Sustainability



Codelco has established a Master Plan for Sustainability that will serve as a roadmap for the next 25 years. With the respective measures in place, we aim to establish a Codelco Seal that verifies sustainability and traceability within our processes and products.

In 2016, we established a Master Plan for Sustainability that condenses Codelco's sustainability strategy and defines short, medium and long-term objectives. Among the most urgent measures are to have zero fatal accidents and incidents affecting our communities; progressively reduce freshwater consumption per processed ton; execute a business plan that includes socio-environmental variables at a competitive cost; assume personnel management systems that include diversity and high levels of performance. Additionally, we aim to reach 5% traceable cathodes in three years, a figure that will gradually increase.

We are convinced that to progress towards a sustainable future and confront the enormous challenges in the mining sector (whilst optimizing productivity and adjusting our costs) it is necessary to adopt a long-term view and approach to face more challenging scenarios. Codelco must continue to be a profitable business for Chile, to satisfy an exceedingly demanding marketplace, and to respond to a society with higher expectations. Moreover, Codelco must strengthen its management in anticipation of the effects of climate change and the critical risk factors to sustainability, among other variables, across all operations.

With this in mind, in 2016 the Board requested the development of a Master Plan aimed at incorporating sustainability into the vision of the Business and Development Plan; ensuring long-term profitability of our business, as well as the encouragement of change in the way we think about (and execute) mining, moving towards and virtuous, sustainable and inclusive approach.

Thanks to a participative process that brought together more than 100 professionals from all Divisions, a similar number of individuals from academia, the mining industry, NGOs, specialists from a wide array of disciplines and the Sustainability Council of the Federación de Trabajadores del Cobre (FTC), we were able to prepare the Master Plan for Sustainability, approved by the Board of Directors in November 2016.



The plan establishes concrete and challenging goals for the six key elements of the 2020, 2030 and 2040 sustainability model, reducing uncertainties on resources availability and minimizing socio-environmental risks and impacts. The strategic elements are:

- Occupational health and safety
- People
- Environment
- Communities and territory
- Strategic Innovation
- Business and Corporate Governance

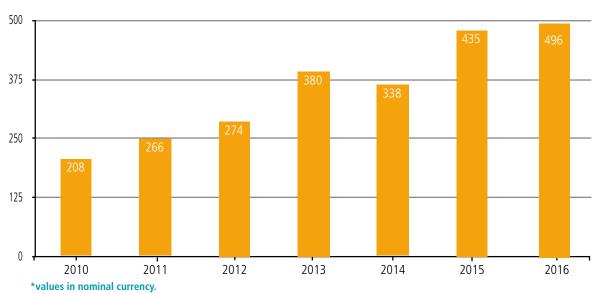
Within the master plan, we update the Corporate Sustainability Policy, undertaking the critical challenges identified to enable the economic activity of the company in its social and environmental context.



Investment

Accordingly, Codelco invested US\$ 496 million in sustainability projects in 2016. These investments were allocated to initiatives related to occupational health and safety and environmental projects, as well as undertakings associated with improvements to the gas capture system, surface runoff treatment and tailings management.

Investment in sustainability 2010-2016* (In US\$ million)



Occupational Health and Safety

In 2016, under the framework of the management system for occupational health and safety and risk in the workplace, Codelco defined a work program, arranged with the cooperation of the Divisions and the Vice President of Projects. This program that compiled the key data from internal audits and analyses of prior incidents. Moreover, we updated 5 control standards for fatalities and 5 control standards for occupational health.

Management of the corporate Technical Workgroups continued with outstanding results, triggering the creation of other work

groups to respond to cross management issues in occupational health and safety. The scope of these work groups included the following areas:

- Electrical
- Fire and emergencies
- Tailings storage facilities
- Eradication of silicosis
- Underground mining
- Smelters and refineries
- Fatigue and drowsiness
- Geotechnical

Notable progress was made in the reporting and learning system that facilitated the management and issuance of action plans as defined in incident investigation reports. With the participation of different areas, we analyzed 50 high potential risk incidents that in turn generated 2,772 action plant for the implementation of corrective measures, 98% of which were closed at the end of 2016.

