Business Taking Action to end the global education crisis

Three B2B Working Group Tracks

The Global Business Coalition for Education is a movement of businesses committed to ending the global education crisis and unleashing the potential of the next generation. Our businesses are interested in collaborating across industries to learn about pressing issues in education and identify opportunities to make a collective impact.

To facilitate learning and sharing among our business leaders, GBC-Education will convene Working Groups on three key thematic areas:

- **Innovation in Education**, homing in on issues of digital inclusion and post-pandemic learning
- **Youth Skills, and the Future of Work**, focusing on the enabling environments, policies and partnerships to prepare the next generation with skills for meaningful work
- **Education Financing**, looking at innovative ways to help fund education in countries and communities around the world

Each Working Group will review trends and evidence, assess internal assets which could be harnessed to address the thematic area (ranging from policy, communications and employee engagement to business models or social impact), set concrete targets and strategies, and decide on collective and/or individual action plans. For companies interested in making public announcements, they will be provided a platform at the RewirEd Summit during Expo 2020 in Dubai in December 2021.

**Format and Time Commitment**
- Between 5 to 10 active companies with expertise, resources, engagements or interest in learning more about the thematic area.
- We encourage participation of senior level individuals (Senior managers, Directors, Heads, or above) overseeing CSR, ESG, social impact, or corporate citizenship portfolios
- **Time Commitment:**
  - Three 90-minute virtual meetings, leading up to public announcement of commitments during RewirEd Summit at Expo 2020 Dubai
  - Approximately 10 hours of commitment, including three meetings, pre-reads, and interim assignments and activities

**Benefits of Participation**
- **The latest evidence**: Data and evidence will be provided to help ensure your business is guided by the latest information.
- **A Community of Practice**: Share and discuss evidence from the education sector on effective practices and interventions with other businesses.
- **Collective Targets**: Set shared goals and targets grounded in evidence.
- **Commitment to Action**: Decide on collective commitments and individual actions for 2022 and beyond.
- **Showcase your Leadership**: Announce collective business commitment and individual action plans during Expo 2020 in Dubai, December 2021.
• **Awards consideration**: All companies participating will be considered for GBC-Education’s awards and profiling of best practices in social impact.

**Timeline**
- **Meeting 1** – September 8, 2021
- **Meeting 2** – October 6, 2021
- **Meeting 3** – November 3, 2021
- **RewirEd Summit** at Expo 2020 Dubai – December 12~14, 2021

**The Three Working Group Tracks**

**Youth Skills and the Future of Work**
Globally, more than one in two young people are not on track to acquire the most basic skills they need to succeed in the workforce by 2030. The business community should be alarmed by the magnitude of the skills crisis – and inspired to take action. The business community has an important role to play in working with public policy officials, education systems and young people to develop a strong talent pipeline for the next generation of work.

By joining the **Youth Skills and the Future of Work**, you will be working with a cohort of leading businesses to collaboratively survey the evidence, strategize, set goals and targets, and explore tangible actions that will lead to measurable advancement in this thematic area, focusing on the issue of partnership building and partnership building between the public and private sector. The working group will be particularly relevant for individuals in companies thinking about working with the public sector and young people to create sustainable change.

**Innovation in Education**
More than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, close to half the world’s students are still affected by partial or full school closures. The digital divide is perpetuating and exacerbating the unequal access to quality education opportunities, and the children and youth from the most marginalized communities are at risk of falling further behind their peers if current trends continue. The business community has a crucial role to play in addressing this challenge and building a more digitally inclusive learning environment.
By joining the **Innovation in Education Working Group**, you will be working with a cohort of leading businesses to collaboratively survey the evidence, strategize, set goals and targets, and explore tangible actions that will lead to measurable advancement in this thematic area, focusing on the issue of **digital inclusion**. The working group will be particularly relevant for individuals in companies thinking about content, connectivity, and use of digital technology as well as policies focused on issues of equity.

**Education Financing**
Contracting economies mean many government budgets will be smaller at a time when the need for investment in education has increased dramatically. Without quality education, the next generation faces the threats of child labor, poor health, early marriage and intergenerational poverty. Even after governments in lower-income countries maximize their investments in education, a $75 billion a year gap remains to put the world’s children on track for universal education. While traditional aid and philanthropy will not solve the problem alone, there is a growing opportunity to explore and harness innovative finance to fund education around the world.

By joining the **Education Finance Working Group**, you will be working with a cohort of leading businesses to collaboratively survey the evidence, strategize, set goals and targets, and explore tangible actions to use innovative finance to leverage funding to go further in creating education opportunities for children and youth. The working group will be particularly relevant for individuals in companies thinking about how to leverage resources to go further as well as with expertise and/or interest in financing education.