Intentionally experimenting with peace through community living

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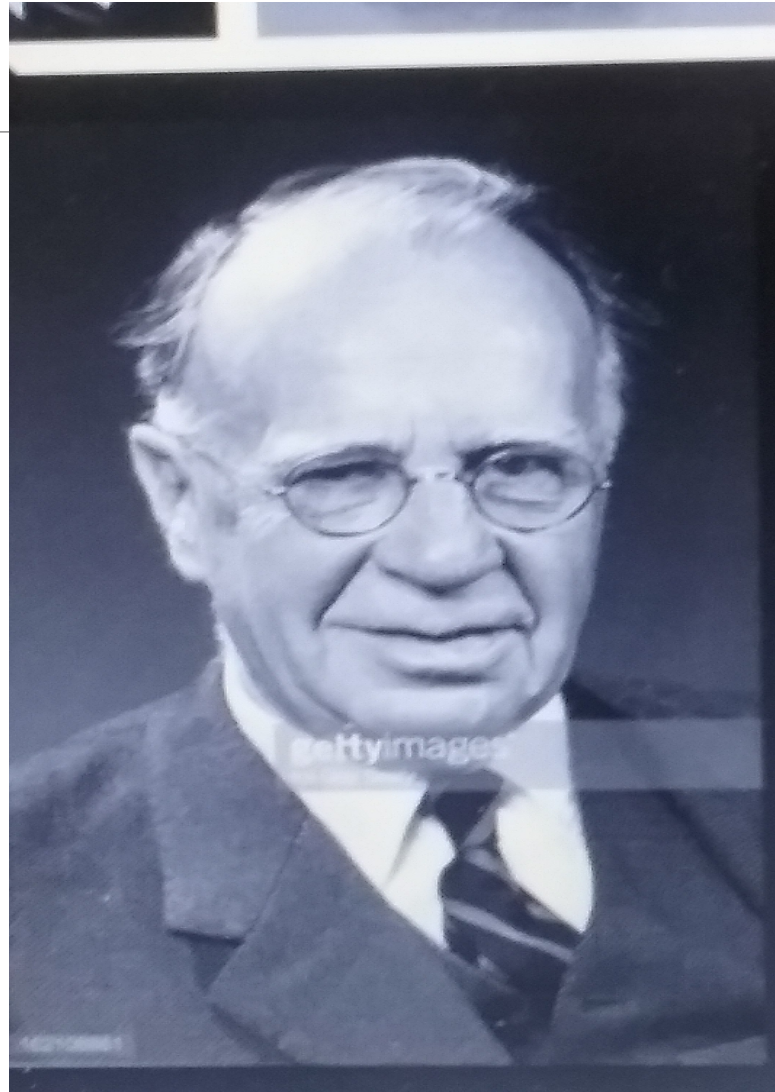*How can we be truly present with each other in these times when there is so much to disagree about?*

Donald Watt, founder of The Experiment in International Living in 1932

INTELLIGENCE IS NOT ENOUGH

"TO LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER BY LIVING TOGETHER"

Some History

The Peace Corps

The School for International Training (SIT Graduate Institute)

