



## United Nations Literacy Decade

### EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the Regional Literacy and CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference in Latin America and the Caribbean, 10-13 September 2008, Mexico City, Mexico

**Programme name:** Alfabetizando Com Saúde (Literacy with Health)

**Implemented by:** Curitiba City Council – Municipal Health Department

### Basic facts

Country: Brazil

Starting year: 2002

Outreach: 167 participants in 2002; 404 in 2003; 420 in 2004; 349 in 2005; 389 in 2006; and 406 in 2007

Target Population: Adults (15 years and above)

Language of instruction: Portuguese

Operating in: fifty five (55) Municipal Health Units of Curitiba

Facilitator/Beneficiary ratio: 1/25

Main Funding: Curitiba Health Department, Curitiba Education Department

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### Brief Description

The “Alfabetizando com Saúde” programme - developed by the Health Department of the Curitiba City Council - consists of integrated actions for promoting health and literacy in Curitiba through an effective network of social mobilization. The programme is based on institutional policies that started in 2002 with the main purpose of promoting adult literacy.

These policies reinforce intersectoral actions in the city among the Health sector (through the Center for Health Education CES), the Education sector (through the Agency for Education of Youths and Adults EJA), and the local communities. The programme operates through volunteers and is coordinated by a joint

committee of representatives of the municipal health and education departments.

The beneficiaries of the training are users of the Public Health Service (SUS) which are often socially and economically disadvantaged and lack formal instruction. The lessons link the learning of reading and writing closely with information about various basic health themes. All reading texts are dealing with health promotion, the prevention of diseases and nutrition. By linking the provision of basic literacy skills to health promotion, the programme aims at reducing infant mortality, misuse of medicines and at improving health and living conditions of the beneficiaries.