Progress in safety

- Based on business process mapping, risk matrices were prepared to protect the lives and physical integrity of individuals, safeguard Codelco assets and ensure operations continuity.
 Codelco has identified 10 critical risks in our processes and necessary controls.
- Codelco has established an internal fire protection safety standard NCC 40 that outlines the parameters, conditions and minimum technical requirements for the design of safety systems for projects and operations.
- We standardized operational controls in accordance with technological advances, new legislation and operational requirements.
- Risks associated with sulphuric acid plants were identified and evaluated to protect personnel integrity (in addition to maintenance until necessary replacements were made).
 In total, we recorded 62 high risk areas with 89 identified mitigation actions.
- We strengthened the use of the Green Card (a tool that shuts down operations in the event of imminent hazard), which was highly appraised by workers. The Green Card was implemented an average of 281 times per month.

- With respect to performance improvements and skills training, Codelco updated the corporate induction course for occupational health and safety to include the requirements set forth in the Mining Safety Regulation. Furthermore, this course is also now available to contractor companies.
- For the first time at Codelco Divisions and Projects, an assembly
 of joint committees consisting of Codelco staff and contractor
 personnel was held to review and align risk prevention
 management. The role of the corporate workgroup for the
 joint committees was reaffirmed, who approved the structural
 procedure for its organization and operation.

Leadership and behavioural safety

Through the Divisional and Projects Management Committee, Codelco developed a monthly leadership program that attained 98% completion. This schedule included managerial walks, the formation of a Senior Occupational Health and Safety Council, and monthly meetings with contractor companies, allowing enhanced interaction in the field between executives and workers.

Codelco has 13,652 qualified behavioural monitors whose observations permit the detection and correction of hazardous conduct. In 2016, the most critical hazardous behaviour was reduced by 38% (from 3.7% in 2015 to 2.3 in 2016).

Special regulation

We proceeded in the application of the special occupational health and safety regulation through the incorporation of audits, together with the provision of systematic support to assigned professionals from respective mutual insurance companies. In combination with the internal efforts of the Divisions and Projects, we executed 231 audits on contractor companies, representing 90% coverage of these companies.

Occupational health

Our main priority is the timely and efficient management of health at in the workplace, for both Codelco staff and contractor staff. Essentially, we must identify, evaluate and control the agents and factors that pose a risk to health. To meet this objective, the following key actions were undertaken in 2016:

Execute traceable environmental monitoring plans that address health risk factors and agents in occupational hygiene and ergonomics. Implement controls to close detected breaches.

- Strengthen the workplace health management model in contractor companies.
- Maintain performance standards in medical surveillance of exposed workers.
- Reinforce actions against workplace fatigue and drowsiness

With respect to occupational hygiene, we updated the cadastre of radioactive sources, reviewed compliance with the dosimetry monitoring of exposed personnel and established a corporate procedure with minimum requirements for the development of radiation management, protection and radiological monitoring programs.

The Technical Workgroup for the eradication of silicosis prepared 10 key milestone objectives aimed at the following action areas: operational control and maintenance, dust control initiatives (with preventative maintenance plans for dust control systems) environmental oversight, standardization in respiratory protection programs, leadership guidelines in the use of respiratory protection and contractor company management.

We also implemented controls focused on closing the discrepancies for risk factors and agents in workplace hygiene and ergonomics. Furthermore, we standardized critical requirements for contractors with respect to occupational hygiene, ergonomics, and occupational health by means of self-verifications and compliance audits in the field.

Corporate procedure pertaining to occupational health and monitoring programs for workers exposed to arsenic were standardized. Moreover, Codelco established life saving guidelines with critical controls for silica and arsenic.

Under the framework of these new regulations, 5-year compliance plans were submitted to government authorities, pursuant to Supreme Decree 43: Regulation on Storage of Hazardous Substances.