Refugee camps

Study Abroad

The Experiment in International Living

World Learning

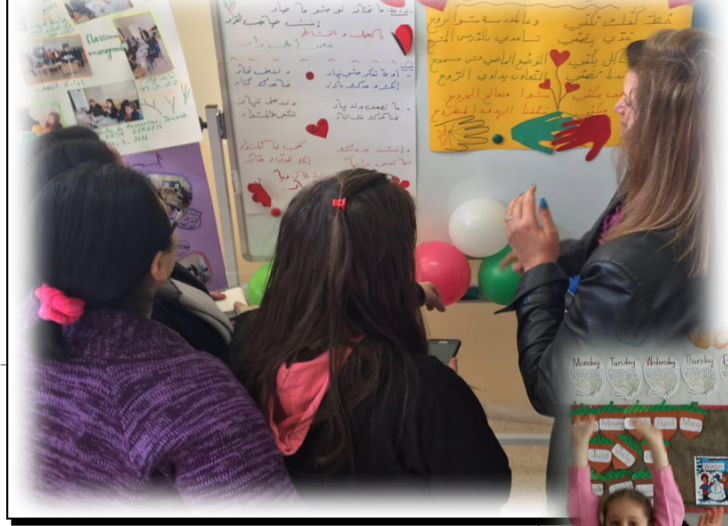**Global Development and Exchange**

SIT Graduate Institute - MAs

◦ TESOL
◦ Peacebuilding & Conflict Transformation
◦ Sustainability
◦ International Education
◦ Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management

Study Abroad - Undergraduate programs

◦ Climate / Environment
◦ Development / Economy / Inequality
◦ Global Health
◦ Media / Arts / Social Change
◦ Migration / Identity / Resilience
◦ Peace / Human Rights / Social Movements

