

Partner Profile: CRECER IFD



In Bolivia, an estimated 37 percent of adult women and 44 percent of low-income adults lack access to formal financial services.¹ Additionally, according to the Pan American Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer, cervical cancer is the leading cause of death for Bolivian women, and screening coverage only reaches 33 percent of the target population of women between the ages of 25 and 64.²

CRECER IFD (CRECER) is a Bolivian microfinance institution and a partner within Global Partnerships' Women-Centered Finance with Education and Women-Centered Finance with Health initiatives.³

WHO IS SERVED:

CRECER currently serves over 259,000 clients, with a focus on female micro-entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas in Bolivia. 74 percent of its clients are female, 41 percent live in rural areas,⁴ and 20 percent live on less than \$5.50 per person, per day.⁵

WHAT IS DELIVERED:

CRECER provides finance, education, and health services for their clients, using a group lending approach to make working capital loans paired with broad-based education that covers

budgeting, nutrition, cancer prevention, and digital literacy.

In addition, CRECER clients can access discounted health services focusing on cervical and uterine cancer prevention. These services are delivered through health campaigns conducted primarily in underserved rural areas in partnership with government institutions and private or NGO medical providers.

WHY IT IS IMPACTFUL:

Access to working capital loans and related education enables CRECER's clients to make more informed decisions and invest in income-generating activities, resulting in improved economic resilience and food security for their households. A 2021 study of CRECER clients found that 85 percent of respondents reported

improvement in their quality of life, 77 percent reported increased income, and 83 percent reported an increased ability to plan their finances.⁶

Supplementing their financial and educational offerings, CRECER's health information and services give clients the opportunity to receive important preventive screenings for the leading cause of death among Bolivian women, and get timely and appropriate medical treatment in the event of a positive diagnosis, potentially saving lives.

1. "The Global Findex Database," The World Bank, 2021, <https://globalfindex.worldbank.org>.
2. "Assessing Barriers Encountered by Women in Cervical Cancer Screening and Follow-Up Care in Urban Bolivia, Cochabamba," Healthcare 2022, <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare10091604>.
3. CRECER was a current borrower of Global Partnerships Impact-First Development Fund, LLC, Global Partnerships Impact-First Growth Fund, LLC, and Global Partnerships Social Investment Fund 5.0, LLC, as of December 31, 2022.
4. Data as of December 31, 2022, as reported by CRECER.
5. Based on responses from 299 CRECER group loan clients in a 2021 study by 60 Decibels, Inc.
6. Ibid.