

# NURU



# Nuru

Story based on “The Girl with a Big Heart” by Faith Oneya

Editor: Kimani Njogu

Illustrator: Mike Luande

© 2017 Africa Health and Development International (AHADI)

This publication is made possible with support from the Templeton World Charity Foundation.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

ISBN: 978-9966-028-76-1

For purchases or permission requests, write to the publisher at the address below:-

Twaweza Communications Ltd.

P.O. Box 66872-00800 Nairobi

Tel: +254-20-2694409

[info@twawezacommunications.org](mailto:info@twawezacommunications.org)

[www.twawezacommunications.org](http://www.twawezacommunications.org)

## **NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

This comic is part of a collection of Entertainment – Education (EE) materials including storybooks, comics, video games, films and a Teacher’s Guide that cover values such as honesty, diligence (hard work), generosity and thankfulness. The aim is to help children to develop values that will help them grow and become good human beings.

Nuru’s Heart is about generosity; it is about being generous with what one has. Generosity causes us to share with others what we have without expecting anything in return. Generous people are selfless; they are concerned with the needs of others and not just their own needs.

Generosity can be expressed in different ways including asking to help others with the work they may be doing, sharing what one has with others, and giving to the needy. Generosity involves giving time, attention, effort, patience, kind words, and talents to help and encourage others. While it may not always be easy to treat other people kindly, a generous person does not let the actions of others define their own actions.

We would like to encourage the use of this comic to teach children about generosity. In addition, the comic can be used to learn new words and improve speaking, listening, writing and reading skills. Children can also use the comic book to develop their artistic talent. The creative use of the comic can provide many opportunities for learning in the classroom and at home.

This comic should be read alongside other materials on values including the companion book to this title, *The Girl with a Big Heart* by Faith Oneya. Look out for more titles under the AHADI Readers series.

If this book makes a difference in your home or classroom, write to us. We would like to hear from you.

Prof. Kimani Njogu,  
Series Editor,  
info@ahadi.org  
Nairobi





*LITTLE ANGELS PRIMARY SCHOOL.*



*THE BELL RINGS CALLING THE PUPILS FOR THE MONDAY MORNING PARADE.*

*IT IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AFTER MID-TERM BREAK; EVERYONE IS EXCITED TO SEE THEIR FRIENDS.*



*NURU IS STANDING NEXT TO HER CLOSE FRIENDS WANDIA AND OTI. THEY COME FROM POOR FAMILIES, BUT THEY ARE FULL OF LIFE AND ARE HAPPY TO BE IN SCHOOL.*



**A** WHILE AGO NURU AND OTI NOTICE THAT WANDIA HAS COME TO SCHOOL WITHOUT HER LUNCH BOX.

HI WANDIA?  
HOW COME YOU  
DON'T HAVE YOUR  
LUNCHBOX  
TODAY?

HI NURU?  
THIS MORNING,  
I MET A MOTHER  
WHO WAS CARRYING  
A CRYING  
CHILD.

**NURU REMEMBERS...**

OOH...,  
WHY IS  
THE BABY  
CRYING?

HE IS  
HUNGRY AND  
I HAVE NO FOOD  
TO FEED HIM.

WHAT A PITY.  
PLEASE LET HIM  
HAVE MY LUNCH SO  
THAT HE STOPS  
CRYING.

THANK YOU  
SO MUCH! THAT  
IS VERY KIND  
OF YOU.

**T**HE BABY IS FED.  
HE STOPS CRYING.  
WANDIA AND  
THE MOTHER ARE  
LEFT SMILING.



WOOW! THAT WAS  
GENEROUS OF YOU.

INDEED, WE'RE SO  
PROUD OF YOU. HERE, HAVE  
SOME OF MY LUNCH.

THANK YOU. IT FELT VERY  
GOOD WHEN THE CHILD STARTED  
EATING AND STOPPED CRYING.

TAKE SOME OF  
MINE AS WELL!

**S** STILL AT THE ASSEMBLY,

**M**WAPENDO, A  
CLASS FOUR GIRL  
APPROACHES.

**M**WAPENDO'S  
FATHER IS A WEALTHY  
BUSINESSMAN AND  
HENCE HER SCHOOL  
UNIFORM IS NEWER  
THAN EVERYONE  
ELSE'S.

IF ONLY  
SHE WAS AS  
GOOD AS HER  
UNIFORM...

**E**ARLIER ...

PLEASE MAY I  
BORROW YOUR  
SHARPENER?

NO....!  
WHY DON'T YOU  
BUY YOUR  
OWN?

