



## More than a safety net

Tomas Rivero casts a net as he fishes on the Pilcomayo River in the Gran Chaco region which covers Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, and Northeast and Northwest Argentina. Tomas is a leader of the Union of Pilcomayo River Fishers and an advocate for cleaning up the river, which has been plagued by contamination from upstream mining and construction. Both the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People (SDOP) have been supporting the Gran Chaco in various ways since 2008 and 2013 respectively. In 2013, a fund called the Ecumenical Small Projects Fund for the South American Chaco was created. Supported by SDOP, this fund addresses major concerns like climate justice, alternative economies and income generating activities, humanitarian aid monitoring and accountability, and protection of human rights defenders, with the aim of improving lives and empowering the inhabitants of Chaco.



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