THE PROBLEM
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Bolivia is a country of breathtaking landscapes, full of rich traditions from many indigenous people groups, but in the midst of its beauty and diversity, a horrific plague threatens the safety of many children: sexual violence. Young survivors of sexual violence 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 2016 alone, more than 7,520 police, government officials, NGOs and others were trained by IJM to recognize and respond to this horrendous crime of child sexual violence.

IJM BOLIVIA PROGRESS SINCE 2006

160+
children rescued from sexual violence

180+
survivors currently receiving aftercare services from IJM

120+
criminals convicted for sexual violence and related crimes

THE FACTS

An estimated 1 in 5 women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.¹

Many Bolivian girls and boys survivors of sexual violence are still waiting for justice. Only 0.5% of child sexual violence cases reported lead to a conviction.²

Less than 15% of Bolivian girls will seek help after a sexual assault.³
We rescue children out of dangerous situations of sexual violence by working with local authorities. We receive case referrals from the department of social services, public prosecutor's office, churches and families. We ensure that every child is brought to a place of safety.

We bring criminals to justice. IJM investigators help police develop and track down leads to find and arrest the suspect. This can take months or even years, but it likely wouldn't happen at all if IJM was not involved. IJM lawyers help prosecutors collect evidence to build a strong case, and we help survivors who choose to share the truth in court prepare for their testimony.

We restore survivors by providing consistent support to the child and the family so she or he can heal in a safe and stable environment. IJM social workers or psychologists develop treatment plans for each survivor focusing on 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, not just those IJM can help through individual cases.

“How IJM Bolivia Combats Sexual Violence”

“I was closed off, isolated, afraid to speak... When I came to this place I felt a peace inside me, from my feet to the last hair on my head.”

-Yessica*, a survivor of sexual violence.

* A pseudonym.