To pre-empt fatigue and drowsiness, Codelco formalized a corporate procedure and corresponding action plan, while executing audits to verify the scope of procedural implementation. Moreover, we updated the corresponding workplace health standard.

In delegated administration, Codelco adhered to instructions given by the Superintendence of Social Security that specify the regular function of the Professional Disease Qualification Commission, which evaluated 185 cases.

Moreover, we received rulings of permanent disabilities that required worker relocation in compliance with legal deadlines pursuant to article 71 of Law No. 16.744.

Accident rates

We deeply regret the fatalities of 4 workers at El Teniente (1), Andina (1) and Chuquicamata (2) divisions this year.

Frequency rates

In 2016, we recorded a global accident frequency rate (in-house Codelco and contractor staff) of 0.94 accidents per million hours / person worked. This figure exceeds the 2015 figure by 3.3% (0.91).

Severity rate

The global severity rate (in-house Codelco and contractor staff) amounted to 263 lost days of injured workers per 1 million hours worked in 2016. This is an approximate 88% rise from the figure recorded in 2015 (140 days).

Occupational illness and after-effects of work accidents

In 2016, we recorded 53 new disability rulings for in-house Codelco workers. Of these 53 rulings, 7 correspond to silicosis, 27 to deafness, 9 to osteomuscular disorders and 10 after-effects of work accidents.

Environmental

Included in the new Corporate Sustainability Policy are commitments to the preventative and transparent management of environmental risk; compliance with standards; consideration of climate change; increased water and energy efficiency and reduced inland water consumption and gas and particulate matter emissions.

Codelco has an environmental risk management system in place to address identified performance inconsistencies at work sites and operations; to prevent and review environmental incidents and their reoccurrence. This system also responds to community concerns and suggestions where these work sites and operations are situated to ensure compliance and follow-up of legal and environmental Qualification Resolution requirements.

Our Environmental Management System seeks to raise the Codelco standard in response to important aspects such as water and energy efficiency, waste treatment and impact reduction in the areas in which we operate.

Occupational diseases and occupational accidents after-effects 2016

| | Delegated Administration | | | | | Mutual Health & Safety Associations | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------|
| DIAGNOSIS | Chuquicamata | Salvador | Andina | El Teniente | Total | Ministro Hales | Gabriela Mistral | Radomiro Tomic | Ventanas | Head Office | Projects | Total |
| Silicosis | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hypoacusia | 17 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Osteomuscular | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total EP | 21 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AT Aftereffects | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 24 | 2 | 11 | 16 | 53 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

^{*}Resolutions issued by Preventive and Disability Medical Commission (Compin), with loss of earning capacity of 15% or more.

^{*}Since a worker can be disabled by two or more diagnoses simultaneously, the number of disabled professionals is less than the number of resolutions indicated in the table.

Water resources

One of the challenges of Codelco's Master Plan is the goal to reduce freshwater consumption per treated ton by 10% from now until 2020. Respective efforts towards this goal are centred on the efficient management of water use, increased reuse of hydric resources and reduced consumption associated with each ton of processed ore.

We have also established Water and Tailings Divisional Project Management to validate strategies, verify compliance with commitments, and ensure availability and sustainable management of water resources, while considering territorial impact and preventing associated socio-environmental impact.

Smelter emissions

Our four copper concentrate smelters made significant progress with respect to changes required to meet new environmental requirements.

During the 2013-2018 period, we will have invested US\$ 1.800 million to finance projects that will bring about compliance with the provisions of Supreme Decree N. 28, requiring a 95% capture rate of sulphur dioxide (SO2) and arsenic (As) emissions.

Emission capture requirements and restrictions on Ventanas Division smokestacks entered into force on December 12 2016, when the requisite environmental projects were put into operation.

Additionally, our smelters are governed by emission laws and decontamination plans for certain cities in which these are applicable. Our foundries also comply with limits and legislation established for SO2, As and particulate matter. Moreover, the Ministro Hales Division reports all its As emissions to government authorities.

