



TUWAPENDE WATOTO

Between Unrest and Hope – Impressions from Tanzania

Dear supporters of the Tuwapende Watoto Foundation,

Following the elections last October, massive demonstrations took place in several major cities across Tanzania for the first time in the country's 60-year history. Security forces responded with significant violence against the population. Suddenly, the image of this idyllic country seemed to fade — the country many associate with the white beaches of Zanzibar, the endless plains of the Serengeti, or the impressive Ngorongoro Crater.

After five days without internet access, calm slowly returned. Most people wanted one thing above all else: to get back to work. „We have shown that we disagree. Now we want to work again and earn money — we are hungry,” someone told me on site.

These words clearly show how challenging everyday life is for many people. A large part of the population has little to no savings. Those who do have an income often support an entire extended family. Although tourism shapes the country's image abroad, only a few people truly benefit from it — many continue to live in modest conditions.

And yet, the people of Tanzania continue to strike me as peaceful, joyful, and extraordinarily committed. Helpfulness and solidarity are deeply rooted values — sharing is taught from a very early age.

This is also reflected in our 139 employees. The gratitude they feel for being part of the Tuwapende Watoto family is tangible. It is especially touching to see their joy when their own children are able to attend our nursery school or our schools. They support one another and stand by each other — every single day.



20 Years of the Children's Home

Twenty years ago, when the Tuwapende Watoto Children's Home in Mbezi Beach was opened, Mama Bea took responsibility for both the children and the rented facility. Last year, she reached retirement age and, after two decades of dedicated service at Tuwapende Watoto, was able to begin her well-deserved retirement.

Throughout all these years, Mama Bea attended countless school visits and always had encouraging, comforting, and cautionary words for the children. The well-being of the Tuwapende Watoto children was always especially close to her heart.

Even in retirement, she remains connected to us: Mama Bea will continue living nearby and remain an active part of the Tuwapende Watoto family.

Mama Selina is taking over her role. She has been part of our team since December 2008 and ensures continuity with her experience.



We are also very happy that Vanessa, Aisha, and Gabriel have decided to complete vocational training at our vocational school. Aisha and Vanessa are following in the footsteps of Julius, who will complete his three-year ICT apprenticeship in June. Gabriel is studying electronics. On April 11, Petro celebrated his graduation from the 6th year of secondary school. He completed his two years of high school at Ephata Seminary Secondary School. The three youngest children — Rebecca, Hadjha, and Hamisi — attend the pre-unit class taught by their older sister Martha. Martha supports them lovingly while also maintaining discipline. We are very proud of Gloria, Eveline, and Samson. Last October, they completed the national examinations for the fourth grade. With their Grade B results, they proved how much they had learned and how well their teachers had prepared them for the exams. Bahati successfully completed two years at the University of International Relations and Diplomacy and was admitted to the Higher Diploma course.



A mission for better vision



During my time as a volunteer at Tuwapende Watoto, I had the opportunity to contribute as an optician — a deeply fulfilling and formative experience. I conducted more than 270 eye examinations for schoolchildren, students, and the entire school staff, including teachers, kitchen staff, bus drivers, and cleaners. For many of them, it was the very first eye test of their lives. Since no equipment was available on site, I quickly developed a simple but reliable system that made vision testing possible even without technical devices. I was able to bring approximately 250 pairs of glasses, including prescription glasses, frames, and sunglasses donated by customers of our optical store. More than 100 pairs were distributed directly to people who urgently needed them. I intentionally left the remaining glasses on site so that I could continue supporting people remotely in the years to come. In addition, a supplier donated a repair kit for adjusting and repairing glasses. I handed it over locally and demonstrated how to use it so that future adjustments could be carried out independently.

In my professional life, I know the importance of good vision, but the immense gratitude people showed for receiving glasses touched me deeply. It is my passion to help people improve their eyesight and thereby restore a piece of independence and joy to their lives.

