Nearly 1 in 5 girls is sexually abused at least once in her life.¹

Many Bolivian girls and boys survivors of sexual violence are still waiting for justice. In La Paz, between 2007 and 2016, only 7% of cases of sexual violence against children entering the system reached a verdict.²

Less than 15% of Bolivian girls will seek help after a sexual assault.³

BOLIVIA

THE PROBLEM
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Bolivia is a country of breathtaking landscapes, full of rich traditions, home of many indigenous people groups and the largest salt flats in the world. But in the midst of its beauty and diversity, a horrific plague threatens the safety of many children: sexual violence. Young survivors who live in poverty have little hope of finding justice. Courts are backlogged and often lack effective case management processes. The few cases that move through the system can take years before reaching a sentence.

Since 2006, IJM works alongside Bolivian partners to strengthen the justice system. In 2018 alone, IJM trained more than 2,570 police, government officials, social workers, churches and other community members to recognize and respond to the horrendous crime of sexual violence against children.

IJM BOLIVIA PROGRESS SINCE 2006

- 170+ children rescued from sexual violence
- 210+ survivors currently receiving aftercare services from IJM
- 140+ criminals convicted for sexual violence and related crimes
We rescue children by stopping the violence. We receive case referrals from the department of social services, police, families, churches and other community members. We equip and collaborate with local partners to ensure that every child is protected and in a place of safety.

We bring criminals to justice. IJM works with law enforcement officials and other partners to track down and ensure suspects are arrested. This can take months or even years, but we are relentless. IJM works to ensure adequate evidence is collected to build a strong case, and we support survivors who choose to share the truth in court.

We restore survivors by providing consistent support. Through IJM-trained partners and volunteers we provide support to the child and the family so he or she can heal in a safe and stable environment. IJM networks with various partners to ensure each survivor has access to necessary services that include physical health, trauma-focused counseling, personal security, and education or economic self-sufficiency.

We strengthen justice systems by providing training and hands-on mentoring to law enforcement, judges and other professionals. We seek to improve the overall justice system so that it protects all child victims of violence.

“When those things happened I would have chosen the easiest solution and committed suicide, but I didn’t. I pressed on. [Now] I have dreams to fulfill.”

–Veronica*, a survivor of sexual violence

How IJM Bolivia Combats Sexual Violence of Children

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