



Photo by Rebecca Kirchheimer

In Bolivia, one in every seven children fails to complete primary school. The result of this problem is that more than one million Bolivian citizens over the age of 15 are unable to read or write. Education issues are exponentially worse in rural, primarily non-Spanish speaking areas where children average only 4.2 years of school. With little bilingual education, many students drop out of school. However, the main reason for the widespread educational deficiency in Bolivia is the general economic situation that severely hinders families' ability to invest in the education of their children. Short term needs require that children work to support the family income and never acquire the skills important to pull them out of poverty in the future.

FSD works with schools, child-care centers, and directly with socio-economically excluded families to try to reduce poverty by improving and increasing access to education. By working to educate both adults and children, communities are able to gain the knowledge needed to mobilize change. Families learn vocational and academic skills, along with much needed sex and health education that opens opportunities and allows them to make informed decisions about their future lives. Your help in building better schools, teaching curriculum, or offering child care is crucial in empowering families and profoundly affecting the opportunities available to them.

### Internship/Volunteer opportunities in youth and education in Bolivia include:

- Offer training for at-risk girls to better achieve at school, improve family relationships, enhance job opportunities, and assertively exercise rights and responsibilities. The program also develops micro-enterprise projects - such as a café and artisan's store - so that girls and their families may build business skills.
- Provide care for children and infants ranging from 6 months to 12 years-old who come from low-income families or have been abandoned, orphaned, or abused. Support recreational and athletic activities for the children.
- Assist in teaching and tutoring children and adults in vocational skills, reading, English, environmental education, ethics, theatre, math, farming, health, intra-familial violence, computer skills, sewing, literacy, women's empowerment, nutrition, family education, leadership, children's rights, and/or parenting.
- Design your own curriculum and implement a class in collaboration with a school director.
- Assist training of teachers in rural schools. Organize community activities for parents, teachers, and local authorities to maximize available resources and resolve education-related problems.
- Support education workshops for high school and university students, parent associations, teachers, media, armed forces, prisons, churches, and other institutions. Themes for workshops include: community health, HIV/AIDS awareness/stigma reduction, and gender equity.

For more opportunities in youth and education in Bolivia, visit our website or contact us directly.