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## Quality education and training for children living in poverty in the slums of Brazil.

[www.THECHANNEL.org](http://www.THECHANNEL.org)

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@channeltobrazil



### **What Future ? Children in Brazil are returning to the streets**

Pedro's clothes are torn and stained, his stomach hurts with hunger and he's standing outside a busy lunch spot, hoping. The private security guard won't let him in.

This noble part of Fortaleza may as well be a different world to the slum he has known for the last 7 years; families eating together, luxury cars and nice clothes. Pedro wonders what it would be like to sit at a table with a family and eat a meal.

Eventually a lady offers him some leftover sandwich and Pedro turns his brown eyes to her, *"ma'am, what I really need is to go to the dentist because I can't sleep with toothache. Also, I need some flip flops because the asphalt at the stop light is so hot, it burns my feet when I beg for money."*

Keep reading

Pedro is one of many children orphaned in 2017 because of gang warfare in Fortaleza, Brazil. His father was one of 5,734 homicide victims in the State and his mother, addicted to crack cocaine disappeared, leaving him lost and alone.



Worse still Pedro doesn't technically exist. He was born in a favela, has no birth certificate, moved frequently and never went to school.

Fortaleza is experiencing a resurgence of children living on the street. There is no government program for orphans under 7 years old and the facility which offers 40 places for 7-17-year old's, received only 40% of it's funding in 2017. In the same year the citizens network program had a budget of \$3,000 to work with 2,500 families.

Drug cartels are wreaking havoc in favelas. With an already inadequate infrastructure, people are now restricted in their daily activities because they are prevented from crossing between gang 'territories.' If the school, clinic or store is in another territory, you can't go there.

Public authorities and services have been 'purchased' by the gangs, who are much more powerful and highly organized.



Gangs have invaded schools and clinics and put their territorial stamp on them. Children live in constant fear so imagine the relief they feel when they walk into CBC.

Homicide rates are soaring because most cases are not investigated by police and justice is left in the hands of the angry and frustrated community.

CBC is one of the few social projects in Fortaleza which is a city with a population of 3 million. There are hundreds of children living like Pedro and thousands more suffering in the favelas but with some level of family support.

**CBC's mission is to serve these families, keep children connected to their extended family and engage them in education.**

**Thank you for your support and for your prayers.**

### Here are some ways you can help

Many people no longer think of Brazil as a poor country. It's true that there is much wealth in the country but the disparity between rich and poor is extreme.

Just last month, a general strike paralyzed much of the country. Roads were blocked and stores ran out of food.

The nation of Brazil is fragile and the poor are the most vulnerable. Thank you so much for your support and for enabling us to help children like Pedro, who, without you, would have no one else.

*Every gift counts!*

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Thank you.

