

مؤسسة قطر  
Qatar Foundation



Unlocking human potential لإطلاق قدرات الإنسان

2021  
PRESS KIT

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# ABOUT WISE

WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate and purposeful action in education. Through both its biennial Summit and a range of ongoing programs, WISE promotes innovation and joint action to build the future of education.

WISE is an initiative of Qatar Foundation (QF), a non-profit organization working in education, research, and community development. Established in 2009 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, chairperson of QF, WISE has grown from a Doha-based event to a world reference in new approaches in education. Gathering a global community of innovators and education leaders active in 200 countries across the world, WISE is providing a global platform for the development of new ideas and solutions to the most pressing challenges in education.



**12**

years serving  
and supporting  
more than

**150**

organisations, projects and  
start-ups through its programs  
... representing

**250M+**

beneficiaries

Through its biennial Summit  
and international events,  
WISE has gathered

**12k+**

event participants

**35k+**

active community members

**150k+**

social media followers

# ABOUT THE SUMMIT

Held in the heart of Doha, Qatar, the WISE Summit gathers over 2,000 attendees across countries and sectors to network, collaborate, share effective practices and discover new ideas through interactive sessions, keynote speeches and debates.

**The 2021 WISE Summit will take place on 8-9 December 2021.**

Experts and innovators from around the globe will come together in Doha and virtually for the flagship event to tackle current education challenges with concrete solutions and with a commitment to giving a significant share of voice to the young and underprivileged.



“... every child on this planet deserves the chance to fulfill their boundless potential. And that’s why I wanted to be here at this important global Summit, a gathering focused on impact and inclusive growth.”

**MICHELLE OBAMA**  
Former First Lady of the United States,  
WISE 2015

WISE’s work spans multiple year-round projects and programs organized under five core pillars: **Innovation for Quality & Access, EdTech, Learning Ecosystems, Educational Leadership, and Learning Sciences & Well-being.**



“Through WISE and its mission to promote innovation in education, we are eager to share our innovative solutions with other organizations. Working together, we can make a difference for entire communities around the world.”

**SHAKIRA MEBARAK**  
Singer-activist and founder of Fundación Pies Descalzados, WISE 2019

“You see a conference like this (...) creating the kind of convening power that we typically think of as coming from the great education centres in the Western World and to see it growing organically now, it’s been quite an extraordinary development.”

**FAREED ZAKARIA**  
Columnist and CNN host, WISE 2017

# THE 2021 SUMMIT

This year's edition will convene under the theme  
**“Generation Unmute: Reclaiming our Future through Education.”**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the greatest worldwide disruption since the Second World War and education has not been spared. Billions have been kept out of schools and colleges, while others are struggling to transition to the workplace.

In addition, the pandemic struck at a time when the world was already facing multiple crises from climate change to growing inequality, and political instability, issues of great importance particularly for the young and the underprivileged, who have borne the brunt of the disruption, putting their future on hold to keep the frail and vulnerable safe.

And yet, as the world looks ahead hopefully to the end of the pandemic and deliberates how to build back better, the voices of the young and underprivileged are conspicuously absent from the discussions. One might say their voices have been muted.

It's time to make things right. It's time to empower this muted generation and fully harness their energy and enthusiasm in order to address the multiple crises facing our societies so that we can together reclaim our future. **It's time to Unmute!**



# INNOVATION FOR QUALITY AND ACCESS

Today the education landscape is witnessing an influx of innovations in education all over the globe. Yet, the hardest-to-reach children are marginalized from receiving access to quality education due to linguistic, geographic, or cultural limitations. One of WISE's core pillars concerns ensuring equal access to quality learning for the entire student population: **how can we create a broader, fairer and smarter education system which makes better use of technology, people, data and evidence?** WISE has developed a series of programs to nurture innovation for quality and access; these include the WISE Prize, the WISE Awards and the WISE Emerging Leaders.



