

Proud of a simple school

The project in Ethiopia supported by ING Chances for Children started in 2006. 21 alternative schools have already been set up and the community is busy building another 29 schools.

In the Afar region, only 1 in 9 children go to school. Thanks to the support of ING Chances for Children, UNICEF is ensuring that 150 alternative schools are being set up with 1 or 2 classrooms for pupils of different ages. In establishing these schools, UNICEF aims to provide children with high-quality education and to increase the number of children



going to school. Up to now, the completed alternative schools have been performing well, sometimes even better than the regular schools.

School equipment and the curriculum

The schools also have to be furnished. For the first 50 schools, school benches and other equipment have

already been ordered. In addition, experienced textbook writers are developing a curriculum that is geared to the circumstances and culture of the nomads. It is expected that the modification of the teaching materials for the primary school level will be completed in the first four months of 2007. The new curriculum will also devote attention to general skills such as children's rights, standing up for yourself, health and hygiene. Information on AIDS will also be included in the educational program.

Teachers and the community

More than 50 teachers have already completed the two-month training course. These teachers mostly come from the region, are used to the nomadic lifestyle themselves and speak the language of the children. If necessary, they travel with the tribes. The members of the community are actively involved in the project. They are very proud each time a simple school is completed partly due to their help. Creating support for the schools among the nomad tribes is very important. Leading figures in the tribes are persuaded to take part in governing the schools. Co-operation with parents' and teachers' associations is being realized. In this way, a sustainable basis is being laid for the continued existence of the schools.

In 2007, UNICEF is focusing on:

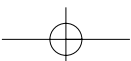
- Completing and setting up another 100 schools;
- Supporting the further development of a high-quality curriculum and teaching materials;
- Supplying 200 school-in-a-box packages;
- Training a minimum of 100 teachers from the nomad tribes;
- Providing support to schools that have already been set up in every possible way;
- Creating support for the nomad schools;
- Creating a monitoring system for evaluating the effects of the nomad schools.



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Facts and figures

Ethiopia

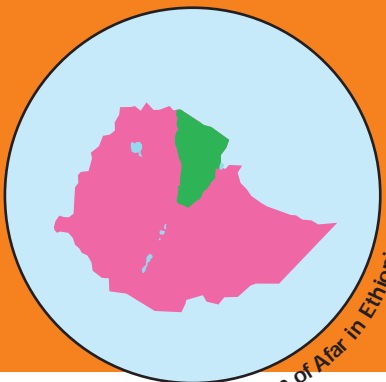
- Population: more than 75.6 million
- 1 in 6 children die before the age of 5
- 23% live on less than US\$1 per day
- Life expectancy: 48
- 33% of boys and 28% of girls have access to primary education

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



The region of Afar in Ethiopia



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



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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