

La Paz: incorporating Inclusion in the public

Municipal Autonomous Government of La Paz



How La Paz City incorporated the inclusion of people with disabilities and universal design within its public policy agenda, starting practically from nothing

1. Institutional setting

Bolivia signed and ratified the United Nations convention for the rights of people with disabilities and approved a national law for its validity in the country.

La Paz didn't have specific legislation on inclusion and accessibility.

The first step was to posit a person with a disability as a municipal councilor introducing the issue to society.

And the second was to create the Citizen Council of People with Disabilities in La Paz.



2. Starting point

Challenge: making La Paz a city for everyone, through specific regulations, elimination of architectural and attitudinal barriers, adaptations and specific projects for people with disabilities.

It is about people with disabilities having the same opportunities for integral development as the rest of the citizens.

La Paz works together with the Citizen Council for People with Disabilities.

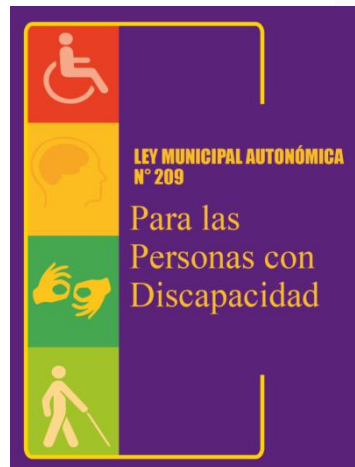


3. Approach

Together with the Citizen Council, we elaborated the first Municipal Law for People with Disabilities and its regulations.

The law establishes specific tasks for the city government on specific topics:

- Transportation
- Communication
- Elimination of barriers
- Urban adaptations
- Labor inclusion
- Health
- Sport, Culture and Entertainment



4. Outputs

- A park and a gym for people with disabilities.
- Inclusive municipal transportation
- Route for the blind and traffic lights with sound
- One school and four accessible hospitals
- Pilot program for accessible tourism
- Elimination of architectural barriers Plan
- We created the UCCI Accessibility Group
- Municipal monthly bonus for people with disabilities



5. Lessons

La Paz is a city where there is too much to do for the inclusion of people with disabilities.

We need to generate awareness in the government of the city in allocating resources for inclusion and accessibility in all areas.

The first actions have been isolated. We need inclusion and accessibility to be transversal and with a coordinated work.

Our Citizen Council needs to get more involved to provide specialized advice.



6. Follow up



The first actions on accessibility were well received by the community.

However, we need greater dissemination among our citizens so the need to make an accessible and inclusive city will be understood and prioritized.

It is necessary to extend these to integrated programs that cover the entire territory of the municipality.

We need more internal diffusion of the need to make an accessible city. Our first barrier is internal.