



IMPACT REPORT 2024

Letter

from the directors

We're proud to share the incredible results of our collective commitment to transformation and healing. In 2024, lives changed—women and children broke free from exploitation and trauma and reclaimed their future. We celebrated 35 new business start-ups—each one a testament to courage, perseverance and the hard work of healing. It was also a year marked by explosive advocacy advancements that strengthen our influence for structural change.

But these successes were also hard fought. Bolivia has been grappling with an economic crisis marked by ongoing gasoline and dollar shortages. A 40% currency devaluation has eroded salaries and increased the cost of living, putting an immense strain on our community and intensifying political instability as we approach upcoming elections.

Internally, Project Suma also faced some growing pains. Leadership transitions and staff turnover left us feeling like a toddler learning to walk. Yet these challenges pushed us to live out the very values we believe for ourselves and others—resilience, integrity, wholeness and justice. So we learned, adapted and implemented change to continue building a stronger foundation for the future.

Recently, I was encouraged with feedback regarding our “long obedience”—or rather a steady, unwavering commitment to see change happen. Healing, justice and restoration do not occur overnight. But we persevere with small steps of faithfulness, trusting a good God who sustains all things.

What a joy and honor to continue in this work together. We are Suma—the wholeness we seek. It is your prayers, encouragement and partnership that holds us and makes all of it possible.

With gratitude,



Andrea Baker

Founding Partner,
Advocate and
International Director

With a heart full of gratitude and hope, I am pleased to present the 2024 Impact Report for Project Suma. This document not only reflects a year of work but also the resilience, transformation and faith that guide our mission. 2024 has been a year of growth and learning. Every implemented activity, every challenge overcome, and every life transformed has brought us one step closer to our dream of seeing more women and their families free from sexual exploitation. I firmly believe that every woman and every child is at the heart of God, and it is He who, in His infinite goodness and faithfulness, continues to strengthen Project Suma to fulfill this purpose.

This year also marks the end of a significant chapter in our history. It has been a time of laying strong foundations, learning and growing together as a team. I want to express my deepest admiration and gratitude to each team member—their dedication, compassion, and commitment have been the driving force behind every achievement, and their work has been essential in creating a lasting impact.

Looking ahead, we know there is still much to do. Systemic inequalities, gender-based violence and lack of opportunities remain harsh realities for thousands of women and children in Bolivia. But this report is proof that change is possible. With your support, we will continue working tirelessly to build a future where every person has the opportunity to live a life of abundance, free from sexual exploitation.

I invite you to read this report with the same heart in which we created it—a heart full of hope, gratitude, and a deep desire to continue transforming lives. Thank you for being part of this mission. Together, we are writing a story of justice, love and opportunity.

With deep gratitude,



Doris Monasterios

National Director
and passionate Advocate
for vulnerable women

Introduction

Currently more than 30,000 women are legally registered in the sex industry in the cities of La Paz and El Alto,¹ where Project Suma operates. This number has nearly tripled within a decade. In Bolivia, systemic inequalities, economic poverty and a lack of supporting structures leave thousands of women vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The pandemic and subsequent financial crisis has only increased vulnerabilities. Many are forced into this reality under coercion, deception or sheer necessity,² with limited alternatives for sustainable employment and financial independence.

Bolivia has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence in Latin America,³ yet the country lacks the judicial infrastructure necessary to protect victims and those at risk. As a result, women are disproportionately affected by exploitation and trafficking, often facing cycles of violence, injustice and poverty that make it difficult to escape these circumstances.



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This reality affects not only women, but also their children, who grow up in unstable environments with trauma. Many face emotional distress, learning difficulties and behavioral challenges. Without intervention, they are at high risk of repeating the same cycles of vulnerability that made their mothers susceptible to exploitation.

At Project Suma we break these cycles. We use a holistic approach that addresses both immediate needs and long-term solutions. Through our **Women's Program**, we provide emergency support, opportunities for healing and tools for independence; we strengthen financial skills, offer job training and support for entrepreneurship, allowing women to build sustainable livelihoods. Simultaneously, with our **Children's Program** we create a safe and nurturing environment where at-risk children can learn, grow and heal—ensuring that the next generation has the opportunities needed to thrive.

