



**wiseawards**  
2021

RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES  
THAT TRANSFORM EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

# The WISE awards

Each year, the WISE Awards recognize six innovative projects tackling today's education challenges.

Since 2009, the WISE Awards have identified and promoted projects that are addressing key education challenges and demonstrate a strong positive impact on individuals and communities globally. Year by year, WISE is building a community of education innovators and offering a fertile environment for groundbreaking collaborations.

**"The WISE Awards bring enhanced visibility to action oriented projects that have had a demonstrated impact in their communities and can set the standard for similar initiatives worldwide. WISE Awards Winners are encouraged to develop partnerships with others in the WISE community in order to scale their initiatives, measure their impact, and explore new sources of funding."**

**Stavros N. Yiannouka**  
CEO, WISE

## THE 2021 WISE AWARDS

The WISE Awards highlight projects found to be most creative and effective in finding solutions to education challenges at any level and in all environments.

Representatives of projects at any education level are invited to submit applications to demonstrate the nature and reach of their activities. Past projects have addressed a wide range of concerns and pursuits, including access to quality education, life-long learning opportunities, and the use of technology. Descriptions of all the WISE Awards winning projects are included in this brochure.



View and download the [2021 guidelines](#)

Applications and Nominations can be submitted from  
October 28, 2020 to December 20, 2020

...

Applications or nominations should be submitted in English  
on the official 2021 form at <https://programs.wise.org.qa/>  
by 13:00 GMT on December 20, 2020

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

All applications should be completed on the official form in English. Eligible applications will be evaluated by the WISE team and then the pre-jury according to the guidelines. Around fifteen finalists will be selected by WISE, from which a jury will make the final selection of six winning projects.

**SUBMISSION PERIOD** October 28, 2020 to December 20, 2020

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS** April, 2021

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNING PROJECTS** September, 2021

## JOINING THE NETWORK

---

The winning projects each receive international recognition, as well as a cash prize of US\$20,000.

The six winners and finalists are given support and visibility through:

The Innovators directory

WISE media and communication channels

Participation in the WISE Summit

Participation in other WISE Programs

*“The WISE Awards are about putting education in the spotlight, highlighting its importance and, in doing so, drawing upon different experiences globally to find practical, innovative solutions to challenges in education.”*

**Rana Dajani**

We Love Reading,  
2014 winning project

*“Being a WISE awardee is a statement in itself. Wholeheartedly, from Mexico to the world, we are humbled to participate in this inspiring community. We will continue to unleash the joy of children, youth, teachers and parents as global changemakers with our play-reflect-act education.”*

**Dina Buchbinder Auron**

Education for Sharing,  
2020 winning project

*“To be recognized as the winner of the 2018 WISE Awards is a very special achievement. It means that the Partners for Possibility (PfP) program meets the criteria of being a creative solution to a pressing educational challenge, that is, reducing the inequalities in the South African education system.”*

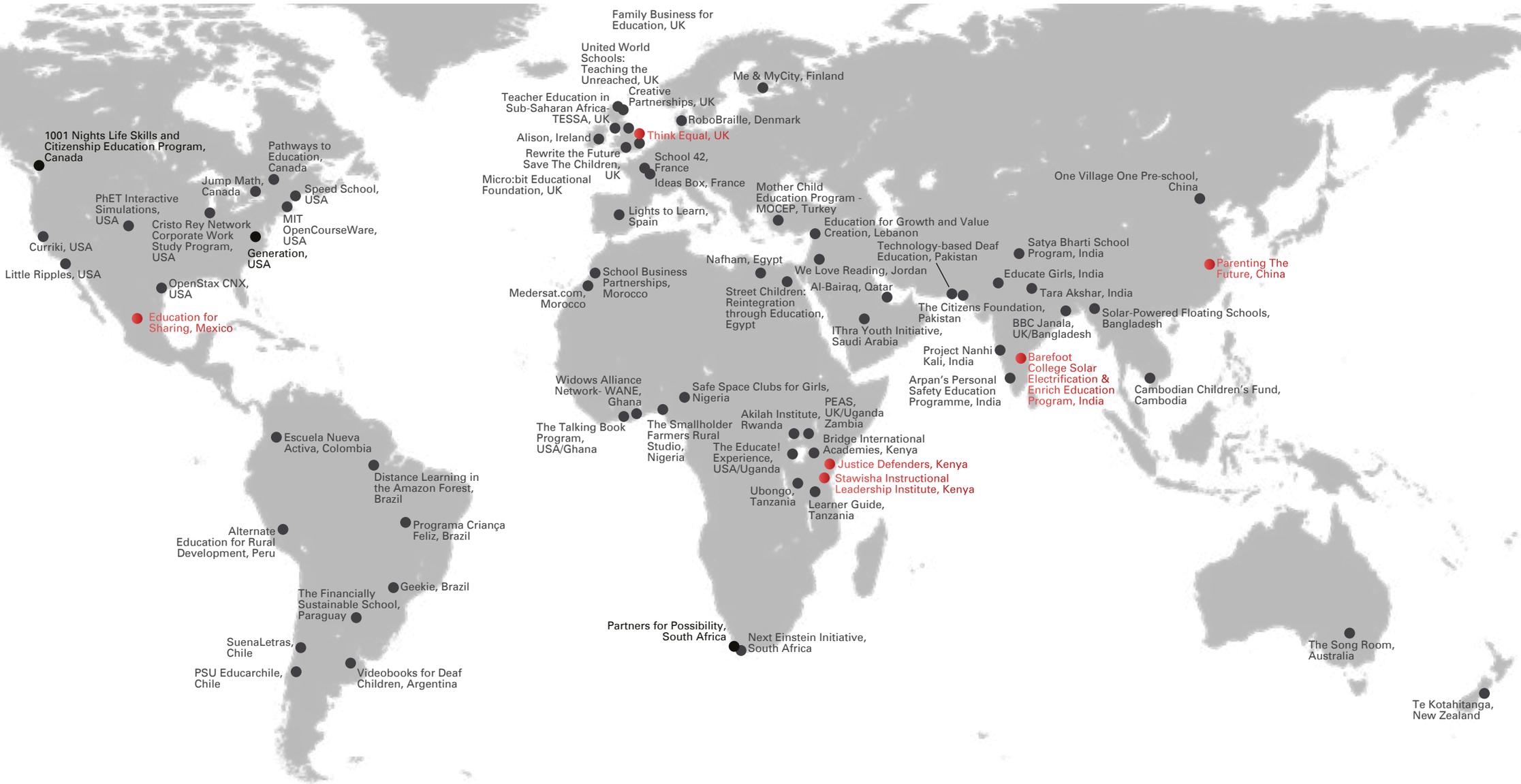
**Dr. Louise van Rhyn**

Partners for Possibility,  
2018 winning project



# AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Since the creation of the WISE Awards in 2009, WISE has received over 4500 applications from over 150 countries, resulting in 72 winning projects.



