Reducing Malaria in Migrant Populations

In coordination with USAID, Bolivia’s Ministry of Health conducted a pilot study that involved training local health providers and voluntary health workers in malaria-prevention and treatment techniques. They learned how to use a rapid diagnosis test to quickly identify individuals among migrant populations who had contracted malaria. They also learned how to administer treatment and treated all malaria-infected individuals prior to their return home.

About one-third of 2,400 castañeros tested positive for malaria and they received immediate treatment. The USAID-sponsored pilot test demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach among migrant populations and strengthened local capacity in early diagnosis and treatment of malaria. The Ministry of Health and the National Malaria Program have committed resources to continue this project, with the promise of improving the health and productivity of many more Bolivians for years to come.