

# Opening up contracts for a better diet

TEXT: Jolien van der Vaart • ILLUSTRATION: Sofi Donner

THIS IS ME, ESTEFANÍA, TEACHING SCHOOL KIDS.



WELCOME CHILDREN!  
PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS

EVERYDAY, THE CHILDREN GET BREAKFAST FROM THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM. THE CITY SERVES 140.000 MEALS A DAY, COSTING 238.000 BOLIVIANOS (EUR 29.000).



HERE'S YOUR  
BREAKFAST!

¡GRACIAS!

GET  
YOUR OWN!

THIS CAN'T BE HEALTHY,  
THAT'S ONLY SUGAR!

IS THAT WHAT THE CITY IS  
SPENDING OUR TAX MONEY ON?

FOR SOME OF THEM, IT'S ALL THEY GET TO EAT IN A DAY!



BYE-BYE!  
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

THAT'S WHEN I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO HELP THOSE CHILDREN GET BETTER AND HEALTHIER FOOD.



IN 2018, I WAS WORKING FOR MIGA, AN ORGANIZATION THAT STRENGTHENS REGIONAL GASTRONOMIC MOVEMENTS, WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE TO RECONNECT ME TO MY DAYS AS A SCHOOL TEACHER



LET'S DO THIS!

Eliana Quiroz

OPEN UP  
CONTRACTING  
PROGRAM



OK, SO, IF WE WANT TO CHANGE HOW MUNICIPALITIES ARE SPENDING THE SCHOOL BUDGET, WE FIRST NEED TO KNOW WHAT COMPANIES THEY'RE CONTRACTING.

BUT TO FIND OUT, WE NEED TO ANALYZE THE INFORMATION AND MAKE IT UNDERSTANDABLE FOR EVERYONE!



THERE IS SO MUCH INFORMATION! WHERE TO START WITH ALL THIS?



PHEW, WE'RE DONE!



SO WE MET WITH THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL MEAL UNIT OF ONE OF LA PAZ MUNICIPALITIES

YOU KNOW, WE'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO TRULY CHANGE THINGS IF WE'RE NOT SPEAKING WITH THE PERSON WHO IS CONTRACTING EVERYONE!

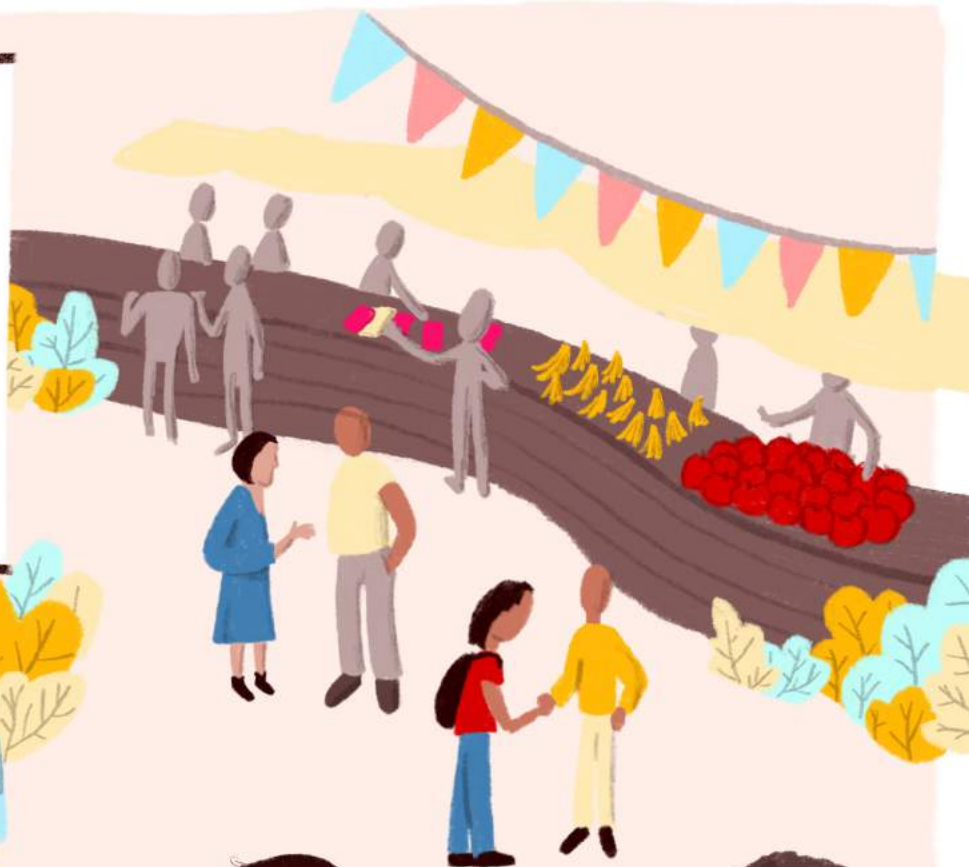


OK, SO IF I UNDERSTAND THIS CORRECTLY, YOU WANT TO REPRODUCE THE SUCCESSES OF MY 20 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?



WE AGREED TO ORGANIZE AN EVENT TO SHOW THE IMPORTANCE OF SYSTEMATIZING INFORMATION. WE INVITED ALL THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LA PAZ.

IF WE SYSTEMATIZE OUR INFORMATION, WE CAN IMPROVE HOW WE'RE SPENDING OUR MONEY, HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES GROW AND PROVIDE HEALTHIER FOOD FOR THE CHILDREN!

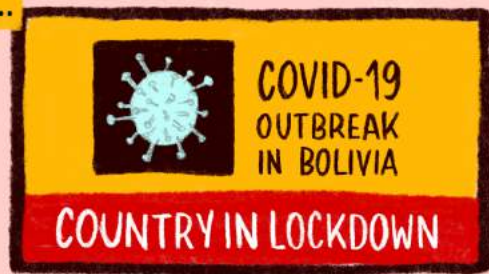


IT WAS TO BE THE FIRST OF MANY EVENTS...





BUT THE NEXT DAY...



OH NO! BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THE WORKSHOPS WE PLANNED WITH THE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?!

AH-HA! WE ALREADY HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO FIND OUT HOW THE GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING THEIR BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL MEALS DURING THE PANDEMIC!



CAN YOU USE THE INFORMATION FROM THE DATABASE TO FIND OUT HOW THE GOVERNMENT IS REALLOCATING THEIR BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL MEALS?

**MUY WASO**

YES! THEY'RE SPENDING IT ON FOOD FOR THE MILITARY INSTEAD OF CIVILIANS!

FINALLY JOURNALISTS ARE ABLE TO USE OUR DATABASES AND TRANSLATE COMPLEX INFORMATION INTO SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND AND THAT'S RELEVANT TO THEM!  
[read article here]

**MUY WASO**


Municipalities spend  
School meal budget on  
police and military



WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE SCHOOLS AND ALL WORKSHOPS CANCELLED, WE STARTED A VIRTUAL COURSE ON OPEN CONTRACTING IN THE FOOD SECTOR



THE INFORMATION ON FOOD PURCHASING SHARED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO OWNED BY US, THE PUBLIC.



THAT'S WHY IT SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY ALL OF US. BUT THIS KIND OF INFORMATION SHOULD NOT ONLY BE AVAILABLE...



...IT SHOULD ALSO BE UNDERSTANDABLE. INFORMATION IS POWERFUL AND WE HAVE TO GIVE THAT POWER BACK TO THE PEOPLE!