

# GLOBAL CHILDREN'S FORUM

# 2025

## Inside this Report

Leadership  
Development

Academic Alliance

Families on  
Mission

Influencing  
Movements

...and more!

## COMMUNITY REPORT

Thank you for your faithful support this year. Because of your generosity, thousands of children, families, and ministry leaders were strengthened, equipped, and mobilized across the world. What follows are a few key highlights made possible through your investment.



[www.gcf.community](http://www.gcf.community)



# GLOBAL LEADERSHIP GATHERING

## Elevating Families and Children in the World Evangelical Alliance

At the 2025 WEA General Assembly in Seoul, a strong global call emerged: discipleship must begin in the family. Leaders affirmed a unified commitment to prioritize children and families as central to the mission of the church.

This new WEA Commitment for the Discipleship of Families and Children called alliances around the world to:

- Strengthen families as disciple-makers
- Empower churches to support next-generation leadership
- Address cultural challenges impacting today's children
- Care for vulnerable children and families
- Build global collaboration and resource-sharing networks
- Foster strategic action on the gospel for everyone by 2033



A WEA collaborative team, formed over the last year, will guide implementation toward 2033, pursuing greater fruitfulness, long-term impact and unity across regions.

## FAMILIES ON MISSION

The momentum continues to grow around how we can better support families as we serve their children. Our Families on Mission [website](#) is being trialed, and we're adding final touches, including photos of those who've been part of this journey.

We're also gathering more stories to share with the community. If you have a testimony or everyday moment to contribute, please send a short audio clip (no more than one minute). We would love to include it.



All our groups are being merged into one Telegram community. You can join by clicking [here](#) to receive updates and new resources. We've also launched a FlashLab at the end of the semester, and new resources such as a new Poem video, a Camp Program, games, a theological paper, and more will be available soon on Max7.



# LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

**Developing Global Leaders Who Transform Communities**

In 2025, 18 emerging leaders from Asia, Africa, and Australia gathered in Sri Lanka for the in-person phase of the Leadership Experience (LE): a 12-month journey shaping leaders who will disciple children and families with Christ-centered wisdom and compassion.

## Highlights

- Daily Scripture reflection and prayer set a spiritual foundation
- Facilitators from eight countries trained participants in biblical foundations, child development, faith formation, and leadership
- Leaders conducted real-world outreaches in local schools and churches
- Each participant designed a ministry project to launch in their own community
- LE 2025 Sri Lanka community

Testimonies from participants affirmed deep spiritual growth, renewed calling, and practical equipping.

The impact continues to multiply as regional LEs begin emerging in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Europe, and West Africa.



# The growth of LE

Ethiopia, West Africa, and Europe are locations that have taken steps to develop leaders through LE. What region or country will be next? Check out this testimony of one who participated in the last cohort.



*"After experiencing LE, I plan to transform my ministry into a movement where creativity meets calling, using new ideas, child-led initiatives, and digital storytelling to help every child discover their voice and share God's love in fresh, impactful ways."*

## Strengthening Global Child Protection:

### A Growing Alliance for a Safer Future

The Global Child Protection Alliance has continued to gain momentum over the past few months as several dedicated working groups have focused on developing key components of the movement. Teams are actively shaping the Alliance's structure, crafting a theology of child protection, building communication pathways, and leading a global child-protection mapping initiative.

The Alliance also celebrated the launch of its new website, [childprotectionalliance.global](https://childprotectionalliance.global) where leaders can explore current developments and subscribe for ongoing updates.

In November 2025, the steering committee met to ratify the Alliance Charter, outlining its operational model and strategic focus. This document will be publicly available on the website soon.

The working groups on Structure and Form, Theology, and Communications continue to collaborate, and a new grant-funding working group has been formed to help resource future initiatives. The Alliance is also exploring the possibility of hosting its first in-person gathering in 2026, signaling the next stage of global partnership and momentum.



Applications Open  
15 January 2026

# Leadership Experience

# E U R O P E

*A year-long course that includes community research, online learning, mentoring, a major ministry project and a four-week residential intensive.*

## **One-Year Course**

It is a unique one-year course that provides the opportunity for children's ministry leaders to learn together with others from around the globe.

## **Designed by GCF**

It is designed and facilitated by the **Global Children's Forum**, a collaboration of Christian child-focussed organisations who recognise the need to develop the next generation of leaders serving the local and global church.

## **Participants from across Europe\***

Participants are drawn from across Europe and beyond, and are able to join the Leadership Experience while continuing to work in their own church or organisation.



## PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL

*The LE experience has marked me in ways I did not expect. It touched and healed places in me that I had long kept closed, and it broadened my vision of ministry within the unfolding of God's greater story. What made this journey especially precious was the community: the trust we built, the encouragement we shared, and the life we lived together.*

**Matilda, Albania - 2020LE Cohort**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Applications Open:** 15 January 2025

**Application Deadline:** 31 March 2026

**Total Cost:** 1 700 € plus airfares to Tirana, Albania

Space is limited to 20 people

\*As a regional Leadership Experience for Europe, priority will be given to applicants applying from the region. There may be a small number of participants from outside the region.

# Academic Alliance

Check out the branding!



GLOBAL CHILDREN'S FORUM  
**ACADEMIC ALLIANCE**

The GCF Academic Alliance challenges and equips academic institutions to include children as a topic of serious reflection in all their ministry training programs. A global review with 18 leaders from North America, South America, Africa, and Asia, confirmed the need for a more formal leadership structure and the development of an 'academic ecosystem'. Following this, the GCF Academic Facilitation Team formed in January 2025, leading to the formal launch of the GCF Academic Alliance in September. Advocacy efforts were successfully undertaken with major accrediting bodies, both globally (ICETE), and in the US (ABHE). A significant grant application was approved in October.

To capitalize on this momentum, there is now a three-year roadmap focusing on six strategic areas: creating a clear identity through Communications; continuing Advocacy through regional accrediting bodies; expanding Equipping efforts via both the Academic EQUIP (resourcing and consulting) and the GCF Leadership Experience; prioritizing Resourcing by developing collaborative, globally usable textbooks; and Mapping existing efforts and needs through the Children & Family ICETE Group.



## INSIGHTS THE GLOBAL RESEARCH

The collective global research project mapping the state of children and youth ministry across the church worldwide is now nearly 50% complete. This study is helping us identify what is working well and where support is most needed in five key areas:

- Engaging the church
- Cultivating qualified leaders
- Producing quality materials
- Establishing effective ministry models
- Empowering younger leaders



In the coming year, individual reports from all 35 participating countries, along with regional summaries, will highlight the most significant strengths and gaps within the local church. As a GCF family, this will open new opportunities for us to review the findings together and collaborate on developing strategies that respond directly to the needs identified by churches worldwide.



# Resourcing Families

to Raise Generous Kingdom Givers



In a world pulling families in every direction, it's never been more important to raise children and youth with Kingdom vision. Gen-G has been creating new tools to help families inspire radical, Biblical generosity, lead intentionally, and multiply impact right where they are. The Multiplier Playbook Training soon to be on the website will offer practical, step-by-step toolkits and video trainings to help you grow this movement in your own community, starting at home.

The new Family Generosity Board Game makes big conversations about generosity and mission a fun and playful part of everyday life. And if you're walking with teens, the first three sessions of the Youth Conversations Generosity Discipleship Experience are now ready for testing. Contact Gen-G on the Gen-G [website](#) for more info.

Because families need more than good intentions; they need real, ready-to-go resources to shape generous hearts in the next generation. Generosity: The tangible expression of God's love to a hurting world.

## A Testimony of Lasting Transformation

Last year our team had the privilege of hosting a Generous Generations Camp in Yizesi, located in the North East Region of Ghana. The camp created a foundation of Biblical generosity in the hearts of children. This year we returned to continue with the remaining lessons and what we discovered was deeply inspiring.

One of the community leaders shared how the teachings from the camp have continued to shape the attitudes and behaviors of the children:

*"Since the camp, I have noticed a remarkable change in my son, Rasi. Whenever I give him money for school, he refuses to eat alone. He always invites his friend to join him, and they share everything. Last Sunday, this same friend followed Rasi to church for the very first time. When I returned from preaching at the lorry station, his grandparents asked if it was true that their grandson attended church. I told them yes.*

*They were so happy. They explained that they often have nothing to give him when he leaves for school. But every day, Rasi shares his food with him. Even when I buy books for Rasi, I give some to his friend and he always goes home and tells his grandparents. Because of this kindness, they have agreed that he should continue attending church. They said they are grateful, and I am also grateful to God for opening this door."*



see more stories on website: [www.generousgenerations.org](http://www.generousgenerations.org)



## MOMENTUM IN THE MOVEMENT

This year's 4/14 Catalytic Event reignited collaboration and vision for ministering to children ages 4–14, the largest spiritual window of receptivity worldwide.