# 2020 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **Think Equal** (UK)

Initiated by Think Equal

*Think Equal works with education ministries to adopt its free program mediating value-based, experiential, social and emotional learning for children aged 3-6. The curriculum covers age appropriate lessons in empathy, emotional literacy, resilience, self-regulation, critical thinking, gender equality, peaceful conflict resolution, self-esteem, etc. – a total of 25 competencies and skills, which Think Equal deem to be critical as the foundation for positive outcomes in life. (Reach 14 countries globally)*

Think Equal reached over 38,000 children in 14 countries, with strong feedback from educators of the impact on the children and even their families. The program along with governments in many of these countries, which have all piloted the program and are in various stages of roll out; Their 3-year strategy aims to reach 1.1 million children by 2022.

...

## **Stawisha Instructional Leadership Institute** (Kenya)

Initiated by Dignitas

*Stawisha Leadership Institute offers innovative training and coaching to empower schools and educators in marginalized communities to transform students' opportunities. With a focus on instructional leadership, classroom culture and learner engagement, Dignitas' program is designed to transform School Leaders' and Teacher Leaders' mindsets, tools and techniques. (Reach: Kenya, South Sudan)*

Through the Stawisha Instructional Leadership Institute, Dignitas offers a

comprehensive coaching program for teachers and school leaders that sustains the learnings through professional learning communities. To date, Dignitas has partnered with 260+ schools across 6 counties and 2 countries. Dignitas has empowered 1500+ School Leaders and impacted the learning of 87,000 students. Dignitas' 2022 impact goal is to reach 300,000 children.

...

## **Barefoot College Solar Electrification with Enrich Education** (India)

Initiated by Barefoot College International

*Through its combined programs, Solar Electrification and Enrich, Barefoot College comprehensively trains disadvantaged women worldwide to become solar engineers, innovators, educators, and agents of sustainable change within their local communities. (Reach: 93 countries globally)*

Barefoot College International makes education a reality by improving factors that impinge on education in extremely rural and remote parts of the world, where traditional grid infrastructure and classroom education simply are not feasible. They use a literacy-optional, language-independent sign-language and color-coding curriculum called ENRICH to teach digital and financial literacy, civil and human rights, health and microenterprise production, with vocational and educational elements that can be added on according to the customized needs of each community. Since the launch of the Solar Program in 1987, Barefoot College has supplied electricity to 58,475 households in 93 countries and trained 3,500 women solar engineers in 50 countries.

## **Education for Sharing** (Mexico)

Initiated by Education for Sharing

*Education for Sharing (E4S) uses games and play-based methodology to raise awareness of SDGs-related issues among K-12 students. Created in Mexico, it managed to reach thousands of low-income schools through programs co-designed with government and corporate partners. Since 2013, the organization has successfully expanded internationally and now works on online teacher training to reach an even broader audience. (Reach: 10 countries across Latin America)*

Education for Sharing (E4S) uses games and play-based methodology to raise awareness of SDG-related issues among K-12 students. Created in Mexico, it managed to reach thousands of low-income schools through programs co-designed with government and corporate partners. Since 2013, the organization has successfully expanded internationally and now works on online teacher training to reach an even broader audience.

...

## **Justice Defender** (Kenya)

Initiated by Justice Defenders

*Justice Defenders (formerly African Prisons Project) aims to increase access to justice for Kenyan and Ugandan inmates through legal education, training and practice. (Reach: Uganda, Kenya)*

Justice Defenders (JD) establishes legal clinics that are run by prison inmates inside congested prisons in Kenya and Uganda. JD trains prison inmates to become auxiliary paralegals to defend their case and those of fellow inmates.

Justice Defenders also partnered with the University of London (UoL) to allow inmates to earn a Bachelor in Law (LLB) while serving their sentences. Through its legal clinics, JD provides free legal services in 46 prisons in Kenya and Uganda. Over 24,000 inmates benefited from those services, of whom 12,600 were released from jail. The organization trained 341 inmates as part of the paralegal program, and 23 inmates graduated from the LLB program.

...

## **Parenting The Future** (China)

Initiated by Hupan Modou Foundation

*Parenting the Future (PTF) offers new possibilities: improved caregiver child interactions; on-the-job training for women in child development; better training, management, and implementation using advanced technologies; and lifelong learning. A parent-engagement program and first entry point for family services, PTF guides caregivers in developing skills and behaviors that foster children's development and strengthen families. (Reach: China)*

Parenting The Future (PTF) offers a step-by-step curriculum for children in China aged 6 to 36 months old. The program is delivered at either parenting centers or homes by coaches recruited locally and trained in the methodology. PTF leverages advanced technology for its monitoring and evaluation efforts. It is implemented in two counties in the Shaanxi region through 20 centers and three home-visit sites in Ningshan and five centers in Qingjian.

# 2019 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **Family Business for Education** (UK)

Initiated by Street Child

*Family Business for Education aims to develop income by starting a family business for children's sustained education and care. It is an intervention combining social work, a family business package, and follow-up monitoring via a 20-week savings scheme. (Reach: Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia)*

Family Business for Education supports low-income families with support packages to help fund children's education, including financial aid, business training, planning support, mentoring, and access to incentivized savings schemes and loans. Since 2009, the project has supported over 15,000 families, and 44,000 children have benefited from this program. Family Business Scheme has been successfully replicated in Liberia and Nigeria by local street Child entities and local partner organizations.

...

