

Finally, Medina can learn

Medina Humed Hamed and her family used to travel from place to place with their livestock. Recently this changed when they decided to stay in one place for a longer time, due to there being a school for the nomad children.

Ten-year-old Medina stares at the motorway that crosses the hot sandy plain of Aybaito in the Afar region. When asked what she would like to be when she grows up, she answers 'I want to drive a car'. And then she points to the sky. 'And I want to pilot a plane.'



No answers

The other members of her family laugh and clap their hands. Two months ago, Medina would not have been able to answer that question. Back then her daily routine consisted of fetching water from the river, gathering wood and looking after the livestock. But something has changed in her life: she now goes to school.

Leaving early

When the sun rises in the morning, Medina and her twelve-year-old brother Mohammed take the family's sheep and goats to graze. They leave early so that when they have finished, they can collect their books and arrive at the classroom on time. There they join more than 40 other pupils between the ages of 6 and 18. Medina's family have decided to settle near the school for the time being. According to Medina's grandmother the nomadic life is healthier but 'the school helps Medina to get the best out of her life'.

Aid from ING Chances for Children and UNICEF

Thanks to the project, Medina and her brother can go to



school. In the simple classroom, they finally get the chance to learn. UNICEF also puts a lot of effort into involving the nomad families in the project, so that they come to view the education of their children as important.

The project in the Afar region

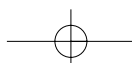
In the Afar region, only 1 in 9 children go to school. Thanks to the support of ING Chances for Children, UNICEF is ensuring that 150 alternative schools are being established with 1 or 2 classrooms for pupils of different ages. The schools will be provided with teaching materials that are geared to the nomad culture. The community is actively involved in the project. 150 teachers are being trained. For Medina and her brother, education represents a chance of a better future.



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Facts and figures

Ethiopia

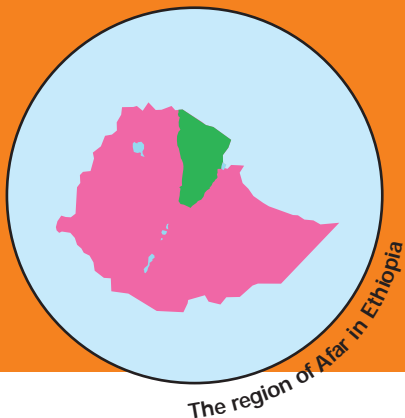
- Population: more than 75.6 million
- 1 in 6 children die before the age of 5
- 23% live on less than US\$1 per day
- Life expectancy: 48
- 33% of boys and 28% of girls have access to primary education

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



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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