



Evaluating Connecting Classrooms: A British Council flagship school improvement programme

Ruskin Education secured the contract to evaluate the impact of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme, initially across the MENA Region in April 2013. This was a two year programme to evaluate the programme's impact in schools on teaching, learning, whole school leadership, and students' understanding of global citizenship.

The Ruskin team created the methodology of the audit, a framework to secure consistency, and a quality assurance methodology to ensure accuracy. Following successful audits and revisits to countries across MENA, involving teams of English and Arabic evaluators, to measure progress being made in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan, Ruskin Education was appointed in late December 2014 to undertake the evaluations across Sub-Saharan Africa during January to March 2015. At short notice, Ruskin Education drew together teams to evaluate provision across rural Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria and South Africa. Evaluations and detailed reports were completed effectively and to the tight deadlines set by the British Council. Valuable data is now in place with clear actions to help strengthen implementation for the future.

The projects have shown Ruskin Education's ability to deliver high quality evaluation and inspection with high quality bilingual teams of evaluators; the ability to design evaluation methodology and frameworks that engage with schools and strategic authorities; and the ability to mobilise teams swiftly and effectively to deliver challenging projects and to challenging timeframes.

The success of Ruskin Education's work in this area has been rewarded through the British Council commissioning Ruskin to undertake similar evaluation exercises including a review of English language teaching in Jordan, evaluation of the Council's work on education inclusion across Lebanon and Yemen, and a review of the needs of private schools in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.