Whatsapp for teacher training and support: Senegal project report

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Our background and experience:

- **Julietta Schoenmann** – training teachers in Kano state, N.Nigeria
- **Linda Ruas** – supporting untrained teachers in refugee camps in Greece
- **Chris Sowton** – supporting teachers in refugee camps in Kenya/Lebanon
- **Rose Aylett** – supporting teachers remotely in Egypt and via Zoom in Palestine (Hands Up Project)
- **Jen Tayler** – teacher training projects in Russia and Morocco
This could also be done effectively by getting the students to act out all of the different types of weather and saying the word at the same time.

The pictures are nice but it’s time consuming to make these materials on a regular basis - let the kids act and mime!
Remote support for untrained volunteers teaching English in refugee camps in Greece
Research and other similar remote teaching projects:

• WhatsApp for teaching very large classes in Chennai, India – Dr Rajasekaran Venkatraman – presentation at IATEFL conference, Brighton, April 2018

• British Council Plan Ceibal in Uruguay

• Hands Up Project – remote teaching in Palestine via Zoom
  https://handsupproject.org/

• Skype in the Classroom: guest speakers / classroom collaborations
  https://education.microsoft.com/skype-in-the-classroom/overview
Beginnings, aims and plans:

• TESOL France links with AfricaTESOL set up, Oct 16
  Link with Fatou established by Jules at TESOL France,
  • Oct 17, and reinforced by Chris in Dakar, Nov 17.
  • Fatou sent us list of teachers and telephone numbers
• Skype meeting to assign partners and discuss approach, Jan 18
• Aims: to be discovered with individual partnerships – variable
• Start: personalised introductory videos and questions
• Motivations: this panel discussion and competition for learners
Topics discussed:
- how to teach large classes
- suitable materials
- global issues in class

Resources shared:
• Short videos
• Photos of our classrooms
• Links eg. to excellent CAMELTA resources
• Discussion, questions and answers or suggestions
Challenges:

• Strike
• Illnesses
• Overwork
• Time pressure
• Phones breaking
• Lack of internet
• Approach? (not enough rapport created first)
What we’ve learnt / next steps:

Build up personal relationship before professional
Establish ‘rules’, etiquette and time to respond

After all the interest in this project at the AfricaTESOL conference, we are expanding this Whatsapp support project to many other countries / areas in Africa. If anyone would like to get involved, please email: lindarua@gmail.com

Photo: Apu Gomes/AFP/Getty
https://bit.ly/2C0twVD