DON'T YOU KNOW  
THAT SHARING IS CARING?  
UNLESS YOU LEARN HOW TO  
SHARE, WE CANNOT  
BE FRIENDS!



**A**T THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.  
THE CHILDREN'S STORIES  
ARE INTERRUPTED BY THE VOICE  
OF THEIR HEADMISTRESS,  
MRS.KURIA.



GOOD MORNING  
CHILDREN?

GOOD MORNING MRS.KURIA.

GOOD MORNING MRS.KURIA.

**M**RS.KURIA HOLDS UP  
A SHEET OF PAPER.

**N**URU WHISPERS TO  
WANDIA.



WHAT DO YOU  
THINK IT IS?

I DON'T  
KNOW.



MAYBE IT'S THE LIST  
OF ALL THE CHILDREN  
WHO WERE NAUGHTY DURING  
THE MIDTERM BREAK.

WELL, IF THAT  
IS IT OTI, YOUR NAME  
WILL DEFINITELY  
BE ON IT.



THIS IS A LETTER FROM THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT SAYS?

NOOO!

THE GOVERNOR HAS REQUESTED US TO HELP IN COLLECTING FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY DUE TO THE ONGOING DROUGHT. EACH OF YOU WILL GET A FUNDRAISING FORM FROM YOUR CLASS TEACHER.

WE'LL ALL ASSEMBLE AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH WITH ALL THE DONATIONS COLLECTED.

REMEMBER CHILDREN, FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, ALWAYS INFORM YOUR PARENTS OF WHERE YOU'RE GOING. HAVE I MADE MYSELF CLEAR?

YEEEEEEES!

I WANT US TO BE THE SCHOOL THAT COLLECTS THE MOST FOOD IN THE COUNTY. OKAY?

YEEES TEACHER, WE'LL MAKE YOU PROUD!

NURU LISTENS KEENLY AND SHE IS SAD THAT PEOPLE WERE DYING OF HUNGER.

WITH THAT, MRS. KURIA DISMISSES THE ASSEMBLY.



THE CHILDREN WALK BACK TO THEIR CLASSROOMS. AS USUAL, NURU IS WALKING WITH WANDIA AND OTI.

I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FOOD DONATIONS. WE NEED TO HELP THE PEOPLE DYING OF HUNGER.

YES, LET'S DO IT!

OH YES, WE HAVE TO SAVE THEIR LIVES.

MWAPENDO IS BEHIND THEM EAVESDROPPING.

SUDDENLY...

HAHAHA! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN GET MORE FOOD DONATIONS THAN ME?

IT'S OKAY... WE KNOW YOUR FATHER GIVES YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT. NOW LEAVE US ALONE.

MY FATHER OWNS THE BIGGEST SUPERMARKET AND CAN FILL THE ENTIRE FOOTBALL FIELD WITH FOOD. YOU ON THE OTHER HAND ARE VERY POOR AND CAN'T EVEN BUY NEW UNIFORM.

NURU, LET'S GO TO CLASS.

WE'LL DO OUR BEST, DON'T LET MWAPENDO DISCOURAGE YOU.



**NURU'S FATHER HAD LOST HIS JOB. SHE WAS BEING SUPPORTED BY HER GRANDMOTHER AND HER AUNT WEMA.**



**NURU AND HER GRANDMOTHER, KOKOI AT HOME**



**NURU THOUGHT TO HERSELF**



**MWAPENDO'S WORDS WERE VERY HURTFUL BUT I WILL NEVER LET ANYONE STOP ME FROM DOING GOOD!**



THAT EVENING AFTER SCHOOL, NURU PASSES BY HER AUNT'S SHOP. HER GRANDMOTHER IS ALSO AT THE SHOP.



AUNT WEMA, OUR SCHOOL IS HELPING TO GET FOOD DONATIONS TO HELP PEOPLE DYING OF HUNGER. I WANT TO COLLECT ENOUGH FOOD TO FILL A BIG CAR.

ARE YOU SURE, NURU?

REMEMBER THAT SOME PEOPLE WILL SAY NO TO YOU. IF THEY DO, DON'T LOSE HOPE.