## **Micro:bit Educational Foundation** (UK)

Initiated by Micro:bit Educational Foundation

*Micro:bit is a physical computing device that is made available to students in order to improve their interest levels in programming. The offering also includes access to web-based code editors for students to program on and is supported by content, teacher training, and accessories developed in conjunction with partners. (Reach: Global)*

Micro:bit is designed that it does not need any of the additional elements other

than the device and the website to start fulfilling its broad mission of fostering interest in programming. The program has worked with partners globally to provide access to entry-level technology but with a high ceiling so that children can develop mastery of complex principles using the device. Since 2014, Micro:bit has operated in more than 60 countries and benefited more than 20 million students.

...

## **United World Schools: Teaching the Unreached** (UK)

Initiated by United World Schools

*United World Schools sets up primary schools for students from linguistic minority communities in remote areas in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Nepal and engages stakeholders from the local community to build, run, and maintain these schools. (Reach: Cambodia, Nepal and Myanmar)*

United World Schools has managed to integrate linguistic minorities into the national education system successfully. By teaching children to read, write, and count, and to speak their national languages, they gain the skills to enter secondary education and access improved job opportunities. In the long-term, education will increase these children's future earnings and help lift their communities out of poverty. Since 2009, UWS has enrolled over 37,000 children into more than 226 schools.

## **Programa Criança Feliz** (Brazil)

Initiated by Ministry of Citizenship

*The CFP is an integrative program that offers and optimizes a network of protection and care services for mothers and children in poverty. Through home-visit based parent engagement programs, it helps parents of young children from the poorest families in Brazil to develop cognitive skills and promote early development in children. (Reach: Brazil)*

CFP delivery of the program is done by home visitors. The program emphasizes the importance of understanding the emotions of young children as well as the other aspects of children's holistic development. The approach shifts the paradigm of education beyond preliteracy/numeracy to learning in other domains - cognitive and socio-emotional, language and physical development. Since October 2016, Criança Feliz's home visiting program reached nearly 500,000 children and pregnant women in more than half of Brazil's municipalities across all 27 states.

...

## **Arpan's Personal Safety Education Programme** (India)

Initiated by Arpan Foundation

*Personal Safety Education is a programme by Arpan which focuses on preventing child sexual abuse by educating students about personal safety skills. It also supports children with counseling post-disclosure and empowers parents and teachers to provide a safe environment for children. (Reach: India)*

Arpan's Personal Safety Education (PSE) programme provides sessions to children according to various grade levels with refreshers at regular intervals. Feedback

from the beneficiaries is incorporated into the programme and evaluations are conducted at regular intervals to measure its efficacy. An evaluation of the programme revealed that of the 8% children reported to have faced an unsafe situation after attending the PSE programme, 90% of them were able to seek immediate help. To-date, Arpan has empowered over 130,000 children and 100,000 adults and counseled 8000 children who disclosed abuse through this program.

...

## **Akilah Institute** (Rwanda)

Initiated by Davis College

*Akilah Institute is a women-only higher education institute in Rwanda, delivering industry-aligned, competency-based diploma programs in hospitality management, business management and entrepreneurship, and information systems. (Reach: Rwanda)*

The program incorporates elements of soft skills training into a curriculum that has been developed in conjunction with the private sector to deliver an industry-relevant program. By reaching historically disadvantaged sections of society, the program has already benefited over 900 students on campus and has over 500 graduates alumnae since 2010.

# 2018 WINNING PROJECTS

## **I Technology-Based Deaf Education**

(Pakistan)

Initiated by the Family Educational Services Foundation

*Technology-Based Deaf Education works to overcome the critical lack of quality education for Deaf children in Pakistan, harnessing digital technologies to transform Deaf education and offer unprecedented access to resources for language development. (Reach: Pakistan)*

The project has been committed to Deaf education in Pakistan since 1995, establishing schools for deaf children from Kindergarten to Grade 12 across six cities. FESF developed the first-ever Pakistan Sign Language (PSL) online dictionary with 7,000 words which is used nationwide. To the date the project has impacted more than 50,000 students and their extended family.

...

## **I Generation**

(USA)

Initiated by Generation: You Employed, Inc.

*A global program that seeks to transform education to employment systems to prepare, place, and support people into life-changing careers that would otherwise be inaccessible. (Reach: Global)*

Generation trains people in profession-specific skills, places them in jobs, and tracks their progress thereafter. Employment programs are often synonymous with training alone. Generation takes a holistic approach, and has over 38,000 graduates in 14 countries,

with over 86% placed in jobs at 3 months postgraduation, and 62% still employed one year after placement. Ninety-three percent of graduates were unemployed entering the program, and for those who had jobs, they earn income of 3-4 times higher after graduation than before the program.

...

## **I Safe Space Clubs for Girls**

(Nigeria)

Initiated by the Centre for Girl-Child Education (CGE)

*Using intensive mentor-led "safe space" girls groups for adolescent girls to acquire the basic academic competencies and critical life skills they would need to succeed in school and beyond. (Reach: Nigeria)*

Safe Space Clubs is a pioneer in the adaptation of the safe space methodology to girls' need for strengthened core academic competencies and mentored support as they attend understaffed and underfunded rural schools. The core components of CGE are: community engagement, mentored led safe spaces, subsidization of school fees, training for female teachers, and the nurturing of girl advocates. Of the 1120 girls in CGE's first program 82% have now graduated from secondary school, with an estimate delay in the age of marriage by 2.5 years.

...

## **I 1001 Nights Life Skills and Citizenship Education Program**

(Canada)

Initiated by Big Bad Boo Studios

*1001 Nights Life is an academic curriculum developed for use in formal and informal learning environments that uses entertainment (cartoons) to engage children living in conflict*

*areas and teach them life skills and citizenship education. (Reach: Global)*

1001 Nights is a multi-platform educational entertainment program based on the award winning animated television series 1001 Nights (Alf Layla Walayla). Each animated episode was developed to teach a different civic value. The 40 lesson-plan curriculum, uses 10-minute animated episodes as the focal point of in-class lessons that include interactive discussions and activities. The number of children that have now benefited from the intervention is now over 1 million across the MENA, Asia, Europe and North America

...

## **I One Village One Preschool**

(China)

Initiated by The China Development Research Foundation (CDRF)

*One Village One Preschool aims at providing accessible early childhood development services to remote, mountainous, and impoverished villages through Village Early Education Centers (Reach: China)*

The project is an impact investment solution that provides accessible early childhood development services in early childhood centers in remote villages in China. This non-formal, center-based, preschool project trains volunteers as "first teachers" and provides low-cost, 42-weeks-per-year early childhood education for young children ages 3-6 years to enrich children's language and socio-emotional skills, boost their socio-emotional development, well-being, school readiness, and later school performance. So far, the project has set

up more than 2520 classes in 1961 village early education centers in 27 counties (cities) of nine provinces across China. More than 3200 preschool teachers were recruited and 170,000 children benefited since 2009.

