



# CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

Overcoming obstacles to healthy child development

## PROPOSAL: BRAZIL

### NEW BATHROOMS IN BRAZIL

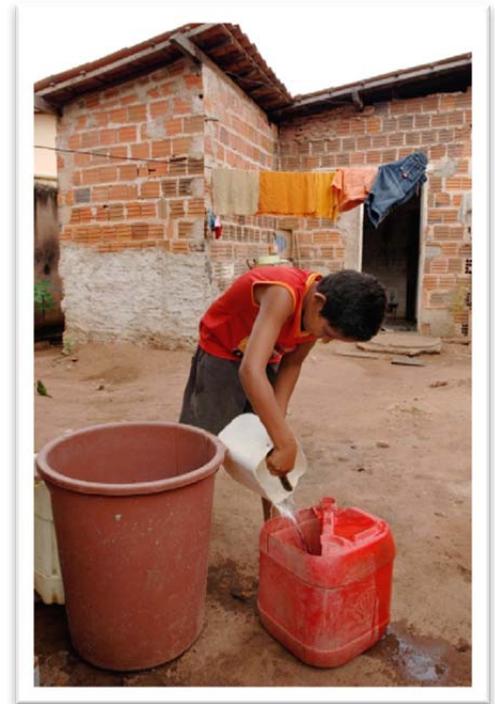
*Location: BR-475, Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre, Sao Jose dos Basílios*

*Start date: Financial year 2012-13*

*Completion date: Financial year 2012-13*

*Funding required: A\$13,500*

*Program code: BR-012598*



### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this critical intervention is to build bathrooms with proper toilets at BR-475 Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre to provide improved sanitation to all Compassion assisted children and their families, the staff and volunteers of the centre and the wider church community. Your support will help children to learn good health and hygiene habits, protect their health and wellbeing and effectively fight parasites and gastro-intestinal diseases.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- Construct two modern, functional bathrooms at the Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre
- Reduce the incidence of waterborne and sanitation-related illness at the centre and improve the health of the registered children, their family members, church, school and community
- Improve the health of undernourished and malnourished children by implementing a new health program that focuses on disease prevention and improved nutrition support



## PROPOSAL CONTEXT

Access to safe water and proper sanitation is a basic human right, recognised by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.<sup>1</sup> Yet, according to the World Health Organisation, around 1.1 billion people worldwide do not have access to improved water supply sources, while 2.4 billion people do not have access to any type of improved sanitation facility.<sup>2</sup>

The people most affected by this lack of access are the populations in developing countries, living in extreme conditions of poverty.<sup>2</sup>

This lack of improved sanitation and clean water renders people, especially children, vulnerable to waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, which are spread through contaminated water, poor sanitation and poor hygiene. In fact, up to 88 per cent of diarrhoeal deaths around the world are attributable to these three factors.<sup>3</sup>

Diarrhoea is one of the leading causes of infant mortality in Brazil (WHO 2010).<sup>4</sup> It is also the most common and prevalent disease among children in Compassion child development centres across Brazil. The Child Sponsorship Program includes teaching registered children good health and hygiene habits; however, in some cases there is no opportunity for the children to practise what they are learning, because they don't have access to sanitary toilets, sinks and showers.



The Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre is located in Sao José dos Basílios. Some parts of the town lack infrastructure, and members of the community generally dig holes in their backyards for the disposal of sewage. The local church and the child development centre face the same challenge of providing adequate sanitation: according to a survey completed by Compassion Brazil in 2011, the bathrooms at the centre do not meet recommended standards. Without access to proper bathrooms, Compassion assisted children cannot practise good hygiene habits such as hand washing with soap and water after using the toilet.

In order to achieve the physical outcome of choosing good health practices and being physically healthy, Compassion assisted children undergo regular medical examinations. Recent examinations found that more than one in 10 children at the centre were suffering from health problems due to poor hygiene habits at home, at school and at the program. High rates of gastroenteritis and diarrhoea were contributing to malnutrition and poor physical development.

The church partners at Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre want to make their environment child-friendly and hygienic by building sufficient bathroom facilities. By constructing two much-needed bathrooms with toilets, sinks and shower facilities, your support will give children the opportunity to learn the importance of good health habits and put them into practice every day. Through learning proper hygiene practices, Compassion assisted children will be able to take these lessons back to their homes, benefiting their families' health and wellbeing.



The centre staff and local church leaders are confident that this critical intervention will see a reduction in the rate of poverty-related diseases amongst the registered children at Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre.

In concert with building new bathrooms and teaching good health habits, centre staff will also implement a nutrition program for children found to be undernourished or malnourished. With improved sanitation to protect them from disease, good hygiene habits to encourage their long-term health and specific nutrition support, vulnerable children will have better opportunities to develop and grow in good health.

Thank you for giving so generously to benefit more than 150 Compassion assisted children, their families, program staff and the community. Your support will help to prevent illness and improve health and wellbeing for many people across Brazil.



## DEVELOPING WORLD CHURCH PARTNER INFORMATION

BR-475, Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre is located in the town of Sao Jose dos Basílios in the north-eastern state of Maranhao, Brazil. Since March 2011, the centre has partnered with the Primeira Igreja Batista em Sao Jose dos Basílios, a local church, and is currently assisting 159 children from the surrounding community.

The Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre provides all registered children with Bible teaching, health and hygiene education, sports activities and tutoring programs. The centre staff also provide meetings and educational seminars for the parents or guardians of registered children.