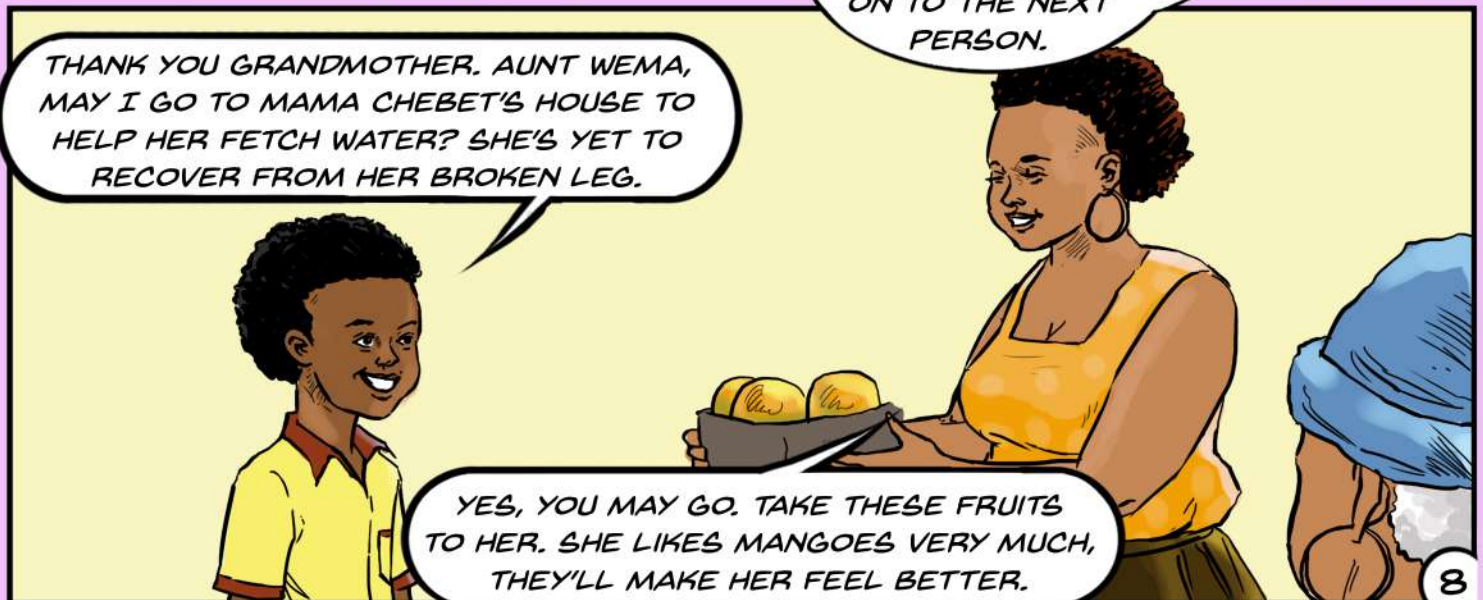
YES I AM. WANDIA AND OTI WILL HELP ME.

THAT'S GREAT! I'LL ALSO HELP YOU BY PLEDGING SOMETHING.



JUST THANK THEM FOR THEIR TIME AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PERSON.

THANK YOU GRANDMOTHER. AUNT WEMA, MAY I GO TO MAMA CHEBET'S HOUSE TO HELP HER FETCH WATER? SHE'S YET TO RECOVER FROM HER BROKEN LEG.

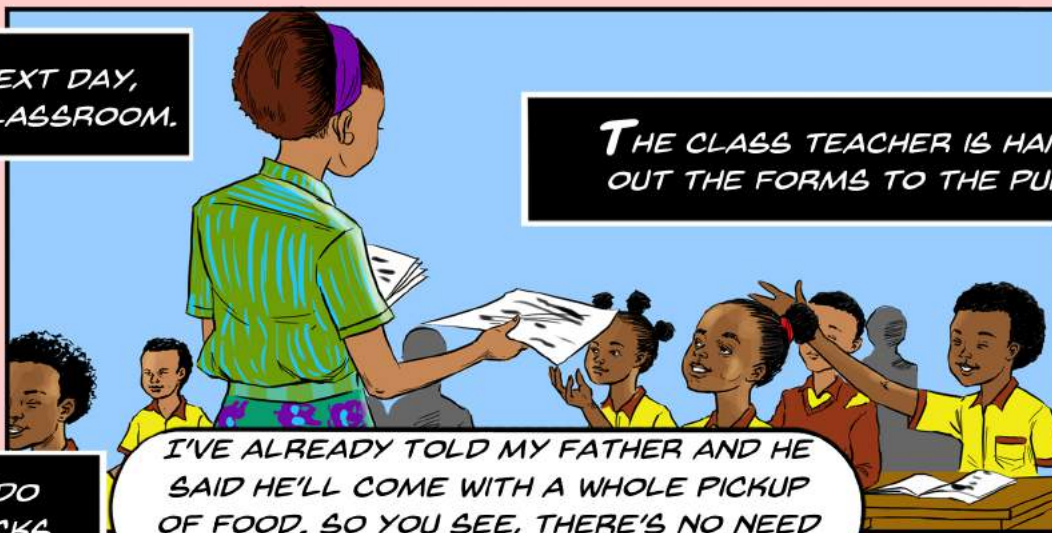


YES, YOU MAY GO. TAKE THESE FRUITS TO HER. SHE LIKES MANGOES VERY MUCH, THEY'LL MAKE HER FEEL BETTER.