...

## **I Partners for Possibility**

(South Africa)

Initiated by Symphonia for South Africa (SSA)

*Partners for Possibility aims to improve the quality of education by capacitating the school principals of under-resourced schools to lead change within their schools and their communities, through connecting business and school leaders. (Reach: South Africa)*

The program taps into an abundant national resource to develop the leadership capacity of principals in under-resourced schools by facilitating partnerships between principals and business leaders. Both partners participate in a 12-month structured leadership development program, while simultaneously tackling challenges together in schools and learning from and about each other. In 2020 PfP was invited to join the Million Lives Club as a Vanguard member – as acknowledgement of the fact that the programme has positively impacted more than a million people in and around more than 1,350 schools in South Africa.

# 2017 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **PhET Interactive Simulation** (USA)

Initiated by University of Colorado Boulder

*Advancing science and math literacy worldwide through innovative interactive simulations that support more effective and engaging education (Reach: International)*

The project has developed over 130 research-based simulations (sims) that engage students and transform the teaching and learning of science and math, along with extensive teacher resources. These sims create animated, interactive, game-like environments in which students learn through exploration and discovery.

...

## **Second Chance**(USA)

Initiated by The Luminos Fund

*Enabling out-of-school children to catch up to their grade level in government schools through an intensive, child-centered pedagogy for teaching basic literacy and numeracy. (Reach: Ethiopia, Liberia)*

The Speed School accelerated learning program enables out-of-school children aged 9 to 14 to achieve functional literacy and numeracy in just one year and transition back to local government schools to study with students their own age. Since the mid-2000s, to date, the program has benefitted over 130,000 children and their families.

## **Learner Guide** (UK)

Initiated by Camfed Tanzania

*Opening up pathways to opportunity and employment for young women in rural Tanzania, while simultaneously tackling the learning crisis in under-resourced rural schools. (Reach: Tanzania)*

The Learner Guide Program tackles the often debilitatingly low academic self-esteem among marginalized girls by offering social and learning support from relatable role models. It ensures that young people have the necessary foundation, including a broader set of life skills, to transition to productive and fulfilling livelihoods in Tanzania. It provides a scalable, sustainable model that simultaneously tackles the quality of education and opens up opportunities for young women in the post-secondary transition. The program operates in 403 Tanzanian secondary schools with 954 active Learner Guides. Learner Guides

## **42** (France)

Initiated by School 42

*Using an innovative and collaborative learning model to train the information technology professionals of the future, and improve social mobility (Reach: France, USA)*

42 is a high quality, computer-programming training program. It is free of charge and is open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 30 whether they possess an academic degree or not. The training takes place over a period of three to five years. At 42, neither financial ability nor educational degree are weighed in the selection process. Students are selected solely on the basis of their talent and motivation. There are no classes and no professors at 42. The students are in charge of their success and the success of their classmates. Students learn by tackling a specific project in groups.

...

## **Ubongo** (Tanzania)

Initiated by Ubongo Edutainment

*Bringing fun learning to millions of kids in Africa by leveraging the power of entertainment, the reach of mass media, and the interactivity of mobile phones. (Reach: Africa)*

Ubongo leverages the reach of mass media, the stickiness of stories, animation and music, and the interactivity of mobile technology to bring millions of kids across Africa fun learning at low cost. Ubongo's multiplatform edutainment reaches millions of kids aged 3-14 weekly on TV, radio, mobile and web.

## **Lights to Learn** (Spain)

Initiated by Organization of American-Ibero Countries

*Promoting quality education and community development in rural and marginalized areas of Latin America by introducing electricity and internet to rural schools (Reach: Latin America)*

Lights to Learn aims to improve quality education in Latin America through a transnational cooperation. The project seeks to promote access to quality education and contribute to the strengthening of Latin American democracies using electricity and ICTs in the classroom to provide better education and to extend the school day. The project also offers technical and vocational education to illiterate adults.

# 2016 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **JUMP Math** (Canada)

Initiated by JUMP Math

*Enhancing human potential by fostering a deep understanding and love of math in students and educators (Reach: Canada, USA, Spain and Bulgaria)*

The program uses a guided discovery method to provide comprehensive mostly free resources for teachers to teach math. Impact studies show that the program has significantly increased learning outcomes in comparison to conventional math programs and has reached over 300,000 students from grade 1 to 8.

...

## **Education for Growth and Value Creation** (Lebanon)

Initiated by Promotion et Development Social (PRODES)

*Providing vocational education to rural Lebanese women to reverse the trend of urban migration (Reach: Lebanon)*

The program focuses on regions with high rates of unemployment and urban migration in Lebanon to support the socio-economic development of women through vocational training in tourism and hospitality. It has also launched the 'Institute of Management and Services' (IMS), a professional, well-equipped training structure offering qualified training with official approval from the Ministry of Education and with European validation to ensure long term impact.

## **Ideas Box** (France)

Initiated by libraries without Borders

*Enabling access to education for vulnerable communities affected by humanitarian crises and forced displacement via a mobile, high quality, safe and attractive learning space (Reach: International)*

Ideas box is a portable education unit consisting of compact media centers with laptops, tablets, e-readers, books, cameras, games, and other resources to support refugees and other vulnerable populations. Each box can serve up to 70 people of all ages. Since it was successfully piloted in 2014, 85 boxes have been deployed around the world with 400,000 visits of the ideas box program mainly in refugee camps.

...

## **Little Ripples** (USA)

Initiated by iACT

*Providing a cost-effective and replicable early childhood development program that empowers refugee women to implement culturally inspired, play-based education for their children (Reach: Chad, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Tanzania, Greece)*

The program is designed to be refugee- and community-led in order to build long-term capacity and address the unique needs of children and communities affected by trauma, violence, displacement, and uncertainty. Little Ripples develops a strong foundation of learning, interpersonal skills, empathy, and peace for children and teachers to recover from severe trauma and grow into happy, healthy, and contributing members of society.

