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BrazilFoundation Partners with HSBC's Solidarity Institute in Education Initiative

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Combining the mission of **HSBC's Solidarity Institute** to improve education, and **BrazilFoundation's** ability to identify and encourage social entrepreneurs, the **First Selection Process for Rural Education** was launched with a regional call for projects. The objective is to select nonprofit organizations working in Brazil's Northeast that can strengthen rural education. Ten projects will be chosen and given grants of \$75,000.00 reais over a three-year period. In addition to this support, the coordinators will receive capacity-building assistance from **BrazilFoundation** that focuses on strategic planning, communication, and financial management.

The importance of rural education was highlighted in recent figures released by the HDI (Human Development Index) and HDI-E (Human Development Index concerning Education) of the United Nations Development Program. Seven million Brazilian students study in rural schools, yet only 1.8 % of these schools have libraries. Ten percent of young adults between the ages of 12 and 17 living in rural areas are illiterate. In urban areas the percentage is only 2.7%. The UNDP considers the region to have the lowest educational indicators in Brazil.

The proposals must focus on improving the structure and quality of teaching offered to the community. Among the suggested actions are:

- Further training for teachers and school staff
- Establishing or revitalizing libraries
- Improving access and training in the use of information technology (computers, internet access)
- Creating or refurbishing science labs
- Establishing safe spaces for extra-curricular activities
- Improving the space and equipment in classrooms
- Capacity-building and management development of school systems
- Promoting community involvement in the governance of schools

The deadline for this call for projects is July 20th. Greater detail on this new selection process can be found on **BrazilFoundation's** website (www.brazilfoundation.org).