

## UNICEF Brazil Launches Online System to Monitor Federal Government Investments in Programmes for Children and Adolescents

On October 9, 2008, UNICEF Brazil launched a new, online monitoring system (SimIC), to track the federal government's budgetary allocations for programmes dedicated to children and adolescents. At the same time, the first edition of the Children's Investment Bulletin (Boletim Investimento Criança - (BIC)), was also released. The BIC is a biannual report which presents and analyses the data collected by the online monitoring system.

Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF Representative in Brazil, anticipates that the BIC will serve to further increase government transparency in regards to the percent of the federal government budget devoted to children and adolescents, while also strengthening civil society's ability to monitor these spendings. "This online monitoring system and the BIC are additional tools that can help ensure that the full rights of Brazilian children and adolescents are made an absolute priority in public policy", she said.

Between 2006 and September 2008, the SimIC revealed that there has been a marked real (adjusted for inflation) increase in Brazilian federal government spending on programmes directed towards children and adolescents. In 2006, federal investment was R\$36.8 billion, a figure which jumped to R\$37.9 billion in 2007. By September 2008, investment in programmes for children and adolescents increased to R\$46.8 billion, representing a 27% increase in two years. "These resources represent a real social investment, because they have the capability of breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty," said Marie-Pierre Poirier.



Fifteen programs and 38 government actions were considered for the Child Investment analysis. Manuel Buvnich, UNICEF Brazil's Deputy Representative, explains that the structure of the Child Investment analysis is flexible. "Programmes and activities that directly benefit children and adolescents issued by the federal government will automatically be incorporated into the Child Investment analysis."

In 2007, the total amount of federal government investment in programmes and actions related to children and adolescents was 1.42% of Brazil's GDP, an increase from the previous year's investment of 1.25% of Brazilian GDP. According to the BIC, if the pace of government spending is maintained until the end of this year, the per capita investment in children and adolescents will reach R\$807.72.

In addition to the increase in federal government investment, social spending also increased 6% between 2006 and 2008. Of 88 current social programmes, almost 95% of the proposed total federal budget is concentrated in 10, representing R\$338.2 billion in absolute terms. As of this writing, it is noted that US\$1.00 is equal to about R\$2.00.

Both the Online Monitoring System for Child Investments and the Child Investment Bulletin were developed by UNICEF, with support from the Brazilian NGO Contas Abertas (Open Accounts). The data included in the SimIC draws directly on the Government of Brazil's Integrated Finance Administration System, and can be accessed online by anyone visiting the website: [www.investmentocrianca.org.br](http://www.investmentocrianca.org.br). The BIC, currently only available in Portuguese, can be downloaded (in PDF format) from the UNICEF Brazil website at: [www.unicef.org.br](http://www.unicef.org.br).

The Child Investment Bulletin was launched by UNICEF Brazil on 9 October 2008 in Brasilia, Brazil