This report reflects what a year of opportunities means for the women and children we serve among. It stands as a proof of resilience, transformation and the unwavering belief that every person deserves a future free from exploitation.

1. According to data from local health center registries.

2. Sex trafficking is defined by the use of force, coercion, fraud or deception for the purpose of sexual exploitation. United Nations, **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** (New York: United Nations, 2000), art. 3(a).

3. UN Women. **UN Women Strategic Note: Bolivia (2022-2026)**. 2022.

Vision

Abundant life
for those affected
by sexual exploitation

Mission

Project Suma fights against sexual exploitation, accompanying victims, creating opportunities and advocating for change to generate deep and lasting transformation

Connection

Presence and deep identification in brothels, on the streets and anywhere there's injustice and exploitation against women and their children

Through a holistic program developed over 2 decades, Project Suma offers hope and lasting change to sexually exploited women and their families by breaking generational cycles of violence and poverty.

Support

Immediate aid, working with mothers and children to protect the next generation from exploitation and violence

Healing

Support, workshops, individual and group counseling, within a nurturing community to better overcome trauma and abuse

Opportunity

Career and financial training, tutoring, mentoring and discipleship



A Year of Impact



Creating Opportunities That Change Lives

Women's Program

USD \$128,265

Invested in providing safe spaces, support, and opportunities for survivors to heal and achieve financial independence.

We believe in new beginnings. When women have a safe, confidential space to heal, rediscover their worth and dream again, transformation happens.

Each number represents the story of a woman who has found the strength to reclaim her future.



50

women free from sexual exploitation

5,376

women personally encouraged through street outreach



195

women found safety and community in our drop-in center



233

women improved their health through medical campaigns



60

women participated in therapy, strengthening their ability to overcome trauma

104

women gained new skills and reignited their dreams through workshops



55

women received legal support and emotional accompaniment

"Thanks to Project Suma, I feel stronger today and have hope for a different future for me and my children. Thank you for believing in me when I couldn't believe in myself!"

-Varinia*, Program Participant

Joana's Story

No matter how many hours Joana⁴ spent selling her products in the open market, she never earned enough. Desperate to buy asthma medication for her three-year-old son, she accepted what seemed like a better paying job only to find herself trapped in sexual exploitation

Years later, we met Joana at a health center and invited her to a baking workshop. **That moment marked the start of her journey in the Women's Program, while her two sons joined the Children's Program.**

At the time, Joana worked long hours, leaving very little time for her children. Her relationship with her son Santiago, was difficult as he was withdrawn and her youngest, Gabo, struggled with school due to ADHD. **A turning point came when the family attended their first Project Suma retreat.** They found meaningful community and deepened their understanding of God, which helped strengthen the bond between Joana and her children.



Joana was able to escape sexual exploitation and began to dream of starting her own baking business. With pastry and entrepreneurship training, along with a talent for creating beautiful cakes, Joana's dream began to take shape. **In 2023, a microloan from Project Suma enabled her to launch "ELEIN Bakery," named in honor of her eldest daughter, who disappeared at 18. "I haven't seen her since," Joana shared, "but I know I will find her."**

Along the way, Joana received funds to upgrade her kitchen, which reduced her workload, increased production and gave her more time with her children—something she had longed for. Her sons even pitch in when she receives large orders, a sign of their support and improved relationship.

"The most important thing was coming to this place [Casa Esperanza]⁵," Joana says. "If I hadn't, my life would have been the same, just working and moving from place to place. Now, I'm more present for my children."

For Santiago, healing came slowly as he connected with his mom and peers at Casa Esperanza; his confidence grew and his school performance improved. Joana is also learning to embrace Gabo's strengths and established routines to manage his ADHD. Gabo finds joy in dancing and is learning to better channel his energy and spontaneity.



The road hasn't been easy, but the family's connection has grown stronger. Their dreams now feel within reach. Joana aims to expand beyond the pastry business, Santiago aspires to become an architect, and Gabo's dreams are unfolding.

4. Joana and her children's names have been changed to respect their privacy.

5. Casa Esperanza, or the House of Hope, is the name the women gave to the Project Suma ministry center.

With the support of Project Suma, they're now writing their own stories.

