

## **Teaching for Success, Tunisia's Winter Programme suspended due to COVID19 restrictions, it has over 2500 beneficiaries though!**

**Tunis – 19 March 2020** - British Council Tunisia trained more than **5000 English primary teachers** from across the country within its summer and winter programme activities for 2019-2020. The winter programme is part of the *Teaching for Success Tunisia* project. A project implemented by the British Council, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and funded by the British Embassy in Tunis.

The winter programme was delivered by 22 International trainers. The training sessions took place from 13 February until 10 March 2020, when the British Council responded immediately to official measurement to suspend all gatherings due to COVID19. Before its suspension, Teaching for Success, Tunisia's winter programme took place in 18 regional training centers: Tunis, Nabeul, Zaghouane, Bizerte, Beja, Jendouba, Gafsa, Zarzis, Medenine, Gabes, Djerba, Sidi Bouzid, Sfax, Mahdia, Sousse, El Kef, Kasserine, and Kairouan. About 3300 primary teachers from all cities from these regions were invited to the training sessions. A campaign "Faces of Teaching for Success" promoting their commitment #FacesofTFST was launched.

Jill Coombs, Trainer Coordinator, said, "This has been one of the best projects I've been part of. The quality of the programme and training has been phenomenal, supported by a super logistics team. I have felt privileged to work with such high calibre professionals and to have encountered such warmth, positivity and appreciation from the Teaching Advisors, teachers and CREFOC Directors in this undeniably forward-thinking country. In this winter phase the trainers moved more from teacher focused training to focussing on Teaching Advisors, who took on an increasing amount of the training with unerring support. It won't be long before the trainers are no longer needed and that is exactly the idea!"

The winter programme provided opportunities for primary teachers to develop professionally and acquire various skills that will help them teach more efficiently in classroom format.

Many primary teachers talked about this new learning experience. Tarek Garoui, a primary English teacher from Sidi Bouzid, recommended the programme to his colleagues *"I love this training programme because we learn how to deal with young learners while using a foreign language. I like the phonetics part of it because we have a hard time pronouncing the words correctly. There is so much interference between French and English and this programme helps us a lot."*

From Gafsa, Soumaya Ismail shared what she learned from the programme: *"In this training class, I acquired many strategies that will allow my teaching methods to be more interesting. Through this programme, I have learned that it is important to make my classes fun by playing games and active by using the TPR techniques."*

The winter programme aim was to provide primary teachers assigned to English teaching duties starting from September 2019 with the confidence and the skills required for active language learning and teaching. It introduced key child-centred concepts and activity-based classroom approaches that will help their students learn

English and develop the core skills they will need throughout life. These interventions in English language and core skills directly address the skills gap that employers report in candidates applying for jobs.

Phil Bashford, Senior Academic Manager, said *“It was exciting to see the Teaching Advisors take more of a lead role in the training delivery. The teachers really benefitted from the skills developed over the 5 days and fully engaged in the activities. This all led to a very encouraging outcome from the training and will lead to greater learner participation in Tunisian primary classrooms’.”*

### **Teaching for Success Tunisia: Overview**

Although the rate of unemployment is high in Tunisia, employers report that in several sectors they are unable to recruit people with the required skills (IACE reports). Teaching for Success Tunisia aims to improve student learning outcomes and enhance the future employability of young Tunisians by promoting the development of 21st century skills in primary and secondary schools. The Ministry of Education recognizes the need for such skills, which are a cornerstone of its current reform plans. The project also aims to reduce noted regional and gender disparities.

The British Council works with the Ministry of Education to equip teachers with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to teach English more effectively, to adopt child-centred, activity-based classroom approaches that will help their students learn English and develop the core skills they will need for a more successful transition from education to employment, and throughout their lives.

The project was launched in October 2018 and its main emphasis is delivering training and CPD (continuing professional development) opportunities to teachers and teacher educators; both in face-to-face and online formats.

Other activities include working with teacher educators and others to develop new high-quality resources in English for teachers and learners and enhancing the sharing of best practice internationally.

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