

# Primary schools sheet

Children's activity sheet

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[www.tearfund.org/iamchurch](http://www.tearfund.org/iamchurch)

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Registered Charity No. 265464 (England & Wales)  
Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland)

This sheet aims to equip church volunteers with a simple and engaging plan for running a lesson on the theme of food and harvest – and how the local church is helping poor communities to work their own way out of poverty. It uses a Ugandan schoolboy, 12-year-old Dan, to explore what life is like in rural Africa.

## Meet Dan and visit his village



Start by asking some questions, from the list below, to get the children engaged:

- Who knows where Africa is?  
Has anyone been there?
- Who knows what animals live in Africa?
- Who knows how many different countries there are in Africa?  
There were 57 at time of going to print, but Sudan was likely to become two countries.

- Who can tell me where abouts Uganda is in Africa? *If you can, have a map of Africa handy for them to point to Uganda.*
- Who can explain what poverty is? *You may want to focus on people not having the basic things we would see as very important for living – food, shelter, medical help, education, income.*
- Who knows how many people in Africa are poor? *The answer, according to an African Development Bank study, is that nearly half of all Africans survive on less than 60p a day and are classed as living below the poverty line.*
- Who has heard of a country called Uganda? *If you can, have a map of Africa on hand and invite them to find Uganda.*
- Do children your age go to school in Uganda? *The answer is that because of poverty and its related impacts, such as children being orphaned, around one in five children in Uganda do not attend school.*

- Can we do anything to help people who don't have enough food and aren't able to go to school? *Yes – and we're going to visit a village in Uganda and meet a boy called Dan: use this as a lead-in to the film, if you're running this as a session, or to whatever activity you're using.*

## Meet Dan on film



Introduce the children to Dan using some of the information below:

Dan lives in a village called Ogongora in rural Uganda, Africa. There is no electricity or running water in their village.

Dan's dad died from malaria several years ago. He and his seven brothers and sisters now live with their mum, who is called Grace.

Dan and his family rely on what they can grow in their fields for their food. The name of their village – Ogongora – means 'thin', because people living there have not always had enough to eat.

But things are changing. Dan's family have been helped by their local church...

Show the short film about Dan's family. The film features Dan talking about his life. It's a different film to the ones you may have seen as part of the *We are church* materials. This film can be found on the enclosed DVD and online and it's entitled Dan's story.

Show the film and pick up on any points the children raise. You may want to explore what they've seen, using these questions:

- Dan is wearing his school uniform in the film – did you notice what colour it is? *It's pink.* What colour is your school uniform – and do you like your uniform?
- Did anything surprise them about what they saw?
- Who helped Dan's family in the film? *The answer is the local church. Explain at this point that people in our country have been part of helping Dan's family because when we, as Christians and part of God's family the church, give to Tearfund, it passes on our gifts to support local churches like Dan's.*

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- Do you remember how many meals a day Dan said he used to eat, before the church helped his family?  
The answer is one meal – they now eat three meals.
- What did Dan say he slept in?  
The answer is 'a paper bag which my mother bought for me'. And what does Dan hope, one day, to sleep on? (The answer is a mattress.) What do you sleep in?

## Through Dan's eyes

Explain that you're all going to go with Dan through a typical day in his life.

As you go through, use the suggested quotes and questions to help them think about what they're learning.

For each of the sections of Dan's day there is a colour image that you can download from the DVD or from [www.tearfund.org/harvest](http://www.tearfund.org/harvest)

### 06:30: 'I wake up, pray and wash.'



#### Quote:

Dan says, 'I wake up very early in the morning and pray in my room. I believe in God and don't ever have a day without prayer. My prayer to God is to give me an opportunity to be able to complete my education.'

#### Question:

Many people in Dan's village pray. They pray for the rain to come – so that their food will grow. And for enough money to buy books so that they can go to school. Do you think praying helps Dan?

### 06:45: 'I run to school.'



#### Quote:

Dan says, 'I come out of my room and wash my feet and face and then I run to school. I meet my friend as I go to school. It takes about 15 minutes to get to school. I am at school by 7am.'

