

ICDP Facilitators Training in Lebanon, 2020-2021

Report on training 11 participants to facilitator level in the Bekaa Valley

Location

The participants were teachers at the two Jusoor educational centres (primary school level) located in the Bekaa valley which is home to a large Syrian refugee community.

Number of participants

The teachers (6 male+ 5 female) were Syrian refugees themselves living either in the camps or nearby.

Challenges

My ICDP(face – to- face) sessions with this group started in 2020 but had to be interrupted due to the Covid situation- schools having closed their doors- and were only resumed(via Zoom) in April 2021 after I had moved back to the UK. Apart from the online sessions we formed an ICDP WhatsApp group in order to share insights, feedback on home tasks etc.. when live sessions were not possible.

The problems faced by a displaced population, added to the intrinsic problems of a failing host state(Lebanon). Covid was the last straw to an already deteriorating situation. This posed many challenges with delivering the ICDP training. Power outages, Wi-Fi interruptions resulted in sessions being cancelled last minute and rescheduled only to encounter the same problem again. In spite of the numerous hurdles , the training (12 sessions) has finally been completed.

Feedback

The feedback from the teachers was very positive in spite of the difficulties . They were grateful for the opportunity that the ICDP training gave them to express themselves in a safe environment. They were able to share their worries, their everyday challenges of constantly having to adapt to changing circumstances, to the deep changes in their way of life since leaving their country, but also talked about their successes and resilience. They discussed the impact this has had on their values, traditions, on the changing role of women and how this has affected parental roles and interaction with their children. They reflected on their roles as teachers and shared their insights within the group . They explored together ways they could make some changes in the classroom and gave each other positive feedback. They were very keen to start delivering the ICDP training at caregiver level to the parents of the children they teach, and in fact 2 new groups have been started.

All in all in my 4 years working with Syrian refugees in Lebanon I have trained 17 participants at facilitator level(SOS Children’s Villages + Jusoor) and 63 participants at caregiver level.