THE NEXT DAY,  
IN THE CLASSROOM.

THE CLASS TEACHER IS HANDING  
OUT THE FORMS TO THE PUPILS.



I'VE ALREADY TOLD MY FATHER AND HE  
SAID HE'LL COME WITH A WHOLE PICKUP  
OF FOOD. SO YOU SEE, THERE'S NO NEED  
FOR ME TO WALK AROUND WITH THE FORM.

MWAPENDO  
QUICKLY PICKS  
UP HER FORM,  
PUTS IT BENEATH  
HER BOOKS IN HER  
DESK AND DECIDES  
TO ADDRESS  
THE CLASS.



PERHAPS YOU  
SHOULD WRITE YOUR  
FATHER'S NAME IN EVERY  
ROW ON THE FORM .



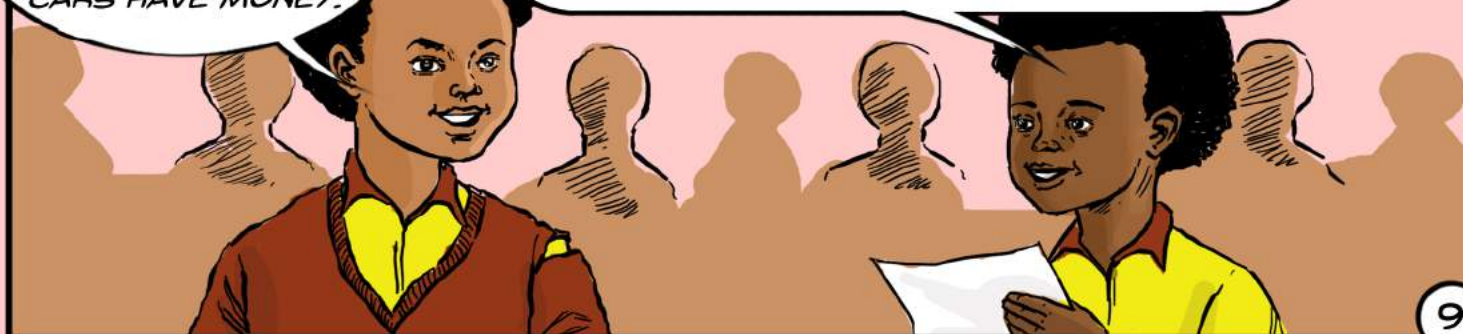
EVERYBODY LAUGHS.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA A A A... !!



LET US START  
WITH THE PETROL  
STATION ON SATURDAY.  
I THINK PEOPLE WITH  
CARS HAVE MONEY.

I HAVE TO FETCH WATER FOR MAMA CHEBET  
FIRST. MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME AND THEN WE  
GO TO THE PETROL STATION.





**S**ATURDAY, AT MAMA CHEBET'S HOUSE.  
NURU AND OTI HURRIEDLY DELIVER WATER.

THANKS A LOT  
FOR THE WATER.  
WHY ARE YOU  
IN SUCH A HURRY?

WE'RE GOING TO THE PETROL STATION  
TO ASK MOTORISTS TO DONATE FOOD FOR  
PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING OF HUNGER.


THAT'S  
VERY NICE,  
I ALSO WANT  
TO HELP.

THEY CAN'T BELIEVE THEIR LUCK. THEY GIVE  
OUT THEIR FORMS AND MAMA CHEBET  
WRITES HER DONATION.


I HOPE THAT MY LEG WILL HAVE HEALED  
BY THE END OF THE MONTH SO I CAN  
BRING THE BEANS.

I HOPE YOU  
GET WELL SOON  
MAMA CHEBET.





**N**URU AND OTI GET TO THE PETROL STATION. THEY SPEND THE ENTIRE AFTERNOON TRYING TO CATCH THE ATTENTION OF THE DRIVERS AS THEY FUEL THEIR CARS. SOME DRIVERS GAVE THEM SOME ATTENTION WHILE OTHERS DID NOT.