# WISE PRIZE FOR EDUCATION

**Established in 2011, the WISE Prize for Education is the first distinction of its kind to recognize an individual or a team for an outstanding contribution to education.**

Dubbed “the Nobel of Education” by the media, its objective is to give visibility to education heroes around the world who have dedicated their lives to alleviating global education challenges.

The WISE Prize for Education laureate is announced at the global biennial summit’s Opening Plenary Session and receives the WISE Prize medal and \$500,000 (USD).

## 2019

### LARRY ROSENSTOCK

CEO and founding principal  
of High Tech High (HTH) United States

Mr Rosenstock has dedicated his life to rethinking and innovating in K-12 learning as a means of tackling inequality through education. He founded HTH in 2000, pioneering the concept of project-based education, and re-imagining the role of teachers and of 21st century skills through a network of 16 charter schools, serving over 6,000 students across four campuses. <https://www.hightechhigh.org/>

### “ 3 Questions with Larry...”

**\_ What do you love  
the most about working in education?**

**L.R. :** The best part about working in education is watching the development of young people. To see the creativity and sophistication of their work, and to hear about their passions, hopes, and dreams is the greatest reward.

**\_ How can K-12 education  
evolve to be a greater force for equality?**

**L.R. :** First, we have to provide equal opportunities to all children, which we are far from doing here in the US and elsewhere. Then, the quality of education must change so that it is relevant and engaging for all students. Students need to be collaborating, inventing, and creating new knowledge. Students should be the leaders of their own learning.

**\_ What are you planning  
on achieving in the future with HTH?**

**L.R. :** I have stepped back from the day to day operations of High Tech High, and will focus on spreading its practices of project based learning rooted in equity to schools and educators around the world.



## Six outstanding and diverse laureates since the launch of the WISE Prize for Education.



### 2017 DR. PATRICK AWUAH

*Founder and President of Ashesi University Ghana*

Born in Ghana and educated in the United States, Dr. Patrick Awah is a former Microsoft engineer who's been transforming the higher education landscape in his home country and beyond for two decades. Ashesi University, the private, not-for-profit institution he founded, offers an interdisciplinary curriculum with a continual emphasis on leadership, ethics and entrepreneurship to educate tomorrow's business leaders in Africa. [www.ashesi.edu.gh](http://www.ashesi.edu.gh)



### 2015 DR. SAKENA YACOOBI

*Founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) Afghanistan*

Dr. Yacobi has worked for over twenty years to bring education to the most vulnerable people under extreme conditions of war, displacement, and oppression during the Taliban rule in Afghanistan. Dr. Yacobi and the AIL have contributed to bringing health and education services to at least 12 million beneficiaries living in rural and marginalized areas of Afghanistan. [www.afghaninstituteoflearning.org](http://www.afghaninstituteoflearning.org)



### 2014 MS. ANN COTTON OBE

*President and Founder of Camfed United Kingdom*

For more than two decades, Ms. Cotton has led efforts to improve education opportunities for girls and young women living in marginalized communities. With Camfed, she spearheaded an internationally acclaimed model for girls' education, which has placed learning at the heart of development in Africa, and benefited over three million young people in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana, Tanzania, and Malawi. [www.camfed.org](http://www.camfed.org)



### 2013 MS. VICKY COLBERT

*Founder and Director of the Escuela Nueva Foundation Colombia*

Ms. Colbert has pioneered, expanded and sustained educational innovation from different spheres: as Viceminister of Education of Colombia, UNICEF's Education Adviser for LAC and through Escuela Nueva, where she co-created an education model which places children at the heart of the learning process, transforming the traditional classroom while also promoting entrepreneurial skills. So far Escuela Nueva has impacted 5M+ students, 20,000 schools in rural Colombia and is replicated in 19 countries. [www.escuelanueva.org](http://www.escuelanueva.org)