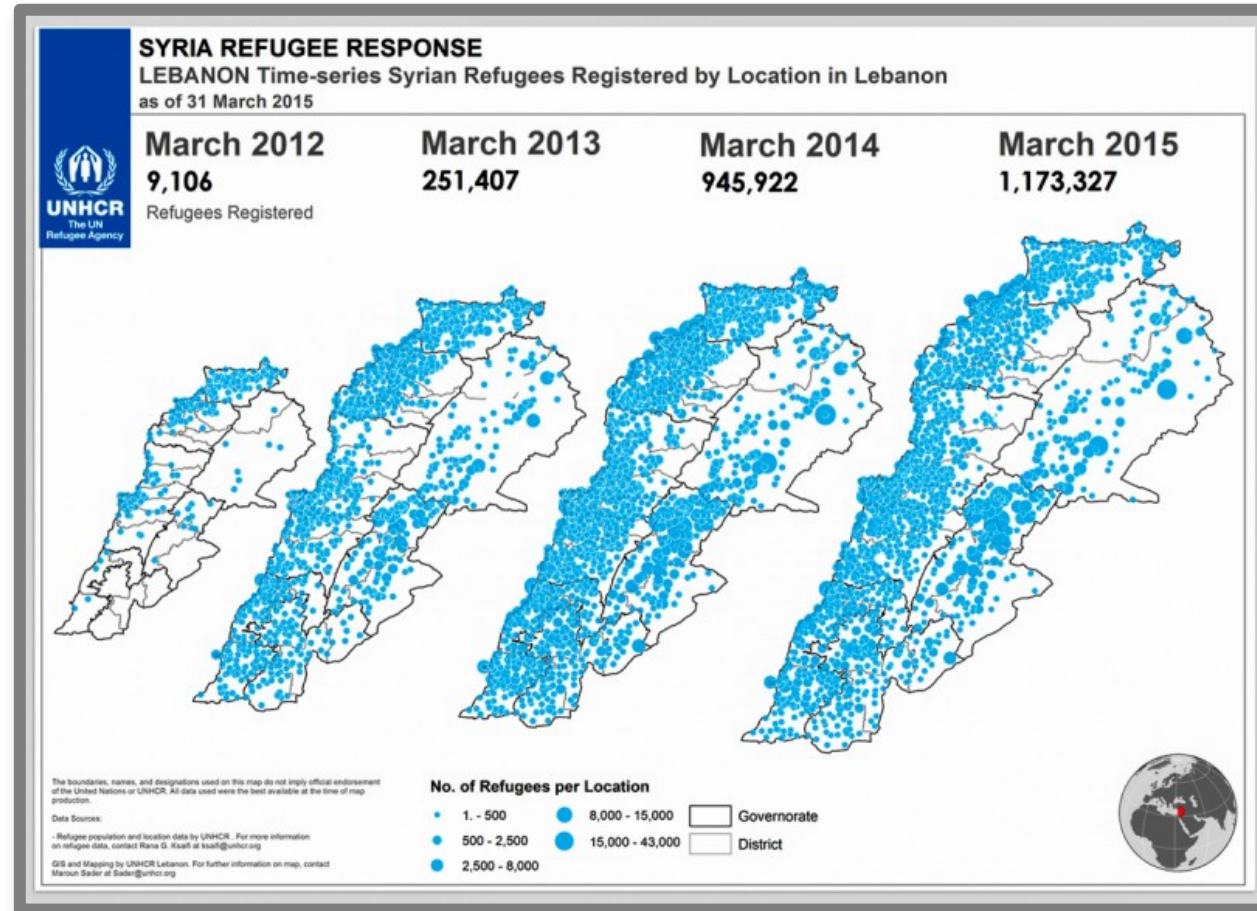## The Experiment – High School

Global Development and Exchange

The integration of a Psychosocial Support Program into the Lebanese Public Sector: *A means to reduce tension in an overburdened educational system*

Influx of Syrian Refugees to Lebanon

SYRIA REFUGEE RESPONSE
LEBANON Time-series Syrian Refugees Registered by Location in Lebanon
as of 31 March 2015

March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015
9,106	251,407	945,922	1,173,327

Refugees Registered

No. of Refugees per Location
- 1. - 500
- 500 - 2,500
- 2,500 - 8,000