OH! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASKING FOR A LIFT. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY FOOD OR MONEY RIGHT NOW.

LET ME GO AND THINK ABOUT IT. I MIGHT COME BACK.



OKAY! THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.



**T**HE NEXT DAY.



BYE  
GRANDMOTHER,  
BYE AUNT WEMA!  
TODAY WE'RE  
GOING TO THE  
SUPERMARKET.

BYE NURU...  
REMEMBER TO THANK  
EVERYONE FOR  
THEIR TIME.



**A**T THE SUPERMARKET.  
MWAPENDO'S FATHER, RECOGNISES  
THEM FROM THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORMS  
AND TAPS NURU ON THE SHOULDER.



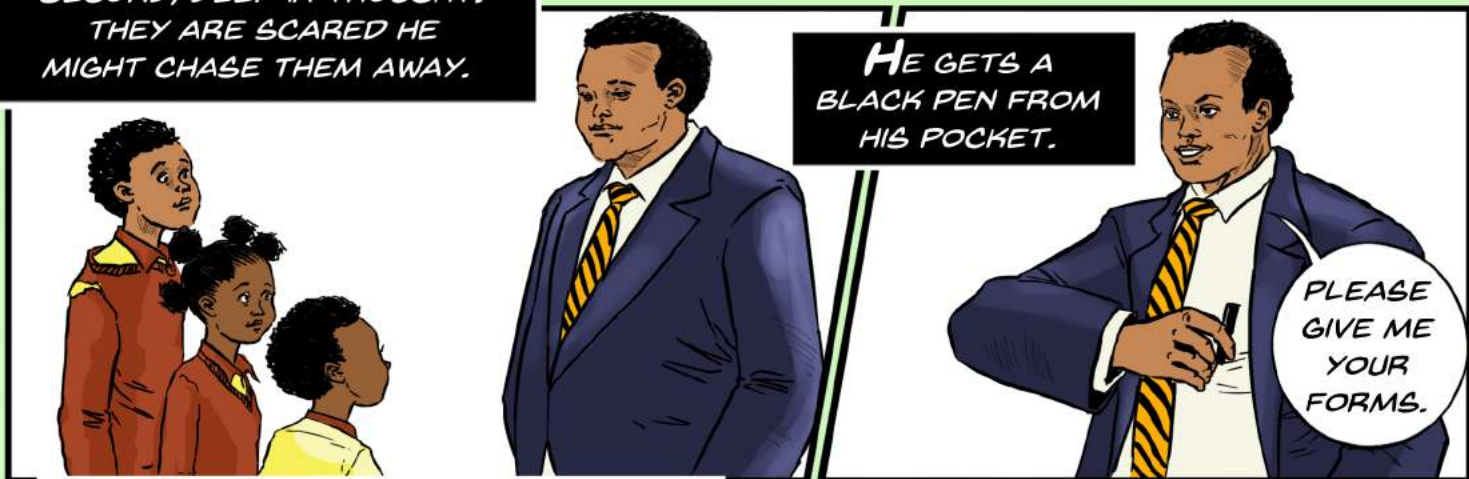
AREN'T YOU  
MWAPENDO'S  
CLASSMATES?

YES,  
WE ARE.

WE ARE LOOKING  
FOR FOOD TO HELP  
THE PEOPLE WHO  
ARE HUNGRY.

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?

**H**E REMAINS QUIET FOR A  
SECOND, DEEP IN THOUGHT.  
THEY ARE SCARED HE  
MIGHT CHASE THEM AWAY.



**H**E GETS A  
BLACK PEN FROM  
HIS POCKET.

PLEASE  
GIVE ME  
YOUR  
FORMS.

**H**E WRITES IN EACH OF THEIR FORMS.



YOU'RE DOING  
A VERY GOOD THING. I  
WISH YOU SUCCESS.

THANK  
YOU, SIR!