### 2012 DR. MADHAV CHAVAN

*CEO of Pratham India*

After studying in the United States, Dr. Chavan returned to his natal India where he worked in the slums of Mumbai as part of the National Literacy Mission. As a result, he co-founded Pratham, today the largest education NGO in India, initially focused on a simple formula to achieve mass literacy and numeracy learning in Mumbai, and today active in most of India's 29 states, addressing a number of pressing education needs, from literacy and pre-school education to special programs for vulnerable and working children. [www.pratham.org](http://www.pratham.org)



### 2011 SIR FAZLE HASAN ABED

*Founder of BRAC (Building Resources Across Communities) Bangladesh*

Sir Abed dedicated his life to social development. He started BRAC in 1972, today one of the largest NGOs in the world. For over four decades, BRAC has contributed directly to the education of more than ten million disadvantaged students across 13 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. [www.brac.net](http://www.brac.net)

# WISE AWARDS

Each year, the WISE Awards recognize and promote six successful and innovative education projects. Since 2009, WISE has received more than 3,000 applications from over 150 countries.

Today, 72 projects have been awarded, from a wide variety of sectors and locations for their innovation, positive contribution and ability to adapt and scale. They have impacted over 20 million beneficiaries worldwide.

The WISE Awardees gain global visibility through the Summit and WISE@ conferences, in WISE publications, and through the online platform, along with a prize of US \$20,000 (USD).

Launched in

**2009**

**72**

winning projects

**150**

countries since 2009

**+ 4,200**

applications or nominations from over



## 2020 WISE Awards



### EDUCATION FOR SHARING (E4S)

HEADQUARTERS IN MEXICO WITH GLOBAL REACH

#### CHALLENGE

Millions of children experience school violence and bullying every year, and education systems often lack the tools to address these social issues.

#### → SOLUTION

Education for Sharing leverages the power of play to create a framework where children aged 6-to-12 can take agency, adopt civic values and develop SDG-related competences. Through its training programs for teachers, E4S has reached over **10,000 schools, benefiting more than 1.3 million teachers, students and their families.**



### BAREFOOT COLLEGE

HEADQUARTERS IN INDIA WITH GLOBAL REACH

#### CHALLENGE

Access to affordable energy worldwide remains unequal across regions, with women disproportionately bearing the burden of energy poverty.

#### → SOLUTION

Since 1987, Barefoot College has trained over **3,500 women solar engineers and electrified 58,475 households in 93 countries** through its Solar Program, benefiting over **2.2 million people worldwide.** Barefoot College also launched the ENRICHE program, which pairs with the Solar Program to provide a **holistic education in soft skills** ranging from wellness to entrepreneurship skills, further empowering women to better manage their resources and health.



### PARENTING THE FUTURE (PTF)

CHINA

#### CHALLENGE

Many children in rural China who live in poverty-stricken areas suffer from deficient early learning. This leaves them on a path of developmental delay with a higher likelihood of continuing the vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty.

#### → SOLUTION

PtF trains local women as childcare coaches who then teach caregivers the importance of early brain development, thus improving the social-emotional, cognitive, motor and language skills of 6 to 36-month-old children. Since 2015, Parenting the Future has **empowered 370 parenting coaches and impacted 18,500 caregivers and 9,500 children.**



### STAWISHA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FROM DIGNITAS

KENYA

#### CHALLENGE

Children in marginalized communities in Kenya go to informal community schools that are under-resourced and lack skilled teachers. Children often leave these schools without the skills they need to thrive and succeed.

#### → SOLUTION

Stawisha Leadership Institute offers one-year school partnerships that provide training to school leadership teams, helping them benefit their teachers and students. Since 2006, **Stawisha Leadership Institute has partnered with 71 schools, empowered 613 school leaders and impacted the learning of 23,000 students.**

## 2020 WISE Awards



### THINK EQUAL

HEADQUARTERS IN THE UK WITH GLOBAL REACH

#### CHALLENGE

Nearly all of us are affected by some form of discrimination. The consequences of inequality are long-lasting not only for individuals, but also for communities and countries at large.

