



Assembly Presentation – About African Revival

Introduction

[Slide 1 – African Revival]

Good morning/afternoon everyone. Today we're going to learn about African Revival. This is an education charity based in the UK which works with nursery and primary schools in Uganda and Zambia.

Before we find out more about what African Revival does, I'd love to know what you all know about Africa already. Obviously it's a huge continent, so I'm not expecting you to know everything! Is anyone here African? Has anyone been to Africa? Where in Africa have you been? What was it like? What countries in Africa can you name?

[Slide 2 – Blank Map] Ok, great. Well African Revival works in just Uganda and Zambia at the moment. Does anyone know where Uganda is on this big blank map of Africa? How about Zambia? Anyone want to guess? I'll give you a clue, Uganda is in the East, and Zambia is more towards the south...

[Slide 3 – Full Map] So, Uganda is here, and Zambia is here. Does anyone know anything about Uganda? Or Zambia? No? Anyone here good at naming the capitals of countries and can tell me what the capital of Uganda is? Or Zambia? I'll just tell you a little bit about both countries.

So, Uganda is in East Africa and the capital is called Kampala. People speak mainly English and Swahili there and 85% of the population lives in rural areas, away from the towns and cities.

Zambia is a little different – it's in the southern part of Africa as we've seen, its capital is called Lusaka and its home to the Victoria Falls which is the largest waterfall in the world. So those are the two countries where African Revival works at the moment.

[Slide 4 - Hut] This picture was taken in a village where African Revival works, called Lutuk, in northern Uganda.

[Slide 5 - Children] And these are some of the children that live there. In a lot of ways, it's not *really* that different to lots of towns and villages here in England (although obviously the weather is often a lot nicer!) The children and teenagers there aren't that different to you guys.

[Slide 6 – Children] They listen to music, they hang out with their friends, they drive their parents mad - and lots of them...

[Slide 7 – Teacher]go to school every day, just like you. But a lot of them can't, even though they want to. Can anyone guess how many children are *not* in school in Africa? Any guesses? It's 38 million. 38 million children across Africa, kids and young people just like you, cannot go to school.

Barriers to Education

There are lots of reasons why these children aren't in school every day – and of course it's different depending on whereabouts they live. As I'm sure you know, no two African countries are the same,

just like no two countries in Europe or anywhere else are the same, even if they share a lot of similarities.

For some of these children who can't go to school, they simply don't have a school to go to because they live so far away from a town or city. For others, it's because their schools just aren't very good - not like our lovely school here.

I don't want you to think though, that there are no great schools in Africa – there definitely are. And there are great schools giving kids a fantastic education in Uganda and Zambia – but these tend to be in the big cities. In a lot of rural areas in both of these countries, schools are having a really difficult time because of problems like war, poverty and disease.

In a lot of the schools where African Revival works in in Uganda and Zambia, there are classrooms but no desks and no chairs, or not enough books for the number of students.

In others, the teachers have hardly been to school themselves and many haven't been trained as teachers, which makes it really hard for them to do a good job. For some of them, their wages aren't paid by the government; they are paid by parents who really want their children to have an education.

Sadly, a lot of those parents don't have a lot of money and if they can't afford to pay the teachers some months, some of those teachers stop turning up for work. Can you imagine your teachers just not turning up to school every day?!

In a lot of places, schools don't have any toilets, or the toilets they have are in a really bad state. Some are so bad that girls won't come to school when they're on their periods. This means that often, girls are unfairly getting less school time than boys. Would you go to school if there wasn't a toilet? I don't think I would have done!

Fighting and war is another problem that has stopped many children and teachers being able to get to school. This was the case for a long time in both Uganda and Zambia, and a lot of people had to leave their villages. Luckily, things have started to get much better there recently and a lot of people have been coming back to their homes and schools so they can get on with everyday life.

About African Revival

So – as you can imagine, there are all kinds of reasons why it can be difficult to actually get to school and learn properly in some African countries. That's where African Revival, comes in. They do lots of work in Uganda and Zambia to make schools better places so that children can get a brilliant education. Sometimes they help communities build whole new schools...

[Slide 8 - School]like this one, in areas where children usually have to walk for hours to get to the nearest school.

[Slide 9 – Bricks] What's really great, is that often everyone in the local community will help to build the school – parents, teachers, everyone – by helping to build bricks and building materials, and things like that.

This makes building the school less expensive, and it means that – because everyone is involved – everyone in the community is very keen to keep helping the school and make it a success. African Revival's job is really to oversee this, design the building layout and help with any problems that might happen with the building work.

[Slide 10 - Classroom] Sometimes they help build classrooms if a school is too small for the number of students, or repair existing ones if they've been damaged, or are getting a bit old and worn-out.

[Slide 11 – Desks] They also think it's pretty important to make sure that the schools they work in have enough desks and books for all of their students, so that's another thing African Revival helps with. Otherwise, it's just any old building really isn't it, rather than a school?!

[Slide 12 – Teacher] They also help to train lots of teachers so they can give their classes the best education possible, and they make sure lots of female teachers – like this lady here – are being trained so there is a good mix of men and women teaching everyone.

Jumpstart

So basically, African Revival have a lot of different projects going on all the time, all with the aim of making education better and available to more children. Just quickly, I want to tell you about one of their newest and most exciting projects. It's called...

[Slide 13 – Jumpstart] ...Jumpstart! And it's all about making sure that children in Uganda and Zambia have a great education from the very beginning, from the time they start nursery school when they're around 3 or 4 years old.

[Slide 14 - Teachers] This project is going to help 7,000 children in Uganda get a fantastic nursery education. African Revival will be helping to train their teachers – like these two here – so they can look after them really well, and making sure they have lots of toys to play with, plenty of books to read and that they are ready for primary school when they're old enough. At the moment, a lot of Ugandan children are going straight to primary school without going to nursery first, which puts them really far behind their classmates and makes school more scary and difficult for them.

[Slide 15 – Mavelas] One of the children African Revival is helping is this little girl called Mavelas. She's 5 and her favourite thing is playing football with her friends. Her mum told us that she loves school so much that she never misses a day, even when she's sick – I'm not sure I ever loved school that much!

At the moment, she wants to be a nurse when she grows up. Does anyone here want to be a nurse? Or a doctor? Hopefully, now that she'll be getting a great nursery education, she will do really well at primary and secondary school, and maybe she will indeed become a nurse when she grows up.

[Slide 16 – Elvis] One of the other children African Revival is helping is this little boy, who has the brilliant name of Elvis. He is 6 years old and his favourite things are drawing and writing.

It's difficult for him to do either of these things at school at the moment because his school doesn't have a lot of basic equipment like books and pens. That hasn't stopped him wanting to be a teacher when he grows up though. Does anyone here want to be a teacher when they leave school?

As you can see, these children are pretty much just like any normal kids here in England. They work hard in school – like I'm sure all of you do – and they all have big hopes and dreams for when they grow up. With a little bit of help from organisations like African Revival, we hope they can become nurses and teachers and whatever else they want to be when they're older.

Wrapping Up

So – that's a little bit about African Revival, what they do, where they do it and why they do it. I hope you found it interesting! And thank you very much for listening.

[Slide 17 – Social Media] Does anyone have any questions? Or maybe I'll ask you some questions.... Would anyone like to go to Africa some day? Would anyone like to go to Zambia or Uganda now that you know a little more about it?! Does anyone want to work in a charity when they're older? Who's on Facebook and Twitter? As you can see, African Revival is on both so if you want to find out more or see some more of their pictures, then you can find them online!