



World Orphan Week assembly about the global orphan crisis
SOS Children 2011
Suitable for primary school children

<p>Slide 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask the pupils how many children they have seen today. • Ask children how many children they think there are in all of the UK (12 million)	<p>Encourage them to think about how many children they saw out of the window this morning, on the way to school, by the school gates and now in the assembly hall. Ask a few volunteers to give their estimates. Emphasize that it's probably many, many children.</p> <p>Emphasize that it is many, many children. For comparison, it's as many children as there are people living in London. Ask the children to try to imagine what 12 million children might look like. If you can, calculate how many of your schools it would take to take in 12 million children.</p>
<p>Slide 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 17 million children around the world with no mums or dads to look after them.	<p>Say that while 12 million is very many, 17 million is even more. That is how many orphans there are across the world: children with no mum or dad to look after them. Some of these children are looked after by someone else: maybe grandparents, older siblings or foster or adoptive parents, but most of them are completely alone.</p>
<p>Slide 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce Elsie, orphaned at 2 years old in the Gambia, West Africa.	<p>Show the Gambia on a map. Say that where Elsie was born, you normally have to pay a lot of money to go to the hospital and get medicine. Elsie's mum and dad got sick and couldn't afford to pay, so they died. In this country we are lucky – we don't have to pay to see a doctor when we're really ill. Elsie didn't have any grandparents or siblings or anyone else who could look after her.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elsie was looked after temporarily by a neighbour, who couldn't afford it. 	<p>When Elsie's mum and dad died she was first looked after by a kind neighbour, but the neighbour had her own children and couldn't afford to look after Elsie too. She needed someone else to help Elsie.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's not just sad when children aren't looked after – it's dangerous too. 	<p>Without anyone to look after her, Elsie might have to steal to get food. She probably won't go to school because nobody will tell her to go, and without going to school it will be very difficult for her to find a job when she is grown up. Or, she might start working really early because she is not at school, maybe when she is only 6 or 7 years old. Then she might end up in a dangerous job as there is nobody to make sure she is safe. She is also at risk of getting hurt in different ways, because no adult is looking after her.</p>
<p>Slide 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's not just sad and dangerous when children aren't looked after – it's illegal too. 	<p>The United Nations is a large group of countries – nearly all in the world. They have come together and written a convention, which is like a law, which says that all children should be looked after in some way – even if it can't be by their mums and dads (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). This means that most countries in the world think it's important to look after children like Elsie, but some of them are so poor they still can't do that properly.</p>
<p>Slide 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask pupils how they feel when they see a friend fall over and hurt himself/herself in the playground (sorry for them, hurting with them, wanting to help). 	<p>Imagine that you are outside in breaktime, running around and playing with some friends. Suddenly, you see how one of your friends trip and fly through the air, to land on their knees on the hard ground. While you watch them fall, you probably wince a little, and pull a face because it's almost like you are hurting too, from watching your friend hurt! This is a really good thing. It is human to feel for others.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is harder to feel for those who are far away, who we can't see and don't know. 	<p>There are other ways than falling over in which we can hurt. The 17 million children around the world who aren't looked after by anyone hurt in a different way, and we must remember to feel for them too, even though we can't see it like we can when a friend falls.</p>
<p>Slide 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the pupils for suggestions on what we can do to help children like Elsie. Suggest the following alternatives: • Talk to others about Elsie. • Think about how you spend your money. • Help organisations which help children like Elsie. 	<p>There are many people who have a lot of power and can make life better for children like Elsie. You can try to talk to them. For example, you can write to your local politician, or even the prime minister. When you are older, you can join groups and organisations which works to make life better for children like Elsie. You can also make sure that when you get to vote, you vote for a party which thinks it's important to help children like Elsie.</p> <p>By making sure to for example buy food like chocolate, rice and sugar with a Fairtrade symbol on, you have a guarantee that the people who made the thing you're buying were paid properly. You can also choose to not buy things from countries who for example haven't signed the law about how all children should be looked after that I mentioned earlier.</p> <p>There are also many small and large charities and other organisations across the whole world which work to help children like Elsie in different ways. You can for example help them by volunteering for them or raising money for them.</p>

<p>Slide 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is Elsie now, looked after by a charity called SOS Children. 	<p>She is now 9 years old, and lives in the SOS Children's Village in Basse, the Gambia. This Children's Village is a group of 15 family houses, built together around a playground. At the moment, there are 90 children living in Elsie's Children's Village in Basse.</p>
<p>Slide 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOS Mothers look after the children in SOS Children's Villages 	<p>This is Elsie's SOS Mother. An SOS Mother is a woman who lives in a house in the SOS Children's Village, and looks after between 7 and 10 children just like Elsie, with nobody else to look after them.</p>
<p>Slide 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOS Schools 	<p>Other than family houses, there is also a school in the SOS Children's Village. There are currently 163 children who go to this school. Many of them live outside the Children's Village with their mums and dads.</p>
<p>Slide 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOS Medical Centre 	<p>In many SOS Children's Villages there are also Medical Centres. It is free to see a doctor there, and the medicine is free or very cheap so that everyone who needs it can afford it. The Medical Centres are open to anyone who needs it, so not just to the children who live in the Children's Village.</p>
<p>Slide 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOS Children around the world 	<p>Today, there are 508 SOS Children's Villages just like Elsie's in 124 countries across the world. In total, there are 78,000 children living in them. But many, many more are needed.</p>
<p>Slide 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new SOS Children's Village in Chipata, Zambia. 	<p>This, for example, is the place where SOS Children is hoping to build a new SOS Children's Village soon. It is in Chipata in Zambia. By taking part in World Orphan Week you are helping to</p>

cont.

pay for the building of the houses in this Children's Village. By doing that, many more children like Elsie can find a loving home for life in a new SOS Children's Village.