



IOM supports sensitization sessions on “Overcoming Prejudices” in primary and secondary schools in Grand Casablanca

9 June 2014-IOM Morocco in partnership with the Belgian NGO Echos Communication, concluded a pilot project supporting sensitization sessions on ‘Overcoming Prejudices’ in 16 primary and secondary schools (both public and private) in Casablanca. The sessions were aimed at children from 8-14 years old and were delivered in the form of a fun and educational animation.

This project has served to raise the awareness amongst teachers and children in the fight against racism and discrimination, and has underlined the need to make every effort to ensure that migrants participate fully in society and that intercultural relations between migrants and the host country are harmonious. One of the school’s principals involved in the program said that the program was “really relevant both from a pedagogical point of view and from an educational point of view.”

During the course of the project, 28 facilitators were trained by two experts from Echos Communication who built the capacity and strengthened the skills of the participants. The training explained the psychological and social processes which can lead to the development of prejudices and equipped facilitators to conduct animations in schools to promote self-awareness and openness to the other, especially if it is of foreign origin.

The sensitization sessions in schools were supervised by a team of 11 supervisors selected from the 28 facilitators, who assisted those facilitators on the ground and carried out the monitoring and evaluation of ses-



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sions. The project helped raise the awareness on the ‘Overcoming Prejudices’ for 659 children in schools, including 311 girls. Among this group, there were three children of Sub-Saharan origin, a Filipino, a Syrian and an Iraqi.

In September 2013 the government of Morocco introduced a new comprehensive policy on immigration and asylum issues in accordance with a humanitarian approach and in line with Morocco's international commitments and respect for the rights of immigrants. This new migration policy, which aims to regulate and integrate irregular migrants, including children, has further highlighted the necessity of formalizing a more inclusive policy within Moroccan schools that will officially allow the enrollment of Sub-Saharan children.

The project was funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The activities were carried out with the support of various partners including: the Regional Academy of Education and Training of the Grand Casablanca (AREF); the National Federation of Associations of Parents of Students of Morocco (FNAPEM); the Association Marocaine des Petits Débrouillards; and, the Observatoire Marocain de l’Education.

The closing ceremony of this pilot project was held on June 4th 2014 at the AREF in the presence of various project partners, including the Director of the Academy, provincial delegates of the Ministry of National Education, and various school principals.

To view the project YouTube video please click [here](#)

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