

# Teach For All

## Education in Emergencies

### Partner Case Studies

#### Education in Emergencies in action across the Teach For All network

Over the past several years, we have seen a growing number of network partner organizations with Education in Emergencies (EiE) needs, and in turn supporting children and communities impacted by crises. Teach For All partner organizations are increasingly employing practices to ensure their programs are well-equipped to meet the needs of children who are affected by emergencies, conflict, or natural disasters. For example, they are adjusting their teacher training and support to integrate students who don't speak the local languages; recruiting teachers who are more representative of displaced communities so as to more effectively engage students; and understanding the impact of trauma in order to support student wellbeing and social emotional learning.

For further information or to explore collaboration contact Katy Noble, Head of Education in Emergencies at Teach For All, [Katy.Noble@teachforall.org](mailto:Katy.Noble@teachforall.org). Read our [vision for working in emergencies](#) or visit our [EiE stories](#).

#### Teach For Afghanistan

47 Fellows | 36 Schools | 293 Alumni | Launched 2016



**EiE NEEDS:** Political turmoil, protracted conflict, armed opposition groups who execute deliberate and violent attacks against education, natural disasters, and health crises have caused large-scale displacement across Afghanistan. This has resulted in 3.7 million children being out of school. Over 1,000 schools in the country are closed or inactive due to security issues, and 1.7 million children were estimated to be in need of EiE support in 2020.

**EiE RESPONSE:** Teach For Afghanistan prioritizes student and community safety by educating fellows and students about mine risks and how to stay safe during attacks on education. Teach For Afghanistan fellows are also supported in working together with their students' parents, their co-teachers, school leadership, and the local communities to ensure the safety of their students. Teach For Afghanistan supports fellows to start their own **initiatives to protect their students**. Teach For Afghanistan prioritizes girls' education, actively recruits female fellows, and trains all of its fellows on the importance of girls' education in rebuilding the country and confronting issues such as girls dropping out of school. On a broader coordination level, Teach For Afghanistan is an active member of the EiE Working Group along with organizations such as UNICEF and Save the Children.



## Enseñá por Argentina

92 Fellows | 200 Schools | 254 Alumni | Launched 2011

The logo for 'Enseñá por Argentina' features the text 'Enseñá' in a dark blue font above 'Argentina' in a lighter blue font. A stylized 'X' shape, composed of two overlapping triangles in light blue and dark blue, is positioned to the right of the text.

**EiE NEEDS:** Argentina is host to a large number of displaced Venezuelans who have fled their country in drastic numbers. These Venezuelans are dealing with psychosocial and economic hardship from their displacement. In this context, labor and community insertion is a challenge. The Argentine system for teacher placement is very rigid and bureaucratic, with strong hurdles for even regularly credentialed teachers. Furthermore, Argentina's teacher unions at national and province levels have strong influence on the hiring policies in the public system.

**EiE RESPONSE:** In 2020, **Enseñá por Argentina** placed 24 Venezuelan professional migrants, who are residing in Argentina, in schools across Buenos Aires. This was done in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and enabled the IOM to validate the Venezuelan migrants' teaching credentials from Venezuela and finance their salaries. This has enabled all parties (ExA, OIM and governments) to respond to this major humanitarian crisis which has found waves of migrants leaving Venezuela and migrating across the South American continent.



## Teach For Armenia

110 Fellows | 101 Schools | 136 Alumni | Launched 2015

The logo for 'Teach For Armenia' consists of a blue square with a white stylized 'T' shape inside. To the right of the square, the words 'TEACH FOR ARMENIA' are written in a dark blue, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

**EiE NEEDS:** In late September 2020, a long-standing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. This resulted in the worst fighting in this territory since the 1990s, disrupting lives, education and safety, with over 24,000 school-aged children suddenly out of school within Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Children living in the conflict zone risk falling behind in education due to the disruption caused by this conflict.

**EiE RESPONSE:** **Teach For Armenia** addressed the recent conflict by launching two initiatives. Their 'Teach For Peace' initiative was an EiE response that focused on creating care packages (including books and school supplies) for displaced students, and training teachers on how to provide psychosocial support to their students, as well as look after their own wellbeing. Their 'Teach For Hope' initiative saw



teams of 'Emergency Education Responders', led by Teach For Armenia's Alumni-Ambassadors, provide wraparound support for out-of-school students. They also leveraged technology and Change-Based Learning to bring students back online so that they can resume their studies (particularly important given the high rates of COVID-19 infections in Armenia). 15 of their Alumni and 14 Teacher Leaders led the EiE response in over 30 communities across 6 regions of Armenia. Teach For Armenia also provided teacher wellbeing support, providing group and individual therapeutic sessions with external psychologists, and specialized training sessions in EiE and trauma-informed teaching practices.

