

Mitumba: Mapping the Journey

A Learning Resource to accompany the film ***Mitumba: The Second-Hand Road*** By Raffaele Brunetti (2005)

WATCH //

Mitumba: The Second-Hand Road

This film follows the epic journey of one T-shirt donated in Hamburg Germany, to its eventual destination the small village of Ilambiolo, Tanzania.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkdfzC7pKqE>

LEARN //

Use this resource to learn about the trade of used clothing: the advantages, disadvantages and challenges. Be aware that there are many conflicting opinions surrounding this industry and the issues are complex.



Mitumba: Mapping the Journey

1. Hamburg Germany
Olaf. Textile recycler
 - Collects clothes from recycle bins around Hamburg.
 - Sells them on, unsorted, to many countries.
2. Naples Italy
Mr. Russo. Importer/exporter
 - Imports used clothing.
 - Exports to African countries.
3. Dar Es Salaam Tanzania
Importer/Dealer
 - Imports a large quantity of Used Clothing
 - Sells on to local traders by the bale.
4. Dar Es Salaam Tanzania
Nesco. Trader: Mitumba
 - Nesco buys one bale at a time
 - 1 bale = US\$38 approx.
5. Iringa Tanzania
 - Nesco sells his clothes at a daily auction in Iringa.
6. Iringa Tanzania
Esther. Micro Business: Mitumba
 - Esther buys used clothes at auction.
 - She sells them in villages around Iringa.
7. Ilambiolo Tanzania
 - Esther travels to Ilambiolo to sell her clothes at harvest time.
 - She sells the T-shirt to Shakura for US\$ 0.96 approx.



*The route shown here is only hypothetical, as exact routes will/may vary.

Mitumba: Think/Discuss

What surprised you about this story?

What issues did it raise?

What do the people who donate the clothes think happens to them?

Apart from the main traders who else gains employment through the Mitumba trade?

- What jobs do they do?

Who wears Mitumba in Tanzania?

- Why?

What assumptions do the Tanzanians make about the people who donate Mitumba?

- Why might they think this?

Why does the Tanzanian government think the second hand clothing trade is bad for Tanzania?

Mitumba is said to affect local clothes production, what else might affect this?

What is the impact of cheap imports from Asia?

- How might this effect Nesco and Esther?

What does Mitumba mean to Nesco and Esther?

- What would they do if they didn't sell Mitumba?

What does Esther have to consider to make her business profitable?

- What challenges does she face?

What opportunities are there for Nesco or Esther?

- How much control do they have over their businesses?

How could this story have been different?

Further Resources on the Trade of Used Clothing

Click on each title to access the online resource.

The Textile Industry and the Mitumba Market in Tanzania [report]

Oliva D. Kinabo (2004)

The Impact of the Second Hand Clothing Trade on Sub-Saharan Africa [Report] Sally Baden and Catharine Barber (2005)

Riches from Rags or Persistent Poverty? A Critical Discussion of the Urban Livelihoods of Used-Clothing Traders in Mozambique [report]

Andre Brooks (2010)

Other Publications By Andrew Brooks, Kings Collage London.

Who Benefits From the Second-Hand Clothing Trade? : The Case of Kenya [report] Simon Field (2007)

Used-Clothing Donations and Apparel Production in Africa [report]

Garth Frazer (2008) University of Toronto

Economic Journal, 118(532)

T-shirt travels; The Second Hand Clothing Trade and Third World Debt in Zambia [video]

Shantha Bloemen(2009) PBS Productions

Fast fashion from UK to Uganda [article and video clip]

Jack Garland(2009) BBC

How Susie Bayer's T-Shirt Ended Up on Yusuf Mama's Back [article]

George Packer (March 31, 2002) New York Times

"Journalists' Journey through the World of Garments." Teaching Sustainable Fashion: A Handbook for Educators.

Südwind Agentur. Label Behind the Label (2009)

Edited by Liz Parker on behalf of Fashioning an Ethical Industry(UK) and Dr. Marsha A. Dickson on behalf of Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Business (USA) London: p154-169.

Bureau of International Recycling [website]

International Garment and Textile Workers' Federation [website]

The Travels of a T-shirt in the Global Economy [book]

Pietra Rivoli (2009)

John Wiley & Sons; 2nd Edition edition (20 Mar 2009)

Salaula: The World of Secondhand Clothing and Zambia [book]

Karen Tranberg Hansen (2000)

University of Chicago Press; 2nd edition (2 Aug 2000)