

MEDIA RELEASE

During the Expoferia Bolivia Municipal 2007 **UNICEF promotes the exchange of experiences in municipal management in favour of childhood and adolescence**

La Paz – Bolivia, October 18, 2007. – During the Expoferia Bolivia Municipal 2007, UNICEF is supporting the organization of several spaces of opinion and debate about the fulfilment of the rights of childhood and adolescence in the municipal management.

In the Fair UNICEF will be present in three stands; in them 48 Municipalities of the high and low lands of the Integrate Local Development Programme (PRODELI), will exhibit and display their experiences in the area of protection to the rights of childhood and adolescence. There will also be shown 10 short audiovisuals about the successful Municipal experiences in health, education and protection.

UNICEF will also promote the presence of the Ministry of Health and Sports with the subject of nutrition and of the Municipality of El Alto with the Municipal Child and Adolescence Defenders of El Alto.

The Expoferia Bolivia Municipal 2007, is organized by the Vice Ministry of Decentralization (Ministry of the Presidency) and the Federation of Municipal Associations of Bolivia (FAM-BOLIVIA) from October 18 to October 20, 2007 in the Fair Camp of Bajo Seguencoma of the city of La Paz, with the objective of promoting the exchange of experiences in municipal management among Mayors, as well as with institutions that promote municipal development.

Agenda of October 18 focused on childhood and adolescence

From 2:00 p.m. of October 18, together with a Inter-ministerial Technical Committee, UNICEF will coordinate the development of five micro-forums: childhood abandonment and migration, risk management and disasters prevention: the experience of the Municipalities of Loreto and San Javier of the Department of Beni, childhood and adolescent labour in the cane harvesting in Santa Cruz, Advocates of childhood and adolescence in El Alto, Decentralized management in Education.

During the inauguration ceremony programmed for 7:00 p.m., the President of the Republic, Evo Morales, together with the Representative of UNICEF, Gordon Jonathan Lewis, will award the certificate "Municipality Friend of Childhood 2006" to the Municipalities of Ascensión de Guarayos (Santa Cruz); Porvenir (Pando); Vila Vila (Cochabamba); Llallagua (Potosí); Puerto Gonzalo Moreno (Pando); Chayanta (Potosí); Arampampa (Potosí); Puerto Rico (Pando); Ocurí (Potosí); Ayopaya (Cochabamba); San Borja (Beni); Monteagudo (Chuquisaca); and Sicaya (Cochabamba).

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UNICEF by its Integrate Local Development Programme (PRODELI) recognizes to a Municipality as a “Municipality Friend of Childhood” when it has increased the coverage of health, education services, and when the Advocacy of Childhood and Adolescence and the Inter-sectorial Municipal Committee for Childhood are performing their activities in accordance to the rules of the Childhood and Adolescence Code. The Municipalities that receive the prize are picked up among the 48 Municipalities that are part of the PRODELI.

After the award of the Certificates, will be carried out the central Forum “Municipal Management and Childhood Rights”, chaired by Fabián Yaksic, Vice-Minister of Decentralization. The Forum will have the participation of Nila Heredia, Minister of Health, Magdalena Cajias, Minister of Education, Juan del Granado, Mayor of La Paz and Robert Schock, Mayor of Ascensión de Guarayos, who will share experiences of their management in relation to the subject matter. The debate will begin with a presentation made by the Representative of UNICEF in Bolivia, Gordon Jonathan Lewis.

About UNICEF

UNICEF works on the field in 155 countries and territories to help children to survive and to advance in life from first childhood to adolescence. Being the greatest provider of vaccines for poor countries, UNICEF supports children health and nutrition, quality water and sanitation, basic quality education for every child, and the protection of children against violence, exploitation and AIDS. UNICEF is entirely financed by voluntary contributions made by individuals, enterprises, foundations and governments.

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