

Call for Mentors!

Get Involved to Support Teachers and Refugee Education in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei settlement (Kenya)



Are you an experienced teacher or a passionate educator?

Are you interested in helping teachers in other countries?

Are you ready and willing to share your expertise and time with refugee and other teachers working in Kenya?

If you answered “yes” to the questions above, we are looking for you!

Teachers College, Columbia University, in partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF, Safaricom Foundation, Lutheran World Federation, is launching year two of Teachers for Teachers. Teachers for Teachers is an initiative in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei settlement (Kenya) that supports refugee and other teachers in their efforts to improve their own teaching practice and student learning. We are inviting you to participate in this exciting opportunity and to help make a difference in the lives of refugee teachers and children in Kakuma and Kalobeyei.

The Challenge

Children in refugee contexts urgently need quality and protective education that will help them heal, grow, protect them from further harm, and equip them with the skills to contribute to their communities both now and in the future. However, efforts around the world have fallen far short of this goal: in refugee settings, teachers typically receive minimal or no teacher training and many only have secondary school certificates and their own educational experiences to draw on. If they do receive training, it is often in the form of one-off workshops. In Kakuma and Kalobeyei respectively, only about 40% and 43% of the teachers have received any training, which could be as little as one day.

It is clear that if we are to help children and youth imagine and build a better future, there is an urgent need for new approaches to education in refugee contexts.

Providing refugee teachers with meaningful and sustained support, strengthening a sense of

About Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement

Established in 1992, Kakuma refugee camp is located in the Turkana district of northwest Kenya, and remains one of the largest refugee camps in the world. Kakuma is marked by a booming and disproportionate number of youth as 60% of the total camp population is under 18. Within the total school-aged population, 36% of children are out of school at the primary level, and 95% of youth are out of school at the secondary level.

An experimental model, Kalobeyei settlement is located 30 km from Kakuma on land secured by UNHCR in 2014. Kalobeyei hosts refugees as well as national citizens and currently has over 11 thousand enrolled students. Kalobeyei faces massive overcrowding within schools and has a teacher-student ratio of 1:214.

Teachers struggle to meet the needs of children who have missed years of schooling and have experienced trauma. Over 80% of teachers in Kakuma, and nearly 90% of teachers in Kalobeyei are refugees and lack effective on-the-job supervision, mentoring and adequate certified pre-service and in-service professional training.

professional identity, and further shaping a culture of better teacher support are all critical in this context. In order to achieve this, refugee and national teachers participating in the Teachers for Teachers initiative will be supported through a dynamic program that focuses on: teacher training, peer coaching and mobile mentoring.

Our Solution

The *Teachers for Teachers* model draws on the best evidence for developing the expertise, knowledge, and motivation of teachers through training, coaching and mentoring. It is a multi-layered and staged approach that unfolds over time, giving teachers the opportunity to absorb what they have learned in the classroom and to test and adopt new strategies. Here is a brief overview of each element of the Teachers for Teachers initiative:



Training

Our in-person training model entails an intensive, competency-based training conducted over a period of four days, consisting of 12 sessions in 23 hours. Topics for the training include: Teacher's Role and Well-being; Child Protection, Well-being and Inclusion; Pedagogy; and Curriculum and Planning.



Peer Coaching

Teachers are connected with a coach for peer-to-peer training opportunities, where a highly committed teacher guides and supports newly trained teachers through teacher learning circles (TLCs) and classroom visitations. Coaches are trained to create a supportive network and safe space to tap into the range of expertise and knowledge among local teachers with the aim of creating ongoing collaborative learning opportunities among their peers.



Mobile Mentoring

Upon the completion of training, all teachers are assigned a mentor who provides online practical support for approximately six months. Mentors are recruited and trained to connect with a group of refugee teachers over WhatsApp on a regular basis to share experiences, offer teaching tips and resources, and problem-solve in real-time with teachers on issues they face in the classroom.

How Can You Help?

Join the Teachers for Teachers initiative by becoming a mentor. Mentors will provide advice and support to refugee teachers through WhatsApp for approximately 6 months. You will be mentoring a small group of 6-8 teachers who have recently completed one of the teacher training workshops.

Who is a Global Mentor?

