



# 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 in the program, 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 international meetings as well as regular communication with other participants around the world, 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 2024-2025

The World Forum Foundation is actively recruiting potential Global Leaders and sponsors from the Africa Region. World Forum Foundation will work with the Africa Regional Network on Early Childhood (AfECN) to identify and recruit Global Leaders.

## 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 issues or to promote quality early childhood services
- Commitment to remain in the program for the full 18 months
- Fluency in English to ensure strong exchange of ideas across regions



## Curriculum

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:

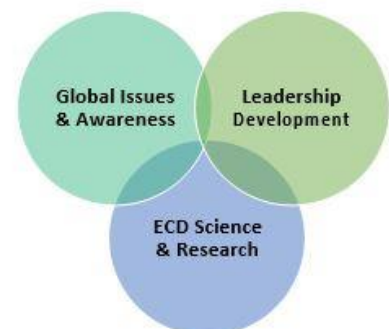
**Global Issues & Awareness.** Global Leaders will gain a deeper understanding of current issues affecting early childhood development globally, which will strengthen their awareness of and connection to the broader early childhood community.

### Leadership Development.

Participants will have opportunities 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 in partnership with 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:

<b>Training</b>	Global Leaders in the Africa Region (GLAF) will receive training at the international gathering of the World Forum. For additional information on the World Forum go to <a href="https://worldforumfoundation.org/all-events/">https://worldforumfoundation.org/all-events/</a> .
<b>Monthly Calls/Webinars</b>	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, the Africa Group and alumni-led discussion groups.
<b>Updates from the Field</b>	Participants will receive regular email updates from the World Forum Foundation and AfECN with current information and resources relevant to their work as Global Leaders.
<b>AfECN</b>	Integrating Global Leaders into AfECN's existing strategies, priorities and activities is a key component of the program.
<b>Individual Support</b>	Regional coordinators provide on-going mentoring and consultation to individual Global Leaders, particularly during project development, implementation and reporting.

## Global Leaders Program Timeline





## How to Apply

Emerging professionals in the ECD field with an interest in becoming a Global Leader in the Africa region can apply directly to the program by visiting the World Forum Website – Global Leader Tab <https://worldforumfoundation.org/global-leaders/>. Applicants must meet the Global Leader selection criteria and priority consideration will be given for applications completed by October 16, 2023. World Forum funding for the Global Leader Program is limited and very competitive.

- Applicants funded by a donor to the Global Leaders Program (maximum of 20 anticipated).
- Applicants with a sponsoring organization committed to covering program costs.
- Applicants who have their own resources to fund their participation in the program.

A letter of commitment from the sponsoring organization should be included with the application.

## Global Leaders Program Costs

Below is a breakdown of estimated costs for the 18-month program, based on the average cost per Global Leader:

\$1,000	<b>Advocacy Grant</b>	<i>"Seed money" given to Global Leaders to support implementation of an advocacy project conducted in their country or region.</i>
\$4,000	<b>Tuition</b>	<i>Includes leadership training, a curriculum to deepen understanding of early childhood research and practice, mentoring from Global Leader alumni, and Regional Coordinator support.</i>
\$5,000	<b>Travel*</b>	<i>Participation in a 2 face-to-face meeting, as well as attendance at the World Forum meetings (airfare, hotel and conference registration).</i>
<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>TOTAL COST PER GLOBAL LEADER</b>	

*\*Estimated travel costs may vary depending on where the Global Leader is based and the location of meetings.*



For additional information, please contact:

**Sarah Breen**

Special Projects Manager, World Forum Foundation

[sarah@worldforumfoundation.org](mailto:sarah@worldforumfoundation.org)

*Children • Change • Relationships • Spirit • Differences*