

# *Bolivia Plans to Halve Extreme Poverty by 2020*

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La Paz, December 30 (RHC)-- Extreme poverty in Bolivia is expected to drop to 9.5 percent by 2020, President Evo Morales announced Tuesday. The Bolivian head of state made the announcement while presenting his social and economic development plan for the next five years, which seeks to tackle major socio-economic gaps between the poor and wealthy.

The drop would represent a 54 percent decrease from the current extreme poverty rate of 21 percent, which itself is a significant decline from the 38 percent poverty rate in 2005, before Morales was elected. The projects announced by the Bolivian leader would also reduce income inequality from 39 times in 2014 to 25 in 2020.

Moderate poverty meanwhile is expected to drop to 24 percent in the next five years. The development program also includes plans to build 51,290 new homes to ensure a “dignified life” for all Bolivians.

Bolivia will further invest US\$86.3 million in enhancing and expanding education in technological innovation by building at least 75 higher technical institutes to train Bolivian students.



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