



Working with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education and seven Palestinian universities, Canterbury Christ Church University blended recognised international practice with local contextual knowledge to overhaul teacher education degree programmes and align them with Palestinian needs. The project also helped to upgrade the knowledge and skills of underqualified teachers.

As part of the initiative, a Palestinian Teacher Professional Development Index of competences – the first of its kind in the Middle East – was developed to guide reform of the entire teaching profession from the level of student trainee to the most expert teacher.

More than 4,500 teachers of basic education, who lacked any form of educational qualification, benefited from the programme in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

The ministry now plans to provide the training modules to qualified teachers to further upgrade their skills. In addition, the Academic Qualifications and Accreditation Commission has said that all universities offering initial teacher education degrees in Palestine must adopt the new index if they wish to gain accreditation.

The ministry and the World Bank have proposed a project to replicate the teacher education project at early childhood level, and Canterbury Christ Church has been invited to provide consultancy services for a similar reform project in Gambia.

The judges praised the fact that the programme has been “recognised by the World Bank for excellence and for its potential to be replicated in other regions where teacher training is an essential component of strengthening higher education systems”.