Lesson Three: Meet Rosamaria / Urban Slums

About this lesson
This is one of five lessons that zooms in on one child’s life over the past 20 years in one particular country, using the films in the Zero Ten Twenty series. An extension activity in lesson 8 can introduce your pupils to the remaining six children in the series. In this lesson students will meet Rosamaria who lives in the largest slum in Rio de Janeiro, they will learn about the concept ‘favela/urban slum’ and think about ‘sustainable cities’.

Learning Objectives
- Be able to explain what a favela is
- Understand the challenges facing people living in urban slums
- Practice writing an informative article

Resources Required
- Zero Ten Twenty - Rosamaria film clip
- Watching the ‘Children of Rio’ films handout
- Handout 3.1: Factsheet ‘Urban Slums’, internet

Key Concepts
- Urban slum
- Sustainable city

Lesson plan
5 minutes
Start this lesson by gauging how much students already know. Write the word ‘urban slum’ on the board and ask students to discuss in pairs what words and images come to mind. Then ask them to feed back to the group and note down key words on the board. Explain the learning objectives for this lesson.

20 minutes
Hand out the worksheet ‘Meet the children of Rio’ before watching the clip so students can make notes and tell them they will be writing an article on Rosamaria afterwards. After watching the clip, discuss as a class what they thought about the film. What did they like, what didn’t they like? Did they learn something new? What issues do people living in a favela face?

30 minutes
Ask students in pairs to write a news article on Rosamaria. They can choose what form their article will take and make it more general, but they need to make sure to include facts on Rocinha (population, language, services, etc), use information from the film on Rosamaria’s life and focus on the issues posed by life in a slum. They can use the internet to do their research and find out more information on life in Rocinha.

5 minutes
Hot seat plenary – ask each student to come up with two questions on what they have learnt in this lesson. Then ask students to pair up and ask each other the questions. Feed key points back to the whole class if you have time.
Handout: Watching - The Children of Rio films

Handout copies to each student before watching ‘The Children of Rio’ the films so they can record information whilst watching.

1. Who is the child in the film? Note down 3 facts about their life / way of life (e.g. about their family, home, country, means of income)
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2. What are the main issues / challenges the child in the film and his / her family and community face?

3. What key events happen throughout the 20 years of the child’s life? What changes happen?

4. How do you feel after watching the clip about this child’s life?
Urban Slums

are settlements, neighbourhoods or city regions that cannot provide the basic living conditions necessary for its inhabitants to live in a safe and healthy environment. They are a common feature in cities in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) where migration from rural areas is fuelled by economic incentives and a lack of opportunities elsewhere. Urban slums are also characterized by high population densities, inadequate infrastructure, and poor living conditions.

Facts & Figures

- Current estimates are that there are 986 million slum dwellers – which is one third of the global urban population.
- 94% of the world’s slum dwellers live in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- Currently 560 million urban inhabitants do not have access to basic toilet facilities.
- 65% of the world’s slum dwellers live in developing countries.
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- 4% of the world’s slum dwellers live in developing countries.
- 3% of the world’s slum dwellers live in developing countries.
- 2% of the world’s slum dwellers live in developing countries.
- 1% of the world’s slum dwellers live in developing countries.
- Urban slums are settlements, neighborhoods or city regions that cannot provide the basic living conditions necessary for its inhabitants to live in a safe and healthy environment.

A slum household is defined as lacking the following living conditions:

- Access to improved sanitation and drainage systems (1).
- Access to safe and affordable housing (2).
- Access to health services and education (3).
- Access to adequate food and water (4).
- Secure tenure and property rights (5).

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As is also clear from Rosamaria’s story, violence caused by the drug cartels is a big problem in Rocinha. Brazil has one of the highest murder rates in the world. But Rocinha has seen a lot of development in recent years with police cracking down on violence and drug cartels. The favela is now one of the most developed with its own airport, high-speed internet, satellite TV and a heavily policed presence. Businesses have sprung up, with police cracking down on violence and drug cartels. The favela is also clean and well-maintained, with schools, hospitals and clinics nearby. Many people in Rocinha earn their living by working in the tourism industry, but there are also opportunities in the construction and manufacturing industries.

Rocinha is the biggest favela in Brazil and has between 60,000 and 150,000 inhabitants. It is built on a steep hillside overlooking Rio de Janeiro. Many people migrate to Rio de Janeiro to work in the tourism industry, but there are also opportunities in the construction and manufacturing industries.

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