A mentor is an experienced teacher or passionate educator who is willing to provide advice, inspiration, and insights to refugee teachers. Global mentors can be teachers, teacher educators, trainers, facilitators or fieldworkers with experience in education nationally or internationally and are committed to improving teaching and learning for all.

When carefully considering this opportunity, the following characteristics should describe you:

- **Experienced:** You have a wealth of experience in the field of education to draw upon to help you guide teachers in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. A minimum of 1-3 years experience is required (preferably more!). Experiences can stem from formal or informal education programs that may include teaching, training, curriculum development, and ICT in education, to name just a few.
- **Passionate:** You are passionate about improving access to quality, inclusive and protective education. You are keen to support teachers in different contexts.
- **Caring:** You listen to and respect the opinions of others. You know how to give constructive feedback.
- **Active:** You are willing to actively participate in online discussions with 6-8 teachers, answer questions, prompt discussions, and send tips and links to resources as needed.
- **Available:** You are available to respond to questions posed by your mentees within 48 hours as well as share advice and encouragement that further complement the prepared tips and strategies that you will be able to share with your mentees.
- **Resourceful:** You are creative and open to finding resources/solutions/answers that may not be obvious. If you don't know the answer, you will make an effort to look for one.
- **Willing to learn:** You are eager to learn about the challenges refugee teachers face in exceptionally difficult circumstances and provide support to these amazing individuals. In our orientation, we will provide you with numerous resources about refugee education. We expect you to take initiative to continue learning about the refugee context and educational approaches during your mentorship journey.
- **Committed:** You are willing to utilize the mobile mentoring curriculum on a weekly basis to send relevant messages to your mentees.
- **Global:** You have experience through work or personal travel (or would like experience) interacting with communities in development and/or humanitarian contexts.
- **Connected:** You have a smartphone and regular access to the internet.

If you are selected to be a mentor, you will receive an orientation guide and be expected to participate in an online training workshop (approximately 1.5 hours in duration). You will also receive ongoing support throughout your service as a mentor from the Teachers for Teachers team.

How to Apply:

Please complete the [online application form](#) by October 27th.

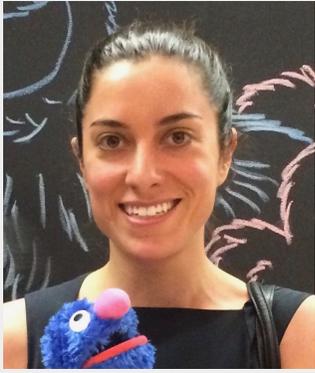
Key Dates to Keep in Mind:

Mentor applications due	October 27th
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Project team extends invitations to selected mentors (including possible waitlist status for next round)	On or before November 30th
Mentors participate in online mentoring orientation	TBD

Teachers for Teachers Team

	<p>Mary Mendenhall is an Associate Professor of Practice in the International and Comparative Education program at Teachers College, Columbia University and the Project Director for the Teachers for Teachers initiative in Kakuma.</p>		<p>Jihae (Jay) Cha is a second year doctoral fellow and Ed.D. student in International Educational Development at Teachers College, Columbia University. Since 2016, Jihae has been involved in the Teachers for Teachers initiative as a research coordinator.</p>
	<p>Danni Falk is a recent graduate of the Master's program in International and Comparative Education at Teachers College, Columbia University and is the Lead Trainer and Capacity Building Manager in Kakuma refugee camp for the duration of the project.</p>		<p>Lauren Bowden is a current student in the Master's program in International and Comparative Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Since 2016, she contributed to Teachers for Teachers with research, data analysis, and monitoring and evaluation support.</p>
	<p>Sarah French is a current student in the Master's program in International Educational Development at Teachers College, Columbia University. She contributes to Teachers for Teachers as a monitoring & evaluation assistant.</p>		<p>Makala Skinner is a Master's student in the International and Comparative Education program at Teachers College, Columbia University and the mobile mentoring coordinator.</p>



Arianna Pacifico is a Ph.D. student in the International and Comparative Education program at Teachers College, Columbia University and provides monitoring and evaluation support for Teachers for Teachers.

If you have any questions, please contact the Teachers for Teachers team at teachersforteachers@tc.columbia.edu.

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