



# Embassy of the United States of America

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## U.S. Government Delivers 354 Improved Houses in Icla Municipality to Combat Chagas Sickness

The U.S. Government delivered 354 improved houses in the municipality of Icla as part of a project called "Healthy Houses with Healthy Boys and Girls." U.S. Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Kris Urs presided over a ceremony to deliver the houses to local authorities.

The project, a part of a joint strategy promoted by the Bolivian central and the local governments, is run by NGO network PROCOSI, the Municipal Government of Icla, Hope/Bolivia and the beneficiary families in the area.

The houses are located in the communities of Chawarani and Thaqu Pampas, in the municipality of Icla. Under the project, approximately 800 families, most of them indigenous, will benefit from the improved houses in seven communities in Icla. This effort began in 2005 and will be completed in 2008 with an investment estimated at over \$1.9 million.

Within this initiative, the U.S. Government has already delivered over 10,000 improved houses through its Agency for International Development throughout the country. Chagas is a fatal sickness transmitted by an insect that lives in wall cracks of defectively-built houses, especially in rural areas.

According to Hope/Bolivia, an NGO affiliated with the PROCOSI network, the unit cost of each house is \$1,400. The residents and the community provide their counterpart contribution in labor.

This Project promotes a strategy that seeks to reduce poverty and prevent sicknesses such as Chagas, respiratory infections and diarrheic diseases. PROCOSI develops continuing healthcare efforts to address these health issues.

Additionally, the project provides information, education, communication and training services, as well as epidemiological surveillance.

Representatives from the Bolivian Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing, the U.S. Government and its cooperation agency (USAID), municipal authorities, PROCOSI officers and civil society leaders attended the delivery ceremony.