## **Geekie** (Brazil)

Initiated by Geekie

*Democratizing access to high-quality education through an adaptive learning platform (Reach: Brazil)*

Geekie is an adaptive e-learning platform that constantly customizes students' learning experiences instead of providing a single standardized solution to all. The program offers three main features to students- Geekie Test, Geekie Lab and Geekie Games. Geekie Test and Geekie Games assesses the students' learning needs and Geekie Lab customizes the study plan for every student, adapting content based on how each student learns best. This approach has helped more than five million students in over 20,000 schools. According to a study students who used Geekie's personalized study plan had an improvement in scores five times higher than those who had a standardized, pre-determined study plan.

## **TARA Akshar** (India)

Initiated by Development Alternatives and ReadingWise International

*Combatting adult illiteracy through a computerized literacy and numeracy program for women in rural India (Reach: India)*

The program works to reduce high rates of adult illiteracy among women through a digital program that uses the Laubach method over a period of 56 days. Implemented with strong stakeholder support, instructors are recruited and trained in the villages where Tara Akshar conducts its basic literacy and numeracy programs, thus building local capacity. The number of validated Tara Akshar graduates now exceeds 165,000 women.

# 2015 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **Al-Bairaq** (Qatar)

Initiated by the Centre for Advanced Materials, Qatar University

*Encouraging Qatari high school students to develop a sustained interest in STEM subjects (Reach: Qatar)*

Al-Bairaq is a STEM program that ignites the interest of K-12 students from Qatari schools through creative mentoring tools, and cutting-edge technologies. Students also take part in experimental research and hands-on activities to come up with innovative products that are applicable to everyday life.

...

## **Bridge International Academies** (Kenya)

Initiated by Bridge International Academies

*Providing accessible, high-quality education through a centralized platform that empowers communities to improve learning outcomes for children (Reach: Kenya, India, Nigeria, Uganda, Liberia)*

The program developed a child-centered educational platform, which is administered centrally and can be implemented at scale. It leverages research, technology and data analysis to develop teacher and learner academic content, recruit and train local educators, monitor and improve the model, and dramatically improve learning outcomes for children. The model also encompasses running free public schools under a public private partnership agreement.

## **The Educate! Experience** (USA)

Initiated by Educate!

*Delivering an impactful and cost effective skills-based model of education that teaches youth to solve poverty. (Reach: Uganda)*

The program provides secondary school students in Uganda with the 21st century skills needed to take leadership initiative, create their own small businesses, and improve their livelihoods. By impacting youth directly, building teachers' capacity to deliver student-centered learning, and advocating for system-wide adoption of their model, Educate! aims to transform secondary education in Africa. In 2017 the Educate! Experience will impact over 19,000 youth intensively across 490 schools in Uganda.

## **Nafham** (Egypt)

Initiated by Nafham

*Providing k-12 students in five Arabic speaking countries with free crowd-sourced educational videos covering their national curriculum (Reach: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria and Syria)*

Nafham provides 5-15 min. video lessons covering Egyptian, Saudi, Algerian, Syrian and Kuwaiti curricula for all students starting from primary until secondary school. Nafham enrolled 10,000 contributors who contributed with thousands of educational videos. Nafham reaches more than 700,000 active users every month.

...

## **The Talking Book Program** (USA)

Initiated by Literacy Bridge

*Delivering key messages on sustainable farming methods and health practices to rural communities (Reach: Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda)*

Literacy Bridge and its partners produce and record practical audio lessons on sustainable farming methods and key health practices, which are loaded onto Talking Books. The messages, in the form of interviews, songs, dramas, and stories, are intended for users who are not literate and have little access to electricity. The program reached 500,000 users so far.

## **Videobooks for Deaf Children** (Argentina)

Initiated by Canales Asociacion Civil

*Promoting reading opportunities for deaf children through a free online video library (Reach: Argentina)*

Videobooks in Sign Language is a free access site which contains books read in Argentinian, Uruguayan and Paraguayan sign languages (LSA, LSU and LSPy) by deaf readers so that deaf children can enjoy stories in their natural language. Videobooks also has voiceover, which allows them to be read by hearing families and teachers even if they do not know sign language, thus encouraging social, cultural and educational inclusion of deaf children.

# 2014 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **I We Love Reading** (Jordan)

Initiated by Taghyeer

*Changing mindsets through reading to create changemakers. Encouraging children to read for pleasure through a cost-effective grassroots approach (Reach: International)*

A grassroots systems change approach for a global movement to impact education, early childhood development, mental health and social entrepreneurship during Covid19 and beyond. The program uses a community based model to foster the love of reading among children to build education resilience. The program involves local volunteers who organize regular read-aloud sessions in public community spaces by the use of books that are age-appropriate, attractive, and neutral content-wise and in local languages. The program has enabled the creation of a virtual community through a mobile application allowing learners and trainers to share experiences and exchange knowledge. We Love Reading is innovative because it is based on shared basic human values across the world to allow the Program to be adopted anywhere, it fosters a mindset of I can for ownership, agency and sustainability and it focuses on the human human interaction because we are social creatures. We Love Reading is a social movement that has spread to 57 countries and counting. In Jordan alone, the project has trained 3,500 women and opened 2,500 libraries, benefitting more than 100,000 children. It is the Butterfly effect.

...

## **I Alternate Education for Rural Development in Peru** (Peru)

Initiated by Fondacion Codespa

*Promoting the integration of rural work and school life to improve students' employment prospects (Reach: Peru)*

The program aims to create permanent interaction between social and professional development and school in which students alternate between home and school life for two-week period. It has been recognized by Peruvian government as a successful learning model for rural areas. To date, over 3000 have enrolled in the program.

...

## **I The Song Room** (Australia)

Initiated by The Song Room

*Providing arts-based programs to enhance quality learning, personal development and community involvement for children (Reach: International)*

The Song Room is a provider of in-school arts-based programs for the most disadvantaged children in Australia. It provides courses in music, drama, dance, and the visual and media arts, designed to meet the needs of the school and the community. The programs seek to improve social wellbeing, school attendance and learning outcomes among underprivileged groups. The project has run face-to-face programs in over 1,500 schools throughout Australia, and online arts education programs through the ARTS:LIVE platform, directly engaging over 1 million students in Australia and now available for educators worldwide.

...

