Skin cancer represents about 25% of more than 600,000 cancer cases diagnosed in Brazil, with significant social and economic consequences. Several reasons may explain these high numbers of cases. On the one hand, solar UV radiation is very high in all regions and in practically all seasons; on the other hand, the lack of public policies in a country where a tanned-skin is an aesthetic pattern.

This project aims to improve teacher’s knowledge about the risks of excessive and unprotected exposition. The main goal is to achieve a change in the behaviour of children and adolescents of elementary and middle schools. Besides the educators, these activities will also establish educational programmes for outdoor workers and community leaders. The subjects will mainly focus on awareness of the need to avoid solar overexposure, check UV index, limit exposure, changing habits, different methods of protection (use of sunscreens, hats, clothes and sunglasses) and self-exams to identify lesions in their primary stages.

Our educative program is based on the Distance Learning (DL) in order to cover the largest number of participants, experimental activities, workshops, and, based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), improvement of educational material specially developed on the theme. In this project we have gathered experts with wide experience in different fields such as meteorology, education and health. The first step of SolAmigo (Sun Friend) Program begins in 2001 and will reach 3,000 teachers and close to 30,000 students.