



**TEACH FOR
LEBANON**

First cohort, 2009

159 alumni*

72 teachers
currently in
classrooms for
their initial 2-year
commitment**



TEACH FOR LEBANON TEACHERS HAVE COLLECTIVELY REACHED MORE THAN

31,000

MARGINALIZED LEBANESE AND REFUGEE STUDENTS



Teach For Lebanon

Laying the groundwork for a thriving Lebanon

Founded in 2008, Teach For Lebanon has placed more than 200 teachers, who are diverse in terms of ethnicity and religion, in urban and rural communities across the country. These teachers have collectively reached more than 31,000 marginalized Lebanese and refugee students. Today, 52 teachers are in the midst of their initial teaching commitments and the majority of Teach For Lebanon's 159 alumni remain actively involved in mission-related activities.

While severe economic challenges and a deepening political crisis have created an environment that has threatened the country's stability and educational opportunity, Teach For Lebanon has laid important groundwork for contributing to a reimagined education system that provides all of its students with the kind of education that will equip them to shape a better future. Even while many search for reasons to be hopeful about Lebanon's future, Teach For Lebanon persists in cultivating the country's future leadership—by retaining some of its most promising leaders to remain in the country as teachers and education leaders, and by working to foster the leadership of today's students.

The teaching fellows have contributed to transformation within the 31 schools



where Teach For Lebanon has had a lasting presence and, during their second years, they organize community projects to address particular needs. Principals have been effusive in their feedback: “When the number of fellows increases, the number of students increases,” one said during a meeting of principals in March 2022. “The quality of education in our classes has become better, and the students' attitudes and behavior towards each other and the teaching staff have positively changed.” Another said: “The Fellowship Program is energizing and rejuvenating to the whole school. It encouraged us and our staff to put more effort to improve our teaching strategies and help the students.”

In turn, the two-year fellowship influences the teaching fellows themselves. They join Teach For Lebanon out of a desire to give back or to address inequities they themselves experienced, and through the fellowship they see firsthand the extent of the needs in the country as well as the

impact they can have on their students and school communities, which in turn fuels a lifetime commitment. They also experience the power of working together across lines of difference to strengthen the nation, which is critical in a country that has endured foreign occupations, sectarian violence, an enormous refugee crisis, and so many divisions.

Teach For Lebanon alumni are contributing to strengthening the education sector in Lebanon both inside and outside the classroom. Many are still working in schools and continuing to have a direct impact on children on a daily basis. Fahd Jamaledine, who founded Nafda—a citizen-led movement which works to spark change in the education system through empowering schools to lead bottom-up transformative change—recently helped lead an education conference to reconsider Lebanon’s curriculum to ensure it prepares young people for the future of work and global citizenship. Alumni hold leadership roles in many of the international organizations that are actively engaged in bolstering the education system, including the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, and World Vision. Others are working in other educational NGOs focused on expanding opportunity for children such as Ana Aqraa (I Read), Right to Play, and Caritas.

In addition to its core fellowship program, Teach For Lebanon has launched several complementary initiatives engaging other teachers in the system in order to accelerate progress to its student

vision. The 1001 Nights Life Skills and Civic Education Program reached over 28,000 children in 135 schools across Lebanon with the aim of countering the drivers of social instability that often result in violence. In addition, there are programs to provide after-school English classes, employability training for girls, and solar power to schools without reliable electricity access (via the Access program).

The country’s extreme economic challenges have put new pressures on the education system. Today, a full 30% of students are dropping out of high school in part due to economic pressure. Educators are poorly paid, and the country projects massive retirement among the ranks of teachers and principals over the coming years. Particularly in light of these pressures, given its track record Teach For Lebanon now experiences tremendous demand from the education ministry and school principals.

Teach For Lebanon CEO Salyne El Samarany is quick to point out that their strength is partly a credit to the power of a global network that has been a source of inspiration and learning and has provided a benchmark for what high standards look like even in very challenging contexts.

When asked what has led her to persist through so many challenges over the last 14 years as part of this movement, Salyne says simply, “Those who have met the fellows and alumni can see that Teach For Lebanon is bringing a new wave of leadership, from the students themselves to the fellows and alumni, and this is what we need.” ●●●