**H**E WALKS TOWARD  
HIS PICKUP TRUCK. THE  
CHILDREN START  
JUMPING UP AND DOWN  
WITH EXCITEMENT.

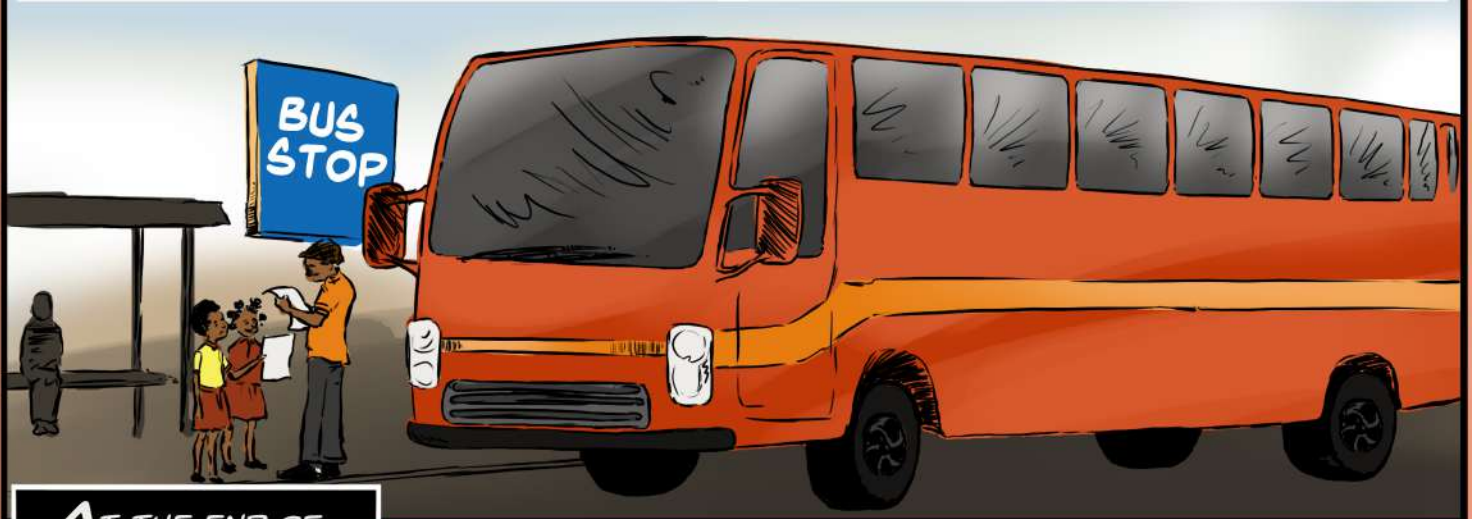




**F**OR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS NURU, OTI AND WANDIA DID THEIR BEST TO GET PLEDGES FOR FOOD DONATIONS. SOMETIMES, THEY WOULD GO INTO THE ESTATES WHERE MOST PEOPLE KNEW NURU AND THEY WOULD GET PLEDGES. NURU ALSO REMINDED THEM THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BRING THEIR DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL.



**T**HEY ALSO WENT TO THE BUS STOP AND A DRIVER PLEDGED TO BRING SOME FOOD.



**A**T THE END OF THE TWO WEEKS, THEY SAT DOWN AND COUNTED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE TO BRING DONATIONS.



**T**HEY ALL SHRUGGED.



MEANWHILE  
BACK IN SCHOOL,  
MWAPENDO TELLS  
EVERYONE THAT  
NURU, OTI AND  
WANDIA ARE  
WASTING THEIR  
TIME.



MY FATHER WILL COME TO SCHOOL  
WITH A PICKUP FULL OF FOOD.

SHE BRAGGED.

ONE EVENING BACK HOME...

AUNT WEMA,  
WHAT ELSE CAN  
I DO TO RAISE  
MORE?

HAVE  
YOU EVER  
THOUGHT OF GOING  
TO THE MARKET  
TO ASK FOR  
DONATIONS?



NO,  
I HAVEN'T.

I THOUGHT  
ONLY PEOPLE  
WITH CARS HAVE  
A LOT TO GIVE  
AWAY.

GO  
WITH ME TO  
THE MARKET  
TOMORROW AND  
TRY YOUR LUCK  
THERE.



NURU GAVE THIS  
IDEA A THOUGHT.

THE NEXT SATURDAY,  
NURU AND HER AUNT  
WOKE UP BRIGHT AND  
EARLY AND PREPARED  
TO GO TO THE MARKET.

EVEN IF  
SOMEONE DOESN'T  
GIVE YOU A DONATION,  
JUST THANK THEM FOR  
THEIR TIME AND FOR  
LISTENING TO YOU



I WILL  
GRANDMOTHER.



**T**HE FIRST PERSON THEY MET WAS MAMA CHEBET WALKING TO HER SHOP.



MAMA CHEBET!  
I AM SO HAPPY TO SEE  
THAT YOU ARE  
NOW WELL.

THANKS TO YOU!  
I WAS ABLE TO HEAL  
SO FAST. WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING AT THE  
MARKET SO EARLY?

