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Lack of education, unclean water, no roads for transportation, unpredictable weather that can wipe out your crops for the whole country, and floods and drought every other month that can ruin your land are unthinkable for most Americans. We think going without cell phones or cable TV is the end of the world. Imagine if our lives were like that of Bolivians. We would not know what to do. Right now the Bolivians are struggling and need us to lend a hand.

Bolivia is one of the poorest and least developed countries in Latin America. It is one of twenty-two countries that are qualified for debt relief by the World Bank. Bolivia has one of the lowest GDP (gross domestic products) per capita among the Latin countries. Only the countries of Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana are lower. It is estimated that 95% of the people in Bolivia live under the poverty level.

In Bolivia 40% of their population are subsistence farmers. They say that two thirds of the farming community is considered to be living in poverty. The people who grow food for everyone else cannot grow food to support themselves. When that happens who does one turn to?

A typical farm family is made up of four members. A mother, father, and two children. A Bolivian diet is high in carbohydrates but lacks other nutrients they need. The potato is the main food eaten at meals. It is usually served with rice and noodles. Health in Bolivia ranks nearly last among the Western Hemisphere countries. Only Haiti scores lower. About 65% of the population of Bolivia has access to medical care. The hardship of poverty falls the most on mothers and children. Of 100,000 births, 650 women will not survive. This is the highest maternal death rate in Latin America. The child mortality rate is the worst in South America at 66 deaths per 1,000 live births. Proper nourishment is always a struggle for the people of Bolivia. Experts estimate 7 % of Bolivian children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition, as well as 23% of the entire population. Many children of farm families are forced to drop out of school to help their families farm so they have food to survive. The parents may want their children to go to school and value education, however they are faced with a tough choice; send our kids to school or let our family starve.

A farm is usually one to two acre plots. Crops grown include soybeans, cocoa, cotton, corn, barley, wheat, alfalfa, sugarcane, rice, and potatoes. Farmers use traditional farming methods that have been passed down from their early ancestors. The fields are terraced in the Inca style and many farmers still use foot ploughs. They rely heavily on rainfall for their crops to grow.

There are many barriers in Bolivia that prevent them from producing more crops and livestock, gainful employment and earning a living wage, and access to food markets and proper nutrition. Bolivia has a very unpredictable climate. They suffer from severe floods and drought. One month they may be under water from so much rain and the next it could be so dry that wildfires break out. The country of Bolivia is also very divided in its terrain. One section is made up of the rugged Andes Mountains with a highland plateau. The other parts are divides between hills and lowland plains of the Amazon basin. This makes the land need a variety of different farming techniques. The problem is that the people of Bolivia are not aware of these different techniques.

Many children of farm families are forced to drop out of school when they are in the third or fourth grade to help their families farm so they have food to survive. The parents may want their children to go to school and value education. However, they are faced with a tough choice; education or food.

The crops are exhausting the soil of its nutrients. Crops are grown every year in the same spot without proper techniques for the soil. The techniques they use are very traditional such as manure fertilizers, terraces in steep fields, and slash and burn. Chemical fertilizers are not used because they are too expensive. The main reason they do not use modern techniques is because they do not know of any. No one has ever educated them on farming techniques to use for their land.

Some farmers can't support their family on farming alone. Farming is just not making them enough money to survive. The government is just as much to blame as the bad weather for ruining food supply. They go back and forth on deciding whether or not they want to help the farmers of Bolivia to grow crops for themselves as well as the other people of Bolivia. The government put a tax on all agriculture exports. They impose price controls and export restrictions instead of letting them have a free market like all other countries of Latin America. To get around this, the farmers and others in Bolivia started to smuggle sugar so that they didn't have to pay a fee. The government counteracted this by doubling the price of sugar. The price was so high that no one wanted to buy the sugar and the farmers could not make any money. Food inflation is at 18.5 %. The Morales government imposed price controls and put an export ban on corn, wheat, sugar, and other hay crops in 2007. Two years later in 2009 the government added vegetable oils, sunflower seeds, and soybeans. These crops could only be exported if officials decided that the domestic market had a sufficient supply.

In Bolivia there is a low access to sanitation throughout the whole country. Sanitation is only at 25% for the country and the clean drinking water is at 86%. They have little access to clean water in rural areas and insufficient funds to clean up the water. Over the past few years through a program called "mano a mano" they have been creating water reservoirs to collect water. In recent years the government has tried to privatize the use of water. In 2008 the government published a National Basic Sanitation Plan that analyzed the main problems in Bolivia that deal with the water and sanitation. This plan evaluates the problems, develops a vision, sets targets, and outlines the budget needed to achieve their goals. The goal is to have 90% access to water and 80% access to sanitation by the year 2015.

