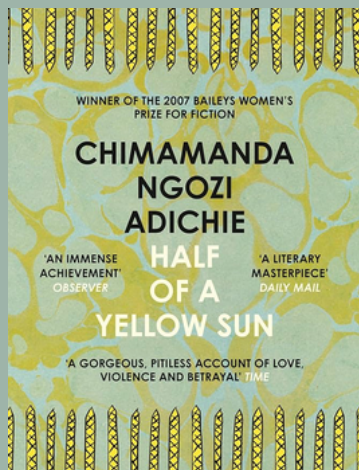


# HALF OF A YELLOW SUN

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



At Nuru, we don't say "Never give up", we say, *"If the sun refuses to rise we will make it rise"*. Or at least, that is what Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie wrote in Half of a Yellow Sun, a historical novel, published in 2006.

The book focuses on the **Biafran war**, a conflict that divided Nigeria between **1967 and 1970**, which opposed the Biafrans, **mainly Igbos**, to the Federal government. It follows three main characters, amongst which a child, a Nigerian woman, and a British man.

It begins before the war, and explores the **social complexities** of pre-war Nigeria. Then, it all starts, and the reader is confronted with the atrocities of the conflict.



It also brings forward the **consequences of the Biafran war on humanitarian interventions**, and the **world's perception of Africa onwards**. There is this very interesting quote in the book that says :

*"Starvation brought Africa into Nixon's American campaign and made parents all over the world tell their children to eat up. Starvation propelled aid organizations to sneak-fly food into Biafra at night since both sides could not agree on routes. Starvation aided the carriers of photographers. And starvation made the international Red Cross call Biafra its gravest emergency since the Second World War."*



The Biafran war marked a **turning point for the development of humanitarian assistance**. Images of children starving were playing on international TVs and shone the light on this conflict that was otherwise going particularly unnoticed.

The impact of those images on the **perception of Africa as a place of conflict and despair** can be called into question.