## Teach For Austria

136 Fellows | 104 Schools | 25 Kindergarten | 247 Alumni | Launched 2012



**EiE NEEDS:** Austria has seen a large influx of migrants and refugee children over the last several years who face challenges related to assimilation and xenophobia, and in turn suffer from psychosocial hardship. In some of Teach For Austria's placement schools, 85% of the children don't speak German as their first language, and risk missing out on establishing a solid foundational education due to language and other cultural barriers.

**EiE RESPONSE:** To ensure the newly-arrived displaced students could be supported effectively, **Teach For Austria** adjusted their teacher training content to include teaching German as an additional language for all participants. This was especially important as 85% of Teach For Austria's classes have students whose first language is not German. They also train their fellows on culturally responsive pedagogy. Through their ongoing leadership and intensive coaching, Teach For Austria fellows are supported to develop mindsets such as integration and acceptance of others, and trained on how to deal with racist comments from students/communities towards displaced students. Teach For Austria fellows developed a vast collection of ready-to-use teacher materials, including school-life vocabulary translated into Arabic and four other languages to support newly arrived children. Teach For Austria also put a renewed focus on representative recruitment, ensuring they hired fellows with the background, experience, and perspective to understand and support these communities. Teach For Austria alumni are also utilizing their EiE experience during their fellowship to create impactful social enterprises supporting people affected by crisis. For example, **MTOP - More Than One Perspective** (connecting highly skilled refugees with suitable companies in the Austrian labor market), **New Austrian Coding School** (supporting refugees with free nine-month coding and software training), and **Vienna Hobby Lobby** (youth classes and workshops to develop skills students will use throughout their lives).



## Teach First Deutschland

229 Fellows | 181 Schools | 612 Alumni | Launched 2009



**EiE NEEDS:** Germany is home to a large number of migrant and refugee children, particularly but not exclusively from Syria and Afghanistan, who are often facing psychosocial and economic hardship caused by their experiences. In theory, when refugee children have lived in Germany for more than six months, they have to be offered a place in school. In practice, however, not every local authority upholds this right to education. In addition, the school system usually no longer offers integration learning opportunities after another 6 months, and teachers in regular classes are often not trained to teach German as a second or foreign language or give language support on a larger scale.

**EiE RESPONSE:** Teach First Deutschland provides opportunities to refugee children to support their integration into regular classes. Teach First Deutschland has hired experts in culturally responsive teaching and second language education to equip their teachers and increase their effectiveness. They adjusted their teacher training to ensure that teachers can meet the needs of children who are German language learners and/or who have likely experienced recent trauma. Teach First Deutschland focuses on representative recruitment, taking on fellows who experience racism and discrimination themselves. Additionally, Teach First Deutschland's "Real Participation!" program supports refugee children to succeed in the German school system and meaningfully participate in society.



## Enseña Ecuador

59 Fellows | 40 Schools | 122 Alumni | Launched 2014



**EiE NEEDS:** Ecuador is host to more than 400,000 Venezuelan migrants, and the country has received the third largest share (after Colombia and Peru) of the more than 4.6 million Venezuelans who have fled Venezuela due to economic crisis coupled with ongoing political issues, violence, and human rights concerns, creating psychosocial and economic hardship for migrants and widespread xenophobia in Ecuador resulting in violence and discrimination.

**EiE RESPONSE:** **Enseña Ecuador** partners with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) to place both Ecuadorian and Venezuelan fellows in schools with high rates of Venezuelan and Colombian displaced students. Enseña Ecuador trains their participants in both technical and adaptive tools, to help them overcome challenges faced in schools with high numbers of migrant and refugee students. Enseña Ecuador uses Design Thinking to identify challenges that affect students' psychological safety in school, and co-creates solutions with parents, teachers, students, and community leaders. Enseña Ecuador participants raise awareness on the importance of tolerance, inclusion, and empathy in such intercultural schools, in order to foster safe relationships between Ecuadorian and displaced students. In 2020, Enseña Ecuador hosted an event at the Amplify Now Refugee Conference, with UNHCR, UN Women, and eight other NGOs, to create action plans for the inclusion and human rights of displaced children in Ecuador. Enseña Ecuador participants regularly share their experiences across the Teach For All network, as frontline teachers supporting displaced students in Ecuador, to support other teachers working in similar classrooms.



## Teach For Italy

15 Fellows | 13 Schools | Launched 2020



**EiE NEEDS:** Italy is on the front line of the European refugee crisis, with many migrants and refugees settling in Italy on their migration journey to other parts of Europe. This is particularly an issue in Northern Italy (in places such as Turin which is a big industrial capital with a number of low-skilled jobs), where school populations include 40-50% migrants, either very recent arrivals or first or second generation.

