

Cross-disciplinary perspectives on the role of language in enhancing the resilience of refugees and host communities

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Abstract

Building social relations in new countries and maintaining ties with homes and families elsewhere in the world are achieved through language. It is a vital asset in rebuilding refugees' and displaced people's lives. *The Language for Resilience* research (Capstick and Delaney, 2016) established five key principles for planning language education responses for displaced people and the host communities who welcome them. These principles were drawn from the findings of interviews and classroom observations carried out in the four countries neighbouring Syria. They were designed to help language planners and policymakers

from agencies, donors and education providers understand language use and language education.

In the talk I introduce the key implementation recommendations which a team of specialists, myself included, identified for stakeholders working in each of the five areas: **home language and literacy, qualifications and training, social cohesion, trauma** and **institutional strengthening**.

Throughout the first half of 2018, we produced an individual 'thought piece' each, a short, written account of what we believed to be some of the important aspects of the five principles. We then met together, virtually, to discuss these overlapping concerns within our disciplinary areas and produced a set of cover statements which captured the central points from our discussions. In this talk, I provide a brief overview of the central points from our recommendations.