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 2022 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 or nominations 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 2022 guidelines

Applications and Nominations can be submitted from November 9, 2021 - January 17, 2022
Applications or nominations should be submitted in English on the official 2022 form at https://programs.wise.org.qa/ by 13:00 GMT on January 17, 2022

The Selection Process

All applications or nominations 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.

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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
- The WISE Awards webinars
- WISE media and communication channels
- Participation in the WISE Summit
- Participation in other WISE Programs

“Joining the WISE Award’s network is a tremendous honor. We’re grateful for the opportunities it provides to share our story and inspire others to join the movement for education in the spotlight.”

Rana Dajani
We Love Reading, 2014 winning project

“This prestigious award to our digital education program encourages us to continue working for the educational opportunities of the world’s most vulnerable children.”

Magdalena Brier
ProFuture, 2021 winning project

“The honor of winning the WISE Award not only validates Pathways to Education as a best practice but helps disseminate this best practice and some of the world’s most transformative innovations in education at the worldwide forum which is the WISE Summit. WISE is the most important global knowledge forum helping to transform children’s lives everywhere.”

Carolyn Acker
Pathways to Education, 2013 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,
Since the creation of the WISE Awards in 2009, WISE has received over 4500 applications from over 150 countries, resulting in 78 winning projects.
2021 WINNING PROJECTS

Delhi Government’s Happiness Curriculum (India)
Initiated by Dream a Dream

The partnership between The Happiness Curriculum and the Delhi Government has brought social emotional learning to the fore of school curricula for the first time in the region. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of well-being and happiness amongst schoolchildren, incorporating mindfulness, self-awareness, critical thinking, reflection, and other social-emotional skills, in order to facilitate children with the right tools to tackle and grow through problems together, in building a harmonious society. (Reach: Delhi, India)

The Happiness Curriculum has already reached over 800,000 children in over 1,000 schools in Delhi. The project aims to transform the Delhi education system while also expanding their work throughout seven state education systems across India, with social emotional learning taking center-stage of their work.

onebillion (UK)
Initiated by onebillion

A personalized learning platform (onecourse) that adapts to student abilities, alongside the provision of a low-cost, solar-powered tablet (onetab), has provided students with the opportunity to regularly engage with literacy and numeracy-based content. onetab has been a critical education resource for many students across the globe during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 650 families in Malawi alone using onetab since July 2020. (Reach: Malawi, USA, Canada, Uganda, U.K., Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania)

Currently, over 200,000 children across the globe are using onecourse. onebillion is working towards expanding its availability in more languages, while also aiming to reach more children who are not yet school-ready.

Aprendamos Todos a Leer - Let’s All Learn to Read (Colombia)
Initiated by Fundación Luker

Let’s All Learn to Read (LALR) combines face-to-face and digital strategies for elementary school students to learn literacy. Across Latin America, LALR is an innovative model that has provided support for both teachers and students alike, encompassing a variety of aspects needed to improve reading skills. From training in pedagogy to personalized materials for students with difficulties, LALR looks at literacy from a birds-eye view, with the aim to increase reading performance. (Reach: International)

With its success having reached Colombia and Panama, LALR is now attracting the attention of neighboring Ecuador and Dominican Republic. With the hope of reaching all Latin-American countries, LALR is predicted to increase reading performance on standardized tests by 30%, if implemented as part of a five-year program. LALR has expanded at a fast pace, with over 91,000 beneficiaries in 2020 growing to over 703,000 in 2021.

ProFuturo (Spain)
Initiated by Telefónica Foundation and ‘la Caixa’ Foundation

Working to lessen the education gap across the globe, ProFuturo is a digital education program that has reached vulnerable populations across Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Offering teacher training, educational resources and multimedia activities in various languages, ProFuturo integrates digital learning in science, math, technology and linguistics classes, and is designed to work both with or without connectivity. (Reach: Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia)

Some 19.7 million children and 914,000 teachers have benefitted from the ProFuturo program in over 40 countries so far. With support and investment from both private and public sectors, the ProFuturo framework shows longevity and sustainability in the face of modern-day problems, with opportunity to expand and reach 25 million children by 2030.

Trauma Informed Schools (Turkey)
Initiated by Maya Vakfi Foundation

The Trauma Informed Schools (TIS) program was developed in response to growing need for the understanding and integration of Syrian refugee children within Turkish public schools. Creating a safe space for children coming from a complexity of traumatic experiences, TIS extends its reach to caregivers, families, and counsellors, recognizing child trauma and carrying out healthy resolution. With the use of Arts-based sessions in target groups, TIS works to improve psychosocial wellbeing and reduce cases of bullying. (Reach: Turkey)

A combination of in-person and virtual intervention has seen the TIS program support over 12,649 children, 2740 teachers and 706 caregivers across Istanbul and Sanliurfa. The next step for TIS is to expand further across Turkey and into other countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan.
2020 WINNING PROJECTS

**Think Equal** (UK)
Initiated by Think Equal

Think Equal works with education ministries to adopt its program mediating value-based, experiential Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) for children aged 3-6. The curriculum covers age-appropriate lessons in 25 competencies and skills that Think Equal considers crucial as the foundation for positive outcomes in life. Among these, you’ll find empathy, emotional literacy, resilience, self-regulation, critical thinking, gender equality, peaceful conflict resolution, and self-esteem. (Reach: 15 countries globally)

Think Equal has reached over 166,000 children globally across 17 countries in 6 continents, with solid feedback from educators of the impact on children and their families. The program works along with governments in many countries, which have all piloted the program and are in various stages of rollout. Their 3-year strategy aims to reach 1.1 million children by 2022.

