

The Classroom Connection workshops address the Millennium Development Goals of Universal Primary Education and Gender Equity as well as program goals of the Basic Education Program for Africa (BEAP) by training teachers, developing life competencies, and encouraging cooperation to help young Africans complete a basic education. Having a Classroom Connections teacher in every primary school in Africa is the key to success.

**Guidance,  
Counselling  
and Youth  
Development  
Centre for  
Africa**



The Classroom Connections program is an Australian initiative targeting Gender Equity (Goal 3) and Universal Primary Education (Goal 2) contained within Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Participating teachers learn about establishing caring, inclusive classroom environments that promote cooperative learning and positive interactions through the establishment of sustainable support peer groups of 4-6 students. As active learners' throughout this three day experience they also understand how establishing school – based support networks and promoting the development of social skills among learners helps address both equity and retention issues.

In addition, teachers in many sub-Saharan countries are in the high-risk category in relation to HIV and AIDS. Therefore training new Classroom Connections teachers in Africa is an ongoing concern.

**Participating in the Classroom Connections Leadership Journey will allow you to participate in influencing the future of Africa (its children), by assisting in a classroom context with a local African teacher in their school.**



Improving the retention rates of girls attending primary schools is a high priority for Africa. The incidence of abuse and harassment of girls on their journey to and from school and at school contributes to low enrolments, poor retention rates and unsatisfactory learning outcomes, especially in Least Developed Countries. Although children have the right to expect to remain in school, the completion of basic education is far from universal.

Whether you go to Malawi or Zambia you will be met at the airport by a representative of the Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA) and transported to your accommodation. After a rest day and in-country orientation, you will engage in the delivery of Classroom Connections activities in a classroom with a local teacher. During the week you will have the opportunity to connect with an urban and a rural Primary School. The teachers will use the Classroom Connections resource kit and new learning in their classroom for years to come. The week concludes with a trip to Lake Malawi or Victoria Falls and rural craft markets. Upon return to Australia, all team members complete a formal debrief.