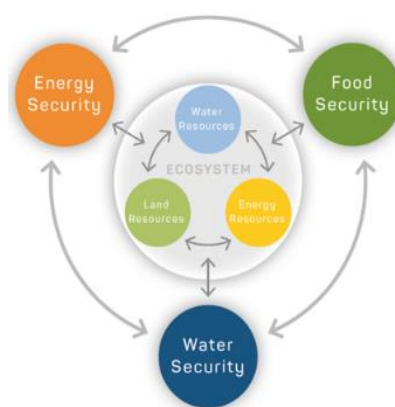


© GIZ Nexus Programme Bolivia

Although multisectoral planning should be aligned with the national agenda, these new regulations have not led to joint planning by the water, energy and food security/land use sectors. This is because there are **no institutional mechanisms** for coordinating intersectoral planning and implementing Nexus subjects.

## Supporting Nexus thinking

German development cooperation institutions and the European Union support evidence presented at the Bonn2011 Conference that an integrated management and governance – 'Nexus' – approach can assist in improving water, energy and food security. Nexus addresses challenges and opportunities, identifies trade-offs, fosters synergies and optimises outcomes across actors and sectors. To meet its ambitious economic, environmental and social targets in the context of climate change, Bolivia needs to think Nexus.

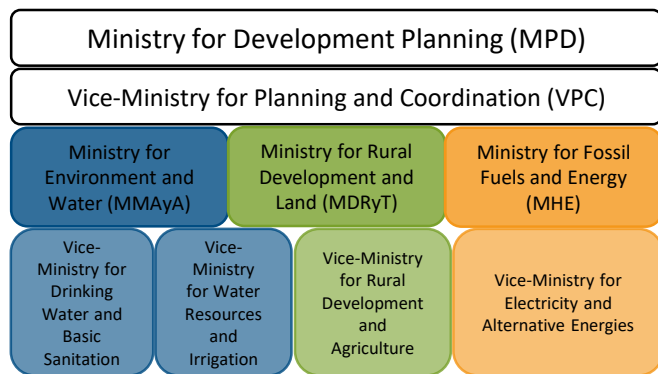


## Developing the Programme

In 2015, the first evaluation was made of national policies and investment programmes – focused on the functionality, management and inherent intersectoral conflicts of multi-purpose dams. Analysis of Bolivia's National Agenda 2025 targets revealed a multitude of interventions needed in Nexus sectors and led the Government to request that a Nexus programme be created.

## Setting up a Nexus Programme

The Bolivian Ministry for Development Planning (MPD) is responsible for development planning and implementation, which are mainly realised by the Vice-Ministry for Planning and Coordination (VPC). The VPC leads and coordinates the Nexus programme, and ensures that the sector ministries for water, energy and rural development receive equal consideration. With its partners at the national, regional and local levels, the programme also works to achieve the desired impacts by making use of the vertical Nexus dimension.



## Objectives

As part of Bolivia's national development plan, the programme should improve systematic implementation of multisectoral development measures – water, energy and food security.

The three-year programme has a budget of EUR 3 million. It foresees:

- National decision-making bodies adopting a strategic action plan to structure and implement intersectoral cooperation within the national sustainable planning for development (PDES and SPIE);
- Establishing two institutionalised coordination mechanisms for intersectoral exchange;
- Using the Nexus approach to implement management models in two local projects: a multi-purpose dam and a project to reduce poverty;
- Anchoring gender equality in the coordination mechanisms and management models of the Nexus strategic action plan.

Besides, synergies are generated at regional level between the bilateral Nexus programme in Bolivia and the global Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme (NRD) implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Existing Nexus potential at national level

The National Agenda 2025 provides the political foundation for a multisectoral approach. The Bolivian Government's goal of significantly reducing poverty by 2025 includes universal access to drinking water and electricity. This goal also requires large-scale expansion of the agricultural sector's land usage through huge infrastructure investments. To ensure this, multipurpose dams are being planned that require governance and management models, and enable efficient infrastructure construction and life-long operation that is not prone to conflict. The Nexus approach to support sustainable development in Bolivia can be most effective by applying it to intersectoral planning and implementation jointly at national and subnational level.

## Impacts achieved

- Successful establishment of a national coordination between the three sectors through ongoing monthly meetings of a technical committee, consisting of representatives from all five related vice-ministries. Here, decisions were made where to implement pilot projects.
- Provision of continuous technical assistance to the local government of the city of Cochabamba to develop and establish water resource management tools for the multipurpose dam "Misicuni".
- Initiation of round-table dialogues through a local coordination in two municipalities on how investments into technologies fostering the Nexus approach can be made.
- Selection of two existing coordination platforms by the counterparts where the programme has started to introduce an intersectoral planning mechanism at national level.
- Cooperation between the bilateral programme in Bolivia and the NRD programme could be intensified by means of workshop participation and exchange of knowledge and experiences.



Misicuni multi-purpose dam, Cochabamba – Bolivia  
© GIZ Nexus Programme Bolivia

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany  
Nexus –Water, energy, food security  
Av. Sanchez Bustamante N° 504  
Calacoto, Casilla 11400  
La Paz, Bolivia  
T +591 (2) 212 4353  
F +591 (2) 291 6791 int. 102  
E [Rafael.Wiese@giz.de](mailto:Rafael.Wiese@giz.de)  
[www.water-energy-food.org](http://www.water-energy-food.org)  
[www.giz.de/bolivia](http://www.giz.de/bolivia)

Author(s) Isabel Pasternack, Rafael Wiese  
As at February 2018

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division

214 South America & Brazil

Addresses of the BMZ offices

BMZ Bonn  
Dahlmannstraße 4  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T +49 (0)228 99 535-0  
F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500

BMZ Berlin  
Stresemannstraße 94  
10963 Berlin, Germany  
T +49 (0)30 18 535-0  
F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501

[poststelle@bmz.bund.de](mailto:poststelle@bmz.bund.de)  
[www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)