



# Helping Babies Survive in Bolivia

Fall 2020 Update



Prepared for Christian Brothers Moving & Storage  
Presented by May Thomsen





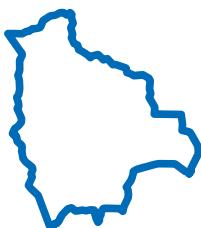
# Thank You for Your Support

Christian Brothers, your kind support of Compassion Survival in Bolivia is helping to provide home-based care for pregnant mothers and caregivers with babies; much-needed medical care; learning activities; advocacy for vulnerable mothers; and much more — especially during this very challenging season of COVID-19.

With your help, our frontline church partner, Las Asambleas de Dios de Bolivia Vida Eterna Ravelo, is giving babies born into poverty the care they need to thrive, especially during the critical prenatal months and first year of life. Mothers and caregivers are also being equipped with the tools necessary to raise healthy babies. Thanks to your gift, Compassion Survival can continue to support impoverished mothers and their babies. May this report be a blessing to you!



## Survival Statistics in Bolivia (July 2020 – December 2020)



Bolivia has provided critical care to mothers and their babies since 2008



**2,217**

Mothers and babies received Survival support



**70**

Compassion-assisted births occurred



**78**

Churches currently implement Survival services

## Survival Statistics at Las Asambleas de Dios de Bolivia Vida Eterna Ravelo (September 2019 - March 2020)



**15**

Mothers and their babies received Survival support



**3**

Compassion-assisted births occurred



**100%**

Births at normal weight recorded



**66%**

of the births were attended births



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, a Compassion worker dresses extra carefully and maintains safe distancing during this home visit with a Survival mom and her young child.

## Caring for the Most Vulnerable

As of November 4, Bolivia has reported more than 142,000 COVID-19 infections and 8,751 related fatalities. The government has extended national quarantine measures indefinitely. Face masks must be worn in public places, social distancing measures must be respected and large public events are suspended. A curfew is in place from 12 midnight to 5 a.m. in some areas. School is canceled, both online and in person, until at least 2021.

Currently, all Compassion centers in Bolivia are closed in order to abide by local guidelines. Our frontline church partners (FCPs) are calling and checking in on registered children and their families, and in some communities they are able to visit children while obeying masking and social distancing guidelines. (See photo above.)

In light of the pandemic, our FCPs have increased their efforts to take care of the health and nutritional needs of mothers and their children. Center staff keep in contact with families remotely — identifying the most vulnerable, buying and distributing hygiene kits and groceries, and providing spiritual and emotional support. FCPs are also working to create virtual program activity, including educational videos and livestreams, for caregivers and children to use at home.

### COVID-19 Response (through October 2020)

#### Bolivia



513,406 food packs delivered



7,830 medical treatments implemented



242,458 hygiene kits provided



# Families Uplifted Through Your Giving



My name is Mary Elena. I am 21 years old. My husband is Jhony and we have three daughters.

This quarantine in Bolivia has been difficult for many families; in my case it has been very complex. I was pregnant and I had to give birth to my baby during the quarantine. My husband lost his job, and we had to spend all our savings on my Caesarean section. At this time the hospitals are collapsed with Covid-19 patients, and we experienced an odyssey to find a place in a hospital. The hospital where I had my baby was the only one with a bed where I could be tended for emergency, and finally my baby could be born.

My husband was on his way to pick me up from the hospital and suddenly he had a traffic accident. Thank God, it was not serious; he only had pain in a few parts of his body where he got hit. He did not know what to do because of the things that were happening during this time of quarantine.

## How You Helped Us

Someone who was of great help was the Survival staff member who transported me to several places to find a hospital and to give me the care I needed. She gave me her support, prayed for our lives, gave me words of encouragement, and with some brothers and sisters from church collected money to help us with the transport and hospitalization expenses.

She is always checking that the family is well, and thanks to her prayers, a few days ago, my husband got a job offer — now he is working, and he will be able to help provide for our family. I am very grateful to God, to my Survival staff member, to the donors who support Survival, and to the whole church in general who are constantly calling on the phone asking if we are well, trying to support us in these difficult days.

The support that the Compassion Survival program has given us is a great blessing. They have also cared for our entire family by providing us with supplementary foods we needed and a hygiene and biosecurity kit to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

May God bless the kind and generous donors like you who support Compassion Survival. You have helped us in many ways, but especially during this most difficult time.



# Your Partnership Is Providing Critical Support During the COVID-19 Quarantine



Survival workers have implemented the greatest precautions against coronavirus while continuing to serve the mothers and babies in their care. Even during this difficult time, babies are being born healthy and full-term, and they are checked regularly during their first year of life.

During this pandemic season, many families of Survival moms are suffering from a lack of employment and income. Baskets of supplies for new babies are especially vital right now, as are the regular supplies of food and the ongoing reimbursement for medical expenses that your support has enabled Compassion to provide.





## Your Investment Gives Hope to Families in Need

Christian Brothers, we so deeply appreciate your gracious support of Compassion Survival through the Las Asambleas de Dios de Bolivia Vida Eterna Ravelo church in Ravelo, Bolivia. During this challenging season, precious babies and their families continue to receive vital care through this frontline church partner's Survival outreach. May God bless you!

**May Thomsen | 303.885.7441 | [mthomsen@us.ci.org](mailto:mthomsen@us.ci.org)**