



## SUPPORT TO ORURO

***Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a broad assistance program that supports the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan.***

*The sweet onion export program, supported by the Valleys Foundation, the Oruro departmental government, and USAID, has helped producers in the region become entrepreneurs, providing products to highly demanding international markets.*



Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. government supports more than 16 municipalities in the Department of Oruro. Our projects reduce poverty through enterprise development and increased productivity, improve access to health care for the poor, and support democratic institutions and practices. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations while promoting their social, political and economic inclusion.

### 1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION

Some of the poorest municipalities of Bolivia are located in the Department of Oruro. With the cooperation of local governments, civil society organizations such as the Valleys Foundation (*Fundación Valles*), and producers' associations such as the firm *Bolivia Produce*, USAID supports 150 families producing organic sweet onions for export. The first shipment of this product resulted in close to \$US 100,000 in sales, of which 30% was net profit for producers in the Alantañita and Pasto Grande communities where incomes have risen by 250% as a result.

In 2006, the Quinoa Alliance was created by 12 institutions, including USAID, to increase the production of organic quinoa real in the departments of Oruro and Potosí. The goal of the Alliance is to increase the production of certified organic quinoa from 5,000 tons per year to 30,000 tons annually. Through this initiative, producer incomes will be increased on a sustained basis.

### 2. IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS

USAID coordinates with local NGOs to implement programs for maternal-child health and the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Through partnerships with organizations such as CIES, programs such as Partners for Development, and a PROSALUD clinic located in the southern part of Oruro providing emergency medical attention 24 hours a day, USAID is helping to improve health conditions among the population of Oruro.

### 3. EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENTS

With the installation of elected departmental governments in 2005, Bolivia took a significant step in strengthening accountable, decentralized government. As it does worldwide, USAID is providing basic institutional strengthening technical assistance and training to Bolivia's departmental governments to help them assume more effectively their new roles in planning, financing, and delivering services to citizens.