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Sao Jose dos Basílios is home to 7500 residents, of Portuguese and African heritage. The most commonly spoken language is Portuguese. Typical houses are constructed of dirt or cement floors, abode walls and thatched roofs, and the regional diet consists of maize, bananas, fish, rice, beans and cuxa [a leaf typical to the area].

In Sao Jose dos Basílios, most adults work as day labourers and earn the equivalent of A\$90 a month. The most common health problems in the area include fevers, flu, diarrhoea, sore throats and chicken pox. The community needs improved sanitation, better employment opportunities and vocational training centres.



## FUNDING

Your generous contribution will provide for the following at the Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre:

- All materials for the construction of two bathrooms, including sinks and toilet fittings, foundation materials, pavement, wall cladding, roofing and paint
- Electrical and hydro-sanitary installations
- Labour costs, including skilled labour for plumbing and electrical work
- Teaching material for staff training
- Follow-up, evaluation and reporting on the implementation and progress of the intervention

## IMPLEMENTATION

The staff of the Projeto Renascer centre will work with Compassion Brazil staff to solicit quotes from local plumbers and builders for the construction of two modern bathrooms, complete with toilets, sinks and showers. Centre staff and local church leaders will review all quotes received and forward the best quote to Compassion Brazil for approval.

With the approval of Compassion Brazil, local staff will engage the chosen contractor and formulate and sign a construction agreement based on the criteria agreed to by both parties.

The centre director, church pastor and contractor will purchase and monitor the delivery of all building materials and the hiring of manual labourers, and construction will commence. The building contractor and the church partner will complete monthly reports to advise Compassion Brazil of progress made and to account for costs.



Centre staff will consult with local health professionals to obtain a nutritional diagnosis of the registered children based on information gathered during their regular health checks. From there, they will identify the cases of moderate to severe malnutrition and with the help of a nutritionist, create a plan to boost the nutrition in registered children.

Once the construction of the bathrooms has been completed, centre staff will begin regular health and hygiene classes, teaching children of all ages about the importance of good hygiene and health habits, like using the toilets properly, washing their hands thoroughly, and using safe water sources for drinking, cooking and bathing. These classes will become a regular part of the centre's program activities to ensure that all children registered in the future also benefit from this training.

The centre director will ensure all centre staff are trained to maintain the new facilities and ensure that the bathrooms are kept clean. Staff will continue to monitor the children's health in the months following the construction and will seek to measure the impact that the new facilities have on the children's health. The centre staff will provide a written completion report for this intervention late in the 2012-13 financial year.



## THANK YOU

Thank you for giving so generously to help more than 150 children at the Projeto Renascer Child Development Centre. Your gift will provide them with basic services that every child has a right to enjoy—clean, safe water for drinking and washing their hands, and access to proper sanitation.

Your gift will mean that these children—as well as their parents, the centre staff and volunteers, and other members of the community—will not be forced to queue for long periods of time to use the toilet, nor will they be exposed to unsanitary or inadequate facilities.



The education the children receive, the proper toilets, and the hand-washing stations will provide simple but effective safeguards against potentially deadly diseases like diarrhoea, protecting the children's health. The financial, emotional and physical burdens of repeatedly seeking medical attention and treatment will not fall so heavily upon their parents and families, allowing them the opportunity to better meet other needs.

Your support will also help vulnerable children to benefit from specific nutrition programs and enable them to learn, grow and develop in a safe environment.

Thank you for partnering with Compassion to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

## SOURCES

1 United Nations General Assembly [2010] "Breakthrough: Challenge now to turn right into reality, third committee told" <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/gashc3987.doc.htm>

2 World Health Organisation [2011] "Water supply, sanitation and hygiene development" [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/hygiene/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/hygiene/en/)

3 Black, R.E., Morris, S. and Bryce, J 'Where and Why are 10 Million Children Dying Every Year?' *The Lancet*, vol. 361, no. 9376, 28 June 2003, pp. 2226-2234.

4 WHO Brazil Country Statistics 2010 <http://apps.who.int/ghodata/?theme=country#>

Please note that these details are correct at the time of printing and are based on local quotes and circumstances at that time. In the event that the intervention is altered or cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances in the field country, such as an increased cost of materials, your completion report will reference any changes to the original proposal. Your contribution will be directed to the Critical Intervention specified in this report. In the event that excess funds are received, Compassion will allocate these excess funds to other Critical Interventions that require funding. Please note that photos featured in this report serve as examples of the potential outcome of this intervention and were taken at various child development centres throughout Brazil.

**COMPASSION AUSTRALIA** PO Box 1 Hunter Region MC NSW 2310 Australia  
**TEL:** 1300 22 44 53 **FAX:** 02 4935 5099 **EMAIL:** [compassion@compassion.com.au](mailto:compassion@compassion.com.au)  
[www.compassion.com.au](http://www.compassion.com.au)

  
Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**  
in Jesus' name

## APPENDIX—PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Compassion's Child Sponsorship, Child Survival and Leadership Development programs are holistic, meaning that they work in all dimensions of a child's life. But in some circumstances, the needs of children living in poverty exceed the capacity of these programs. When children face such obstacles, Critical Interventions provides the support necessary for a child to continue being released from poverty.

Some interventions that can remove challenges to a child's environment or address unforeseen crises include:

### Water Sanitation and Hygiene

- Clean water and toilets

### Health and Medical

- Emergency medical care and/or surgery
- Extra nutritional support
- HIV/AIDS initiatives
- Immunisations and malaria-prevention activities

### Infrastructure and Stability

- Disaster relief
- Improvement to child development centres
- Support for registered children not yet sponsored

### Education

- Education and income generation for parents
- Vocational training and non-formal education