

## Background Ethiopia / Tanzania

### Ethiopia

- Inhabitants: approx. 80 million
- Capital: Addis Ababa
- Surface area: 1.1 million km<sup>2</sup>

### Tanzania

- Inhabitants: approx. 38 million
- Capital: Dodoma
- Surface area: 945,087 million km<sup>2</sup>

### Ethiopia

The Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia) and its neighbouring countries have been the scenes of war and crisis for many years. The region has witnessed two of the most bitter cross-national wars in postcolonial Africa: the Ethiopian/Somali Ogaden War (1977–1978) and the border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea (1998–2000). Furthermore, there was the thirty-year struggle for Eritrean independence (1961–1991), one of the longest

secessionist civil wars in Africa. Every year, Ethiopia's ongoing fraternal strife with Eritrea claims numerous lives on both sides, perpetuating economic disaster in both countries. Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world. The UNDP Human Development Index (2010), which lists countries according to their overall level of human development, ranks Ethiopia 157<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 168 states.



Children are the prime sufferers of Ethiopia's poor living conditions. Many of them have no access to basic education, and girls, with an enrolment rate of just 50 per cent, are clearly disadvantaged. They are kept at home to help with physical work or are married off at an early age. Only 75 per cent of school-age children enrol in school, and only 15 per cent of boys and 11 per cent of girls attend secondary school. The rate of adults who are able to read and write still hovers at around 40 per cent.

### Tanzania

Tanzania is the prime example of a peaceful African nation, with a free market economy, democratically elected government, political stability and a defined proportion of women in Parliament. Migrants from neighbouring war zones find refuge in Tanzania where over 120 ethnic groups live peacefully together.

Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, and numerous national game parks attract scores of adventure-seeking tourists from all over the world. However, away from busy tourist areas, Tanzanians live in poverty. Rural areas are scarcely developed. Roads are few, infrastructure is poor, and schools and water

supply systems are frequently lacking. Over three quarters of the labour force depends on agriculture and fisheries. Mortality rates are high due to poverty and the spread of AIDS. 55 per cent of the population is below the age of 20.

The rapid growth of the young population requires government action but a consistent children and youth policy only exists on paper. Tanzania's youth suffer from traditional attitudes towards children. Child labour for example tends to remain unpunished, and slaps and beatings are widespread forms of reprimanding children.

With public funding being insufficient to provide teachers and school materials for all young Tanzanians, parents have to shoulder part of the costs. They have to buy school uniforms and teaching materials, expenses which large families are unable to cover.



## Ethiopia | Guja (10)

Bursamé, a dish made with the root of the banana tree, is Guja's favourite food. However, she and her four brothers and two sisters only eat it on special occasions such as Christmas.

Guja is one of the children who can benefit from your project sponsorship.

## Sponsorship Ethiopia: From the fields to school – educational opportunities for girls

When the birds start their morning chorus and the sun begins to rise, Guja gets up, washes her hands, collects water and eats her snack. She is in a hurry. Whilst she is busy with her chores, her brother takes the animals to graze. As soon as she is finished she goes out on the road and calls her friends. Together they set off to the nearby school. What attracts Guja most in school is the chance to learn English, mainly because she wants to improve her job opportunities. She wants to help build roads, schools and hospitals, everywhere and for everyone.

In Ethiopia, the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation helps improve the quality of education. This project focuses on schools which support girls in particular. Girls are generally at a disadvantage. Many have to work in the fields, collect fire wood and fetch water to help their families in their daily chores.

Providing education in the neighbourhood helps reduce a girl's risk of falling victim to rape or abuse on the way to school. Special leisure activities for girls take place in school as well. Here, girls can play theatre, engage in sporting activities, and meet in clubs to discuss. Information sessions on subjects of particular interest to girls are also offered.

Together with an understanding of the values of peaceful cohabitation and the ability to

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She wants to help build roads, schools and hospitals, everywhere and for everyone.

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organise one's learning process, these basic skills will put girls in a better position to organise their lives.

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### What can my sponsorship of an Ethiopian project achieve?

Your sponsorship enables children in remote rural areas to attend classes in alternative education centres. Pupils in partner schools and in government schools are informed about their rights and made aware of the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Clean water supplies and sanitary facilities are provided, substantially improving living conditions.

- 90 francs a year buy educational material such as books, exercise books and pencils for three girls.
  - 180 francs a year enable two girls to go to school for one year.
  - 360 francs a year cover the costs for training and further training of one local teacher.
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