## **I Educate Girls** (India)

Initiated by Foundation to Educate Girls Globally

*Improving girls' enrollment, retention and academic performance in government schools through community empowerment (Reach: India)*

Educate girls aims to provide quality education for all girls by mobilizing and leveraging public, private and community resources to improve access to education and school quality. The project started in 2005 with a pilot in 50 government schools and scaled its intervention to 5000 schools across three districts. Some 60,000 students have been enrolled in school thanks to the program.

...

## **I Street Children: Reintegration through Education** (Egypt)

Initiated by FACE for Children in Need

*Decreasing the number of street children living and working on the streets of Cairo by providing education and life skills services (Reach: Egypt)*

The project works with street children to help them reconnect with their families and to the school system or to employment through a tailored pathway of psycho-social support and intervention. The aim is to provide children with emotional support, education, and life skills, including road safety awareness, hygiene and health. In 2016, FACE Street Children Program has reached and supported over 2000 individual children, through street outreach activities. More than 150 children and young people have been reintegrated into their family, school and employment during the same year.

## **I Me & MyCity** (Finland)

Initiated by the Economic Information Office and Youth TAT

*Offering pupils positive experiences of the economy, society and entrepreneurship through a hands-on learning environment (Reach: Finland, China)*

Me & MyCity, a Finnish education innovation, is a learning concept aimed at primary and secondary school students that deals with working life, entrepreneurship, economy, and society.

The learning module includes training for teachers, learning materials based on the national curriculum and a visit to the Me & MyCity learning environment. The learning environment for primary school is a miniature city where students work in a profession and function as consumers and citizens as part of society. The concept to secondary school deals with global

economy. To date, over 300,000 students and have participated in the Me & MyCity learning module.

# 2013 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **Medersat.com** (Morocco)

Initiated by BMCE BANK Foundation for Education and Environment

*Solving the social issue of historical Amazigh underperformance in primary education by bringing their native language into the classroom (Reach: Morocco)*

Medersat.com is a rural program for Amazigh children that constructs and operates pre-schools and primary schools with Amazigh language curriculum. The project seeks to ease the transition from pre-primary to primary school and has so far reached out to 15,000 pupils.

...

## **iThra Youth Initiative** (Saudi Arabia)

Initiated by King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture

*Innovative and hands-on education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for secondary-school students (Reach: Saudi Arabia)*

iThra Youth Initiative is a youth development project that includes initiatives promoting transition towards a knowledge-based society. The programs conducted under this initiative include science and math camps, workshops, international scientific expeditions, a portal hosting the scientific content and a reading festival targeting public schools in urban and rural areas across Saudi Arabia. The program has reached 15,500 students from 2013-2015 with 78% female program participants.

## **PEAS** (UK)

Initiated by Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS)

*Unlocking the potential of young people by delivering access to affordable, sustainable, high-quality secondary education (Reach: Uganda/Zambia)*

PEAS creates high-quality, sustainable secondary schools that contribute to long-term societal change, poverty reduction and the empowerment of young people in Uganda and Zambia. Public-private partnerships with both the Ugandan and Zambian Ministries of Education help PEAS receive a capitation grant per pupil to keep fees as low as possible. The project now runs 28 schools in Uganda and two in Zambia, which together benefit 15,000 students.

## **Pathways to Education** (Canada)

Initiated by Pathways to Education Canada

*Helping youth in low-income communities to graduate from high school and access post-secondary education (Reach: Canada)*

Pathways to Education Canada aims to help young people from low-income communities across Canada to graduate from high school and transition to post-secondary education, training, and employment. Thanks to its holistic program providing academic, social, one-on-one attention, and financial supports, the organization has experienced tremendous growth since its inception. It now operates in 20 communities across Canada, helping over 5,490 students each year, improving graduation rates in these communities by 85%.

...

## **Te Kotahitanga** (New Zealand)

Initiated by The University of Waikato

*An in-classroom secondary-school teacher program to improve educational achievement and opportunities for Maori students (Reach: New Zealand)*

The program addresses one of the major challenges facing education in New Zealand today, namely the continuing social, economic and political disparities between the descendants of the Anglo-European people and indigenous Maori. The project offers an innovative curriculum and pedagogy in order to increase involvement, success rates and life opportunities for young Maori.

## **Alison** (Ireland)

Initiated by Advance Learning Information Systems Online

*Online learning platform enabling users worldwide to gain employability skills through free, self-paced multimedia courses (Reach: International)*

Alison provides over 1,000 free courses to eleven million registered learners the world over with over 1.5 million graduates of its courses. Alison offers free learning, certification, learning management and publishing to all, opening up the world of knowledge and skills transfer to the masses. Alison empowers not just individuals, but any organization wishing to train its people on a very broad range of subject at no cost. It offers an innovative test system where an employer or college can challenge a graduate at any time to sit a simple online test.

# 2012 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **I Cristo Rey Network Corporate Work Study Program** (USA)

Initiated by Cristo Rey Network

*A sustainable-revenue model of high-school education for low-income students (Reach: USA)*

The project has powerful formational impact on low-income students—demystifying the world outside their neighborhoods, developing valuable workplace readiness skills, and building the competence, confidence, and aspiration so important to college and career success. Students work five days per month in an entry-level, professional job and the fee for their work is used to pay a majority of tuition costs. To date, the project consists of 32 college preparatory high schools across the USA, serving more than 11,600 students. It partners with 2,500 companies.

...

## **I Solar-Powered Floating Schools**

(Bangladesh)

Initiated by Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha

*Solar-powered floating schools for year-round education in flood-prone areas (Reach: Bangladesh)*

The project ensures children's education in Bangladesh even during the height of the monsoon. The boats collect students from riverside villages and provide on-board classes. Each boat school has a classroom for 30 students, an Internet-linked laptop, a library and electronic resources. To date it benefits over 115,000 families in Bangladesh.

## **I Satya Bharti School Program** (India)

Initiated by Bharti Foundation

*Providing high-quality education to underprivileged children in rural India (Reach: India)*

The program provides holistic quality education, free of cost, to underprivileged children in remote rural areas. With a special focus on girls, the program brings in innovative school processes to develop self-reliant individuals with a deep sense of social commitment. Through 254 Satya Bharti Schools, the Program currently reaches out to over 45,000 underprivileged children in the villages of six states of India. To date, more than 300,000 students, over 12,000 educators across 3700 villages in 13 Indian states have drawn benefit from the Foundation's quality education initiatives.

