

# Letters

## Don't let Brazil's children be forgotten victims of success

*From Ms Sarah de Carvalho.*

Sir, In response to "A tale of two classes in Brazil as millions are lifted out of poverty" (July 21): with impressive global trade delegations vying for business, a burgeoning middle class and the country enjoying its most prosperous period since the "economic miracle" of the 1960s, anyone would conclude Brazil was the lowest on the priority list for international aid and charitable donations.

The news that the poorest 50 per cent of the population has seen a 68 per cent rise in income in the past decade and that President Dilma Rousseff plans to lift a further 16m

out of poverty through welfare is indeed a welcome development. But let us not forget Brazil's children – particularly as the grumbles of the new "squeezed middle" start to drown out the woes of people at the bottom.

The Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV) study claims "incomes are growing in traditionally excluded parts of Brazilian society, such as non-whites, women and those living in the poor north-east", but Brazil still has in the region of 25m children living in deprived conditions and 3m children living on the streets.

At Happy Child International, we

work with these "street children" in the Brazilian cities of Belo Horizonte and Recife to provide food, care and support to reintegrate them into society. Our work, however, in conjunction with the work of other charitable organisations and government bodies, can barely keep up with the needs and numbers of children "at risk". I urge both the international community and Brazil's new prosperous – don't let children become the forgotten victims of success.

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