AUNT WEMA  
SUGGESTED  
THAT I COME TRY MY  
LUCK AND LOOK FOR  
DONATIONS AT THE  
MARKET.

TODAY, I WILL  
REPAY YOUR KINDNESS  
AND GENEROSITY BY  
INTRODUCING  
YOU TO MY FRIENDS  
HERE.

**M**AMA CHEBET  
TAKES NURU'S HAND  
AND WALKS WITH HER  
AROUND THE MARKET.

I REMEMBER WHEN  
YOU WATCHED OVER MY CHILD  
WHILE I WAS AWAY, I WAS  
SO GRATEFUL.



**M**ANY TRADERS PLEDGE ON NURU'S FORM. A FEW HOURS LATER, A JOVIAL NURU GOES BACK TO HER AUNT'S SHOP.

AUNT WEMA! I HAVE FILLED THE WHOLE  
FORM. SOME PEOPLE EVEN HAD TO WRITE ON THE  
BACK! MANY PEOPLE WILL BRING BAGS OF RICE,  
BEANS, MAIZE, VEGETABLES AND FRUITS!

GOOD JOB, NURU.  
YOUR TEACHERS WILL  
BE VERY PROUD  
OF YOU.





TIME FOR THAT SPECIAL SATURDAY PARADE.  
THE DAY THAT EVERYBODY IS GOING TO BRING  
THEIR DONATIONS.

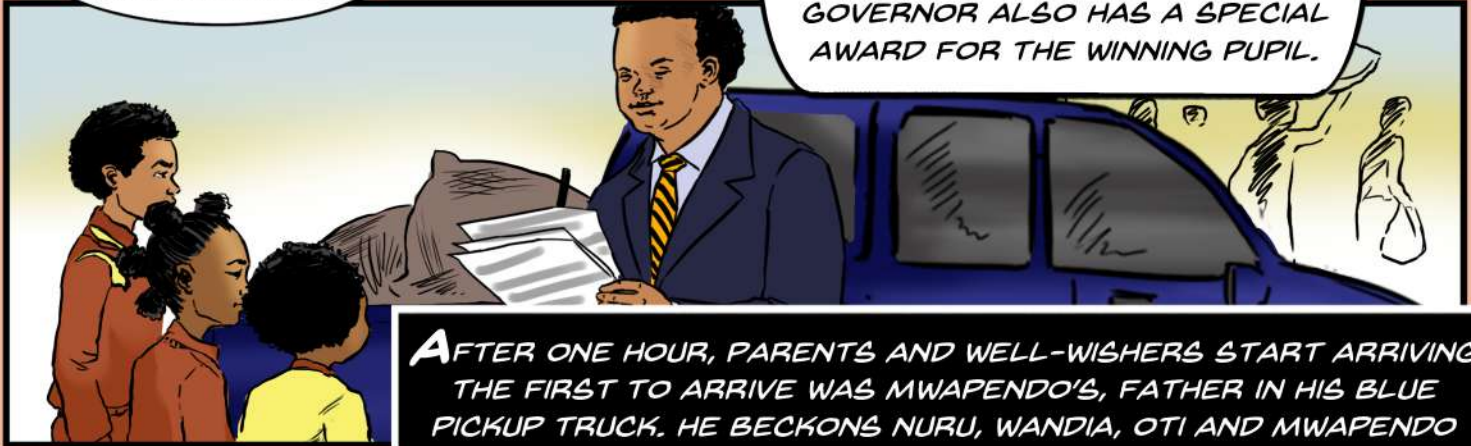
NURU IS ANXIOUS.  
SHE NOTICES  
THAT MWAPENDO  
IS UNHAPPY.

MWAPENDO WAS ABOUT  
TO ANSWER WHEN MRS.  
KURIA. ARRIVED AT THE  
PARADE AND GAVE OUT  
THE ANNOUNCEMENT.



I HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS.  
THIS YOUNG MAN WORKS FOR  
THE COUNTY DAILY NEWSPAPER.  
HE'LL TAKE A PHOTO OF THE PUPIL  
WITH THE MOST DONATIONS. THE  
GOVERNOR ALSO HAS A SPECIAL  
AWARD FOR THE WINNING PUPIL.

WHY ARE YOU NOT  
HAPPY MWAPENDO?  
ARE YOU OKAY?



AFTER ONE HOUR, PARENTS AND WELL-WISHERS START ARRIVING.  
THE FIRST TO ARRIVE WAS MWAPENDO'S, FATHER IN HIS BLUE  
PICKUP TRUCK. HE BECKONS NURU, WANDIA, OTI AND MWAPENDO  
TO GO TO HIS TRUCK.