## **I RoboBraille** (Denmark)

Initiated by Synscenter Refsnaes

*Transforming documents in braille and other formats (Reach: International)*

RoboBraille is a free web-based service that converts textual educational materials into formats such as braille, mp3 files, structured audio books, e-books and visual braille for the blind and partially sighted, people with dyslexia or poor reading skills, and the illiterate. Currently, RoboBraille serves between 1,000 and 2,000 daily user requests all over the world in 15 European languages and in Arabic.

...

## **I Cambodian Children's Fund - Generational Change through Education** (Cambodia)

Initiated by Cambodian Children's Fund (CCF)

*Providing education and care for children and families from the Steung Meanchey landfill district near Phnom Penh (Reach: Cambodia)*

The program continues to transform the lives of over 2,000 students and more than 2,500 families in the Steung Meanchey landfill district, one of the most impoverished and environmentally toxic places in the world, on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. The program generates a path to higher education and employment by creating an environment where food security, housing, and healthcare remove the barriers to education - through its 6 core program areas - Education, Leadership, Career and Life Skills, Childcare, Healthcare, and Community Outreach.

## **I PSU Educarchile** (Chile)

Initiated by Fundación Chile

*A free interactive online pre-college in Chile (Reach: Chile)*

Educarchile empowers students to take responsibility of their educational process by providing a tool kit for their preparation towards the national examination for tertiary education (PSU). Over the years, this free, online platform has helped to provide equal opportunities for university entrance requirements by reducing territorial and socioeconomic gaps across the student population in Chile. Educarchile uses existing social networks to set up study plans, content delivery and general support services. The program also provides vocational guidance through videos aimed at helping students select their career of choice and trace their professional development.

# 2011 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **BBC Janala** (UK)

Initiated by BBC World Service Trust

*Providing English language lessons through mobile devices (Reach: Bangladesh)*

BBC Janala enables people to learn English in a simple and affordable way using multimedia devices. At a negligible cost, BBC Janala provides audio lessons to 26.3 million individuals in Bangladesh who want to improve their English language skills and improve their job prospects.

...

## **OpenStax** (USA)

Initiated by Rice University

*A library of customizable educational materials (Reach: International)*

OpenStax CNS is a dynamic non-profit digital ecosystem serving millions of users per month in the delivery of educational content to improve learning outcomes. There are tens of thousands of learning tools called pages that are organized into thousands of textbook-style books in a host of disciplines. All this material is easily accessible online and downloadable to almost any device, anywhere, anytime.

## **School Business Partnerships** (Morocco)

Initiated by Al Jisr

*Involving the business sector to improve the quality of education (Reach: Morocco)*

School-Business Partnerships uses the expertise of the business sector to improve the management and quality of education. By involving a diversity of members, school conditions are improved with better facilities and equipment, the installation of computers, labs but also the design and implementation of new curricula. The program benefits 160,000 students in 320 schools in Morocco.

## **Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa- TESSA** (UK)

Initiated by The Open University

*Improving teacher education in Sub-Saharan Africa (Reach: International)*

TESSA continues to work with partners across sub Saharan Africa. The program has recently secured a large grant to sustain work for the next three years and to expand its work in further francophone African countries. The program has reached 500,000 teachers. It has also inspired a large scale project in India – TESS-India working in 7 states and also reaching large numbers of educators.

...

## **Creative Partnerships** (UK)

Initiated by Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE)

*Developing the creative skills of young people (Reach: UK, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Pakistan, Chile, Wales, Scotland, Ireland)*

Since 2002, Creative Partnerships worked in 2,500 schools in England to develop creativity in young people through partnerships between schools and creative professionals. Since its launch it has benefited 7000 schools, 190,000 teachers and 2.2 million children and young people.

## **SuenaLetras** (Chile)

Initiated by The Center for the Development of Inclusion Technologies

*Supporting literacy learning for children with hearing disabilities (Reach: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Spain)*

SuenaLetras is an open-source tool that aids literacy learning by using sign language as a bridge. It supports teachers of students with hearing disabilities aged 4 to 12 years. The program has been downloaded more than 24,000 times.

# 2010 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **Next Einstein Initiative** (South Africa)

Initiated by the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)

*Training talented postgraduate students from across Africa in mathematical sciences through a pan-African network of Centers of Excellence (Reach: Africa)*

AIMS prepares Africa's top mathematics and science graduates for careers in academia, industry and government. Currently, the project gives full scholarships to 200 high-potential students annually in South Africa, Senegal, Ghana and Cameroon. It has trained 560 students from 38 countries, one third of whom are women.

...

## **The Citizens Foundation** (Pakistan)

Initiated by The Citizens Foundation

*Building purpose-built schools by providing quality education to the less privileged in urban sums across Pakistan (Reach: Pakistan)*

TCF is Pakistan's leading organization in the field of formal education with 1,000 purpose-built school units nationwide and an enrollment of 145,000 students. TCF encourages female enrolment and strives to maintain a 50 percent female ratio, with a full female faculty of 7700 members. Around 11,500 jobs have been created in communities in which TCF operates.

## **Mother Child Education Program - MOCEP** (Turkey)

Initiated by ACEV – Mother Child Education Foundation

*Training mothers as "first educators" (Reach: International)*

This is a home-based low-cost 25 week-long early childhood education program that targets both mother and child, with educational outcomes geared toward both groups: enriching children cognitively to boost school readiness and optimal psychosocial development, and training of mothers to create sustainable, nurturing and healthy home environments. MOCEP offers low-cost alternatives to center-based programs, providing support to achieve quality in preschool education, and promote family participation. Programs have been replicated in 15 countries, reaching over 900,000 individuals and training over 12,500 teachers and volunteers.

## **MIT OpenCourseWare** (USA)

Initiated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

*Providing educational content through the online sharing of MIT course (Reach: International)*

MIT OpenCourseWare is an open, web-based publication that makes available core educational teaching materials from a majority of MIT courses for free. It shares over 2,400 course sites across 33 academic disciplines and has reached nearly 250 million individuals in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide. The full collection can be searched for teaching materials and insights into MIT teaching through its Educator portal.

...