Bolivia has a very poor infrastructure system. This makes it very hard for farmers to be able to get to the market to sell their crops. They also have the poorest technology in South America according to the world fact book.

Bolivia has the potential to yield enough crops to get there country out of poverty and stop people from starving. In Bolivia the climate is very unpredictable and the terrain is different all over the country. Production is complicated by the unpredictable climate and the various terrain throughout the country. In order for farmers to see high yields they must know how to overcome weather and topography. That is the key problem, the lack of knowledge about improved farming practices and technology. Many farmers are still using farming techniques passed down from previous generations. These techniques are in some cases fifty to one hundred years old. Back then those techniques or practices worked for their ancestors. Now there are more people in Bolivia to feed. Today we have come so far with technology and education in the agricultural sector that there is no need to be using techniques that are outdated and not working.

Every day there are people studying crops, climate, and soil to find more efficient techniques and practices to use.

Without the knowledge of improved farming techniques and access to technology it is very hard to feed a whole country of people. There are so many things that education could solve or help with to make agriculture more sustainable in Bolivia. The productivity is low because farmers are still using old practices from other generations. Through research we now have genetically modified crops that yield more and have improved nutrition. These include things such as conservation practices, no-till, crop rotation, fertilizer application and soil testing. The people of Bolivia just need to be informed of these things. Farming is an occupation that we need all over the world. Without farmers and agriculture we would all go hungry. In Bolivia farming is not a job that will make you wealthy. But it is still something that they have to have. Especially in the state that their country is in now with so many people malnourished. The income of a farmer is low which discourages people from farming. The crop land in Bolivia has the potential to produce high yields but the extreme climate usually damages the crops growing or producers do not use the correct planting practice for the land type.

Bolivia does not produce enough food due to damage of the crops. These damages include droughts, floods, and erosion. They have the potential to yield enough crops to get Bolivia out of poverty and stop people from starving. The problem is getting all of those crops that are planted to grow and survive to feed their people. To make this happen Bolivia needs to be educated in new ways to plant and cultivate their land. With new knowledge of farming the problems they face that wipe out their crops would substantially go down. When farmer's crops get ruined they do not have anything to sell to make money. The road systems in Bolivia are also very poor. This makes it hard for farmers to get their crops to the market to sell. By having roads farmers could get to market and provide for citizens of Bolivia. If farmers can't get to the market neither can other people to buy the produce that farmers bring. This results in the farmer losing money and people unable to access food.

The education level of Bolivia is divided. The country's literacy rate is 86.7%. That is 8 out of 10 people in Bolivia that can read. This is lower than other South American countries. In the rural community the illiteracy rate is very high, even though the rest of the country is becoming more literate. Approximately 90% of children attend primary school for at least a year in Bolivia. The government provides free elementary and high school education. Children between ages 6 and 14 are required to attend. Most children who live in the country are needed to work at home on the farm and don't have time to go to school. Most of the high schools are in the cities and some rural families cannot afford to send them to school so far away. On average children from rural areas attend school for 4.2 years and children from urban areas receive about 9.4 years of education. Before the early 1990's lessons were only taught in Spanish. They were not bilingual. Tribal languages from ancestors such as Quechua, Aymara, and Guarani are also spoken in Bolivia along with Spanish. So if you didn't know Spanish you could many times not understand what the teacher was saying. Technology in Bolivia is the lowest in South America. The people do not know the best farming techniques so the soil is eroding. This will cause long term damage to their crops and yields. When a woman is pregnant they do not always receive the best health care from doctors in Bolivia. The main reason for this is that very few people in Bolivia are doctors. Most doctors come from other countries such as the United States, Europe, and Cuba. There are also special programs that send doctors or money to Bolivia because they know that the health care is poor. Germany sends funds as well as doctors to improve health care in Bolivia. Bolivia also has the Comprehensive

Community Hospital in Cochabamba, Bolivia which is a place where the people of Bolivia can go to receive good health care that is clean and reliable. Many doctors from Cambodia and Cuba come over to Bolivia to provide health care.