Children's Program

USD \$106,991

Invested in education, protection, and opportunities that empower children and teens to thrive

We create meaningful opportunities for children to learn, grow and dream. With love and care, they build confidence, friendships and hope, breaking cycles of violence and shaping a future full of possibilities. Each number represents a child embracing new opportunities.



220

children and teens found a safe space with nutritional support, recreation and learning opportunities



88

children improved motor skills, language, and learning strategies



49

children and teens benefited from health and dental check-ups



169

children and teens enhanced their academic performance through extra-school support



116

children learned to manage emotions through therapy

"Casa Esperanza, I love you with all my heart, and I hope you continue making us laugh for many more years."

Daniel,* Children's Program Participant

Team Highlights

This year, Project Suma has participated in key events that have strengthened our efforts to combat sexual exploitation both locally and globally. From regional collaborations to international conferences, our team has worked tirelessly to raise awareness, build connections, and amplify the voices of those affected. Below are some of the most impactful highlights.

Team Growth at ICAP Global Latin America and the Caribbean Be Renewed Congress

1



Five staff members attended The ICAP⁶ Latin America & Caribbean Congress in El Salvador. They connected with like-minded organizations working to bring freedom and transformation for those affected by sexual exploitation. We hope to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in the region.

Research & Publication

2



The research study *Subject, Not Object*, by Ariel Alexander, Formation Facilitator at Project Suma, was published and presented at a sponsored event by the UK Embassy. The event brought together a diverse audience, raising awareness and representation on the issue of sexual exploitation, which, despite its severity, remains unacknowledged in Bolivia.

Global Impact at Lausanne Congress

3



Andrea Baker and Ariel Alexander had the honor of participating in the Lausanne Congress in South Korea, where global leaders gathered to discuss missions and transformative work.

Economic Strengthening Program

USD \$ 90,887

Invested in empowering women and teens through business development, education, and leadership, fostering financial independence and personal growth.

The Economic Strengthening program aims to break cycles of poverty by developing skills and competencies in families affected by sexual exploitation. Through an integrated approach encompassing education, investment, support, and leadership, we promote lasting economic and emotional change, ensuring a sustainable and transformative impact.



35

women built sustainable businesses, turning dreams into reality



6

women gained hands-on experience through **Sutisana** internships



5

participants took on leadership roles, guiding prayer and worship in group discipleship



24

teens explored career interests and developed skills through financial training



7

teens were accepted into university with Project Suma scholarships covering supply costs

"I love my marketing classes! I'm a total nerd, always getting good grades. I'm really grateful to [Project Suma] for helping me have everything I need to keep studying and follow my career."

Samuel,* Economic Strengthening Program Participant

Advocacy & Allies

USD \$ 87,075

Invested in strengthening advocacy efforts, empowering survivors as leaders, and building strategic alliances to drive meaningful change and raise awareness globally and locally .

Project Suma's work extends beyond direct intervention; we are also a voice for justice and change. Over the past year, our community of local and international allies has expanded, significantly strengthening our efforts and ensuring that survivors' voices are amplified and become catalysts for the systemic transformation they want to see.



120

local participants attended the World Day Against Trafficking Forum, organized with DTProject, UNIFRANZ, and other entities, featuring representatives from Bolivia, Spain, Peru, and Colombia.



22

institutions trained through a strategic agreement with GAMEA (Gobierno Autónomo Municipal de El Alto) focusing on prevention and response to sexual exploitation



80

local church volunteers trained and actively involved in awareness-raising activities to address sexual exploitation



3

events organized in partnership with local churches to raise awareness



19

women survivors actively engaged in the self-directed group, strengthening their leadership through training and empowerment to drive community change



8

podcast episodes produced, featuring survivor stories to raise awareness and shed light on the issue of sexual exploitation



