

LIFE FOR A CHILD WITH DIABETES

the International Diabetes Federation's child sponsorship program



Update n° **14** | June 2008 | Comprehensive care in Bolivia

Brayan and Mayra - youth in Cochabamba supported by the Program, both are members of the Bolivia Youth Diabetes Association



No child should die of diabetes



International Diabetes Federation

in partnership with

HOPE
worldwide



New countries

Two new countries are receiving support from Life for a Child, taking the total number of countries to 17.

In **Ecuador**, we are providing support through FUVIDA in the city of **Guayaquil**.

In Central **Sudan**, we are supporting the Management of Diabetes in Children Program at the **University of Geziera**.

LFC, the movie

Directed by Academy Award-nominee Edward Lachman, the **documentary film *Life for a Child*** follows the journeys of children supported by the Program amid the mountains and streets of **Nepal**.

This film was made to **raise awareness** of the devastating impact of diabetes and increase support for the IDF Life for a Child Program.

The film was selected to compete in the prestigious **Tribeca Film Festival**.

Countries supported

Today, **Life for a Child supports 928 children in 17 countries:**

Azerbaijan, **Bolivia**, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Fiji, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Mali, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe.

BOLIVIA is a landlocked country in South America. Much of the country sits on the altiplano – the high Andean plateau. It is the poorest country in the region.

While quality medical care is available, the Government is unable to provide it for free – all people with diabetes must pay for insulin, monitoring, and clinical care. Many families are unable to purchase adequate insulin, and self-monitoring is often impossible.

Children have died from lack of insulin, and complications such as kidney failure, retinopathy and cataracts are common even in adolescents.

The support of **LIFE FOR A CHILD** in Bolivia is coordinated by the **Centro Vivir con Diabetes** in Cochabamba. This centre opened in 2000, and has a team that includes an endocrinologist, educator, social worker, physiotherapist and other expert staff.

Life for a Child began helping in Bolivia in 2003, as part of a wider initiative organized by **Rotary**. A two-year program provided comprehensive care to 100 children and youth with diabetes. Following this, we helped with insulin (from **Insulin for Life**) and when funds permitted, blood glucose strips.

Last year, **Home Diagnostics Inc.** in partnership with **Diabetes Australia-NSW** agreed to provide meters and test strips at a reduced price for three years for all the children we support in Bolivia. **Life for a Child** is covering the costs so that these supplies are free to the families.



Now, for the first time, all youth have access to all the insulin they need, as well as being able to monitor their blood glucose level 2-3 times per day. The value of this support, if it were to be purchased in Bolivia, is \$87 per month or more. With an average wage of \$70, this care was completely beyond the reach of most families.

140 children, adolescents, and young adults across Bolivia are now being covered by the program. They are cared for by doctors in all major Bolivian cities – Santa Cruz, La Paz, Cochabamba, Sucre, Oruro, Tarija, Potosi, Bini, and Pando.



MAURICIO

Mauricio is 11 years old and lives in **Cochabamba**. He was diagnosed with diabetes six months ago.

When first diagnosed he was shocked and hurt. Now he is coping well, administering his own injections and monitoring his blood glucose level.



MILENI

Mileni lives in **Sucre**, the constitutional capital of Bolivia, famous for its colonial-style architecture.

She is 13, and has had diabetes for seven years. Her father is a taxi driver. She takes care of her own injections and monitoring. Her diabetes is well controlled and she is very well, studying in the 8th Grade – the last year of middle school.

JANETH

Janeth (pictured here at left with her mother and siblings) is 20 years old. She developed diabetes when she was 5. She often went without insulin because her family could not afford it.

She left school in the 9th Grade because she could not see well due to diabetic retinopathy, which required laser treatment. Janeth also shows signs of early nephropathy.

Now, with adequate insulin and monitoring, she is doing better. The family's financial situation has improved markedly, and she is able to do much more than before.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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