- 8,000 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 43,000
- Governorate
- District

Demographics of Syrian Refuaees

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS
Children Caught in War

MercyCorps

More than 50% of Syrian refugees are children who've lost everything.

FAMILY   HOME   SCHOOL   FRIENDS

The Lebanese Educational Context

Still recovering from

16 years of civil war

Main challenges

❑ Underqualified staff

❑ Poor teacher & learning environment

❑ Deficit laws and regulations.

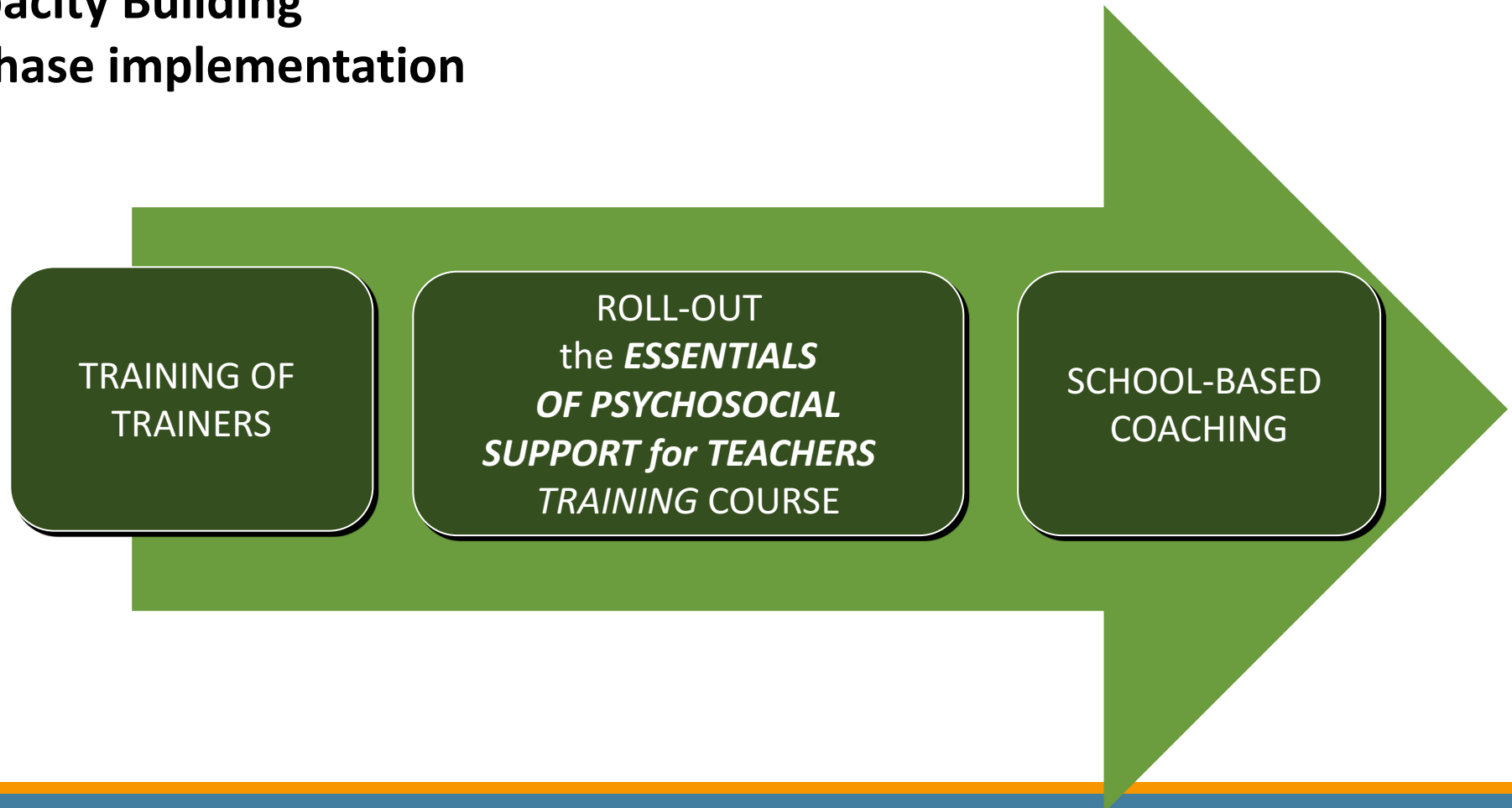▶ Over 200,000 Syrian refugee children registered in the public schools

