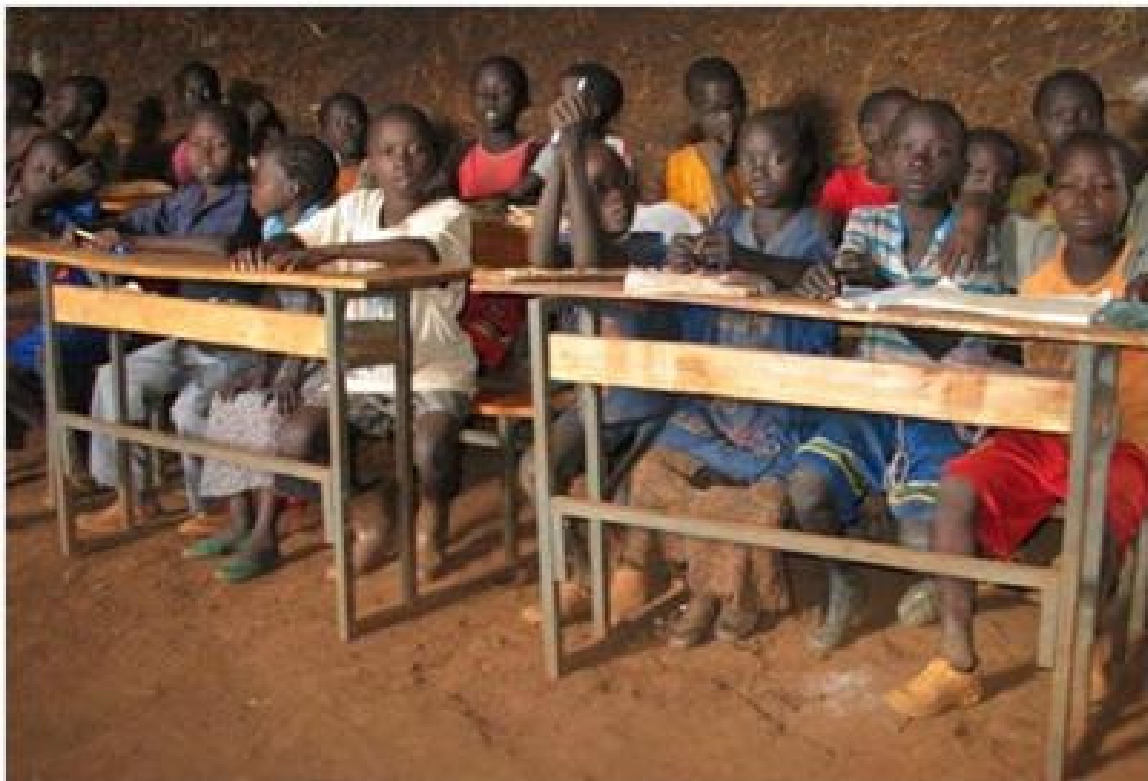


## **Educational opportunities for young children in the Benishangul Gumuz region, Ethiopia**

### **The problem: poor educational performance and a high school dropout by language barrier**

In the Benishangul Gumuz Region in the west of Ethiopia the educational performance of children in primary schools are the poorest in Ethiopia. This is mainly because the children are taught in Amharic and not in their own mother tongue. This causes a very high school drop-out. The Ethiopian government has officially designated this region as 'neglected region'.

The local population is a strong supporter of primary education in the mother tongue and this is for them an important incentive to send their children to school. Wycliffe and its local partner SIL set up an educational program in the local mother tongue for 20 schools in three different language groups. They will realize this in a three-year project together with the Regional Education Office of the Benishangul Gumuz State. The goal of the project is to improve access to and quality of primary education for 15,000 children, through the introduction of mother tongue education (developing teaching materials and train teachers).



### **Objective: Increase access to and quality of primary education**

Increasing access to education and improving the quality of education for 15.000 children in the Benishangul Gumuz Region, who enter each year in primary education by introducing mother tongue education at 20 schools.

### **Activities: teaching materials and training teachers in mother tongue**

The project has two main activities and is now running at 20 schools in the region:

1. SIL Ethiopia, the local partner organization of Wycliffe develops and publishes for all subjects taught, teaching materials for students and teachers of the minority language groups: Bertha, Gumuz, Shinasha and Mao Komo.
2. Teachers receive training from SIL and are guided in their teaching.



### **Contribution Huisman Foundation**

The project will last three years. In 2013, the first year of this project, the Huisman Foundation contributed € 10.000. A similar contribution follows in 2015.