



2022 WISE AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

15 projects selected by QF initiative aim to tackle today's most pressing educational challenges

Doha, Qatar, May 23, 2022: The 15 finalists for the 2022 WISE Awards have been announced, with projects – hailing from ten countries – tackling urgent global educational challenges.

After two years of worldwide disruptions, and as the world inches closer to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development deadline, the need for inclusive and equitable education is more important than ever. This year's WISE Awards finalists are working towards achieving this, having developed unique solutions ensuring that young people have access to quality education, that disadvantaged children are spoken for, that local communities are lifted, and that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

The projects aim to address the global skills gap, develop accessible project-based learning resources, and build early childhood and foundational learning at scale. Another focus area is disadvantaged communities and minorities, with initiatives cultivating safe campuses for women, empowering students and youth impacted by conflict, training and supporting female entrepreneurs, improving the development of early visual-spatial, cognitive, and mathematical abilities for children with special needs, and enhancing the quality of schools through social financing. The finalists also support the protection of values and traditions by maintaining cultural identity and raising awareness about the climate crisis.

The shortlisted projects also focus on educators and local communities, with solutions supporting the wellbeing of teachers through professional development, bringing networks together to create learning opportunities outside of the classrooms and uniting community leaders, parents, and teachers to become drivers of positive social change.

Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO of WISE, said: "The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the intrinsic value of education to individuals and society as a whole. It also further highlighted the urgent need for innovation in education. Despite the best – and often heroic – efforts of educators and policymakers around the world, school closures and the shift to remote learning resulted in significant learning loss and increased incidence of mental health issues for both learners and teachers alike. Moreover, challenges old and new – from geopolitical conflicts to the climate crisis – loom on the horizon and demand innovative solutions where education is expected to play an integral part.

"In this context, the work celebrated by the WISE Awards is critically important in highlighting the possibilities offered by innovation in education. Each of the 2022 finalists have developed and implemented effective, proven solutions that address key challenges. Whether ensuring access to quality early childhood education, imparting skills and practices



for the jobs of tomorrow, or empowering youth through climate action, each project is transforming lives and reaching those most in need.”

The 15 project finalists selected for the 2022 WISE Awards are:

- **Youth Climate Change Leaders and Green Workforce Readiness through public problem solving** - Reap Benefit (India)
- **Teachers and Grandmothers Join Hands to Promote Values Education** - Grandmother Project: Change through Culture (Senegal)
- **MaGrid** - LetzMath (Luxembourg)
- **School the World** - School the World (USA)
- **Educating for Wellbeing** - AtentaMente (Mexico)
- Remake Learning - Remake Learning (USA)
- **Campus Safety Initiative** - Gender Mobile Initiative (Nigeria)
- **edSeed** - Crowdfunding for Higher Education - VIP.fund (USA)
- **Opportunity International EduFinance** - Opportunity International (USA)
- **MyCenta: International Professional Community for Teachers** - Centre for Teacher Accreditation (India)
- **Childcare Social Franchising** - Kidogo (Kenya)
- **The Internet Free Education Resource Bank** - Education Above All (Qatar)
- **Rocket Learning: Early Childhood education through digital parent-teacher communities** - Rocket Learning (India)
- **Connected North** - TakingITGlobal (Canada)
- **Addressing the Global Skills Gap** - Skills Builder Partnership (UK)

The submissions were evaluated on criteria, including innovation, scalability, sustainability, and their impact on individuals, communities, and societies in their own contexts or globally. Projects also need to be financially stable, have a clear development plan, and be scalable and replicable.

The winners of the WISE Awards will be announced in September 2022. In addition to visibility and networking opportunities, each project will receive \$20,000 (US).

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For further information, visit <http://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-awards>

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About the WISE Awards:

Each year, the WISE Awards recognize and promote six successful innovative projects that are addressing global educational challenges. Since 2009, WISE has received more than 4500 applications from over 150 countries. Up until now, 78 projects have won the WISE Awards, from a wide variety of sectors and locations for their innovative character, their positive contribution and their potential for scalability and adaptability. These projects represent a



growing resource of expertise and sound educational practice. Year by year, WISE is building a community of educational innovators which offers a fertile environment for groundbreaking collaborations. Today the WISE Awards network comprises pioneering projects that are helping bring real change to societies and communities.

For further information, visit <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-works/wise-awards/>

About WISE:

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, evidence-based thinking, debate, and purposeful action in education. Through the biennial summit, collaborative research and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education.

For more information on WISE you can visit: www.wise-qatar.org.

About Qatar Foundation:

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

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