Psychosocial Support (PSS) Program

To **build the capacity** among the public sector **teacher trainers, teacher mentors** and **teachers** to meet the psychosocial needs of the students

PSS Program Design

- **Sustainability**
- **Capacity Building**
- **3-Phase implementation**

TRAINING OF TRAINERS

ROLL-OUT
the *ESSENTIALS OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT for TEACHERS TRAINING* COURSE

SCHOOL-BASED COACHING

Program Fundamental Themes

Development of teachers' practical skills and disposition

Fundamental Themes
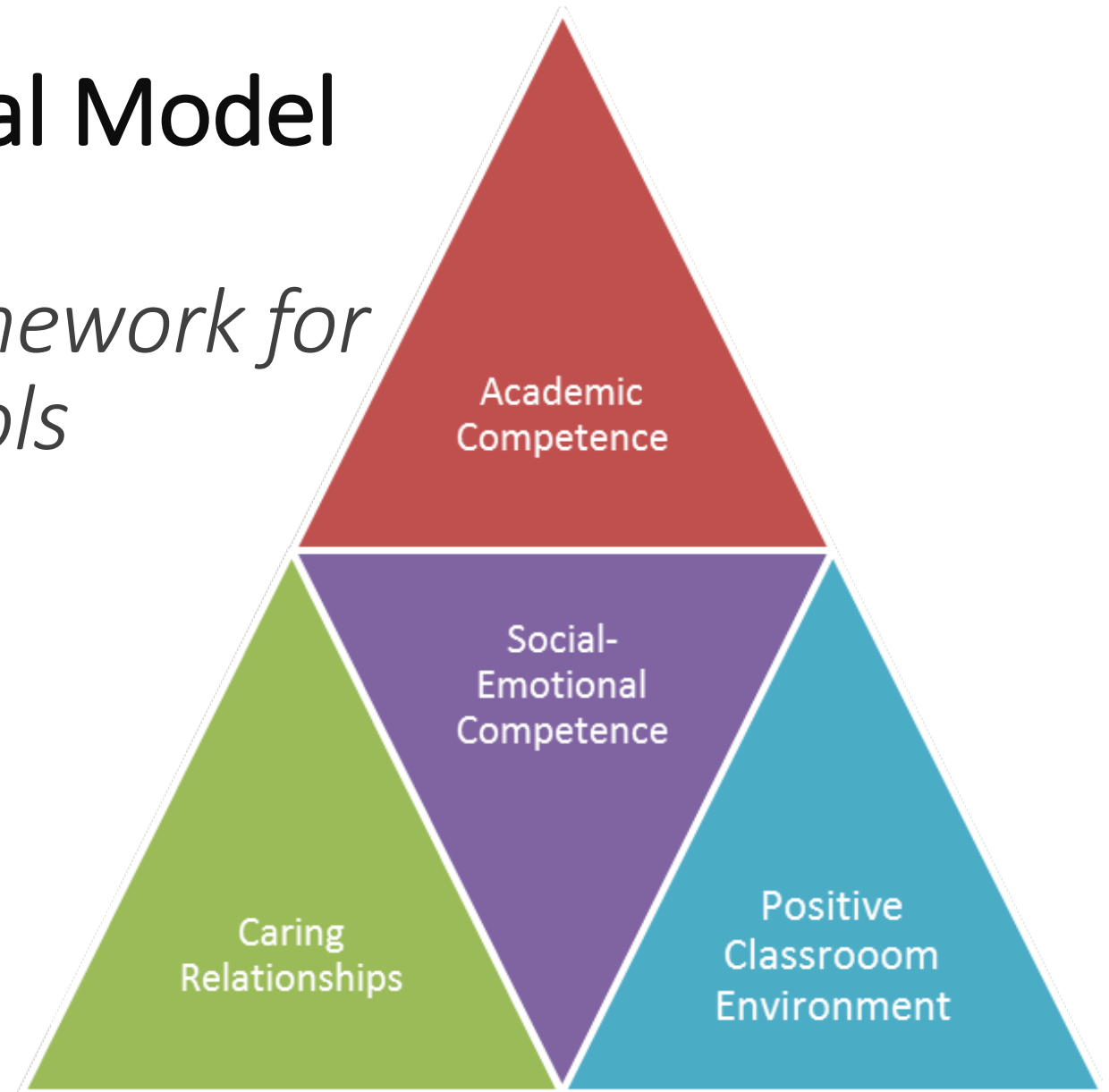
1 COMMUNICATION

2 CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

3 TEACHER WELL-BEING

The Program Organizational Model

World Learning Pyramid Framework for Psychosocial Support in Schools

❑ **Promote resilience**

❑ **Management of emotions**

❑ **Motivation for learning**

We are seeking to make a change in the schools. And this kind of change doesn't happen with just theorizing. These applied activities create a wonderful atmosphere in the schools.
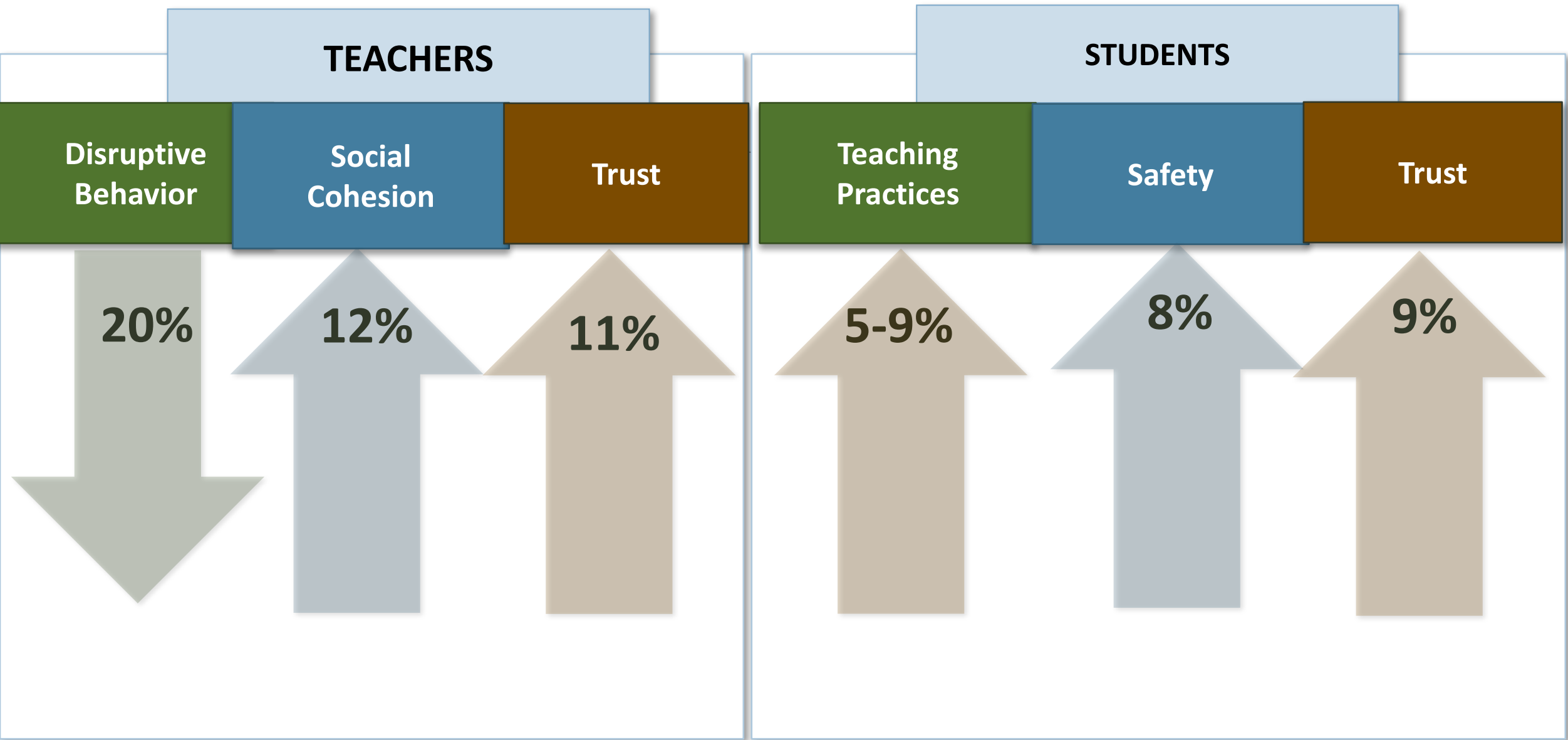
In the sessions there was a teacher who always dismissed students from her class and shouted at them. But on Day 2 when she learned about positive [discipline], which is very important. She changed her approach and the number of students dismissed from the classroom decreased significantly. She even worked with a student and helped him solve his problem.

One of the trained teachers acknowledged that she used to be violent but wasn't aware of it.

Every teacher proudly and humbly says, "I made a change."
One of the teachers acknowledged that she used to be violent but wasn't aware of it. And now she is saying, "I made a change. And every time I raise my voice I start thinking about what was said during the training session."

Early Results

TEACHERS		
Disruptive Behavior	Social Cohesion	Trust
20%	12%	11%

STUDENTS		
Teaching Practices	Safety	Trust
5-9%	8%	9%

Education Consortium for the Advancement of STEM in Egypt (ECASE)

WL, TIES, TFI, 21PSTEM

Advisory Council that took place just before Trump's inauguration, this question was posed:

Please describe actions you are taking individually and collectively **to ensure forward movement and no backsliding** in securing rights on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender, disabilities, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

How can we be truly present *with each other in these times when there is so much to disagree about?*