#### → SOLUTION

The Think Equal program teaches moral, psycho-social and emotional competencies to 3-6 year-old children three times a week for three entire school years. **More than 77,000 children across 6 continents and 14 countries have benefited so far from Think Equal resources, training and support.**



### JUSTICE DEFENDERS

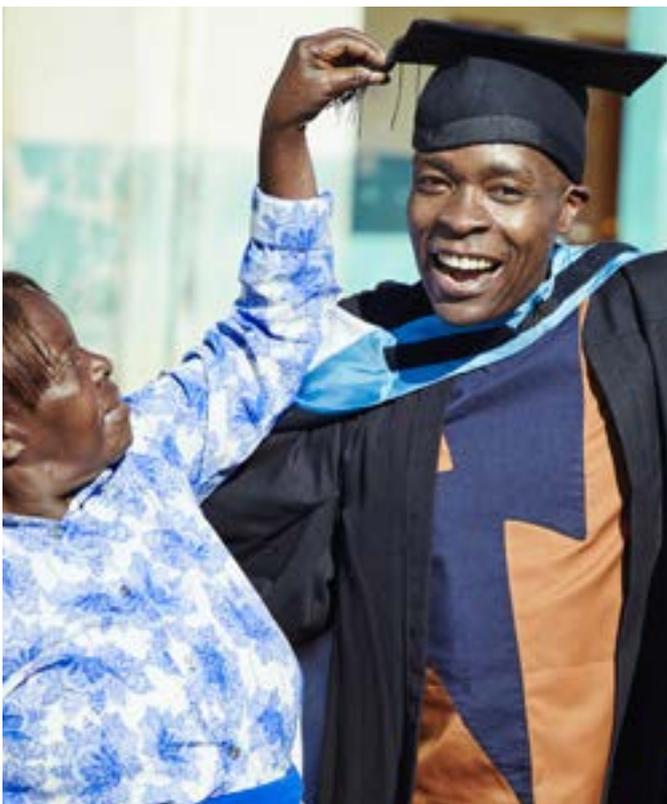
UGANDA AND KENYA

#### CHALLENGE

In Uganda and Kenya, prisons operate at 300%+ capacity. Many prisoners in these facilities are unduly incarcerated due to a lack of legal services at their disposal.

#### → SOLUTION

Justice Defenders offers prisoners a 3-week intensive training to become paralegals. After graduating, these paralegals help fellow inmates prepare their cases and trials. Some graduates also go on to earn a Bachelor of Laws degree. Since 2008, over 24,000 inmates have benefited from paralegal services.



## Beneficiary focus

**Isaac Ndegwa Kimaru used to be a law student. His mother resolutely supported him in joining a University of London program in Kenya. But Isaac got himself into bad company. In 2010, he was convicted to 14 years of prison for car robbery. He thought his journey was over.**

Two years into his sentence, he was introduced to Justice Defenders, a program that helped him resume his law studies from prison. Although he counted himself fortunate, Isaac had to study in a room he shared with 30 other inmates, using buckets and planks for a chair and desk.

Driven by his desire to help others the same way he had been helped, Isaac completed his degree. As a paralegal, he has been defending inmates who lack access to quality legal counsel. In the future, he hopes to be admitted into the bar to do even more.

# WISE EMERGING LEADERS

**WISE Emerging Leaders is a nine-month 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.**

Each year, WISE collaborates with high impact organizations to nominate young education professionals from within their organizations or network to support their professional and personal development. Selected fellows aged 25-33 participate in a series of collaborative and interactive modules on topics ranging from ethical leadership to social innovation delivered by WISE, Recipes for Wellbeing and The Weaving Lab to increase the impact of their work and collaborate on pressing challenges.

**The program includes:**

- Access to expert-led masterclasses and webinars on key education topics;
- three residential trainings (two virtual, and, depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, one in person) provided by WISE;
- and a project-development module through which participants will work with their organization to pilot and/or implement a project identified prior to or during the first residential session.