## **The Smallholder Farmers Rural Studio**

(Nigeria)

Initiated by The Smallholder Foundation

*Developing the creative skills of young people (Reach: UK, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Pakistan, Chile, Wales, Scotland, Ireland)*

The Smallholder Farmers Rural Studio in Imo State, Nigeria, provides information and advice in the local language on agriculture and environment management and market access. The radio station has 250,000 listeners.

## **Rewrite the Future** (UK)

Initiated by Save the Children International

*Improving the provision of education for children in conflict affected and fragile states (Reach: International)*

Rewrite the Future has changed children's lives through education in 20 conflict-affected countries. The program has helped 2.2 million children get back into school, and secured a better education for more than 10 million children. The campaign has now been fully integrated into Save the Children's activities.

# 2009 WINNING PROJECTS

---

## **Escuela Nueva Activa** (Colombia)

Initiated by Fundación Escuela Nueva

*Improving quality education for peace and democracy (Reach: International)*

Escuela Nueva Activa model improves quality, relevance and efficiency of education, by nurturing civic and democratic attitudes and behaviors and the development of social, emotional and entrepreneurial competencies for the twenty-first century. Fundación Escuela Nueva has developed projects and interventions in more than 13 countries, having reached 840.000 children and 16.000 teachers in the last 5 years.

...

## **Curriki** (USA)

Initiated by Curriki

*Eliminating the education divide by providing the largest free global community library of educational content (Reach: International)*

Curriki hosts a free library of educator -vetted learning materials for educators, parents and students around the world in all K-12 subject areas and in many formats—from individual lesson plans, to instructional videos and units, to games and simulations. All content contributed by educators and select partners is available to others for use, adapt and share at no cost. In addition, Curriki curates resources into course-sequenced, standards-aligned units to enable educators to easily find materials. The platform has reached almost 14 million educators and an estimated 160 million students around the world.

## **PROJECT Nanhi Kali** (India)

Initiated by the K. C. Mahindra Education Trust and Naandi Foundation

*Supporting the education of underprivileged girls in India (Reach: India)*

The program empowered 3,10,000 underprivileged girls in poor rural, remote tribal and urban areas. Everyday, the program provides after school classes in language and mathematics. Moreover, schools are provided with supplies kit comprising of a schoolbag, shoes, books, uniforms and feminine hygiene material. The program provides parents and communities with counseling on the importance of sending their girls to school.

## **Widows Alliance Network- WANE**

(Ghana)

Initiated by Mama Zimbi Foundation

*Empowering widows through life long learning (Reach: Ghana)*

WANE empowers widows economically and socially by equipping them with business skills. The project offers its services through a network of over 400 widows' clubs and societies which provide vocational, business and entrepreneurial training to over 8000 widows in Ghana.

...

## **Distance Learning in the Amazon Forest** (Brazil)

Initiated by The Amazonas State Secretariat of Education -SEDUC/AM

*Connecting remote communities through the live transmission of classes (Reach: Brazil)*

The project connects students in rural communities and locations without regular school systems, including difficult access regions in Amazon, via Internet and satellite technology. The project reached over 400,000 students from 2007 to 2017.

## **The Financially Sustainable School**

(Paraguay)

Initiated by Fundacion Paraguaya

*Providing education to chronically poor young people (Reach: International)*

The Financially Sustainable School provides free education and training to the poor while producing and trading goods. Students run on-campus rural enterprises whose income fully pays for their education. The model has been replicated by more than 50 organizations in 27 countries.

# WISE

A platform for building the future of education.

WISE was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate and purposeful action toward building the future of education.

Through the biannual Summit and a range of ongoing initiatives, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education.

Today's education systems struggle to respond to fast evolving global challenges of poverty, conflict, unemployment, inequality and environmental sustainability. WISE is helping revitalize education by supporting the development of new ideas, solutions, and creative action through partnership.



**WISE is strengthening communities by enabling partnerships for innovation and facilitating access to quality teaching and learning.**



# WISE PROGRAMS

---

Celebrating and connecting innovators around the world.

- The WISE Prize for Education**, the first major global prize of its kind, recognizes an individual or a team for an outstanding, world-class contribution to the field. The WISE Prize for Education Laureates are Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh, Founder and Chairman of BRAC, Dr. Madhav Chavan of India, Co-Founder and CEO of Pratham, Ms Vicky Colbert of Colombia, Founder and Director of Fundacion Escuela Nueva, Ms Ann Cotton of the United Kingdom, Founder and President of Camfed International, Dr. Sakena Yacoobi of Afghanistan/the USA, Founder and Executive Director of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), Dr. Patrick Awuah of Ghana, President and Co-Founder of Ashesi University, and Larry Rosenstock, CEO and Founding Principal of High Tech High.
- WISE Learners' Voice** brings the all-important views of the youth to the task of rethinking education. A selected group of young education leaders participate in practical workshops and various online and on-site activities throughout the year to implement projects in their own communities.
- WISE Accelerator** supports the development of recent innovations in ed-tech by offering tailor-made mentorship and serving as an intermediary for potential partners, donors and investors.
- WISE Emerging Leaders** is a yearlong fellowship program that aims to cultivate the next generation of systems leaders in education with the tools, skills, community, and mindset required to transform their communities and change systems.



- WISE Innovators' Directory** is a platform intended to help practitioners share their knowledge and experience and build new bridges between challenges and solutions. It showcases innovative education projects and offers a forum for discussions, allowing thinkers and doers to connect and collaborate.
- WISE Words** is a platform of community-driven written works that share insights on innovative trends in education. Experts and individual contributors offer in-depth insights into key questions, challenges and opportunities in the world of education.
- WISE Research** brings key topics to the forefront of the global education debate and reflects the priorities of the Qatar National Research Strategy. In collaboration with recognized experts, researchers and thought-leaders, WISE has produced timely, comprehensive reports featuring concrete and improved practices from around the world as well as recommendations for policy-makers, educators and change makers.

Photography credit:

*Page 1*

Dignitas, Kenya

*Page 2*

Parenting The Future, China

*Page 3*

Justice Defenders, Kenya

*Page 16*

Barefoot College, India  
Education For Sharing, Mexico  
Justice Defenders, Kenya

*Page 17*

Parenting The Future, China

*Page 18*

United World Schools, UK

**Wiseawards**  
**2021**



مؤسسة قطر  
Qatar Foundation

[www.wise-qatar.org/wise-works/wise-awards/](http://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-works/wise-awards/)

**Wise**