

Bolivia Project Overview

Michigan Technological University's Student Chapter of Engineers Without Borders-USA has been working on a road repair and construction project with the community of Santa Barbara, Bolivia. Approximately 50 families rely on this road to access the nearby town of Buena Vista. Due to the poor access to water, schools, and healthcare, it is important that the community members can travel to Buena Vista when necessary. The connecting road is often in disrepair due to damage from heavy rains and lack of an adequate maintenance plan. Every year the road washes out in one or more locations, leading to dangerous driving conditions. Our goal is to construct a sustainable road that will remain operational and safe in the rainy season.



Previous Work

EWB-MTU completed an assessment trip in 2019 and an implementation trip in 2022 to address problems with the road. During the implementation trip, we worked with the community to cover a section of the road with gravel, add ditches to both sides of the road, and install a culvert so that water can pass under the road instead of over it.



Future Work

Rebuilding the entire road in Santa Barbara will take additional trips to complete. The EWB-MTU team plans to take multiple trips to Bolivia in the coming years for the complete the new road. The team is currently creating detailed road profiles using drone and satellite images and civil engineering design software. EWB-MTU will continue growing its relationship with Santa Barbara and to help them overcome their transportation challenges.

