

Maria Joseline likes to listen to the radio

Thirteen-year-old Maria Joseline has no time for school, but she loves to read and write.

Cametá is a port on the river Tocantins, which is 3 kilometers wide at that point. There are small islands in the river and on one of them, called Juaba, Maria Joseline dos Santos lives with her parents, her five sisters and her little brother. Her parents work on a farm, so Maria usually has to do the cooking and the housework. However, in between carrying



out all these tasks, she also goes to school. Unfortunately, she is still in grade 4, although, at the age of 13, she should actually be in grade 7. Maria loves to read and write. At home, she often listens to the radio, to absorb as much information as possible. She walks to school. Then, for once,

she feels free. She does not like the rain: 'When it rains, the whole classroom is wet. The roof needs repairing. Once this is done, the walls could be painted too; this is necessary as the dampness has made them dirty. Many of the chairs are broken too. It would be great if they could be fixed.' Sometimes Maria Joseline is teased about her racial background. 'I don't like it when they start to whine about the color of my skin,' she says.



Aid for Juaba from UNICEF and ING Chances for Children

The aim of the project is to provide Maria Joseline and the other children in Juaba with high-quality education. Teaching children to respect the diverse ethnic backgrounds is part of the new curriculum.

The project in Pará

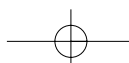
ING Chances for Children is supporting UNICEF in order to ensure that in Pará more children go to school and have access to high-quality education. The cornerstone of the project is the improvement of the quality of education. For example, a system has been set up through which pedagogical support and training is provided to teachers, heads of schools, parents and community leaders. Moreover, a newsletter, website and a telephone conference system have been created to stimulate the exchange of knowledge between the isolated schools. This enables high-quality education to be achieved even in remote villages like Juaba. Providing information about the importance of schooling and new developments is also part of the project. Parents learn how important it is to send their children to school. Furthermore, financial resources are being made available to arrange transport to and from school, to improve the state the schools are in and to provide the schools with teaching materials and toilets, for example.



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Facts and figures

Brazil

- Total population: 183 million
- 8% live on less than US\$1 per day
- 97.1% of children are receiving primary education
- The quality of education is poor
- Only 51% of children complete primary school

Pará

- Population: 6 million
- 1.6 million children between the ages of 7 and 14
- 12% of 10-to-14-year-olds cannot read or write
- 1 in 3 of the inhabitants are illiterate

Project goals

- Access to high-quality education for 674,613 children
- Increasing the number of children that go to school by 62,000
- Training more than 24,000 teachers
- Halving the number of illiterate 10-to-14-year-olds
- Reducing the number of pupils repeating a year by 40%
- Raising average school attendance from 3 to 6 years
- Extending the project to include all 143 municipalities in Pará



Adriano da Silva, Brazilian and Wholesale banking manager:

'My field trip to the Amazon with UNICEF has inspired me so much! I have gained a deeper insight and a greater appreciation of the impact that the program is having on the lives of children in the region. I was so moved by the stories of the children and teachers. They want so much to learn and improve themselves!'

Adriano was so convincing when describing his experiences to his colleagues in Wholesale Banking that he raised more than € 25,000 in funds at one single event.



UNICEF is the child rights organization of the United Nations. UNICEF champions the rights of all children, irrespective of race, nationality, political persuasion or gender and has aid programs in 155 countries. UNICEF works to provide healthcare, proper nutrition, education, clean water and hygiene to children. The organization provides aid on condition that national or local authorities contribute to the financing and implementation. Additionally, the local population must also be prepared to participate actively in the projects. Education is the key to personal growth and a better future. A child can develop optimally through schooling. It is no coincidence that the second millennium development goal is 'Basic education for all children worldwide'. UNICEF is committed to this cause.

See www.unicef.org



ING Chances for Children

ING Chances for Children is a worldwide program run by the ING Group. The aim of ING Chances for Children is to provide children with access to high-quality education.

ING strives to achieve this by doing volunteer work in the local communities in which it is active. In addition, ING co-operates with UNICEF to achieve its aims. ING Chances for Children is supporting three educational projects in different countries: Ethiopia, Brazil and India.

Would you like to make a contribution?
Go to www.ingchancesforchildren.com

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