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USAID and UNICEF Deliver Medical Equipment to Chuquisaca SEDES

The U.S. Embassy in Bolivia, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and in coordination with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), delivered medical equipment, computers and furniture to the Departmental of Health (SEDES) in Chuquisaca under the Health System Strengthening Program (Fortaleza/UNICEF).

A first donation of medical equipment was delivered in September, 2012. With the second installment of equipment, the donation is estimated to be 4.5 million bolivianos (\$646,000). Additionally, there is a commitment to donate an additional 5.5 million bolivianos by April 2013. These donations are designed to strengthen the health care system in Bolivia, mainly in the areas of maternal, child, adolescent, sexual, and reproductive health, family planning, and tuberculosis prevention and treatment.

The Fortaleza program is implemented under the Bolivian health policy in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports in 57 municipalities in the departments of Chuquisaca and La Paz.

The Fortaleza/UNICEF program supports the implementation of the Bolivian Intercultural Community Family Health (SAFCI) policy, established by the Ministry of Health and Sports. The policy objectives are strengthening participatory and operational management at all health system levels; increasing access to and improving the quality of health care, with an emphasis on multiculturalism; and empowering people to demand and exercise their rights to health.