**Here's what they had to say:**

“The WISE programme prompted a mindset shift for me that I don’t believe I would have been able to do this work without. I have an incredible like-minded community (now friends!) around the world who continue the gifts of the programme through their strength, support and practical tools and tips”

**SAM BUTTERS,**  
Co-CEO, Fair Education Alliance (UK),  
2019 WEL cohort

“I learnt more about the world, about education, about learning and about the goodness of humanity. It was and still is- through every chat, message, catch up sessions - a truly life transforming and forward thinking experience!”

**CHRISTINA BWANA**  
Chief Operating Officer & General Manager,  
Ubongo (Tanzania), 2020 WEL cohort



# EDTECH & AI

In the midst of a catastrophe, opportunity can always be found. For the education sector, COVID-19 has truly shaken some of the fundamental elements of our schools and universities, prompting long-overdue questions around how we design the learning experience, classroom dynamics and the role of technology. Over the last decade, edtech has become increasingly prevalent in our schools and universities, however it is only now as we move towards truly hybrid models of learning, that we will see an acceleration of innovation that is set to redefine the way we teach and learn for the 21st century. Through WISE's second core pillar on edtech, we hope to support these new technologies come to the fore.



# WISE ACCELERATOR

**Launched in 2014, the WISE Edtech Accelerator program is designed to support the growth of young, innovative startups that aim to achieve positive impact in the field of education at scale.**

Each year, the WISE team selects up to eight startups to take part in a 12-month program aimed at supporting their development and scaling.

Through bespoke mentorship and coaching, three international bootcamps and access to global networks, our cohort members have the opportunity to access leading experts in education, as well as potential investors.

## Qatar as an Edtech hub

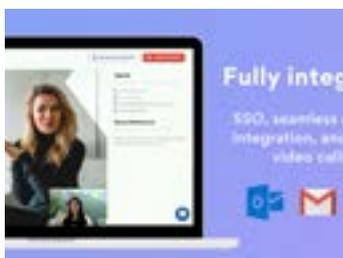
In the world of edtech, opportunities to test and develop innovation in real classrooms is almost a rarity, which often results in more mismatched technology than success.

We know what we want to build but understanding what works and why in edtech is not always a given. With that said, WISE have chosen to launch their edtech testbed here in Education City this year, with three main objectives in mind:

- Provide local schools with ongoing access to new innovation, in turn raising the capacity of teachers and students
- Help entrepreneurs gain access to a unique testing ecosystem where our research can help them determine ways to improve their product
- Demonstrate Qatar's capability as an edtech hub, one of the first in the region



# The 2020-2021 WISE Accelerator cohort



## GUIDER **UK**

- **In a nutshell:** Through their intuitive AI platform, Guider helps large organisations upskill their talent by leveraging in-house mentoring, focusing on women in leadership and diversity and inclusion, amongst other things
- **Traction so far:** Since its launch in 2018, Guider has seen incredible traction, onboarding 13 companies in the UK, including Marks & Spencer and LVMH.
- **Founder:** Nick Ross



## UNRULR **USA**

- **In a nutshell:** A community-based digital platform for students to chart their learning journeys, competency building and exchange ideas on how to further develop their skills.
- **Traction so far:** Founded in 2019, Unrulr have already had a significant record of traction within their home state of Hawaii and continue to grow across the continental U.S., onboarding 27 schools in less than two years. Unrulr are now looking to further develop the platform and expand into new markets.
- **Founders:** Will Reppun and Fred Delse



## FIRE TECH **UK**

- **In a nutshell:** Working alongside some of the UK's best universities include Imperial College and Cambridge, Fire Tech delivers online learning experiences that aim to develop digital skills.
- **Traction so far:** To date, Fire Tech has delivered over 70,000 courses globally and are soon to accredit these with a UK university partner.
- **Founder:** Jill Hodges



