



Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América

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U.S. and Bolivian Governments Launch Ambitious Program Estimated at Over \$3 Million to Fight Child Labor in Bolivia

The U.S. Government is supporting an ambitious program to combat child labor in Bolivia. The program is sponsored by both the U.S. and Bolivian Governments and is supported by the Bolivian Human Rights Ombudsman. The U.S. Department of Labor will fund the initiative with \$3.3 million during the current fiscal year.

This program seeks to withdraw children under 18 years of age from some of the worst forms of child labor, to provide them with educational services, and to raise public awareness about the negative effects caused by the exploitation of child workers.

The program will support Bolivian Government's policies, specifically those of the Labor and Education Ministries, which are aimed at fighting child exploitation and increasing access to education for children.

In its first stage, this important initiative will assist 5,800 children who are already working or are in risk of joining the workforce in the departments of Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca. Most beneficiaries are from indigenous Quechua or Guarani ethnic background and their parents had to migrate to work in sugar cane or soybean plantations. This initiative will coordinate activities with indigenous organizations and will do so within their own cultural values.

Children in the program's target population are exploited by working long hours or they are exposed to dangerous agro-chemical substances. Many of them are forced to engage in tasks that are beyond their physical capacity.