The education levels in Bolivia are improving. The government sets aside 23% of its funds to go towards education to make it better. This is more support towards education than other countries get. However, even with that much money going to education in Bolivia they are still struggling. Illiteracy rates are high compared to other countries in South America. The Ministry of Education and the schools in Bolivia both watch and monitor closely the literacy rates and level of education that is being provided. The government is very concerned with the level of illiteracy in Bolivia and is always looking for ways to improve it. They have tried to create and pass many laws to make their literacy rate improve. The testing and government involvement indicate that the literacy rate is improving daily. It will continue to improve into the future. There are limited amounts of technology in Bolivia. They do have cell phones and access to internet. There are 125,462 internet hosts and 1.03 million internet users. There are 810,200 main line phone users and 7.148 million cell phone users. Other sources of technology such as Solar power and wind would be efficient for farming. The Bolivian government has had this idea before but decided that it was just too expensive to implement this plan and teach others how to use it. Before people in Bolivia can use technology they need to be educated in how to use it and how it would benefit them.

If improved education and technology were introduced into the lives of Bolivians the amount of food grown and quality would increase. Farmers in Bolivia are not aware of improved farming practices to use on their land. The land is different in all parts. The additional knowledge of crop production on the land could produce more food. By introducing new farming practices into Bolivian agriculture such as no till, irrigation of the land, proper fertilizer application, soil testing and contour strip cropping of the land would save the soil. With improved education the people of Bolivia would have a larger skill set. This would stabilize the economy and make it easier to find a job. Health care would also be better in Bolivia. The doctors they have would be taught new procedures. This would create more healthcare jobs in Bolivia. The more education one has the better off one is. Everyone in Bolivia would benefit from learning more.

Once one becomes educated one continues to carve new information. Learning to use technology such as computers or the internet is something that can help you continue to learn in the future. I believe that poor education or lack of placing importance in learning is Bolivia's problem. Once they are educated climate will no longer be such a burden because they will know the ways in which to handle it. Bolivia has already started to see an increase in their population. Once they are educated on how to do things such as build roads or using technology it will create more jobs. Also knowing the best ways to farm will allow them to produce a higher yield and feed more people. Feeding more people will put an end to poverty.

To put an end to food insecurity in Bolivia the key thing that they need is education. Bolivia has a lot of barriers that are making the country be in poverty. Being educated on these problems can help solve them. Education is not the only answer. However, it is a place to start to set everything into motion. If farmers can learn new farming practices, the right way to cultivate the land and what crops to grow in their climate their yields will be a lot higher and they will feed more people. Once the rural community receives new knowledge of farming their crops will grow better and more food will be produced. They will also want to continue to learn. This is why for urban and rural families they must be taught

sustainable skills that they can continue to improve even when help is not readily available. The internet and books are great sources to continue to learn more. For these to be able to work the literacy rate in Bolivia must improve. That falls back on improving retention rates of rural kids so they learn to read. The investment in technology will also help in aiding the fight against hunger. Technology such as internet and computers would be a place to go to learn more about farming techniques and many other things. The use of technology can also be used in genetically modified crops as well as farming equipment. Research is also needed to help farmers farm better. Tractors, fertilizers and irrigation systems are very scarce in Bolivia. Education again will be needed with the advancement of technology. Bolivians would need to be educated in how to use these new advancements such as computers and tractors. They would also have to be taught how to maintain this equipment. The best way to solve this problem by 2015 would be to get educators into Bolivia. The best thing for the people living in Bolivia to do would be to be as willing to learn as possible. The goal for this plan is to increase education and improve farming habits by educating the people of Bolivia. With knowledge of farming they will be able to produce more food and feed more people. The government will need to continue to stress the importance of education and raise the literacy rate. They also need to keep investing money into education. Help from outside organizations will be needed as well. If education in Bolivia starts to improve now, by the year 2015 Bolivia would be well on its way out of poverty

Communities in Bolivia should be as open to help as they possibly can be to learning. The government should continue to push to improve education and the literacy rate as they have been. Based on my research non- profit organizations such as the Bill Gates foundation, The Clinton Global Initiative, and Consultative Group on international Agricultural Research would be the best to help bring education and advancements in technology to Bolivia. These organizations focus on education, agriculture, and getting countries out of poverty. So they would be the best choices to select to bring support to Bolivia. Rural farm and urban families should be very involved in implementing these recommendations. They will be the people learning everything and applying it to their lives. It's the people of Bolivia who will kick poverty out of their country. So they must be the ones with the knowledge and skills to do it.

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