



School Based Teacher Development (SBTD): Transforming Classroom Practices

Teachers are at the heart of UNRWA's Education Reform. A school based programme of continuous professional development for teachers is therefore being introduced in 2012.

Palestine refugee children are the reason behind our desire to promote good teachers and good teaching. Continuous professional development makes good teachers better, inspiring and stimulating them in their work of making a real difference to the lives of children, helping each child to fulfill their potential.

The skills and knowledge all teachers need are not fixed and cannot be addressed in one-off training sessions. Teachers need opportunities to go on learning throughout their careers. Communities want to know that their children's teachers are respected, supported professionals.

UNRWA's School Based Teacher Development (SBTD): Transforming Classroom Practices programme reflects the importance of developing and supporting teachers throughout their careers, to ensure all children get a quality education.

The School Based Teacher Development (SBTD): Transforming Classroom Practices programme is about teachers' learning in situ. That is, it recognizes the school as a learning place which provides opportunities for the continuous professional development of teachers.

The programme adopts a blended learning approach and is designed to support the teaching of all areas of the curriculum. It aims to promote teachers' use of active pedagogical methods, and a variety of learner focused strategies.

SBTD: Transforming Classroom Practices Programme

Training Material

The programme addresses key focus areas which will help transform classrooms, these are:

- Developing active pedagogies
- Learning focused classroom practices
- Assessment for quality learning
- The teachers role in promoting literacy and numeracy
- The inclusive approach to teaching and learning
- Engaging parents in raising achievement

Initially, as teachers study the programme, they will go through open and distance learning. These will be text modules which will engage with the teacher, and ask them to think about their own teaching and reflect upon different teaching approaches. Teachers will be supported in trying out the new approaches in their classrooms and respond to case studies from all five Fields. This reflects what we know about changing teachers' classroom practices. Most of the activities are carried out in school although some teachers may choose to read the materials or write up activities and evaluations at home.



Supporting Teachers

The teachers' personal study of the text material will be enhanced by multi-media material, including an interactive website and DVDs for Head Teachers and Education Specialists to enable them to facilitate the face to face sessions with the teachers.

Website

There will also be SBTD web-based resources. Also, teachers can exchange ideas and opinions about improving the quality of education via the website.

Programme Length

The programme is planned to take six months, with teachers engaging with one Module each month. Many of the activities will involve teachers doing the sort of things that they do normally, for example, lesson preparation and evaluation, but with some extra reading and writing up of programme activities.

Development of the Programme

UNRWA staff, centrally and in the five Fields, worked cooperatively, drawing on international evidence and expertise as to what makes good teaching and learning to develop the School Based Teacher Development (SBTD): Transforming Classroom Practices programme.

Making a positive difference

To begin with, all the teachers from Grade 1-6 in a school will work through the programme. This is because global evidence about successful teacher development points to how the impact of any training is increased if teachers are engaged in working together to improve the learning of all children.

This programme seeks to strengthen the whole UNRWA system of professional support and therefore Head Teachers, Principals and Education Specialists play a very important supporting role. They will guide the teachers throughout the programme, informally as part of the ongoing support they provide on a day-to-day basis when they meet in school, and more formally through organized sessions. These sessions will allow further exploration of key ideas and an opportunity to share teaching experiences and good practices.

For more information please contact your Chief Field Education Programme or UNRWA HQ Education Department on info.education@unrwa.org



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for palestine refugees in the near east

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UNRWA provides assistance, protection and advocacy for some 5 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory, pending a solution to their plight. The Agency's services encompass education, health care, social safety-net, camp infrastructure and improvement, community support, microfinance and emergency response, including in times of armed conflict. Through these services UNRWA strives to help Palestine refugees achieve a decent standard of living, long and healthy lives, knowledge and skills and full enjoyment of human rights. These goals are formulated according to the UN criteria for human development.