

Global Leaders for Young Children

Launching the next generation of early childhood leaders in the world



The Global Leaders for Young Children program at the World Forum Foundation seeks to identify and develop the next generation of early childhood leaders throughout the world. Since its inception in 2004, approximately 250 emerging leaders from 72 countries have participated, with many graduates currently playing major roles in shaping the early childhood policies and practices in their countries and regions.

Global Leaders engage in an 18-month program, during which time they develop and implement action-oriented projects in their own communities aimed at improving the lives of young children. A carefully designed curriculum helps participants develop leadership capacity and effective advocacy skills, and gain a deeper understanding of early childhood research, practice and global issues. Through participation in two face-to-face meetings as well as ongoing communication, Global Leaders develop a strong network of regional and international peers.

Key areas of focus for the next cohort of Global Leaders include the following:

- **Regional Focus.** Integrating Global Leaders into their regional early childhood networks will connect them to a broader community and strengthen their awareness of regional resources and support.
- **Robust Curriculum.** Curriculum is designed to strengthen leadership development, global awareness of ECD issues, and the science of early childhood development.
- **Frequent Communication and Mentoring Support.** Guided small and large group online discussions and one-on-one guidance strengthen the sense of community among Global Leaders and provide ongoing support.



Recruitment for the Next Cohort

The World Forum Foundation will begin recruiting potential Global Leaders and sponsors from all areas of the world next year in May of 2021, including an emphasis on emerging leaders from indigenous and Roma/Traveler communities.

Global Leaders Selection Criteria

Applicants for the Global Leaders for Young Children program must demonstrate the following:

- Experience working with young children and families
- Leadership potential in advocating for young children, particularly those at highest risk
- Knowledge of the policy context for young children in their own country
- Strong commitment to improving conditions for young children globally and understanding other cultures
- Commitment to develop and implement an action-oriented project in their own country or community in order to raise awareness about a key early childhood issue or to promote quality early childhood services
- Commitment to remain in the program for the full 18 months
- Fluency in English



Preference will be given to those candidates who are active in a professional early childhood association or other related group; or affiliated with a university, government agency, or national or international NGO.



Curriculum

The Global Leaders for Young Children program at the World Forum Foundation seeks to develop the next generation of early childhood leaders throughout the world. During the 18-month program, Global Leaders engage with a curriculum designed to build a strong foundation of essential knowledge and skills in the following areas:

Global Issues & Awareness. Global Leaders will gain a deeper understanding of current issues affecting early childhood development globally, which will strengthen their awareness of and connection to the broader early childhood community.

Leadership Development. Participants will have ample opportunity to enhance their leadership and advocacy skills, and put new learnings into practice through implementation of their own action-oriented projects.

Science of Early Childhood Development (SECD). Global Leaders will receive training and a license to access resources from the Science of ECD curriculum from the consortium led by Red River College. Building understanding of research and best practice will strengthen Global Leader advocacy efforts. For more information on the coursework go to: <https://www.scienceofecd.com/>.

This curriculum will be delivered to participants through a variety of methods:

Face-to-Face	Global Leaders will receive face-to-face training at one regional meeting and at the international gathering of the World Forum. The regional meetings provide more intimate gatherings of small groups of Global Leaders. Regional meetings focus on in depth understanding of regional issues with cross country sharing. For additional information on the World Forum, please visit the 2022 World Forum Event Webpage .
Monthly Calls/Webinars	Interactive monthly calls and webinars will allow all Global Leaders to engage more deeply with the core curriculum topics and network with their peers. Calls will rotate between the entire Global Leader network, regional groups and alumni lead discussion groups.
Updates from the Field	Participants will receive regular email updates with current information and resources relevant to their work as Global Leaders.
Regional Networks	Integrating Global Leaders into existing regional networks is a key component of the program.
Individual Support	Regional coordinators provide on-going mentoring and consultation to individual Global Leaders, particularly during project development, implementation and reporting.