## TOMI **COLOMBIA**

- **In a nutshell:** Both a device and a learning platform that can be used by teachers to present engaging content in any classroom context, both online and offline.
- **Traction so far:** Since its launch, TOMi has been able to onboard 18,000 teachers and 144,000 students across Latin America.
- **Founders:** Juan Manuel Lopera and Alejandro Sepulveda

## Meet the founder

**Juan Manuel Lopera grew up in a district of Medellin torn apart by gang-related violence.**

When he was 12 years old, he was caught carrying a knife in school by his Math professor. As a result, the professor gave him two weeks of detention in the computer lab, during which he noticed Juan's inherent skill and interest in technology. To keep him off the streets, the professor encouraged his mother to buy him a computer, which Juan used to hone his burgeoning coding and entrepreneurial skills. Juan went on to create his first company at age 18, which he then sold at 19. Now with the support of some high-profile investors, including Bill Tai one of the early investors in Zoom, Juan and his team have developed TOMi, a low-cost device that connects teachers in low resource countries to an online global network of resources that can help enrich learning offline.

# LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS

As millions of learners found themselves locked out of schools and universities due to the coronavirus pandemic, the world realized that effective learning does not rely solely on formal education systems. WISE's Learning Ecosystems pillar examines how stakeholders in a society (private sector, cultural institutions, community-led organizations) can collaborate with formal education institutions to enhance inclusive, accessible and effective learning opportunities for learners of all ages. How can we effectively co-design and steward a learning ecosystem? What are the main challenges and opportunities for collaboration? In which ways can learning ecosystems broaden and diversify the learning opportunities and ultimately benefit learners?



# LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS LIVING LAB (LELL)

**Learning Ecosystems Living Lab (LELL) regularly brings together practitioners, experts, policymakers, and innovators from different regions to create a global community of practice and thought-leadership that identifies shared challenges and contextualized solutions in designing and implementing Learning Ecosystems to be applied in various global contexts.**

Formats include workshops, webinars and opinion pieces written by global experts. The new initiative was launched virtually in December 2020 with LELL's first digital panel titled "Designing Vibrant and Purposeful Learning Communities."



"There is a knowledge gap on design principles and best practices in developing Learning Ecosystems. The Living Lab is an endeavor to bridge this gap by becoming a global design and innovation hub."

**SÉBASTIEN TURBOT**  
WISE Senior Research Fellow

## ACTION RESEARCH

**In 2020, WISE launched a project combining research and collaborative co-design to develop a set of recommendations and tools for Qatar-based stakeholders interested in the creation of learning ecosystems.**

**This effort focuses on the following elements:**

**Evidence & Narrative:** To develop a narrative and understanding of the education, learning, skills and civic challenges in Qatar that the development of a learning ecosystem would address.

**Networks & Vision:** To engage and activate key stakeholders to co-create a shared vision for action, thereby deepening local networks and relationships between key partners.

**Tools & Blueprint:** To develop a knowledge resource for education stakeholders invested in building coalitions of public, private and nonprofit entities towards a learning ecosystem, identifying emerging best practice and innovation.

# DOHA LEARNING DAYS

In 2019, WISE launched ‘Doha Learning Days’ (DLD), Qatar’s first experiential learning festival. Designed to be a space for incubation and a catalyst for innovation in education, DLD offers the global and local WISE communities unique opportunities for active learning, experiential learning, mutual dialogue and reflection ahead of the biennial WISE Summit.

Activities include coding labs, wellness master classes, sensorial experiences, drumming, photography exhibitions and workshops, leadership masterclasses, hands-on science classes, LEGO Serious Play sessions, and many more.

In November 2020, DLD took place as a hybrid community program in Al-Wakra, Qatar, a member of UNESCO’s Learning Cities’ Network, and focused on **promoting social awareness, responsibility and innovation towards sustainability.**

By leveraging the WISE community and piloting innovation with local youth, DLD aims to:

- **Promote highly interactive informal learning opportunities** outside of physical/digital classroom contexts
- **Develop insights that can inform school curriculums and policy recommendations**

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# WISE LEARNERS’ VOICE

Established in 2010, the WISE Learners’ Voice program aims to empower learners to be future innovators in education by building education knowledge, as well as communication, entrepreneurship and leadership skills.

