

## Future of Work Initiative

### Global STEAM & Leadership Challenges

February 12th to April 9th 2025

#### Context

STEAM education prepares students to address global challenges and build a better future. By fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and an innovative mindset, it equips learners with the skills and mindsets needed to tackle pressing issues like poverty, climate change, health crises, and unequal access to clean water and sanitation. Through STEAM, students learn to understand these challenges and develop the ability to create and implement transformative solutions that drive lasting, meaningful change.

#### Purpose

The Global STEAM & Leadership Challenges is a transformative learning experience that brings educators and communities together to explore actionable strategies for leveraging STEAM education to equip students with the mindsets and skills they need to tackle challenges on both local and global scales. This learning experience aims to:

- Foster peer learning and collaboration, focusing on how STEAM education can cultivate student leadership.
- Develop practical resources and insights for teachers and communities to design STEAM activities that address community and global challenges.
- Elevate local knowledge and showcase diverse perspectives, contributing to the global discussion.
- Build connections among like-minded educators to spark collaboration and drive collective impact.

Participants have developed and implemented innovative projects within their communities, generating case studies that capture the lessons learned during the process. A curated selection of these case studies will be showcased in the [Future of Work section of the Learning and Insights Hub](#) and featured in the [Teach For All space](#) of Harvard University's science education platform, LabXchange.

#### Participation

- Out of 72 applications, 20 were selected, and 13 successfully completed the learning experience.

Participants represented diverse regions:



## Key Insights

### **Supporting Learners Through Agency and Meaningful Connection**

Impactful STEAM education thrives when learners have the opportunity to explore real-world problems relevant to their own lives and communities. Involving students in identifying challenges and developing solutions nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and a deeper connection to their learning journey, fostering a sense of purpose while building both confidence and ownership.

### **Preparing Students to Grow as Catalysts for Action in a Complex World**

Preparing students to grow as leaders who thrive in a complex world with pressing challenges requires cultivating a problem-solving mindset grounded in action, creativity, and resilience. Through hands-on, inquiry-based STEM activities that tackle real-world problems, students' curiosity is ignited and confidence is built, motivating them to approach challenges with purpose and determination.

### **Fostering Community and Collaboration Through Adversity**

In challenging contexts, meaningful learning flourishes through empathy, creativity, and collaboration. Sharing experiences, connecting emotionally, and supporting one another enrich the learning journey, building resilience and broadening perspectives. This cultivates a strong sense of community, helping everyone grow and thrive in the face of adversity.