2

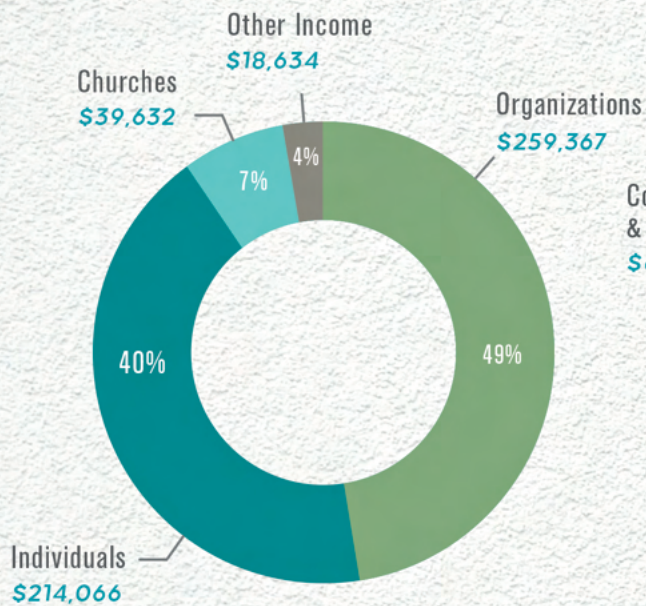
agreements signed with institutions that ensure the protection of rights for victims

"One of my children wants to work at Project Suma. He knows all about the [anti-trafficking] movement, and he knows my story."

Pinina, Survivor Leader/ Local Abolitionist

Financials⁷

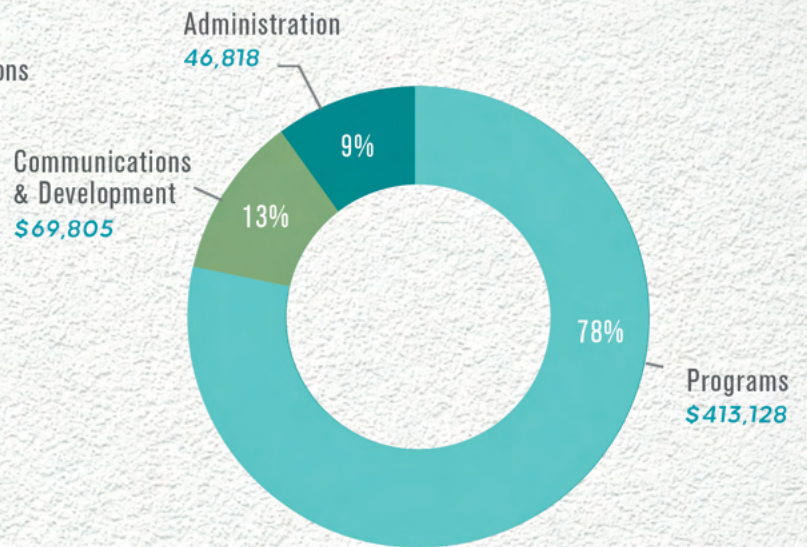
Income



TOTAL

\$531,699

Expenses



TOTAL

\$529,841

7. Project Suma, formerly Word Made Flesh Bolivia, is an independently registered 501 (c)3, EIN 88-2869284 and a registered foundation in Bolivia.

Get involved and make a difference

Imagine a world free from exploitation, where every person has the opportunity to thrive. This is the future we are working towards, and you are an integral part!

When ordinary people unite, extraordinary things can happen. Every action—big or small—creates a ripple of impact. When we come together, transformative change becomes possible.



CHILD PARTNERSHIP

Investing in the Next Generation

Every child deserves a safe space to dream and grow. Through Child Partnership, you can help children of women affected by sexual exploitation access education, support, and a brighter future.



ANCHOR SOCIETY

Strengthening the Foundation of Change

Join the Anchor Society and ensure long-term support for women and children. Your investment helps create lasting opportunities for healing, growth, and independence.

**Will you
join us
in this mission?**

VOLUNTEERING



Give Your Time, Change a Life

We deeply value the presence, dedication, and generosity of those who give their time to support our mission. Your involvement makes a difference.

MONTHLY DONOR



Fuel Hope Every Month

By becoming a Monthly Donor, you provide ongoing support that empowers women to build a future full of possibilities.

Give monthly and be part of the transformation.

THE POWER OF PRAYER



Unlocking Miracles

Prayer breaks chains, grants supernatural favor, enables rescue, and places people in the right place at the right time.



www.projectsuma.org