Incidents

We have established a management system for incidents with environmental consequences classified as minor, serious, severe and very severe. The system involves online reporting and analysis of each event to ensure learning and prevention of reoccurrence.

Despite improved results of reported incidents since 2009 without very severe incidents, 2016 presented considerable challenges in this area. Two very severe and five severe incidents were recorded, in addition to 168 minor incidents.

We commenced an evaluation process of our internal safety regulation to strengthen aspects related to education and to have a more stringent incident management model.

Both incidents classified as 'very severe' occurred at the Andina Division. Therefore, we implemented all necessary actions to investigate the causes of the occurrence; applying required corrective actions and submitting all information to the inspection process conducted by the competent authorities.

The first of two very severe incidents occurred on February 25, when an underground copper concentrate pipe fractured in the Saladillo sector, spilling approximately 50 m³ of material into the Rio Blanco. The situation was brought under control and company emergency protocols were promptly activated, immediately bringing the Division's operations to a halt.

Furthermore, the situation was reported at once to the corresponding regional and local authorities and to nearby communities and irrigators in the zone. Subsequently, these communities and irrigators shut down their water catchment systems from this river, as did the water company that supplies potable water to the city of Los Andes and surrounding municipalities.

Subsequently, the Andina Division executed an exhaustive cleanup of the affected zone that was certified by the Universidad de Chile, a recognized external entity. Protocols were signed in accordance with the neighboring community and commitments were made to conduct a study in the medium-term with the Center for Environmental Sciences EULA at the Universidad de Concepción.

The second very severe incident occurred on April 17 when, as Chile's central region were being affected by adverse weather conditions, approximately 520 m³ of tailings spilled from the tailings transport system. The spill precipitated from four landslides of considerable magnitude, which partially or completely covered the tailings launder, dislodging the concrete covers, and obstructing tailings flow.

A portion of tailings runoff reached a natural water course in the area, thus efforts were focused on activating emergency protocols and communication with authorities and communities, in addition to the cleanup of the affected locations. In this case, all tailings spillage was gathered during a 3-month period.

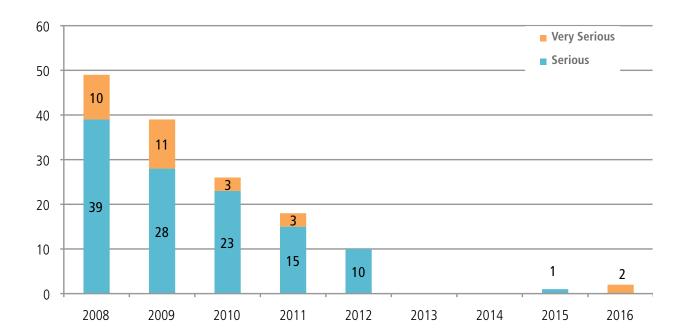
The Faculty of Agronomy Sciences of the Universidad de Chile later certified that there were no tailings remaining in the zone. Moreover, protocols were established in accordance with the neighbors involved.

Environmental evaluation and compliance

In 2016, we submitted 12 projects into the Environmental Impact Evaluation System, with respective Environmental Impact Statements. Eight of these projects received authorization in 2016.

As in previous years, efforts were made to ensure compliance with our commitments, while responding to the requirements of governing bodies on this topic. Over the last four years, the authorities have conducted 235 investigations, including data reviews and environmental inspections.

Environmental incidents 2008-2016



Sanctions

On May 6 the Superintendence for the Environment (SMA) notified the Ventanas Division of the filing of charges for failure to comply with Environmental Qualification Resolutions and with regulations and general instructions set forth by the SMA, whereupon sanction proceedings commenced in August. The Ventanas Division subsequently submitted a compliance plan that was approved by the authority, thereby suspending the sanction process. As of December 2016, progress of the compliance program is at 30%.

In June, the SMA filed charges against Codelco associated with failure to comply with the Environmental Qualification Resolutions with respect to the raise project at the Carèn tailings impoundment of the El Teniente Division. Faced with these punitive proceedings Codelco formulated disclaimers which, as of December, have been under review.

