



## SUPPORT TO TARIJA

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



*USAID supports PROSALUD clinics in Tarija and throughout Bolivia.*

*Photo by Stanley Blanco*

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports 10 of the 11 municipalities in the Department of Tarija. These projects seek to reduce poverty through economic growth generated by enterprise development and increased productivity, strengthen democratic processes and institutions for improved governance, and improve health among the population. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations while promoting their social, political, and economic inclusion.

### **1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION**

In collaboration with civil society organizations like Fundación Valles, producers' associations and local governments, USAID works to improve production and market access for rural farmers. This program is part of an initiative in the Bolivian Valley region that supports close to 10,000 family producers of berries, table grapes, onions, vegetables, peaches, oregano, and other spices currently sold in national and international markets. With the incorporation of new technologies, organic certification, and better quality and efficiency in production, Tarija farmers and their families today have access to new opportunities for growth. In conjunction with these activities, companies in Tarija are receiving support to develop their export potential.

USAID also supports the development of financial services, particularly within credit unions spread in rural and peri-urban areas. In addition, USAID continues to support these institutions through the electronic transactions system "ServiRed". The introduction of new financial services provides more opportunities for people to conduct transactions and facilitates the sending and receipt of remittances at competitive rates.

### **2. IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS**

USAID coordinates with local NGOs to implement programs relating to maternal-child health and the prevention and control of infectious diseases, including Chagas. A housing improvement project, financed jointly by municipal governments, the departmental government, and USAID, will provide more than 4,000 families in the region with better protection from Chagas.

USAID also has launched a Municipal Matching Fund to work along with the municipalities improving health infrastructure for the benefit of poor people. Five projects amounting \$236,000 have been already approved and will be complemented by municipal contributions of \$64,000.



*Ambassador Goldberg visits a USAID funded PROSALUD Clinic in Tarija in 2007.*

In a unique collaboration, USAID supports the development of organizations such as PROSALUD, which provides more than 25,000 health consultations per year in Tarija, and CIES, whose presence in the department constitutes an important commitment to the attention of health issues in peri-urban and low-income areas.

### **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

### **4. FOOD SECURITY**

USAID's Title II Program supports local development and health care initiatives in areas of major food insecurity in Bolivia. In peri-urban and rural areas, USAID supports, through a food-for-work system, the construction of basic sanitary systems, community agricultural production and the management of natural resources. In addition, child nutrition and maternal-child health receive special attention and close monitoring.

### **5. ENVIRONMENT**

Through the Parks in Peril program and local NGO PROMETA, USAID supported numerous activities, including a public education campaign, on-the-ground conservation activities, and consolidation of the municipal water committee, to promote conservation of the City's principal water supply sources benefiting over 130,000 inhabitants