



EDUCATORS SHAPING FUTURES

A Global Knowledge Exchange on Teacher Preparation and Development

Session Summary and Materials

1. Session

Parallel Session 2b: Bridging the Gap: Remedial and Catch-Up Programs for Un/Under-Qualified Teachers

2. Date/Time

Tuesday, November 4, 2025; 11:00–12:30

3. Speakers and Roles

Moderator:

- **Vesall Nourani**, Assistant Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Speakers:

- **Jia Song**, Senior Education Specialist on China-Africa Teacher Education Cooperation, Teacher Education Center, UNESCO Shanghai
- **Samira Nikaein**, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank
- **Gbolagade Adekanmbi**, Dean of the School of Education, Botswana Open University
- **Thomas Poirier**, Program Director, Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa

4. Session Overview and Key Takeaways

This session discussed how to promote high-quality teacher education and cultivate well-prepared future teachers through within-country and cross-country collaboration. In the field of teacher education, there is an imbalance of quality within and across countries, with some teacher education institutions producing high quality results and others not. This affects the preparation of future teachers and the equitable quality of basic education. In the process of promoting collaboration on teacher education, countries have accumulated substantial policy experience, such as through cross-national teacher collaboration projects, policy designs at the national and local government levels, school-level practical experiences, and teachers' collaborative practices and models. This session examined examples of these collaborative processes, and in doing so, identified best practice models and illuminated common challenges in advancing teacher education across countries.

Speakers discussed multiple forms of collaboration, including institutional collaboration in China, where strong teacher training institutions are connected with institutions that need support, improving the quality of preparation and support these institutions provide. A presentation on a diploma program for teachers in the West Bank and Gaza highlighted how both cross-country and within-country collaboration can be harnessed to effectively develop and execute projects, while another explored inter-country collaboration and research on professional learning communities. The speakers highlighted the many forms that collaboration can take and the many levels at which collaboration can take place.

5. Links to Presentations and Materials

- [Parallel Session 2c Slides.pdf](#)

6. Acknowledgments

- The session was organized by **Jia Song** (Senior Education Specialist on China-Africa Teacher Education Cooperation, Teacher Education Center, UNESCO Shanghai), **Samira Nikaein** and **Laura Gregory** (Senior Education Specialists, World Bank).

