

# LEAP: Leadership for Progress in Foundational Learning

## A global peer learning program to advance education reform

The Leadership for Progress in Foundational Learning (LEAP) Program is a global capacity-building program that brings together senior policymakers from low- and middle-income countries to tackle the foundational learning crisis. This 12-month program supports education leaders to:

- Build a deeper understanding of the learning crisis and effective strategies to address it
- Identify and adapt evidence-based solutions and practical tools for effective reform
- Strengthen peer networks and promote cross-country peer learning and knowledge exchange
- Enhance ongoing reform efforts and refine national plans to maximize impact

## Why foundational learning?

Foundational learning, which includes basic literacy, numeracy, and socioemotional skills, is essential for all future learning and life outcomes. For far too many children, however, foundational learning remains out of reach, with millions of children in school but not acquiring basic skills. The World Bank is committed to supporting countries in addressing this urgent crisis. LEAP provides a platform for policymakers to engage with peers and global experts, reflect on country challenges and successes, and strengthen education systems to deliver foundational learning for every child.

## What does the LEAP program cover?

The program is grounded in the 2018 World Development Report (WDR) on «Learning to Realize Education's Promise» which provides the conceptual framework for LEAP. The WDR's emphasis on using a systems approach to improve learning, focusing on key levers, underpins the design and structure of the program. Participants explore critical domains that shape foundational learning outcomes:

- **Data and Assessment:**  
Improving measurement and the use of learning data
- **Structured Pedagogy:**  
Aligning curriculum, materials, training, and support
- **Early Childhood Education:**  
Building school readiness and early skills
- **Teachers and School Leaders:**  
Enhancing professional capacity and motivation
- **Equity and Inclusion:**  
Reaching marginalized learners including children with disabilities and learning differences
- **Physical Learning Environments:**  
Strengthening resilience
- **System Alignment:**  
Coordinating actors across sectors and levels



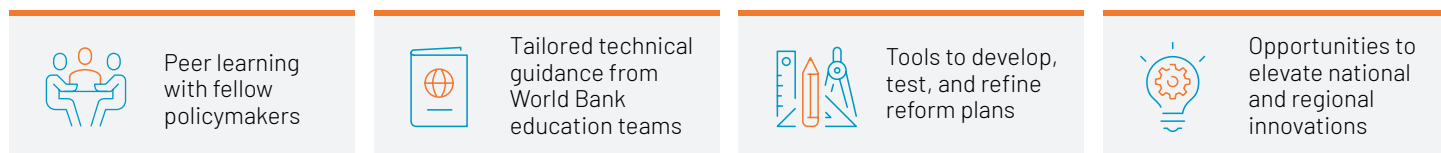
Cross-cutting themes, including gender equity and leveraging technology, will be integrated across the program. Special topics of interest to policymaker teams will also be addressed through the program.

## How does LEAP work?

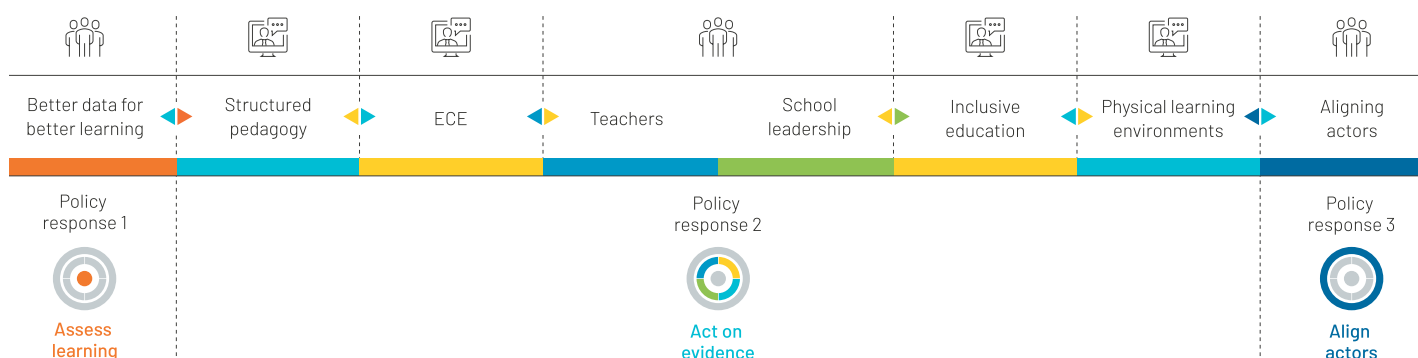
The LEAP journey includes both virtual and in-person learning events, structured around critical themes:

- **Launch Event (June 2025, Washington, DC):** Introduces LEAP and the systems approach to learning from the 2018 World Development Report. The event will focus on the use of data and learning assessment to drive foundational learning improvements. Through interactive presentations, case studies, site visits, and guided reflections, participants will explore practical examples of how education data can inform policy and practice. The program is designed to strengthen delegates' capacity to assess and enhance their own education data and learning assessment systems. At the end of the event, delegates will reflect on concrete actions to improve their data and assessment systems.
- **Bimonthly Virtual Thematic Learning Events:** Virtual person sessions exploring structured pedagogy, inclusion, ECE, and more.
- **Teachers and School Leadership Event (in-person, November 2025\*):** Deep dive on improving teacher policy, teacher professional development and school leadership.
- **Final Forum (in-person):** Showcasing reform plans and innovations with a focus on aligning actors and finance.

### Throughout the program, teams receive:



### LEAP program events



## Who participates in LEAP?

LEAP convenes high-level teams of policymakers and education reform leaders from low- and middle-income countries. Most delegates represent Ministries of Education and serve in roles related to planning, curriculum, teacher development, assessment, and quality assurance. Some teams also include colleagues from Ministries of Finance and influential civil society organizations. Each country delegation is supported by education specialists from the corresponding World Bank country team.

**The inaugural cohort includes policymaker teams from:** Bangladesh, Barbados, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Senegal.

## What does LEAP aim to achieve?

By the end of the program, participants will have:

- Strengthened national reform strategies and implementation plans for addressing the learning crisis
- Built new peer networks to sustain collaboration
- Shared practical lessons and innovations from across countries

LEAP convenes policymakers to exchange experiences, adapt and scale effective solutions, and strengthen foundational learning through country-led, system-level reforms.

