



BOLIVIA

CEFIM INSTITUTO

2017 - Current
La Paz, Bolivia

PROJECT PROFILE

Cefim Instituto began in 1989 as a technical training school providing a nationally certified pathway into the gastronomy sector. Since 1989 it has trained more than 6,000 Bolivian women. Reledev began its partnership with Cefim in 2017 create a new method of vocational training similar to vocational education schemes in Australia.

The project supported by Reledev involves:

1. Establishment of a real student-run café, La Especiaria.
2. Adaption of the training modules and schedules to support learning and development and applied to La Especiaria in 'real time'.
3. Continued engagement with local industry through on the job training
4. Cefim as a education school with strong links to significant industry bodies and support from industry for Cefim students guaranteeing employment outcomes.
5. In 2020-2022 a short course was developed in gastronomy and business skills training for women in poor areas of La Paz. Women with micro-enterprises were severely effected by Pandemic lockdowns and Cefim's course seeks to assist them continue and improve their micro-businesses.

CONTEXT

Bolivia's indigenous population remains a sector of the community with lower levels of education, with women facing greater barriers to income security particularly in densely populated urban areas such as El Alto or mining areas such as Las Yungas. Students are predominantly:

1. Young women of Aymara descent, who are unskilled and unemployed.
2. Young women of immigrant families who are tied to the mining sector.
3. Mothers or entrepreneurs from home (micro-business), typically running a street stall or a small catering home enterprise.

IMPACT

In the four years of the project, the following have been achieved:

- Reached over 500 women, the majority of Indigenous Aymara or Quechua descent.
- Established a unique model of vocation training in Bolivia through 'real time' training operating a student enterprise 'La Especiaria'.
- Customised training for single mothers with micro-enterprises such as street vendors in the region of El Alto.