



**GLOBAL FORUM**

SCHOOLS 2030

# **Advancing Teacher Agency and Leadership**

Key Takeaways and Recommendations  
from the Schools2030 Global Forum  
2025 Panel Discussions and Keynotes



## WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

- Teachers are increasingly recognized as active agents in educational transformation – not passively delivering lessons and curriculum but shaping these to meet student needs.
- The teaching profession must be redefined as a high-expertise, innovative and transformative profession.
- Gaps between policy and practice are best addresses by bringing policymakers and practitioners together to discuss educational challenges and change.
- Education innovation happens in an ecosystem: we must consider not just teachers but also students, families, school leadership, communities, governments, NGOs, researchers and donors as part of this innovation ecosystem.







# THE SITUATION NOW

- Climate change, migration and displacement and digital gaps remain key challenges for the education sector in all contexts.
- There are 234 million children worldwide whose education is being impacted by crises – including conflict, climate change, migration and extremism – who need us to act now.
- We need clear definitions of agency and collaboration, with shared leadership, local innovations, and multi-stakeholder partnerships addressing sustainability amid funding constraints.
- Resilient systems depend on supported teachers, with stakeholders emphasizing the need for holistic learning, emotional support, and adaptation to local realities shaped by diverse inputs.





## WHERE WE ARE GOING

- Over the next decade, teachers must be recognized and empowered as key leaders in shaping inclusive, skills-focused education that equips learners for the equitable opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they need to thrive and to contribute to their communities.
- Research highlights that teacher agency will flourish through autonomy, peer collaboration, and co-designed training, supported by enabling policy environments.
- Expanded access to peer learning platforms alongside recognition systems that celebrate teacher leadership will increase agency and motivation.
- Digital and technological skills are essential for modern education systems but approaches must be designed in partnership with teachers and learners to ensure responsible, meaningful and equitable integration.
- The Schools2030 network and movement will continue to amplify authentic teacher voices through strategic storytelling and community engagement which will help to shift public perception, elevate the profession, build trust, and influence supportive policies.



Teachers stand at the forefront of resilient education in times of uncertainty, from pandemics to natural disasters. They don't just deliver lessons; they bridge gaps, innovate on the fly, and nurture well-being.

Nikhil D'Sa  
University of Notre Dame



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**Education and teachers cannot wait.  
The future of 234 million children  
depends on how we act today.**

Maurits Spoelder  
Education Cannot Wait



Teachers are not just implementers  
of the system – they are  
designers of it.

Dr. Elyas Abdi Jillaow  
Director General, Ministry of Education Kenya





## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



- Place teachers at the core of education reform by involving them meaningfully in curriculum design, professional development design, policy decisions, and leadership roles to ensure sustainable and impactful learning transformation.



- Embed teacher-led innovation into national education systems through design-thinking models that prioritise a holistic, whole-child approach.
- Strengthen data systems with tools, capacity building and feedback loops to support informed decision-making.



- Integrate value-driven teaching into education systems and ensure that responsive policies foster teacher and learner agency.



- Prioritise teacher well-being to strengthen education system resilience, especially in crisis-settings.
- Develop long-term philanthropic support to complement government budgets and address key challenges like climate change, migration, digital gaps, and refugee inclusion.
- Mobilise emergency funding for education in crisis settings.