

## Feeding Project Notes for Powerpoint

Welcome to the notes for the Feeding Projects Powerpoint. Feel free to adapt or remove slides as needed, depending on the needs of your school or business and the time available to you. There is extra information in the notes but the main points are on the slides.

### **Slide 1**

Introduce yourself! Thank the audience for their time and let them know you will be talking about Comfort International Feeding Projects.

### **Slide 2 – WHERE?**

Where are these projects taking place? They are based in Rwanda, which is a tiny country in the heart of Africa. Rwanda is about a third of the size of Scotland, but with a population of over 13 million people, it is the most densely populated country in Africa. Rwanda suffered a terrible genocide against the Tutsi tribe in 1994, where 1 million people were killed in under 100 days. The country was completely broken by the trauma of this awful event in history, and many still suffer the scars they sustained, both physically and emotionally, during that time. However, Rwanda is a beautiful country which has been rebuilding itself into a flourishing, developing nation again. Many areas are doing very well, but in the rural areas of Rwanda, many are still extremely poor, and hunger is a big issue, especially among the young. According to the global hunger index, around 35% of Rwanda's population is considered undernourished (insufficient calorie intake) and around 36% of children are stunted (children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition).

### **Slide 3 – WHO?**

Who is Comfort International?

Comfort International is a Scottish based charity working across central African nations to help rebuild lives devastated by poverty, genocide and conflict. The charity was originally set up in 1999 after founder Callum Henderson visited the tiny country of Rwanda, just 5 years after one of the worst genocides the world has ever seen. In response to the desperate plight of widows, orphans and survivors, Comfort Rwanda was born. They worked with local partners to set up community projects and provide physical, financial, emotional and spiritual support for the poorest and most broken people. Work includes Street Kids Rescue projects, community groups, vocational training, support for vulnerable women and children and much more. Over the years the work has expanded to include other countries where there is extreme poverty or trauma. These include the Democratic Republic of Congo, working with ex-child soldiers, rape survivors, the displaced and extremely poor, as well as providing education and running a hospital providing health care for those who can't afford to pay. There are also child support projects in Burundi and South Sudan. In every case Comfort collaborates with indigenous partners to best understand the needs of the communities and deliver on these.

### **Slide 4- WHAT?**

What are the Comfort International Feeding Projects? They are divided into two main projects aimed at targeting hunger in children. The first is the nursery malnutrition project. This is a project providing meals for nursery-age children who are most at risk of malnutrition. This project is based in a specific area of

Rwanda called Bisesero. Bisesero children are affected by two main challenges – a historic lack of school access and food shortage which tends to hit the children worst. During the 1960s to the early 90s Tutsi children were targeted for ridicule, bullied at school and excluded from secondary education. This meant many children were discouraged from school and ended up staying home to look after the cattle in this dominantly agricultural area, where most families are subsistence farmers. Many are very poor and have little or no spare money to buy food. There are often extreme food shortages between harvests. Many children in the area experience hunger and show signs of malnutrition. In July 2019 a nursery school was built using funds from a French donor and named after Birara, the leader of the resistance to the genocide in 1994.

A malnutrition programme was set up in the Birara nursery in 2020 and aims to tackle both issues – improving child health and encouraging attendance at nursery. If children are more likely to attend nursery, they are more likely to attend and participate in school life in the future. The school head teacher said, *'The culture was that our children did not study. We do not want this generation to grow up facing what we faced. We want to correct the mistakes which were made before. The whole vision is of children studying so that when they graduate they will help develop this area, educate the next generation and the development will continue. We want to create leaders for our future.'*

There are about 70 children registered for the malnutrition project, all between 3 and 6 years of age.

#### **Slide 5 – WHAT?**

The other arm of the Feeding projects is the School Feeding Program. The Rwandan government is subsidising the cost of school meals for children in Rwanda but the school requires a contribution from the family of 2,000 Rwandan francs (roughly equivalent to £2) per month per child for school meals. However, many families in this area are so poor that they cannot afford this for some, or all of their children. Many of the children need to walk long distances to get to and from school, and walking home again in the middle of the day to get food is not an option. Therefore, if they can't afford to pay for school meals, they often go the full day without eating, making studying and learning so much harder. Some families are forced to choose one or two of their children to eat meals for a month while the others look on, hungry. This is not a choice any family should have to make.

Supporting the School Feeding Program means that more children will have access to school meals and will be able to concentrate on learning and growing, and not on where their next meal will come from.

#### **Slide 6 – WHAT?**

Why are these projects so important?

Hunger and malnutrition have such a big effect on children's lives. A Unicef publication states:

*"Children who suffer from malnutrition can experience its effects for life. In the short term, malnutrition results in higher rates of mortality and decreased cognitive, motor and language development. Long-term consequences include an increase in non-communicable diseases, low school performance, and decreased work capacity. Ultimately, this affects society as a whole, limiting the ability of younger generations to advance out of poverty and contribute to Rwanda's development. Child mortality associated with malnutrition has already reduced Rwanda's workforce by 9 per cent."*

Therefore we want to reduce hunger for three main reasons – to reduce the prevalence of child malnutrition in Rwanda, to improve school attendance and performance, and to bring happiness, health and joy to as many children as possible through food.

### **Slide 7 – WHY?**

What does this have to do with your school or business? Our goal is to see wholeness, purpose and unity restored in people and communities across the nations of the world. Our mission is to help rebuild lives devastated by poverty, genocide and conflict in the nations of the world. We do this through our values of redemption, partnership, sustainability and integrity. We hope that our values line up with yours. If your school or business wants to make a difference in the world around you, to contribute to your global citizenship and to exercise your environmental and social responsibilities then we hope that Comfort International can provide a route for you to do that through.

### **Slide 8 – HOW?**

How can you help? You can get involved in any number of ways!

Firstly, any donation is greatly appreciated and will go 100% towards the feeding projects. It only costs £2 to pay school meals for a child for a whole month, or £10 could feed 20 children for a week at nursery. You can do this through our website at: [comfortinternational.org](http://comfortinternational.org)

Secondly, if you'd like to donate regularly, this really helps our partners to commit to providing meals for more children. You can set up a monthly direct debit for any amount, which will go 100% to the feeding projects.

Thirdly – please let people know about this! If you think this is something your local school or business could get involved in, then let us know, and we will provide you with resources to take it to them!

You can donate by heading to our website and clicking on the “donate” button. Or you can easily make your own Totalgiving page for Comfort International for your school or business’ fundraising and 100% of the funds will go to the Feeding Projects.

### **Slide 9**

Thank the audience for their time and attention!