Through workshops, experiential sessions and creative exercises delivered by high-level mentors, learners design their own educational projects which are presented at the biennial WISE summit.

The current Learners’ Voice community comprises **more than 200 Learners from over 60 countries** and diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

Since 2021, the program has shifted its focus towards middle school students based in Qatar, helping them improve their self-expression skills so they can voice their opinions and engage in civic participation.



“I won’t be the same person I was before the WISE Learners’ Voice experience because everyone brought something new to the table.”

**ANA KAREN FETZER DE LEON**  
2013-2014 cohort, Guatemala

“It is a life-changing experience through which you can explore your own passions and skills more deeply, get to meet outstanding young people with a similar mindset, and be exposed to professional workshops and debates that open your eyes to fundamental issues in education.”

**MARIEM FEKIH**  
2013-2014 cohort, Tunisia

# EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Education systems around the world are trying to improve student learning outcomes by developing curricula, training teachers and improving assessment frameworks. However, few systems recognise that improving education also relies on strong leadership capacity in schools. This does not mean principals and senior leadership only; it includes teacher and student leadership as well. **How can school and system leaders, as well as youth and next generation education leaders, develop and influence sustainable education reform?** This WISE strategic pillar examines the role and responsibility of educational leadership in defining the future of learning.



# ALL-IN

Research has shown that school leadership is one of the most important influences on student learning, and thus, a critical factor for improving the life and educational outcomes of children and the broader economic conditions of nations.

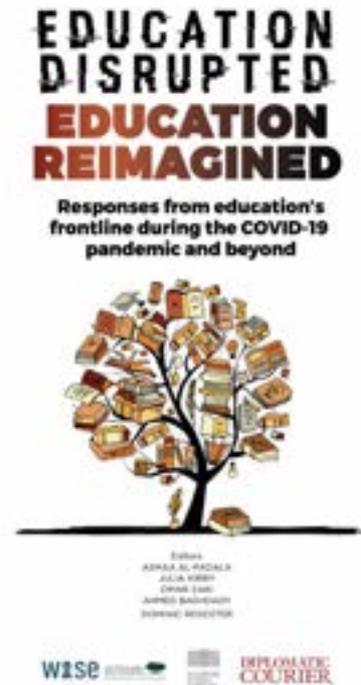
However, despite strong empirical evidence showing the importance of investing in school leadership, actual investment by governments and systems has declined in the last two decades.

This, coupled with a seismic shift in how we think about learning and schooling in the face of an ever changing future, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, has left many schools and systems deficient of the necessary leadership needed to nurture future-fit educators and learners as they navigate a path of increasing uncertainty.

The WISE Agile Leaders of Learning Innovation Network (ALL-IN) was established in 2017 as a global community of practice for educational leadership experts that research, design, and advocate for high quality school leadership policies that prepare and support school systems in educating the learners of today and the future. ALL-IN's diverse network of members come from over 25 countries in five continents around the globe and represent an array of public, private, and international organizations, including the World Bank Group, UNICEF, OECD and over 20 leading universities and colleges worldwide.

“At its core, a good education should be about gaining and continuously updating our understanding of four things: consciousness, civilization, ecology, and the cosmology that envelops them.”

STAVROS N. YIANNOUKA, CEO, WISE



## Special Edition E-Book: Education Disrupted, Education Reimagined

In response to the massive disruption caused by world-wide school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, WISE, in partnership with Salzburg Global Seminar, launched the convening series - Education Disrupted, Education Reimagined - in April 2020 to bring together key education stakeholders, including practitioners, policymakers and thought leaders, from over 98 countries in a three-part series of global conferences aimed at bringing the global education community together in midst of what became the biggest education crisis in a generation.

