

Specially adapted education for nomad children

In north-eastern Ethiopia, families travel about in search of water and grass for their livestock. There are no schools adapted to this way of life.

For generations, nomads and their livestock have been traveling through the hot dry lowlands of the Afar region of Ethiopia. Every season they look for the best place to stay for themselves and for their sheep, goats or camels. As a result, their children, too, never stay in the same place for long. It is difficult to fit school into such a way of life. In



general, the illiterate nomads also attach little importance to education: they want their children to help them take care of the livestock or carry out housework. And old traditions require girls to marry young. The lessons given in the few schools that do exist are below standard. Often the teachers

are not well trained, do not speak the language of the nomads and use teaching materials to which the nomad children cannot relate. Only 1 in 9 children go to school.

Tailor-made education

With the help of ING Chances for Children, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of alternative schools - schools with 1 or 2 classrooms for children of different ages. The community is helping to build them. This limits the costs and ensures the involvement of the parents. The teachers are familiar with local customs. Some of them even travel along with the nomads if required. The school timetable is drawn up in consultation with the nomad families. As a consequence, children have some time left to work at home, for example. UNICEF is helping to develop the curriculum and the teaching materials. Moreover, the organization is also providing school packages and various training courses, not just for teachers but also for civil servants, heads of schools and local key figures.

The intended result

UNICEF wants to provide nomad children with a curriculum that fits the circumstances and culture of the nomads. The children not only learn to read and write and do sums but are also taught how to live healthier, what the dangers of HIV/AIDS are, how to handle violence and what their rights are. In this way, UNICEF strengthens the entire community.

Indrias Getachew, UNICEF field worker in Ethiopia:

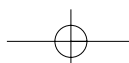
'Afar really is the end of the world. Actually, it is unbelievable that people live here! But it is the children who suffer under these harsh living conditions. The nomadic lifestyle of their families limits their development. Education is the only way to give nomad children in Afar what they are entitled to: the pleasure of learning and the prospect of a future without poverty!'



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Facts and figures

Ethiopia

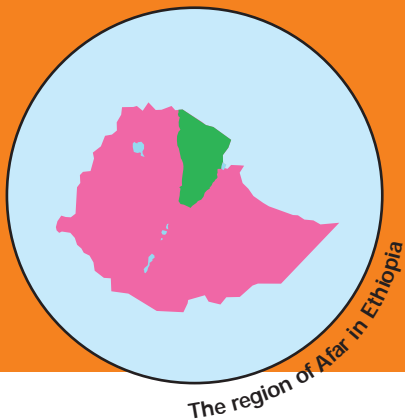
- Population: more than 75.6 million
- 1 in 6 children die before the age of 5
- 23% live on less than US\$1 per day
- Life expectancy: 48
- 33% of boys and 28% of girls have access to primary education

Afar

- Population: 1.2 million
- Number of children aged between 7 and 14: 251,990
- 11% of children go to school
- 23.4% of women can read and write

Project goals

- Setting up 150 schools for 7,500 children
- Developing a curriculum and teaching materials
- Producing and distributing 200 school-in-a-box packages
- Training 150 local teachers



*Mohammed Adam
Mohammed (20)
teacher in Afar:*

'Teaching is a profession that is highly respected by the people of Afar. What can be finer than to communicate knowledge to your own people? I live with the people of the community, I sleep with them, eat with them. If they travel to another place, I go with them.'



unicef 

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 UNICEF is the child rights



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?
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