

Brazil - Ethiopia - India

General information



More and better education for children in the Amazon

Education is the key to development. However, many children in the Brazilian state of Pará either do not go to school or drop out.

The inhabitants of the state of Pará have many different cultural backgrounds. A large number of them live in remote places in the Amazon. Public education in Brazil is not tailored to the way of life and the cultural diversity in the Amazon. School books that use the big city as a frame of reference are not suitable for children living in that area. In



addition, there are not enough schools and they are difficult to reach. Moreover, the quality of the education offered is poor and parents often do not recognize the importance of schooling. They prefer their children to help them at home. As a result, many children in Pará either do not go to school at all or hardly so. And children who do go to school often have an empty stomach, preventing them from paying attention in the classroom.

Improving educational quality with the help of the local community

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 and a telephone conference system have been created to stimulate the exchange of knowledge between the isolated schools. Providing information, both directly and via the radio and TV, 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.

The project also devotes attention to healthy nutrition. As much as possible, school meals are produced using fruit and local ingredients such as cassava flour. Local farmers also benefit from this policy.

Furthermore, financial resources are being made available to arrange transport to and from school and to provide the schools with teaching materials and toilets, for example.

The intended result

UNICEF wants to ensure that more children go to school and that the pupils receive high-quality education, even those living in remote villages. The project actively contributes to the development of sustainable education in Pará.

Izabelle goes to school hungry

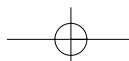
Izabelle belongs to the Ribeirinho, one of the people living on the banks of the rivers in the Amazon. Izabelle is 14 years old. She is having a lot of difficulty in completing her final years of primary school. The first lessons start at 7 a.m. She has to get up very early as she has to paddle over the river for 45 minutes to get to school. She does not get much breakfast at home because there is not enough food for all the children. In the classroom, she is sometimes too tired and hungry to pay attention. She therefore thinks it's a pity that they don't get any food at school. After school, she has to work. In this way she earns a little money to buy food. Usually she picks fruit high up in the trees, which is then sold.



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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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