



## bolivia

## health



Photo by Simona Zucchini

One of the largest health concerns in Bolivia is that of malnutrition; Close to five million citizens are unable to fulfill even their most basic eating requirements. This problem poses the greatest risk to pregnant women and young children so that infant, child, and maternal mortality rates in Bolivia are the second highest in the hemisphere. In addition to the desperate need to address these issues, Bolivia also has an extremely high prevalence of tuberculosis, malaria, chagas, leishmaniasis, dengue fever and yellow fever. While HIV/AIDS has not yet reached epidemic proportions in Bolivia, the occurrence of the virus is steadily rising. Overall, there is a huge need for expansion of healthcare in Bolivia, especially in rural communities where health services are extremely limited.

FSD works with local health clinics and hospitals to expand their resources and to support them in providing health education, medical treatment, counseling, and immunizations to at-risk populations in the Cochabamba community. FSD conducts research in a number of areas to gain increased understanding of the efficacy of current health initiatives and to gain information about current health crises. With enhanced health services, and increased public knowledge, the hope is that the citizens of Cochabamba and surrounding rural villages will soon have the tools to properly address major health issues and improve their quality of life.

### Internship/Volunteer opportunities in Health in Bolivia include:

- Launch educational campaigns and workshops on medical themes including nutrition, sterilization, prenatal care, and sexual health within marginalized areas of Cochabamba.
- Observe and assist with treatment and general patient care in a 24 hour hospital and its surrounding clinics. Services include family medicine, pediatrics, neurology, cardiology, gynecology, radiology, surgery, physical therapy, reconstructive and plastic surgery, 24 hour emergency care, dentistry, pre and post natal care, and other specialties. Assist in the hospital laboratory.
- Assist with an organization's activities in dealing with and preventing domestic abuse: Provide holistic socio-physical recuperation, education, counseling, and health support to women and children who suffer from intra-familial violence.
- Conduct epidemiological research surveying sexuality and HIV/AIDS in the community. Analyze efficacy of an organization's public health initiatives that directly address these topics. Write and publish articles for national and international newspapers and magazines to promote health and HIV/AIDS initiatives.
- Work with foster and adoptive families to get children out of abusive homes.
- Support the training of healthcare personnel about the medical, psychological, and social characteristics of HIV/AIDS and the precautions necessary to prevent the transmission of the virus in the delivery of healthcare services.

For more internship opportunities in health in Bolivia, visit our website or contact us directly.