HE HAD BROUGHT A BALE OF FLOUR FOR EACH OF THEM. HE  
SIGNED AGAINST HIS NAME AND PROCEEDED TO TAKE THE FOOD  
TO THE MIDDLE OF THE FOOTBALL FIELD. OTI IS CURIOUS AND  
WHISPERS TO HIS FRIENDS.

I THOUGHT  
HE WAS GOING  
TO GIVE MWAPENDO  
THREE TIMES WHAT HE  
GAVE US.



I MUST TALK  
TO HER LATER.

NURU LOOKED AT MWAPENDO  
WHO STILL LOOKED SAD.





**WE ARE HERE WITH POTATOES OIYEE...**

CHILDREN! YOU HAVE  
DONE VERY WELL.  
NOW...

**S**HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY PEOPLE SINGING LOUDLY. IT WAS MAMA CHEBET, AUNT WEMA AND MANY MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE MARKET! EVERYBODY WAS CARRYING DIFFERENT FOODS IN THEIR HANDS.

**.....NEVER SLEEP  
HUNGRY AGAIN OIYEE!**

NURU,  
CONGRATULATIONS!  
YOU COLLECTED AS  
MUCH AS THE  
ENTIRE SCHOOL.

**N**URU RAN TO MEET THEM. THE  
CHILDREN CLAPPED, DANCED AND CHEERED.

BECAUSE OF YOU,  
NO ONE WILL SLEEP  
HUNGRY AGAIN.  
PLEASE, JOIN ME  
HERE.

**NURU! NURU! NURU! NURU!**

**T**HE SCHOOL CHEERED AS MRS. KURIA  
GAVE NURU THE CERTIFICATE.

**NURU! NURU! NURU! NURU!**

NURU,  
MAY YOU  
CONTINUE TO SHINE  
LIGHT INTO THE LIVES  
OF OTHERS AS  
YOU HAVE DONE  
TODAY.



**T**HE REPORTER TOOK A PICTURE OF NURU AND ASKED HER HOW SHE FELT.

I FEEL HAPPY!  
PEOPLE WILL  
NOT SLEEP HUNGRY  
ANYMORE.

I WOULD  
LIKE TO THANK  
EVERYBODY FOR  
THEIR HELP.

**A**S THEY WALKED BACK TO CLASS. NURU ASKED MWAPENDO WHY SHE WAS SO SAD. MWAPENDO TOLD NURU THAT HER FATHER HAD REFUSED TO GIVE HER THE TRUCKLOAD OF FOOD THAT SHE HAD EXPECTED.

ONE DAY, MY DAD  
ASKED ME TO GO AND LOOK  
FOR DONATIONS JUST LIKE THE  
OTHER CHILDREN. UNFORTUNATELY,  
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO START  
SINCE I DON'T KNOW  
MANY PEOPLE.

HE TOLD ME  
THAT I NEEDED TO  
LEARN HOW TO BE KIND  
AND GENEROUS,  
JUST LIKE YOU.

I'M SORRY FOR  
THE WAY I TREATED YOU  
NURU. I HOPE YOU CAN  
FORGIVE ME.

I FORGIVE YOU.  
AT LEAST YOU TRIED  
TO BRING LIGHT INTO  
THE LIVES OF OTHERS.  
WE DON'T LOSE ANYTHING  
BY BEING KIND.

THANK  
YOU NURU.  
IT WAS VERY  
GENEROUS OF  
YOU TO LET US TAKE  
THE PHOTO TOGETHER.  
NEXT YEAR, I'LL DO  
MUCH BETTER AND  
MAYBE WE CAN  
COMPETE.

HAHAAA....  
LET'S WAIT  
AND SEE!

**END**



# QUESTIONS

What is generosity? How did the pupils show that they are generous?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Which other values have you learnt from this story?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

How will you show that you are generous?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





Though Nuru comes from a poor family, she loves to help others. When her class teacher announces an initiative to collect food for those affected by famine, Nuru's classmate Mwapendo challenges her to see who will collect the most for the needy. Through their actions, we learn who of the pupils is truly generous.



**Other comics in this series include:-**

*Amira*

*Akuchi*

*Mickey & Fatuma*



For purchases or permission requests, write to the publisher at the address below:-

Twaweza Communications Limited  
P.O. Box 66872-00800 Nairobi  
Tel: +254-20-2694409  
info@ahadi.org  
www.ahadi.org



**TWAZEZA  
COMMUNICATIONS**

Working Towards a Better World