Territory and community relations

The Master Plan for Sustainability identifies two major areas of management: territorial development and community relations. In this area, Codelco faces significant challenges with respect to fostering reliable and transparent long-term relationships, contributing to the development of territories in which we are installed, and in the quality of life of the inhabitants. The foregoing signifies a move from territorial intervention to territorial development, in accordance to our Corporate Sustainability Policy.

Our management strategy seeks to forge a fresh outlook in community relations; from the procurement of operating permits to an inclusive, virtuous and sustainable mining operation. Within this context and, strategically, we work towards the formulation and execution of community relations plans for each territory where we have our operations, making use of our community relations tools and conducting systematic, ongoing and simultaneous activities that are friendly and transparent. These plans are based on the following three approaches:

- Community development: introduce new skill sets, strengthen human capitol.
- Social investment: projects executed in conjunction with communities in accordance with the needs and development potential of the territory.
- Community relations: permanent and transparent information.
 Face-to-face relations.

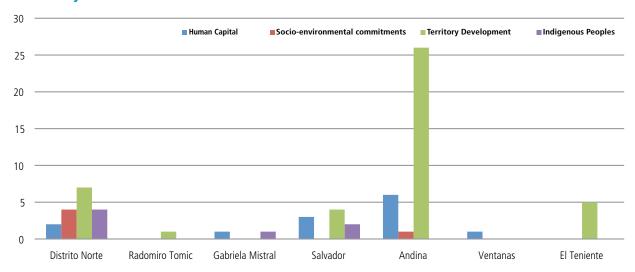
Codelco made updated to its internal guidelines in these matters. Accordingly, a new corporate standard for community relations (NCC 39) will come into effect in November. NCC 39 includes general instructions on the procedure for issuing disbursements, clearly establishing the internal mechanisms and procedures for community contributions and respective issuance.

We are committed to a detailed review of the current community management standards and tools in the Master Plan. In this manner, we commenced company-wide interdisciplinary activities to design our strategy, including medium and long-term performance indicators, thereby positioning ourselves as an industry benchmark in these areas.

Investment

We financed 68 community investment projects in 2016, for a total of 4,744 million pesos, with a focus on human capitol projects, territorial development, socio-environmental commitments and commitments to indigenous peoples.

Community investment lines 2016





Social Investment Fund

Our Social Investment Fund financed five projects in the Gabriela Mistral, Salvador, Ministro Hales, Andina and El Teniente divisions for a total investment of \$264.405.660 Chilean pesos. Of this amount, the Fund directly contributed \$126.200.000 Chilean pesos.

At least 20% of the value of these projects must be financed by the divisions; 10% by beneficiary institutions or organizations and / or co-executors (may be recoverable contributions), while the remaining percentage is covered by the Fund.

| Division | Project | Total amount of the project (chilean pesos) | Amount to be co-financed by the Fund of Social investment (chilean pesos) |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| Gabriela Mistral | Sustainable community tourism: adding value to tourism in the Lican Antay community | \$ 84,000,000 | \$ 30,000,000 |
| Salvador | Emergency Plan for Aeropuerto population in Chañaral | \$ 51,690,000 | \$ 28,000,000 |
| Ministro Hales | Self-sustainable bus stops | \$ 50,288,250 | \$ 25,783,000 |
| El Teniente | Coya, developing sustainable tourism | \$ 28,427,410 | \$ 14,077,410 |
| Andina | Lighting our neighbourhoods with sustainable energy | \$ 50,000,000 | \$ 28,339,590 |
| Total | | \$ 264,405,660 | \$126,200,000 |

SENCE surplus

Eln 2016, resources totalling 2,091 million pesos were transferred to conduct 141 courses to be executed in 2017 across all divisions of the company.

Contributions were prioritized into two areas: mining professions and community development tools, distributed into four internal programs.

 Veta minera: five training courses for operators and maintenance personnel.

