

WISE ADDRESSES WORLD'S CRITICAL EDUCATION ISSUES AHEAD OF 2021 SUMMIT

- *10 new research reports examine education industry changes due to COVID-19*
- *Long-term collaboration with the Ministry of Education continues to support Qatar National Research Strategy*
- *Four new research reports take deep dive into Qatar's unique learning ecosystem, within local and global pandemic context*

Doha, Qatar - November 27, 2021. WISE, a Qatar Foundation education think tank, has released 10 timely and comprehensive research reports, featuring action-oriented recommendations and policy guidance for stakeholders across the education industry. Produced in collaboration with recognized global thought leaders, the 2021 Research Series was informed by the unique challenges COVID-19 presented to education across the globe.

A leading think tank and supporter of Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE), WISE continued to lead an evidence-based exploration of current education challenges, in line with the priorities of the Qatar National Research Strategy. Its findings, many of which draw on Qatar as one of several case studies, highlighted the central need to place innovation and collaboration at the heart of all efforts to redesign current education models.

Dr Asmaa Alfadala, Director of Research and Content Development at WISE, said: "We are immensely proud of the strong collaboration and resilience of our research teams, and of these new reports that have once again produced profound insights into the ever-changing education sector. Global education has been uniquely impacted by the pandemic, including in the way that our youth experience learning. The emerging research ecosystem is marked by an accelerated move to digital platforms and new ways of learning. It has enriched our understanding of shifting learning structures and the actions required to drive education development at every level."

Four of the recently released reports explore education theory, policy, and practice in the context of Qatar's education system. Hundreds of local education stakeholders have contributed their perspectives, resulting in locally-informed, globally-relevant research findings.

Developed in partnership with Duke University and The Wellbeing Project, the **Teacher Wellbeing Report** undertook a scoping literature review and case studies in Cambodia, Kenya, and Qatar. It points to new emerging challenges, particularly during and post-pandemic, and aims to make a global contribution to the overlooked issue of teacher wellbeing. The similarity between teachers' wellbeing experiences across the three countries identified in the report confirm that common practices, such as work-life balance, parent interaction, a positive work environment and recognition, can prevent burnout and attrition among the 94 million teachers worldwide.

Revisiting Equity: COVID-19 and Education of Children with Disabilities, conducted with Cambridge University, analyzes the impact of COVID-19-related school closures on the education of primary-school-aged children with disabilities. Data collected from over 100 parents and 142 teaching staff across 18 schools in Qatar shows a significant socio-emotional impact on both parents and children.

With the bulk of teaching assistance falling on parents, the report advocates for action from policymakers to create more supportive at-home learning environments, ensuring uninterrupted and equal access to education for every child.

Building on WISE's research project 'Local Learning Ecosystems: Emerging Models', launched in 2019 in partnership with the Innovation Unit, **Developing Local Learning Ecosystems in Qatar to Advance Equity, Inclusion and Social Cohesion** explores how learning ecosystems may evolve as new drivers of education in Qatar and beyond. By engaging over 150 local stakeholders as well as a selection of global experts, the research indicates that building purposeful collaboration across institutions and sectors can support shared learning goals, as schools are making the transition back to in-person learning.

Through interviews with selected local stakeholders and experts, the Local Learning Ecosystems project also takes a look at the nature of leadership, collaboration and partnership in Qatar. The report features case studies of key organizations that are developing collaborative ecosystems across institutional boundaries, including Qatar Museums, INJAZ Qatar, Qatar Shell, Generation Amazing, Ibtechar, as well as Qatar Foundation's Higher Education, Renad Academy and HBKU Makers Majlis.

Created in partnership with Learning Futures Global, the **Embedding Innovation Labs in Schools as a Vehicle for Transformation in Education** report addresses the challenge of changing education, offering practical insight on how to reap the benefits of innovation labs in schools. '*How must we be educating our learners today to prepare for the complex world of tomorrow?*' is one of the questions posed. According to its findings, if research and development hubs are well-embedded and spearheaded by school leadership, they can play a central part in the development of modern learning ecosystems.

Authors and researchers will come together as part of several research presentations and 'Meet the Authors' events during WISE 2021, which is returning to Doha in a first-ever hybrid edition on December 7-9 under the theme 'Generation Unmute: Reclaiming our Future through Education'. For more information and to register for the Summit, please visit: <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-2021/registration-summit/>

Beyond the research, WISE's partnership with the Ministry of Education also supports local educators in their development of 'leadership for learning' skills to improve student outcomes via the jointly run WISE Empowering Leaders of Learning (ELL) program. This year's ELL involves in-depth leader development and coaching work with four MOEHE Schools, including Al Wajba Preparatory School for Girls, Al Qadesya Primary School for Boys, Hajar Primary School for Girls, and Al Kawthar Secondary School for Girls. Connecting research, policies and practice, ELL has adapted to the challenges of the pandemic to provide an even closer focus on coaching of school leadership teams and forming educational leadership communities in Qatar.

For more information on WISE's year-round research and to access full-length research reports, visit: <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-works/wise-research/>

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

The WISE Prize for Education: Established in 2011, the WISE Prize for Education is the first award of its kind to recognize an individual or a team for an outstanding contribution to education. Its objective is to give visibility to education heroes around the world who have dedicated their lives to alleviating global education challenges. The laureate is announced at the global biennial Summit's Opening Plenary Session and receives the WISE Prize medal and \$500,000 (USD).

The WISE Young Curators: Eight dynamic education changemakers from around the world will be curating their own content in WISE's first ever Youth Studio. They come from India, Canada, Nigeria, Italy, Austria, Malaysia and – of course! – Qatar. More details to be announced soon.

The WISE Awards: Six projects are awarded for their innovative and impactful approaches to pressing education matters. This year's diverse pool of projects come from all over the world and tackle different education challenges, from literacy to edtech and social and emotional learning.

This year's six winners are: the *Delhi Government's Happiness Curriculum*, creating time at school to develop mindfulness, critical thinking and other social and emotional skills; *Taleemabad*, a 'city of education' in Pakistan providing localized content using digital technologies; *Trauma Informed Schools* in Turkey to help young Syrian refugees and the community around them; *Onetab*, a solar-charged tablet developed by the UK and Nigeria-based company *Onebillion* to build literacy and numeracy schools in any country; *ProFuturo Digital Education Programme*, from the Telefonica and la Caixa foundations, creating a digital education program in areas without connectivity; and *Let's All Learn to Read* is an innovative model for developing literacy in Colombia and Panama.

For media inquiries, please contact: media@wise.org.qa

Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

About WISE:

WISE was established by the 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. **WISE 2021** will take place in Doha and online, on December 7-9 under the theme: **"Generation Unmute: Reclaiming the Future Through Education"**.

About the 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