



IRC's *Healing Classrooms*

Helping children to thrive in times of crisis

The Impact of Crisis on Children

Crisis and conflict have direct and profound effects on children's physical safety, well-being and ability to learn. Neuroscience has shown that children who experience the types of adversity common in crisis settings can have a physiological "toxic stress" response that inhibits their brain development, impacting their physical and mental health, cognition, behaviour and relationships.

But this can be reversed. Children are remarkably resilient. When provided with the right support, such as safe, quality educational opportunities, the negative effects of hardship and stress are mitigated and children can heal, grow, learn and thrive.



The *Healing Classrooms* Approach

The IRC's *Healing Classrooms* approach—built on 30 years of education in emergencies experience and a decade of research and field testing—offers children a safe, predictable place to learn and cope with the consequences of conflict. Unlike many educational programmes that focus solely on academic subjects and second language acquisition, *Healing Classrooms* promotes social-emotional learning, as well as proficiency in reading, maths and other subjects, while also addressing the demands of new teaching in the digital age. This approach is based on research that shows social-emotional learning programmes improve students' life skills, behaviour and academic performance.





Healing Classrooms Offer:

WHAT?

- Educator training sessions that will focus on how to provide safe and supportive learning environments for refugees alongside practical advice and resources on how to incorporate social emotional learning into the curriculum.
- Printed and delivered instructional manuals and resources.
- Access to an online resource bank for teaching and teacher development.
- A comprehensive briefing to assist schools in supporting Afghan students. This briefing helps to develop a greater understanding of both Afghan culture and the education system in Afghanistan.
- Everything that we offer can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your school.

WHO?

- All our training will be led by an IRC education specialist who has extensive experience of the English education system as well as having worked with Afghan refugees both in this country and abroad and will be supported by the broader IRC education team with experience working in refugee countries of origin.

WHERE?

- We can deliver trainings online to schools or teachers across the UK and also in-person in the South East of England.

WHEN?

- The teacher training programme will be available during the summer term. Certain resources will also be available on request during the spring term.

COST?

- All our programmes and resources are free.

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