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U.S. Government provides emergency relief in Yungas

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA - The U.S. Government, through its Agency for International Development (USAID), is undertaking a number of measures in the Yungas region of Bolivia to respond rapidly to the tragic bus accident on the La Paz – Caranavi road and to alleviate the suffering of inhabitants of the Yungas caused by persistent and heavy rains.

Responding to a call from Caranavi mayor David Quispe and the Federation of Neighborhood Committees of Caranavi, USAID is helping to rescue the victims of the Totai bus accident, which occurred in the area of Puente. USAID is providing food to the rescue teams, fuel for their vehicles, and is renting boats, since the search and rescue operation has now expanded to the town of Guanay.

To address the deteriorating conditions of the roads in the region, USAID has mobilized teams from its Neighborhood Roads Project to facilitate emergency repairs in several sectors. Working along with the Departmental Roads Service, the Neighborhood Roads Project has already cleared the routes in South Yungas, in the sectors between Arapata and Cruce Villa Barrientos, and between Velasco and Arapata.

Likewise, at the request of the communities in the Alto Beni region, reconstruction activities are taking place on the road to Santa Ana de Mosetenes. The road's surface had been completely undermined in past days. With the aid of a bulldozer and several dump trucks, the route has been reopened to vehicular traffic.

This initiative is part of the economic and humanitarian assistance of the U.S. Government's Agency for International Development (USAID) to Bolivia. This agency annually donates approximately US\$ 100 million for development programs in Bolivia.

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