

## Laying the foundations for accessible, high-quality education

**In the vast expanses of the Amazon, UNICEF is building the foundations for providing high-quality primary education to hundreds of thousands of children.**

In the isolated villages of the state of Pará, there are far too few schools. The quality of education is also poor. This is why UNICEF and ING Chances for Children started a long-term project in 2006. In this initial phase, it is important to establish contacts with local partners, to gather information and to eliminate barriers.



11 municipalities to determine in consultation with teachers and community leaders what needs to be done in the next three years. Detailed work plans have been made based on this.

### Distance learning and quality

In the preparatory phase, UNICEF examined the training and support needed for teachers and schools. To help the isolated villages achieve high-quality education a system will be set up through which pedagogical support and training is provided to teachers, heads of schools, parents and community leaders. The exchange of knowledge will be stimulated by means of a newsletter, website and a telephone conference system. It will only be possible to succeed in increasing the number of children receiving primary education and in combating illiteracy if the quality of education is raised and the improvement of school buildings is dealt with first. The teaching materials, which were developed in the big cities, do not match the reality of daily life in the Amazon as experienced by the children. As part of the project, a new curriculum will be developed that does justice to the local values and regional culture. The necessary preparations have already been made.

### Consensus

To begin with, UNICEF drummed up all those involved in the region for a large conference on education. Parents and teachers, municipalities and universities attended it. Together with UNICEF, they forged plans to raise the level of education. All the participants are very enthusiastic about the project. Following this, workshops have been organized in

### School meals for an empty stomach

The children come to school hungry; they do not get breakfast. It is difficult to learn on an empty stomach. This is why UNICEF has been engaged in organizing school meals from the beginning.

### What are the next steps in Pará?

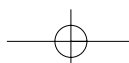
- Involving more municipalities in the project;
- Further developing and extending training and pedagogical support;
- Making the community aware of the importance of education and the value of their own culture, for example via radio and TV;
- Ensuring that financial resources are made available to improve school buildings, to arrange transport to school and to provide schools with teaching materials;
- Organizing school meals at all schools.



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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](http://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](http://www.ingchancesforchildren.com)

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