



FRIENDS OF MOTHER EARTH
AMIGOS DE LA MADRE TIERRA

CERT Train-the-Trainer Cochabamba, Bolivia Phase 1 | Donor Report | 2026



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A Message from Our Founders

Addressing the gap in crisis response through precise, community-focused training

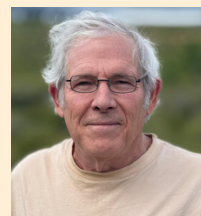


Thanks to your generous investment in Friends of Mother Earth, we are proud to share that Bolivia's first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer program is now complete. In just five transformative days, 25 community leaders from across six Bolivian departments became certified disaster preparedness trainers — each of them now equipped and empowered to build local resilience in the places that need it most.

Bolivia's rural and indigenous communities face growing threats from wildfires, landslides, floods, and extreme weather events. Yet professional emergency response services often cannot reach these communities in time. This program directly addresses that gap — placing trained, trusted local instructors at the center of disaster preparedness, where they can make the greatest difference.

Your support made all of this possible. The pages that follow document what your investment accomplished, who it reached, and the momentum it has generated for national expansion.

With gratitude,
Lisa & Christian



Introduction

From February 23-27, a community of 25 people gathered in Cochabamba, Bolivia to participate in CERT training.

Friends of Mother Earth is focused on establishing Bolivia's first national network of community-based emergency response trainers.

This community will be capable of replicating CERT programs across rural, indigenous, and high-risk regions nationwide.

25

Trainers Certified

15+

Partner Organizations

40

Total Training Hours

2

Lead Trainers

6

Departments Represented

6

Volunteers

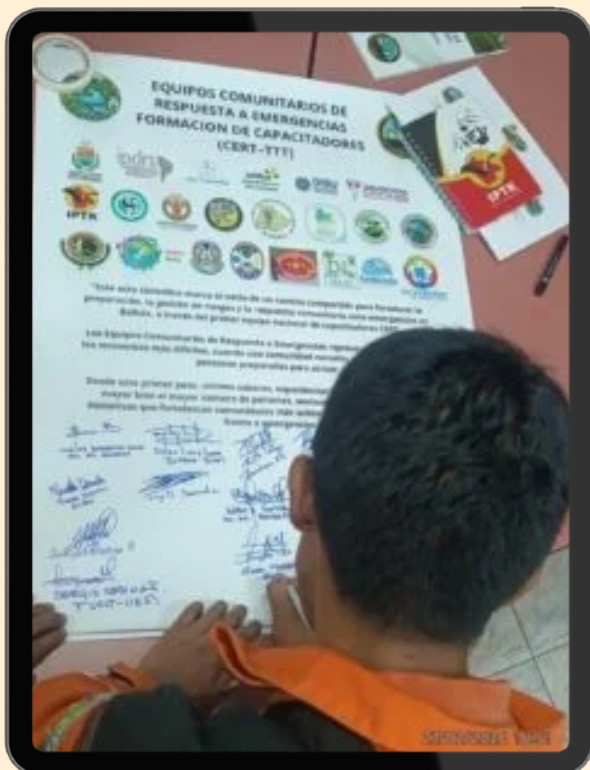


Program Overview

The CERT Train-the-Trainer program was implemented in partnership with CERT Latin Global, Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), and UMSS's Directorate of University Social Interaction (DISU), with primary sponsorship from North Carolina Partners of the Americas.

The five-day, 40-hour training was hosted at UMSS in Cochabamba and covered:

- Disaster preparedness and community risk assessment
- Fire safety and prevention
- Medical triage and first aid
- Light search and rescue operations
- Incident command and team coordination
- Disaster psychology and trauma-informed response



Who We Trained

Although the original budget supported 12 participants, trainers determined that 24–25 participants were required for effective team-based scenario drills. With careful coordination, a final cohort of 25 was assembled — representing six departments and more than 15 institutions and community networks across Bolivia.

