

Background Ethiopia / Tanzania

Ethiopia

- Inhabitants: approx. 80 million
- Capital: Addis Ababa
- Surface area: 1.1 million km²

Tanzania

- Inhabitants: approx. 38 million
- Capital: Dodoma
- Surface area: 945,087 million km²

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 157th 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

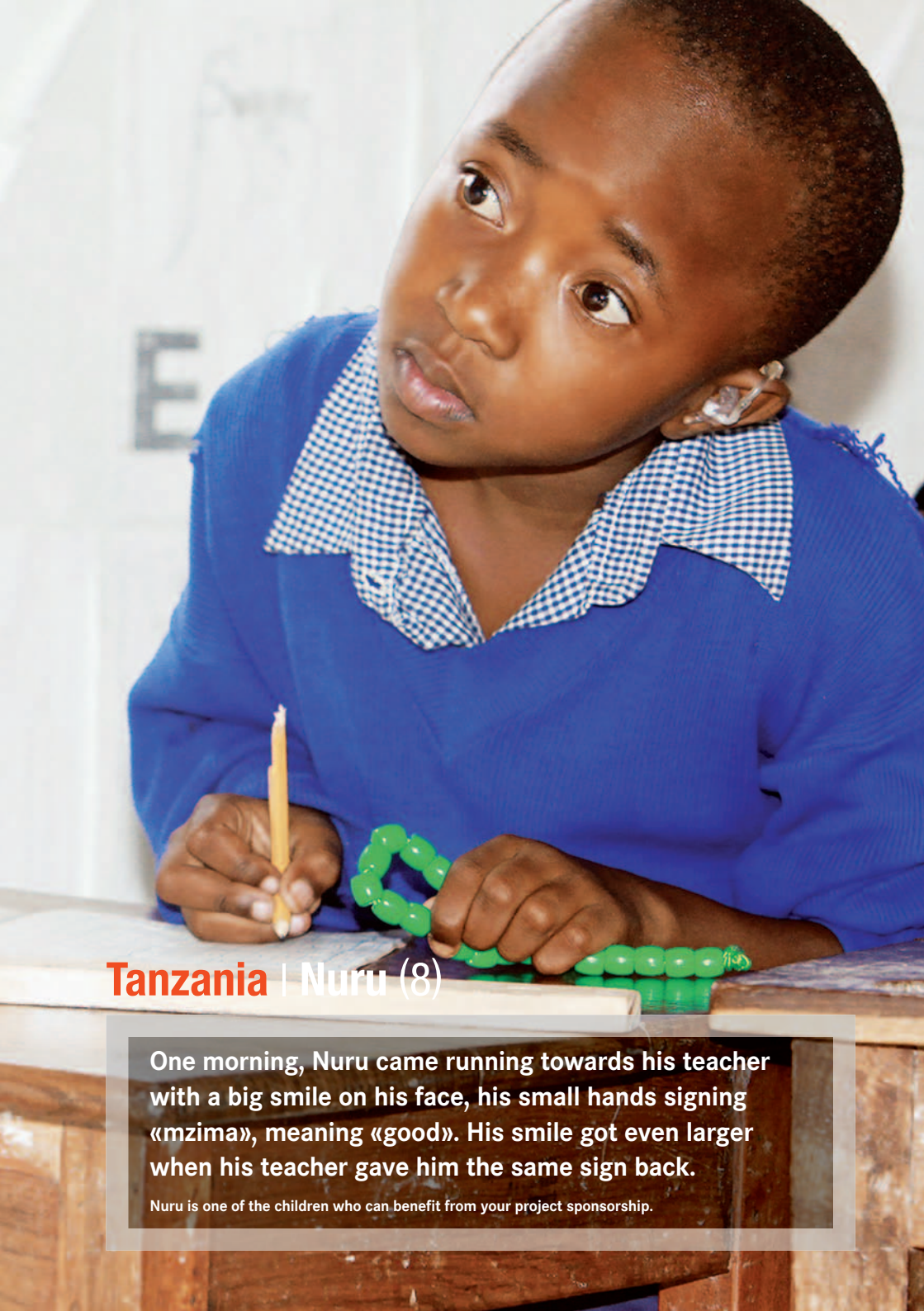
Tanzania is the prime example of a peaceful African nation, with a free market economy, democratically elected government, political stability and a defined proportion of women in Parliament. Migrants from neighbouring war zones find refuge in Tanzania where over 120 ethnic groups live peacefully together.

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.



Tanzania | Nuru (8)

One morning, Nuru came running towards his teacher with a big smile on his face, his small hands signing «mzima», meaning «good». His smile got even larger when his teacher gave him the same sign back.

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

Sponsorship Tanzania: Special needs teaching integrates disabled children

Nuru was four when he enrolled in school. He used to be very unruly, cried a lot and threw himself to the ground, kicking wildly. He did not know how to communicate with people and was unable to express his feelings. Nuru is deaf and therefore did not understand others. In the «Shule ya Viziwi» – the school for deaf children – he is gradually learning sign language.

Today, Nuru knows that he can use his hands to communicate with his friends, family and fellow villagers. Once he realised his ability, he no longer felt isolated in a world of his own. Now he is part of a group, and he is able to communicate his feelings, thoughts and opinions.

Disabled children have the same right to education as other children. This is by no means a given in Tanzania. PCF's integrated school project offers joint classes for children with and without physical disabilities. Parents tend to be embarrassed about their disabled children. They exclude them from social life and prefer not to send them to school. Teachers often find themselves overwhelmed by the task of teaching children with special needs. Numerous challenges have to be faced: classroom doors may be too narrow for wheel chairs to pass, visually impaired children have no spectacles, and there is a shortage of school materials written in Braille.

Once he realised his ability, he no longer felt isolated in a world of his own.

This PCF project removes such hurdles and enables children with a disability to receive a basic education and with it the key to an independent life.

What can my sponsorship of a Tanzanian project achieve?

Your sponsorship enables 4 to 16 year-old children with a physical disability to gain access to quality education. The key prerequisite is training teachers in child-friendly and integrative teaching methods. The majority of teachers also receive training in sign language, orthopaedagogy and speech therapy.

- 90 francs a year buy hearing aids for one child.
- 180 francs a year buy special teaching material for a blind child.
- 360 francs reduce barriers for a mobility impaired child (building modifications, wheel chair, etc.).