One key outcome of the convening series was the publication of a WISE Special Edition E-Book, Education Disrupted, Education Reimagined: Thoughts and Responses from Education's Frontline During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond. Based on the content shared during the event series, the E-Book tells the education story during the COVID-19 crisis in real time, through a collection of over 40 articles and essays written by key stakeholders on education's frontline during the crisis, including from schools, NGOs, governments, and international organizations. To date, there have been over 20,000 downloads of the E-Book.

# EMPOWERING LEADERS OF LEARNING (ELL)

**The WISE Empowering Leaders of Learning (ELL) program is a Qatar-based school leadership development program operated by WISE in partnership with Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education that supports educators in their development of leadership for learning skills and to improve student outcomes.**

**At the core of ELL is improving instructional leadership in schools as a catalyst for systemic improvement to: guide school change processes to improve learning outcomes; empower educators at all levels with leadership skills and capabilities; and support and encourage the development of collaborative school environments where educators can openly discuss challenges and share best practices.**



This year's ELL involves in-depth leader development and coaching work with four Ministry of Education and Higher Education Schools. The program also focuses on developing leadership-oriented mindsets and practices. Despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has been delivered successfully through an interactive mix of hybrid, in-person and digital synchronous and asynchronous learning, engaging school leaders in highly practical, authentic leadership work. Including individual and team coaching, cross-school learning sessions where leaders and leadership teams can engage with their peers at different schools, and one larger action-based leadership project taken up by the leadership team in their schools. Many of these new and innovative program delivery modes have proven to be so successful that even after the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided they will continue to be incorporated as best practices in future iterations of ELL.

# LEARNING SCIENCES & WELL-BEING

Learning is a multi-faceted process that involves several actors: students, teachers, school leaders, and parents. While trying to improve learning under normal circumstances and ensuring continuity of education provision during crises, the well-being of these actors is often neglected. Curricula for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills continues to focus primarily on the academic subjects and on transversal skills such as critical thinking and problem solving while programs that support well-being tend to be extra-curricular. **How can we make well-being a core goal of education? More generally, what can learning sciences teach us about how health and education are connected? These are some of the questions that this strategic pillar, Learning Sciences & Well-being, examines.**



# INNOVATION HUB

**There has been an increasing global conversation and movement in education geared towards deeper learning and transformation to personalized, mastery-based learning of critical competencies for the modern world.**

**We have a range of innovative models of how to organize learning environments to meet this objective, but how do we help schools design for the future and support them in making this massive shift?**

This is the question the Innovation Hub seeks to answer. A research, design and development hub, it works with schools to establish their own Innovation

Lab--a space to build prototypes and pilot innovative solutions and scale these innovations across the learning environment. These schools collectively form a network, where insights and innovations can be shared and collaboratively built.

For 2020-2021, the focus of the Lab has been to explore the features and impact of employing an Innovation Lab model in three case-study schools - two in Qatar and one in Australia - and researching the following areas of Learning Science:

- key structures to support the transition to personalized/mastery-based learning, including how to redesign learning environments to empower learners with agency
- innovations to capture and support the development of social and emotional learning and well-being across schools and learning environments
- empowering teachers as leaders and innovators in the classroom
- engaging parents and the entire learning ecosystem to support learning inside and outside the classroom.



# ABOUT QATAR FOUNDATION

UNLOCKING HUMAN POTENTIAL

**Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.**

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, please visit: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)

For any media inquiries, please contact: [pressoffice@qf.org.qa](mailto:pressoffice@qf.org.qa)



# CONTACT DETAILS

AND WISE SOCIAL NETWORK LINKS

**WISE can connect you with leaders and innovators in education from around the world.**

If you would like to interview a WISE representative or a member of the WISE Community, please submit your request to [media@wise.org.qa](mailto:media@wise.org.qa). WISE also invites you to visit its Newsroom on the WISE website to access its latest news and download media assets.

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