Global Leaders for Young Children

Launching the next generation of early childhood leaders in the world

Information Packet for Sponsors

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, over 300 emerging leaders from more than 70 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 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:

- **National and Regional Focus.**
  Global Leaders will work together with others from their home country to support their national early childhood networks. The Global Leaders program will connect these leaders to a broader community of support and strengthen their awareness of national and regional resources.

- **Robust Curriculum.**
  Curriculum is designed to strengthen leadership development, 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 2026

The World Forum Foundation is actively recruiting potential Global Leaders and sponsors from around the world. We welcome additional sponsors willing to support one or more Global Leaders that can become part of a global cohort. Global Leaders will have national and regional mentorship and support.

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 and willingness to collaborate with others in their country to strengthen ECD at the national level
- Strong commitment to improving conditions for young children globally and understanding other cultures
- Commitment to co-develop and implement an action-oriented project in their own country 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 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 nationally and 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.

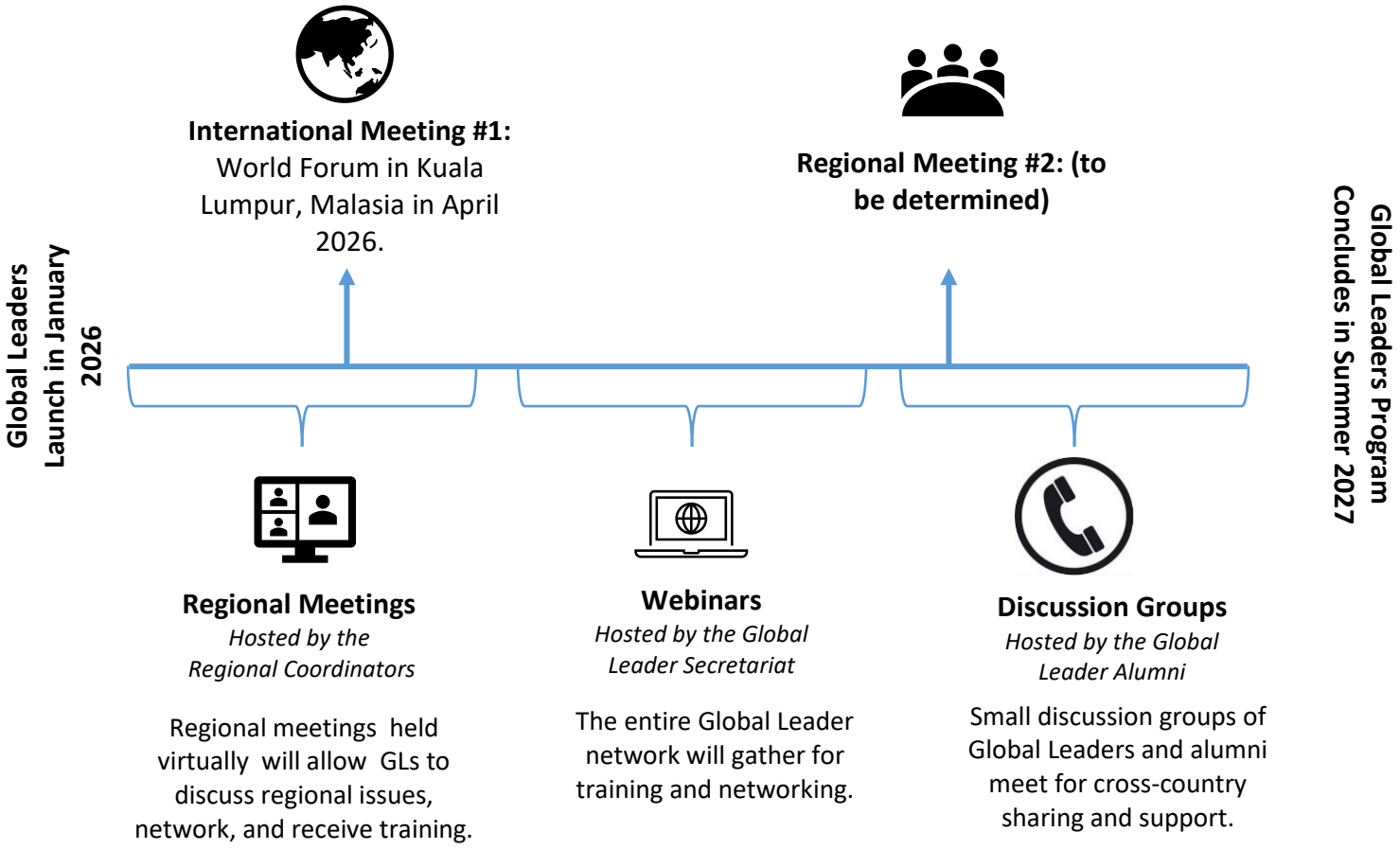
Science of Early Childhood Development (SECD).
Global Leaders will receive training and a license to access resources from the Science of ECD curriculum from the consortium in partnership with Red River College. Building understanding of research and best practice will strengthen Global Leader advocacy 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:

Training	Global Leaders will receive training virtually and at in-person. For additional information on the World Forum go to https://worldforumfoundation.org/all-events/.
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 Groupings and alumni-led discussion groups.
Updates from the Field	Participants will receive regular email updates from the World Forum Foundation with current information and resources relevant to their work as Global Leaders.
Individual Support	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

Sponsors are welcomed to encourage candidates to apply. Emerging professionals in the ECD field with an interest in becoming a Global Leader can apply directly to the program by visiting the World Forum website Global Leaders tab at https://worldforumfoundation.org/global-leaders/. Applicants must meet the Global Leader selection criteria and priority consideration will be given for applications completed by October 28, 2025.

Applicants will be considered from the following categories:

- Those who fully meet the criteria listed above.
- 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	**Advocacy Grant**	*"Seed money" given to Global Leaders to support implementation of an advocacy project conducted in their country or region.*
$6,000	**Tuition**	*Includes leadership training, a curriculum to deepen understanding of early childhood research and practice, mentoring from Global Leader alumni, and Regional Coordinator support.*
$5,000	**Travel***	*Participation in a 2 face-to-face meeting, as well as attendance at the World Forum meetings (airfare, hotel and conference registration).*
$12,000		**TOTAL COST PER GLOBAL LEADER**

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

How to Sponsor

The World Forum Foundation is seeking partnership organizations to sponsor Global Leaders for the 2026-2027 cohort. These sponsors have an opportunity to help target leadership development efforts to certain countries and regions.

Sponsor Expectations Include:

- Work with the World Forum Foundation and the appropriate regional network association to recruit and identify emerging leaders in accordance with the Global Leaders Selection Criteria.
- Cover the program costs for sponsored Global Leaders, including tuition, travel and an advocacy project grant.
- Encourage full engagement of sponsored Global leaders in program meetings and calls.
- Be in communication with the World Forum Foundation as needed to ensure a successful Global Leader Experience.

Sponsor Benefits Include:

- Influencing which countries are targeted in the 2026-2027 Global Leader cohort.
- Being recognized as a Global Leader sponsor on the World Forum website.
- Having the opportunity to participate as an observer at Global Leader face-to-face meetings and view Global Leader webinars.
- Receiving Global Leader program updates.

For additional information, please contact:

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