

# QF'S WISE ANNOUNCES SIX FINALISTS FOR THE 2024-2025 WISE PRIZE FOR EDUCATION

Finalists selected from a pool of 361 eligible applicants to compete for a \$1 million prize aimed at transforming global education

**Doha, Qatar, 29 October 2024:** The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), an initiative of Qatar Foundation, has announced the six finalists for the <u>2024-2025 WISE Prize for Education</u>. This year's competition, focused on innovative solutions to global education challenges, received a total of 427 applications.

A committee of international experts carefully evaluated the submissions to identify the six most promising solutions. These finalists—AprendoEnCasa Connecta from Chile; Bonocle from Qatar; Darsel from USA; FastTrack+ from Nigeria; iqrali.jo from Jordan; and TUMO Path from Armenia—stand out for their ability to address the competition's three key areas: accelerating foundational literacies, addressing challenges in artificial intelligence, and improving the teaching of Arabic language.

The WISE Prize attracted an impressive array of applications, showcasing the breadth and innovation of education solutions globally. With organizations representing government, nonprofit, and private sectors, and a strong representation from countries including India, Nigeria, and Qatar, the competition attracted submissions addressing inclusive learning, Al-powered tools, voice-generated learning, tailored approaches for neurodivergent learners, and teacher development.

Finalists demonstrated impressive capability to solve the challenge through evidence-based innovation, coupled with a well-structured minimum viable product proposal and timeline, clear resource allocation, and considerate manpower planning.

#### AprendoEnCasa Connecta by Fundacion Relmagina (Chile, Latin America)

The platform supports effective teacher-student interactions by providing a range of digital resources and tools designed to bridge educational and digital gaps, helping students thrive in a rapidly changing digital landscape. <u>AprendoEnCasa</u> will pilot in Latin America, focusing on improving teacher engagement and learning outcomes in Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico.

#### **Bonocle by Bonocle (Qatar, MENA)**

<u>Bonocle</u> is an innovative solution leveraging technology to improve Braille literacy for visually impaired individuals. Through tactile feedback and gamified learning, Bonocle makes education accessible, engaging, and enjoyable for the visually impaired globally.

#### Darsel by Darsel (USA)

<u>Darsel</u> uses Al-powered personalized learning algorithms to improve numeracy for middle school students via accessible messaging platforms like SMS and WhatsApp. The solution is aimed at students in low-resource settings, and plans to expand its reach to primary school learners in Africa and the Middle East.

# FastTrack+ by AREAi (Nigeria, Africa)

<u>FastTrack</u> addresses literacy and numeracy challenges by leveraging offline, self-assisted technology. The program, which utilizes a digital pen, equipped with audio capabilities, and multilingual instructional materials, helps learners in refugee camps in Western and Central Africa to achieve higher literacy levels. FastTrack has shown significant success in improving reading and numeracy skills in pilot studies, with more than 80% of learners gaining basic literacy.

# igrali.jo by Queen Rania Foundation (Jordan, MENA)

<u>Iqrali</u>, a Jordan-based initiative, focuses on parental behavior change to improve early childhood literacy through shared reading practices. The Iqrali platform, currently in beta, provides resources and community support for parents of children under 5 years, including refugee families.

# **TUMO Path by TUMO Center for Creative Technologies (Armenia, Europe)**

<u>TUMO Path</u> automates the learning process for teenagers through hyper-personalized Al-driven learning journeys. Already operational in 10 countries, the program will expand further with the integration of new Al modules in Armenia, targeting over 80,000 users by 2027.

Over the next 12 months, WISE, and its chosen program partner, Dalberg Advisors, will offer a range of capacity building opportunities and personalized mentorship to the chosen finalists. In addition, WISE offers a conditional grant of \$125,000 USD to each team to support the development of their MVP during this year-long commitment. The winning solution(s), chosen by an external jury of international education experts, will be awarded the \$1 million USD WISE Prize for Education at the WISE12 Summit in 2025, where the winner will be announced live.

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#### **About WISE**

Founded in 2009 by Qatar Foundation under the visionary leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, WISE (World Innovation Summit for Education) has evolved into an international, multi-sectoral platform dedicated to fostering innovation and evidence-based approaches in education. Through its biennial summit, collaborative research, and a number of ongoing programs, WISE has become a global point of reference for new educational paradigms.

WISE 11, the Summit's 11th edition in 2023, inspired the three key challenges identified for this year's WISE Prize. The next Summit, WISE12, will take place in Doha at the end of 2025, which will serve as a platform for future challenges for the WISE Prize for Education.

To stay up to date, follow WISE on <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and  $\underline{X}$ .

#### **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: <a href="www.qf.org.qa">www.qf.org.qa</a>
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