#### Question:

How do you get to school?

### 07:30: 'I clean the school.'



#### Quote:

Dan says, 'When we get to school we start by cleaning the school grounds.'

#### Question:

What do you do when you get to school each day? What would you think if your teacher asked you to clean the school? Why do you think Dan and his classmates have to?

### 08:00: 'We have school assembly.'



#### Quote:

Dan says, 'We have assembly at 8am, where we sing our national anthem and we pray. The teacher checks that we have clean clothes and clean nails and that we have combed our hair.'

#### Question:

What do you do in your school assemblies? Do you ever sing or say a prayer?

### 08:30: 'We go to class.'



#### Quote:

Dan says, 'We go into class at 8.30am. When a teacher enters, every child must stand and say, 'Welcome sir'. I enjoy Maths and English and I find Science the hardest.'

#### Question:

Why do you think Dan's class stand when a teacher comes into the room? What is your favourite subject?

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12:30: 'We have break time and lunch.'



**Quote:**

Dan says, 'They ring a bell for break at around 10 o'clock and there is a break at lunch when we play football. I love lunch break and I can play with my friends.'

**Question:**

What do you do at lunch time?

16:30: 'We go home.'



**Quote:**

Dan says, 'I finish school at 4.30pm. I stay at school until they close school. I have food when I get home and then go to the garden and help my mother in the garden (field). I like helping my mother to cultivate crops. I help to plant cassava or to harvest cassava.'

Explain that Dan's family could not grow enough crops until they were helped by their local church to know which crops to plant when.

**Question:**

What do you do after school – when you get home?

20:00: 'I go to sleep in my paper bag.'



**Quote:**

Dan says, 'I go to bed on a sack filled with grass at 8pm – we all go to bed then. I have a paper bag that my mother bought for me and that is where I sleep. I would really love to sleep on a mattress.'

**Question:**

What do you sleep on? Why do you think Dan sleeps in a paper bag?

**Who's helping Dan?**

Explain that Dan's family have been helped by their local village church. And that the people who are Christians in Dan's village believe in helping those in need.

Explain that there is a charity called Tearfund which provides money and expertise to churches like Dan's, helping them, through a Ugandan church partner (called The Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Uganda) to help people in their community who are very poor.

The church in Dan's village has helped Dan's family in three ways:

The **first** is through helping them to understand which crops grow well in which seasons. This has meant Dan's family can grow food all year round.

**Second**, when Dan's family face very difficult times – perhaps they have to buy books for school, or pay to take one of the children to hospital – the church will help them.

**Third**, the church knows that Dan has no father – and so try to be involved in the life of Dan and his brothers and sisters. They support and help Dan's family. Members of the church will pray with Dan and his family and encourage them.



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## How we can help children like Dan?

Consider which of these fundraising ideas would work in your context:

### Cleaning away poverty

Dan cleans his school every day. Organise a sponsored 'Cleaning away poverty' event, where the children all take part in cleaning part of their school. Link this to Dan's story. Use the giving amounts below to help them see the connection between their cleaning and how the money they raise will help to clean away poverty.

### Pyjama day

Dan sleeps in a paper bag. Organise a pyjama day – in which the children pay a pound to come to school in their pyjamas. Link this to Dan's story. Use the giving amounts below to help the children see how the money they are raising will help communities to work their way out of poverty.

## Giving amounts

When using these, explain that the way Tearfund works is in giving people the knowledge and understanding they need to find their own route out of poverty. It is sometimes important to provide what people need – in times of famine, for example. But experience shows that it is better to equip people to solve their own problems than to do it for them. The giving amounts below follow this approach...

**£20** could enable two Community Health Advisers to receive training and materials to work with a community like Dan's in which there is currently no medical clinic.

**£50** could pay for sessions in two different, needy communities, to develop church and community action plans – the first step to meeting the most pressing community needs.

**£100** could pay for a community facilitator to spend five weeks working in a needy community – helping them to identify their greatest needs and how they can solve them using their own resources.