- **'Programa Juntos':** 61 training courses for high-risk groups in communities in the vicinity of Codelco operations.
- Contractor agreement: 67 courses
- **Historic institutions:** eight courses associated with collaborative efforts with Senda and Prodemu.

SENCE surplus was distributed to the aforementioned programs through Technical Training Organisms (OTIC) specializing in the respective topics, as established in Law No. 19.518.

Key social initiatives Calama Plus: Parque Borderío

Covering an area of approximately 18.000 m², Parque Borderío will raise the urban standard of the city, improve the quality of life of its inhabitants and become a cultural and touristic benchmark in the zone. This park will be situated in the southern sector of the city next to El Loa Park and will be executed within the framework of Calama Plus, an initiative that aims to transform Calama into a sustainable city. To proceed with the execution of the Parque Borderío initiative, public opinion was engaged through massive public consultations conducted in 2012.

The project involved the construction of walkways, a cafeteria, showroom access booths, a sewage treatment plant and a footbridge that, besides joining the north and south banks of the river, provides a panoramic view of the entire park.



Paving in several sectors of Calama

Paving works were executed on a surface of 13.3 kilometers at different locations of the Calama, some of which had not been maintained for more over 40 years. The project included asphalt surfacing, signage, sidewalks, kerbs, edgings and other similar road improvement works.

Resource optimization permitted an extension in the quantity of surface that was recovered, originally estimated at 10 kilometers.



Recovery of ancestral heritage

In May we commenced activities in the Atacama indigenous community of Caspana, under the framework of the Management Plan for Management and Appraisal of Cultural Heritage associated with the pre-Hispanic road network in the Incahuasi, Pila, Caspana and Cerro Verde sectors. These efforts were spearheaded by a team of archeologists, conservationists, audio-visual personnel and surveyors.

The National Monument Council defined activities for the survey and study of archeological data from sites, using the participatory action research (PAR) method. The PAR approach established the inclusion of members from the Caspana community and their archeological training in the registration of technical files to manage data associated with archaeological prospecting, archeological structures, rock art and conservation. This training made it possible to develop local experiences to socialize elements of heritage protection in the indigenous community of Caspana.

Salvador Division

Chañaral

Following the devastating effects of a mudslide that affected the Region of Atacama in 2015, leaving more that 25 dead, missing and extensive material loss, the Salvador Division entered into two cooperative agreements with the municipalities within the Province of Chañaral.

Within the framework of these agreements, we contributed more than 3,500 million pesos to the inhabitants of the Diego de Almagro and Chañaral. Goods and equipment were provided to 18 institutions such as neighbor's associations, sport clubs, seniors groups, evangelical churches and a language school. Additionally, we aided in the construction completion and turn over of the El Saldo roofed gymnasium (whose financing was shared with AngloAmerican) and also constructed a public square in the logistic centre in the same town in the municipality of Chañaral.

In addition to these works, the paving of Concepción Avenue was completed and the first dialysis centre was built, equipped, and the administration was handed over to the municipality of Diego de Almagro.

Furthermore, a community project executed by the Corporación Ciudadana Red Nacional de Emergencia commenced. This project is financed by Codelco's Social Investment Fund and Salvador Division's own funds, which provide for the generation of an Emergency Plan for members of the four neighbor's associations in the airport sector of Chañaral.



El Teniente Division

Sustainable Tourism in Coya

This project was executed in Coya in the municipality of Machalí, the closest municipality to El Teniente's mining operations. The initiative was born out of the concerns of the 'Agrupación Mujeres Turísticas Culturales Tierra que Encanta', an association that sought out possibilities for growth and development in tourist activity within this locality.

The development of a tourist circuit has provided a substantial contribution to Coya, which is reflected in increased quantities of tourists visiting the information office, an increase in the number of membership to this association and an 500% increase in revenues. Moreover, there has been an upswing in the quantity of new start-ups associated with the formation of this tourist route.