**EiE RESPONSE:** **Teach For Italy** has incorporated Education in Emergencies into their program since their inception, recruiting a diverse cohort of fellows designed to be reflective of the “real Italy” and their school placement communities. Their placement strategy prioritizes schools where at least 40% of the student population have a migratory background, and they plan to explore future placement options in regions like Sardinia and Sicily, as they are the front line for the recent immigration via the Mediterranean route. Ongoing community conversations ensure the voices and experiences of these displaced communities guide Teach For Italy’s work. For example, these conversations highlighted the need for Teach For Italy fellows to be focused on issues such as racial diversity, multi-faith issues in public schools (including the perception of Islam in a Catholic country and the low level of knowledge and understanding of Islam from Italy’s



public school teachers), migration, and identity. Teach For Italy's Summer Institute training was actively planned around these topics through partnerships with the Italian Muslim Association and the National Council of Italian Second Generations. Teach For Italy has also fostered a partnership with Save the Children Italy, enabling their fellows to work in Child Protection Centers for newly-arrived migrant children, often unaccompanied or separated from their parents.

## Teach For Lebanon

33 Fellows | 18 Schools | 130 Alumni | Launched 2009



**EiE NEEDS:** Lebanon hosts the highest per capita population of refugees in the world, primarily Syrian and Palestinian. The country also has had severe economic challenges since October 2019, causing high levels of poverty and reduced access to food. This was further compounded in August 2020 when a blast in the port of Beirut killed over 200 people, left hundreds of thousands homeless, damaged 140 schools, and severely affected food supplies.

**EiE RESPONSE:** Teach For Lebanon has a strong commitment to supporting refugee children. Teach For Lebanon places fellows at schools with high refugee populations to teach in both first and second shifts. Their fellows also conduct extracurricular activities with Syrian refugee students to enhance interpersonal skills, hygiene awareness, and environmental projects. They implemented a Gender Based Violence project with Syrian refugee students, as well as assist Syrian children in overcoming language barriers, as they had to transition from Arabic to English curricula. Teach For Lebanon fellows tailor their lessons and teaching methods around the experiences of children and the impact of war and violence. Teach For Lebanon was also a frontline responder following the Beirut blast in 2020, providing immediate humanitarian relief and supporting the wellbeing and education of affected children. Teach For Lebanon has partnered with Teach First Deutschland to share solutions and best practices across borders.



## Teach For Nepal

135 Fellows | 64 Schools | 250 Alumni | Launched 2013



**EiE NEEDS:** A 2015 7.8 magnitude earthquake (and aftershocks) near Kathmandu resulted in 9,000 deaths, 16,800 injured people, and 2.8M displaced people, impacting more than 8M people (more than a quarter of Nepal's population).

**EiE RESPONSE:** Following the devastating 2015 earthquake, **Teach For Nepal** and its fellows worked to rebuild the rural communities surrounding Kathmandu where fellows taught, and developed plans to help residents rebuild their homes, schools, and businesses. Efforts began with immediate disaster relief through their “Reach to Relief” campaign, which supported 8,000 children with a school-based lunch program and 5,000 students with backpacks and stationery.



Teach For Nepal also provided essential food, water, sanitation, and materials required for shelter. The organization then transitioned to supporting the longer-term rehabilitation of communities, partnering with communities and local leaders to renovate and reconstruct schools, and get children back into learning environments. They trained their fellows on how to provide psychosocial counseling, in order to facilitate the healing of students, families, and community members. Additionally, Teach For Nepal expanded their school placement locations to support the recovery of communities in Sindhupalchowk—one of the worst-affected districts in Nepal.

## Teach For Sweden

111 Fellows | 100 Schools | 213 Alumni | Launched 2013



**EiE NEEDS:** High migrant and refugee populations in Sweden create additional educational challenges for educators in Sweden who are working with children dealing with trauma, not speaking the native languages, and having difficulty assimilating and integrating into their new surroundings. All of these hurdles can prevent migrant children in Sweden from gaining the foundational education needed to set themselves up for success later in life.

**EiE RESPONSE:** **Teach For Sweden** fellows are placed in schools with high refugee populations, where children often come from challenging socioeconomic backgrounds and have difficulty achieving their full potential. Teach For Sweden has increased their cohort sizes in accordance with the scale of need in these regions with the largest refugee populations. Teach For Sweden also trains fellows to assist children in improving their Swedish language skills to enable them to integrate into their new home. Teach For Sweden has hired an incredible education leader, who had to flee Syria himself, as a Leadership Developer who supports the Teach For Sweden fellows teaching refugee children.

