Latin America: Bolivia

Canned Salmon in Food for Education Programs
Salesian Missions and Don Bosco Public Schools

In keeping with cultural practices and changing needs in the country, food aid programs in Bolivia work to reduce child malnutrition and improve household food availability through increased agricultural productivity and incomes along with integrated health, education, water and sanitation programs.

As an adjunct to these activities, school meals are getting more nutritious. Bolivian children enjoyed Alaska Canned Salmon in their school lunches through a project born out of the Salesian Missions’ successful experience with Canned Salmon in their McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (FFE) over four years in Cambodia.

ALASKA GLOBAL FOOD AID PROGRAM partnered with the Salesian Missions and their local counterpart, the Don Bosco Public Schools. Their 250 schools in Bolivia reach approximately 100,000 students.

The ALASKA GLOBAL FOOD AID PROGRAM donated two containers of Canned Salmon, which supplied about 400,000 servings of Salmon.

The schools are in very poor areas and few have any cooking facilities. Parents provided onions, tomatoes and other items and teachers prepare the meals with the help of the students.

Primary and secondary school-age children found the Canned Salmon to be delicious in sandwiches or salad prepared with local ingredients. The students creatively recycled the empty cans as pencil holders in their art classes and invented a song of thanks for the Salmon.

The project started in October 2006 and operated in rural Chapare, situated in the tropical lowland department of Cochabamba and in El Alto, a sprawling peri-urban community in the highlands of Bolivia.

Canned Salmon is ideal for food aid purposes anywhere in the world. It provides concentrated protein and energy for people of all ages in all types of food aid projects e.g., school feeding, disaster relief, food-for-work and maternal/child health projects.

For Technical Assistance:
The ALASKA GLOBAL FOOD AID PROGRAM assists NGOs and PVOs with program design, ration selection, recipe development, storage, handling and preparation of dishes integrating Canned Salmon and other food aid commodities with local ingredients to feed cultural tastes.