**Stawisha Instructional Leadership Institute** (Kenya)
Initiated by Dignitas

Stawisha Instructional 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)

The model of the Stawisha Instructional Leadership Institute comprises of a Leadership Academy, coaching, workshops, infrastructure support, professional learning communities and a Dignitas Alumni Association, all to drive the professional development of educators whilst facilitating systemic change. Dignitas has empowered over 1500 school Leaders and impacted the learning of 87,000 students. Dignitas’ 2022 impact goal is to reach 300,000 children, and a roadmap to see this achieved has been developed.

**Barefoot College Solar Electrification with Enriched Education** (UK)
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 are not feasible. They use a literacy-optimal, 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 elements that can be added on according to the 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 (E4S)**
Initiated by Education for Sharing

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. (Reach: 10 countries across Latin America)

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**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 6to 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 5 counties in the Shaanxi, Jiangxi, Guizhou and Guangxi regions through 39 centers and 9 home-visit sites.

**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.
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 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, Nepal and Madagascar, and engages stakeholders from the local community to build, run, and maintain these schools. (Reach: Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, and Madagascar)

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 43,300 children into more than 260 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/numercy 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.

Arikhan Institute (Rwanda)  
Initiated by Davis College

Arikhan 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.

Arpan’s Personal Safety Education Program (India)  
Initiated by Arpan Foundation

Personal Safety Education is a program by Arpan which provides prevention and intervention services to children and adults exposed to child sexual abuse cases. Through age-appropriate education about personal safety information and skills, the program also provides children with counseling post-disclosure, as well as working with parents and caregivers to create dialogue and awareness. (Reach: India)

Arpan’s Personal Safety Education (PSE) program provides sessions to children according to various grade levels with refreshers at regular intervals. Feedback from the beneficiaries is incorporated into the program and evaluations are conducted at regular intervals to measure its efficacy. An evaluation of the program 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.
2018 WINNING PROJECTS

- **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 date the project has impacted more than 50,000 students and their extended family.

- **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.

- **Generation**
  
  **(USA)**
  
  Initiated by Generation: You Employed, Inc.
  
  A global program that seeks to empower youth to build their skills and knowledge in order to develop sustainable careers, whilst providing employers with much needed talent. (Reach: Global)
  
  Generation takes a holistic approach and has programs in 16 countries and over 46,000 graduates, with over 81% placed in jobs at 3 months postgraduation, and 64% still employed one year after placement. Ninety-three percent of graduates were unemployed entering the program, and for those who had jobs, they earn an income that is 3-4 times higher after graduation than before the program.

- **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.

- **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 program has positively impacted more than a million people in and around more than 1,401 schools in South Africa.
**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 160 research-based simulations (sims) that engage students and transform the teaching and learning of science and math, along with extensive teacher resources. These sims are animated, interactive, game-like environments in which students learn through exploration and discovery. In 2021, with support from the Yidan Prize Foundation, the project launched its PhET Global Initiative to increase worldwide access and impact.

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**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: Sub-Saharan Africa)

The Luminos Fund provides transformative education programs to out-of-school children, helping them to catch up to grade level, reintegrate into local schools, and prepare for lifelong learning. The Second Chance (formerly known as 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. To date, the program has benefitted over 140,000 children and their families across Sub-Saharan Africa.

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**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 have so far reached 177,857 secondary school children with weekly sessions.

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**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.

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**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-Baira** (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-Baira 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 Associacion 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

**We Love Reading** (Jordan)  
Initiated by Taghyeer  
*Changing minds 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 resiliency. 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 forces a mindset of I can for ownership, agency and sustainability and it focuses on the human interaction because we are social creatures. We Love Reading is a social movement that has spread to 63 countries and counting. In Jordan alone, the project has trained 7529 women and opened 4478 libraries, benefitting more than 497,792 children. It is the Butterfly effect.

**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.

**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.

**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 2006 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.

**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.

**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.
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.
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.

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.

RoboBraille (Denmark)
Initiated by SynscenterRefsnaes

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.

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.

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.

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.

2012 WINNING PROJECTS
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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.
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 enrollment 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.

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.

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.
**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 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** is a program that provides middle- and high-school students in Qatar with self-expression skills so they can voice their opinions and engage in civic participation.

- **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 Living Lab** is a global community of practice that aims to identify shared challenges and contextualized solutions in designing and implementing Learning Ecosystems.

- **WISE ALL-IN**: 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.

- **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 to improve student outcomes.

- **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.