

THE 2021 WISE AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

12 projects selected by WISE for their innovative and impactful approaches to today's most urgent education challenges

Doha, Qatar, May 5, 2021 – The 12 finalists for the 2021 WISE Awards have been announced, with the projects – hailing from nine countries – striving to tackle pressing global educational challenges.

The past year has proven that it is important to innovate in education: many girls are out of school and women insufficiently empowered; millions of elementary students have poor literacy and numeracy skills; refugees struggle to access education; vulnerable communities don't have access to the necessary social emotional learning to thrive while the digital divide remains a learning barrier.

And the 2021 WISE Awards finalists have developed unique solutions to tackle these challenges and make sure that every child reaches their full potential.

Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO of WISE, an initiative of Qatar Foundation, commented on the announcement, saying: "As we continue to navigate the long term and short-term effects of the global pandemic on education, the need for innovation is all the more urgent because of the systemic shortcomings that the crisis has exacerbated around the globe.

"In this context, the work celebrated by the WISE Awards is critically important. Each of the 2021 finalists has built an effective, tested solution to a global educational challenge. Whether ensuring parental access to fundamental early childhood education, imparting social-emotional learning skills to children across school districts, or opening access to free knowledge and materials for offline learning, each project is already transforming lives and provides an inspirational model for others to emulate.

"As we look forward to recognizing this year's WISE Awards winners, it is imperative that policymakers and civil society leaders around the world seriously address the need to bring some of these innovations to scale."

This year's finalists are: [Pehchan Project by CULP](#) – Center for Unfolding Learning Potentials (India); [Underprivileged Women Entrepreneurship and Skilling](#) by AISECT (India); [The Happiness Curriculum](#) by Dream a Dream (India); [Creating Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Programs for Children in Indian Public Schools](#) by Labhya Foundation (India); [Kinedu](#) (Mexico); [Onebillion](#) by Onebillion children (United Kingdom); [Trauma Informed Schools](#) by Maya Vakfi Foundation (Turkey); [Let's All Learn to Read](#) by Fundacion Luker (Colombia); [Kiwix](#) (Switzerland); [Taleemabad](#) by Orenda Project (Pakistan); [ProFuturo Digital Education Programme](#) by Telefonica Foundation and "la Caixa" Foundation (Spain); [Civic leadership fellowships for education equity](#) by Anseye Pou Ayiti (Haiti).

The submissions were evaluated on strict criteria, based on 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 2021 and celebrated at the WISE Summit, taking place from December 8-9. In addition to visibility and networking opportunities, each project will receive \$20,000 (US).

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 3300 applications from over 150 countries. Up until now, 72 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 ground-breaking 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.

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

For further information about WISE, visit www.wise-qatar.org

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

For any media inquiries, please contact: pressoffice@qf.org.qa