



Lesson Plan: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Objectives:

- To introduce your students to the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- To help your students understand the purpose and aims of the Sustainable Development Goals
- To increase your students understanding of the importance of Goal 4, 'Quality Education', by comparing education in Zanzibar with education in the UK

1. Starter (15 minutes):

Introducing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were devised in 2015. The 17 goals are a universal call-to-action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030. The goals focus on, amongst other priorities, ending poverty, mitigating the effects of climate change, reducing economic inequality, and promoting peace and justice.

More information on the Sustainable Development Goals can be found at:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

Task (15 minutes):

Introduce the SDGs using the information above. Before revealing the SDGs to your students, ask them to think of 10 goals that they would set to make the world a better place by the year 2030. You could give SDG 1 of “ending poverty in all its forms” as an example.

Once your students have come up with their own goals, reveal the SDGs using the handout provided (appendix I), and compare the goals set by the students with those set by the UN. What are the main similarities and differences? Are there any overlaps with the SDGs?

Extended Activity:

Ask your students to list the ways that they can help to advance the SDGs. Examples might include reducing their plastic use, raising awareness of health and wellbeing at school, or writing to their local MP to lobby for change.



2. Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education (30 minutes):

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 is Quality Education. This goal aims “to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

African Adventures is helping to advance this goal by partnering with local schools in developing areas of Ghana, Kenya and Zanzibar, and providing them with the financial and humanitarian support they need to develop.

The following pages contain photos of Fuoni School (appendix II), a government primary school located on the outskirts of Stone Town, on the island of Zanzibar. African Adventures first partnered with Fuoni in 2014. The school provides an education to approximately 3,240 students between the ages of 7 and 15.

Overcrowding at Fuoni is so serious that the school has two sittings, with half of its students attending in the morning and the other half in the afternoon, thereby cutting children’s access to education in half. The average class size at the school is 100 students, and often children have no choice but to sit on the floor for lessons.

a) Task (10 minutes):

Display the maps and the photos of Fuoni School on the board, and share the above information with your students. Discuss the r sources as a class. You could use the following questions to prompt a discussion:

- Has anyone visited Africa before?
- Has anyone visited or heard of Zanzibar before?
- What are the first things you notice in these photos?
- If this was your school, how would you feel?
- How does this differ from your school?
- Are there any similarities between your classroom and theirs?



b) Task (20 minutes):

A day in the life of a student at Fuoni School. The following pages describe a typical school day for a 12-year-old student at Fuoni School:

6am: I wake up early to help my mother wash and dress my siblings. I have three siblings, aged 3, 5, and 8. I also put my own school uniform on, and pack my exercise books into my school bag. I love learning, and always look forward to the school day!

6:45am: I leave the slum where I live with my family on the outskirts of Stone Town, and walk approximately 30 minutes to Fuoni School.

7:15am: I arrive at school, and meet my friends in the sand-covered courtyard area between the classrooms. With over 1,700 students arriving, it can be chaotic. Sometimes the teachers use canes to hit the back of students' legs and hurry them along to their lessons.

7:45am – 8:15am: The first lesson of the day is maths. We learn by rote, repeating what our teacher says and following along from a textbook. Between the ages of 6 and 11, we learnt in Swahili, but this year all our lessons and exams are in English, which can be very difficult. If we fail our exams this year, we are forced to drop out of school, so there is a lot of pressure. I am not normally able to eat breakfast before school, so it is sometimes hard to concentrate.

8:15am–9:15am: The next lesson of the day is English. With over 100 students in each class, it can be noisy and crowded, but all of us enjoy learning and being in class. We often have to sit on the floor as there are not enough desks and chairs. Because there are so many students, the teachers are not able to give us individual support, so if we don't understand something, it is easy to get left behind.

9:15am – 9:40am: We have a short break, during which we play outside in the courtyard. We often share one football between all the students, and love playing together!



9:40am – 10:40am: Our next lesson is Swahili, which is the language that we speak at home. Again, we learn by rote and from a textbook. Students take turns answering questions and writing the answers on the blackboard. Our classroom is a little bare, as the walls are concrete and the windows are small and high up. The roof is made of corrugated iron, which adds to the noise.

10:40am – 11:40am: Next, we have Geography. Again, as we learn from textbooks, and by copying from the blackboard, it is sometimes hard to understand what we are being taught.

11:40am – 12pm: We have a second short break outside, and enjoy playing together in the sunshine.

12pm-1pm: After break, we have a physical education lesson. Our school doesn't have much sports equipment, so it can sometimes be challenging for our teachers to teach physical education. We don't have sports kits, so we have to do PE in our school uniforms. Despite this, we all enjoy physical education and the chance to play sports together.

1pm – 1:50pm: Our final lesson of the day is IT. There are no computers at our school, but our teacher draws a diagram of a keyboard, mouse, and monitor on the blackboard. We take turns practising typing on the keyboard diagram.

1:50pm: Our school day ends, and the second sitting of students arrive for their lessons, which will run until 5:50pm. With over 3,200 students trying to either leave or arrive, it can get extremely busy. Local women also arrive to sell snacks of bread and ice pops, which those students who haven't brought their own food can buy. This can create a lot of litter in the courtyard, so classes take it in turns to pick it up and rake the sand back into place.

2pm– 8pm: After school, I walk home and help to look after my younger siblings until it is time for bed. I complete any homework I have been set, but as this is normally copying from a textbook, I don't always fully understand the topic.



Ask your students to write their own 'day in the life' based on a normal school day. Use post-it notes or whiteboard pens to display both days side by side on the board. Discuss the differences between their day, and the day of a student at Fuoni School. What are the main differences? Are there any similarities?

Extended Activity:

Ask your students to think of three questions they would like to ask a student at Fuoni School.

Plenary Activity (15 minutes): The world in 2030 Task

To finish the lesson, ask your students to write a short paragraph imagining the world in 2030 when all the SDGs have been achieved. They could imagine the world as a whole, a specific country, or how their own lives might be affected.

Appendix I - The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Appendix II – Fuoni School, Stone Town, Zanzibar

Learning often takes place on the floor. You can all see the courtyard area at Fuoni, used for break times