Community efforts were integrated into a concrete initiative with the general objective being the creation of a tourist circuit in the area. Accordingly, a plan was implemented that considered upgrading the tourist office to include a cafeteria; training in touristrelated subjects (i.e. business plans, hygiene and food preparation, safety, languages and tour guide training); the generation and interconnection of tourist enterprises; and the publication of the tourist route online and other conventional media.

The development of this project involved the design of different tourist routes, with the tourist information office and cafeteria as a starting point. Strategic alliances were forged between four tourist operators and entrepreneurs within the municipality to attract more visitors and add new tourist attractions to the routes.

Coya tourist information office and Cafeteria

Comprehensive medical agreement in Alhué

The objective of this agreement is to improve medial attention for Alhué community members by instituting skills and knowledge regarding healthy lifestyles and strengthening medical assistance: this community of Alhué is situated within the direct area of influence of the Carén tailings dam of the El Teniente Division.

The impact of this agreement has been notable: 100% of the general medical assistance cases that would not otherwise be covered by the public health system were covered under this agreement. 2,400 community members received medical care assistance in 2016.

An unfortunate feature of Alhué is that it is one of the poorest municipalities in the Metropolitan Region; this, given its geographic isolation and high cost and scarcity of public transportation.

The beginnings of this agreement were initiated by a work group established within the Alhué in 2015. At that time, Codelco established a community development work plan that community and municipal government representatives participating in the group agreed to.

After the work group analyzed the community's medical care issues, an agreement was reached to strengthen El Teniente's support for medical attention not covered under the public system.

The agreement included the services of a mental health specialist, permitting 100% of the mental health cases to be addressed at the local level.

If patients had not had access to this assistance, they would have been referred to Mellipia or, depending on the referral plan and availability of specialties, directly to Hospital San Juan de Dios (170 km), Hospital Felix Bulnes (175 km) or Instituto Traumatológico (172 km).

Rural medical station Hijuelas de Pincha

The second major arrangement contained in this agreement was to provide the area of influence with a rural medical station, staffed by a medical team from the municipality.

This agreement has facilitated access to a higher level of medical care for the most vulnerable members of the community, complimented by the introduction to healthy living practices via talks and workshops provided by the municipality.

Ventanas Division

Children's Symphony Orchestra

Like the gentle sound of an opening note from a violin string, the onset of this project was simple, sincere and had one clear objective: to provide a space where local youth would be able to grow into better people in the present and develop into exemplar citizens of the future.

In 2014, a delegation from the Municipality of Puchincaví, together with community leaders and Ventanas Division staff, converged to listen to a recital of the Los Andes Children's Symphony Orchestra. Being captivated by the experience, members of the audience were convinced that this objective was indeed possible in the area. From that moment on the efforts of the committed Division and a Corporation that believed in the initiative were united, agreeing to a Social Investment Fund that would create the future Ventanas Children's Symphony Orchestra.

With his instrument in hand, musical director Mario Brignardello travelled to every corner of the 22 localities that form the Municipality of Punchincavi to open doors for the orchestra. He auditioned students from the school in La Quebrada a hamlet situated deep in the interior of a hidden valley, engaged children of fishermen from Horcón and captivated the interest of students from the emblematic La Greda School.

Later, students from the Costa Mauco Art College in Quintero were added to form a group of more than 60 youngsters, who rehearsed for four hours Monday to Friday throughout the year. One of the most important aspects of these efforts was that these young boys and girls were recognized as capable of achieving any dream, exuding talent and a spirit of achievement with each note played.

The orchestra currently has an advisory council consisting of representatives from the Ventanas Division and municipalities of Quintero and Puchuncaví, headed by Mayor Eliana Olmos. The first official presentation took place on December 22 2016, with a moving Christmas recital for an audience of more than 300 and several government officials in the Puchuncaví public square. During the vacation season, students also have the possibility of participating in fun summer school programs. The quality of the orchestra's activities has been recognized thorough the endowment of a regional Fondart grant.

The Children's Symphony Orchestra gradually became a bridge between the Ventanas Division and the community, bringing about a magical encounter through music, friendship, education and the youth, the future cultural ambassadors of Puchuncaví and Quintero.