My time in Tanzania profoundly shaped me both professionally and personally and will remain unforgettable. Fiona Iseli, L+Z Optik Bern, Volunteer

Nursery School and Daycare Center – Growing together, learning for life

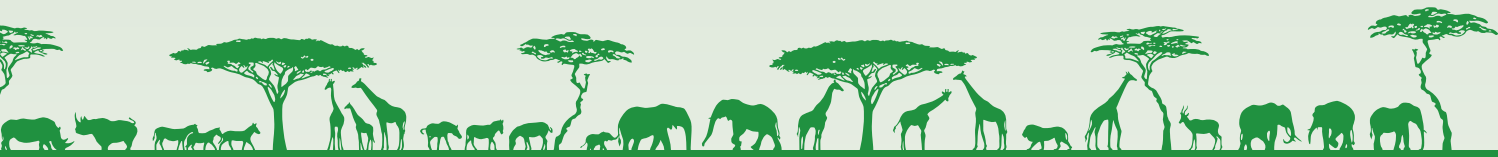
Thanks to the expansion of the nursery school in 2023, we successfully increased the number of students by nearly 100 children, as planned. This helps compensate for the future loss of income that will result from the closure of the 7th grade in 2028. Until 2030, we will continue operating all primary school grades with four parallel classes. This will allow us to continue running our nursery school and primary school on a financially sustainable basis even after the introduction of the new regulations by the Department of Education.

In January 2026, we welcomed 240 children to our daycare center and nursery school classes. With dedication, professional expertise, experience, and joy in working with young children, our teachers lovingly care for the youngest members of our schools.

Primary School – Education as the Foundation for the Future

Clubs

Every Wednesday morning, we offer mixed-grade clubs for the children. Starting from first grade, the children may decide for themselves which club interests them most. They also have the opportunity to discuss their choices with their parents. The available clubs include singing, reading, rhetoric, en-



vironmental studies, natural sciences, scouting, languages, mathematics, as well as counseling and mentoring. These activities foster the students' individual skills and are met with great enthusiasm by everyone involved.

Our "Civic and Moral" project: Visiting children in need

Students and their parents collected soap and food supplies such as rice, ugali, oil, and milk. The children then visited five different orphanages in mixed-age groups. The aim of the project was to raise awareness about the living conditions of disadvantaged children and to help students experience the importance of sharing and taking responsibility. Our donations were received with great gratitude. The students were especially moved when visiting a home for children with disabilities. Although initially somewhat reserved, they soon formed warm connections and actively sought contact with the children.



Outstanding National Examination results

We are proud of the excellent achievements of our students: In September 2025, 54 girls and 46 boys completed primary school with "Excellent" results in the national 7th-grade examinations. Thanks to their strong performance, all students secured admission to secondary school in 2026.

We are also very pleased with the 4th-grade results: both classes received the qualification "Excellent."

Secondary School – Creating opportunities, fulfilling dreams

Phase 2, the north wing of our secondary school, will be ready for occupancy at the end of April. We will already be able to begin using eight spacious and modern classrooms in May.

Construction Phase 3 (the south wing) began in February — before the rainy season — with excavation work. This ensures that enough classrooms will be available when two graduating classes move from primary to secondary school in January 2028.

Our secondary school operations are also very well organized: all subject teachers successfully completed the 2025 curriculum. Practical lessons were conducted in the new laboratory with the required equipment and teaching materials.

We are also delighted that, thanks to generous donations, we can now establish both a biology and a physics classroom.

Last autumn, we once again offered a preparatory course for incoming first-year secondary school students. In January 2026, the second secondary school class, together with the teachers and school administration, warmly welcomed 44 new students.

There is a wonderful atmosphere and noticeable harmony among both students and teachers. The young people as well as the staff are highly motivated and deeply appreciate the positive environment.

As soon as we have our own sports field, we will further expand our sports program as a balance to classroom learning. We are also planning to establish a music room.

10 years of the Tuwapende Watoto Vocational School

Over the past ten years, 476 students have successfully graduated from our vocational school with a government-recognized diploma and have gone on to pursue skilled professions equipped with extensive practical and theoretical knowledge.

Currently, 258 young adults attend our vocational school and are training in eight different professions. We are pleased that our vocational school is gaining greater recognition among young people and parents alike. Nevertheless, too many young adults



are still enrolled at universities, even though employment opportunities after graduation remain very limited. We are also proud that organizations such as Maisha Bora Children's Home (Nukia), Compassion International, and Unbound Community place their trust in us and send their young people to participate in our programs. These collaborations allow us to provide even more young people with valuable opportunities and skills for their future lives. An increasing number of women are becoming interested in technical professions. We are especially pleased that 14 young women are currently enrolled in the ICT training program. Many young Tanzanians dream of owning their own business. This is exactly where our commitment begins: as part of the practical entrepreneurship course led by Dr. Jan von Overbeck and his team, our students had the opportunity to develop and refine their own business ideas.

One week management course and business start-up

In 2025, a five-day entrepreneurship workshop entitled "How to plan and start your future business" was held at the Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Bunju B, Tanzania. The aim of the course was to provide around 180 young people with technical skills, self-confidence, and practical knowledge needed to start their own small businesses. The workshop was led by Mr. Matiku Makamba, Jan von Overbeck, Clara von Overbeck, Caroline Ranzoni, and Christina Gartenmann.