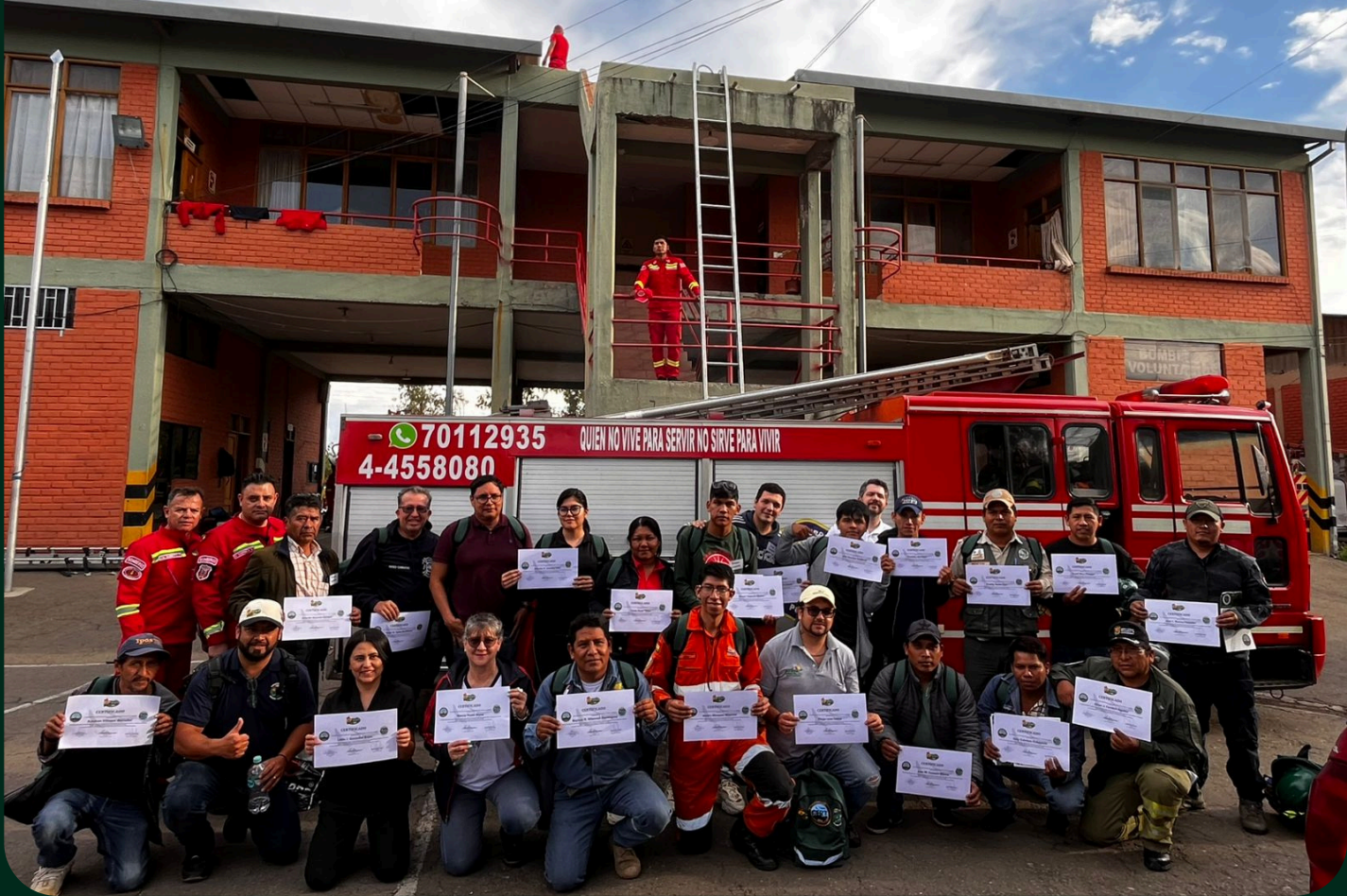
Departments Represented

- La Paz
- Pando
- Chuquisaca
- Beni
- Santa Cruz
- Cochabamba

Certified Trainers & Community Reach

The 25 certified trainers represent organizations with significant potential to expand CERT training across hundreds of communities in Bolivia. The table below summarizes the key organizations and the scope of their reach.

Participating Organization	Potential Reach
Volunteer K9 Firefighter – Santa Cruz Governorate	6 communities served directly
Regional Peasant Workers Union	20+ indigenous communities
IPTK – Colquechaca	Educational and community outreach programs
Agua Sustentable	Community and school networks
AAPIMMACH / CIPCA / IPDRS Amazonía / REDAT	Youth networks and community organizations
AmazoniaCICOL / Chiquitanía / TIPNIS Territory Guard	Indigenous territories with urgent preparedness needs
Park Ranger – Governorate Risk Management Unit	Department-level risk management
Armonía	Environmental NGO community programs
UMSS (DISU / ESFOR / Agronomy)	Academic and student outreach networks
Ecological Battalions – Bolivian Armed Forces	Military unit replication potential
SAR Bolivia	Search and rescue organizations
Cochabamba Fire Department	Training facilities for future courses
Valle del Sacta (Chapare)	High-risk region community preparedness



Training Highlights

FIRE DEPARTMENT
COLLABORATION

The Cochabamba Fire Department invited the cohort to conduct training exercises at their professional facilities, providing a high-quality environment for practical drills. This partnership also secured ongoing access to fire department facilities for future CERT training courses.

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT:
LINKUPATA

Participants visited the community of Linkupata, where residents shared firsthand accounts of the landslide and wildfire risks they face regularly. This exchange grounded the technical training in lived community experience and deepened participants' motivation to replicate the program in their own regions.

MEDIA COVERAGE &
PUBLIC VISIBILITY

The closing ceremony was attended by local media and public officials, generating television and press coverage. This visibility positioned Friends of Mother Earth as a key actor in Bolivia's community-based disaster preparedness landscape and introduced the CERT model to a broader national audience.

Emerging Partnerships & Next Steps

The program's reach extends well beyond the 40 hours of direct training. Strong institutional interest in expanding CERT nationwide has already produced concrete commitments and emerging partnerships:

CERT Kids Program

The Cochabamba Governorate Risk Management Unit has expressed interest in developing a school-based CERT program for children and youth — extending disaster preparedness to the next generation.

Bolivian Armed Forces Integration

Bolivian military units expressed strong interest in integrating CERT principles into soldier training, creating the potential to scale preparedness across military networks nationwide.

SAR Bolivia Advanced Modules

SAR Bolivia has offered to provide advanced search and rescue modules to complement CERT training, deepening the technical capacity of the trainer network.

Printed Materials for Remote Communities

Participants emphasized the critical need for printed training materials for indigenous and remote communities without reliable internet access — a priority investment opportunity for Phase II.

Formal Cooperation Agreements

Multiple organizations have expressed interest in signing formal partnership agreements with Friends of Mother Earth to expand the program nationally.

Thank you

TO ALL OUR DONORS AND
VOLUNTEERS.



Your continued support will bring CERT training to hundreds of communities across Bolivia. Phase II funding is needed to replicate training, produce printed materials, and formalize institutional partnerships.

In February 2026, Friends of Mother Earth achieved something historic: Bolivia's first national cohort of community emergency response instructors was trained, certified, and connected — ready to multiply preparedness across the country.

The momentum generated by Phase I is extraordinary. Partnerships have been forged. Institutional commitments have been made. And 25 trained trainers are returning to their communities with the skills and materials to save lives.

This is what your investment in Friends of Mother Earth looks like. Thank you for making it possible.

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