Participants explored the fundamentals of entrepreneurship through short lectures, interactive workshops, and group discussions. Using accessible tools such as the business model Canvas and SWOT analysis, they learned how to develop a business idea, identify customers, estimate costs, and plan daily operations. Throughout the week, the students presented their ideas, received feedback, and refined their concepts step by step.

On the final day, each participant presented a simple but concrete business plan outlining the product or service, target customers, required resources, and the first steps toward launching the business. The workshop not only provided practical tools, but also empowered students to see themselves as future entrepreneurs — people capable of creating real opportunities within their communities.

Following the course, a practical initiative was launched at the VTC: a small student-run business producing bread and ice cream under the name Raha Matunda Magic. Students applied for one of five positions in production, sales, administration, or management.

This business serves as a living learning platform. By operating a real company under supervision, students experience first-hand the daily realities of production management, customer service, financial administration, and teamwork — putting classroom learning directly into practice.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone involved for their outstanding commitment, for the excellently organized course, and for providing our students with such valuable practical experience.



Graduation – December 7, 2025

The graduation ceremony was fantastic and unforgettable. The dedicated efforts of both the vocational school teachers and the students in preparing the exhibitions and all related activities were clearly visible and contributed to an extremely successful event.

A total of 47 young women and 48 young men successfully completed their two-year training programs. The third year of training will begin in June 2026.

It was a great honor for us to welcome Ms. Florence Kapinga from the Vocational Education Training Authority as our guest of honor. During the establishment of our vocational school, she served as our primary contact person and was highly impressed by the scope and quality of our current programs and operations. We continue to maintain close contact with her in her current role as zone coordinator.

In December 2025, both the practical and theoretical examinations took place. We are proud of the students' excellent examination results.

Maintenance work by our students

During the Christmas holidays, our painting team renovated all the buildings of the vocational school. The students, trained by our vocational school teacher Matiku, did outstanding work. Thanks to their dedicated efforts, our vocational school now shines in new splendor.

A special invitation: Guests at the Swiss Residence

On March 20, 2026, the students of our secondary school were invited to the Swiss Residence to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the IOS, the International Organization of La Francophonie. The IOS brings together 90 states and governments (as of 2023/2024) that share French as a common language.

The evening was dedicated to film and the French language. I am certain that this invitation, along with the French-language film Wallay, motivated our students to actively and enthusiastically engage in French lessons at our school.

New website

Since the beginning of April, our foundation has been shining with a brand-new website! Our heartfelt thanks go to the employees of netpulse AG as well as to our ambassador Jo Zahner for the creative and successful implementation and the excellent presentation of our foundation.

Heartfelt thanks

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our principal, Emmaculate Mleke, and to our 139 dedicated staff members for their extraordinary commitment. Day after day, they give their very best for the well-being of the children and students entrusted to our care. Their dedication, patience, and compassion form the heart of our work.

On behalf of the Foundation Board, the I-NGO members, all parents, schoolchildren, students, and the entire Tuwapende Watoto family, we extend our deepest thanks to all of you: our loyal private donors, associations and organizations, as well as the Dr. Rau Foundation, IFHE Switzerland Section, EDU-Mustache, a major donation from the TW Network Vienna, netpulse AG, and "win for the kids" by Serge Müller.

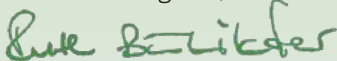
Thanks to your generous support, we are able to provide children and young adults with loving care, security, and a quality education. We are especially proud of the achievements of our students — particularly those from disadvantaged families who, thanks to your help, are able to receive a high-quality education.

Special thanks also go to the Swissair Staff Foundation for children in need, the Fondation Gertrude Hirzel, the Wyler-Andersson Foundation, Golf de Payerne, the Fondation BERFRED, the association "Kriens hilft Menschen in Not," the association "Bildung gegen Armut," the Lions Club Iselisberg, the Kiwanis Club Meilen, as well as the Tuwapende Watoto Förderverein e.V. Germany. Your support enables us to continue expanding our infrastructure and thereby create real opportunities for many children.

We sincerely thank you for your loyalty and trust. We will continue to use your donations carefully, responsibly, and sustainably.

A heartfelt thank-you also goes to our I-NGO and Foundation Board members, our ambassadors, and all volunteers. Through their tireless efforts, they make an invaluable contribution to supporting and empowering our children and young people.

With warm regards,



Ruth Bütikofer

President of the Foundation Board



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