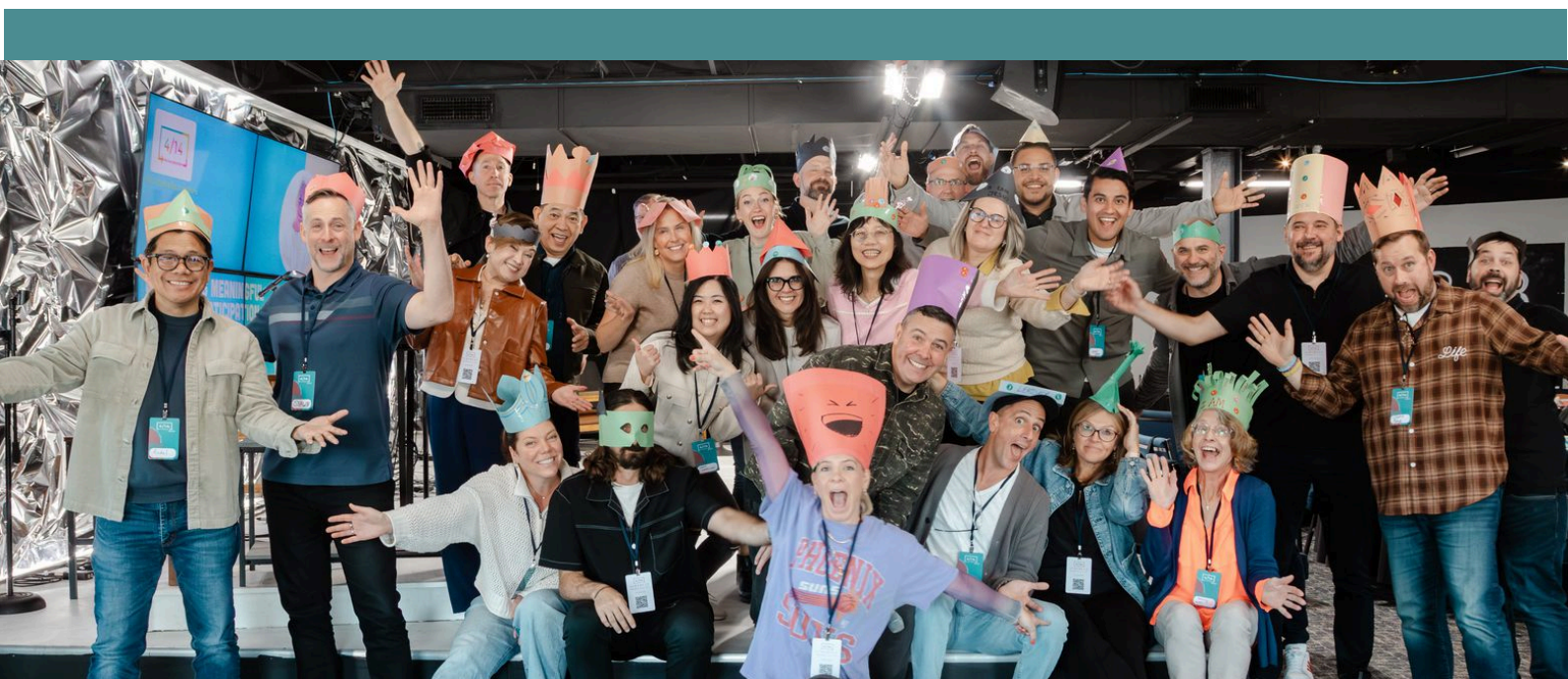
### Key Outcomes from the Gathering

- A renewed commitment to children as co-architects of mission: children as active contributors, not just recipients
- Launch of the 4 A's Framework: Awareness, Advocacy, Agency, Activation
- A call for global catalytic expressions, including an annual 4/14 Day for churches worldwide
- Development of a decentralized backbone structure to sustain the movement

One sobering insight shared:

- 1 in 4 teens report suicidal thoughts, and half have never opened a Bible reminding us why this movement matters so deeply.

Yet hope abounded, as leaders shared testimonies of children preaching, leading worship, and serving their communities.

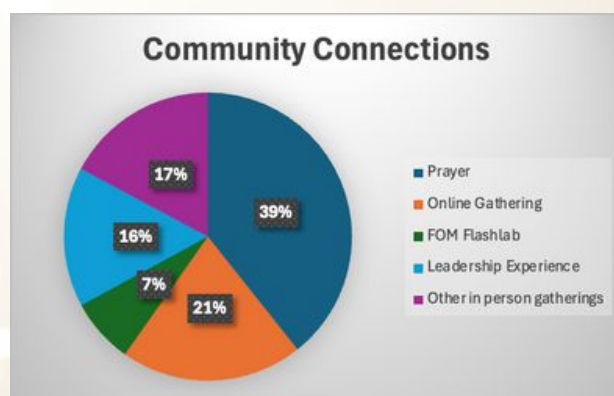




# A Year of Meaningful Connections

We gathered in several meaningful ways this year **in person** during the World Evangelical Alliance Gathering, through our 4/14 meetings, the Leadership Experience, and as we rallied around the Multiply School in Egypt.

We also hosted intentional **online gatherings**. Thank you to each of you who took part in any of these moments!



Individual participants across various 2025 gatherings



# Multiply School Experience in Egypt

Six of our leaders participated in the Multiply School program in Egypt, a valuable experience, led by the sports movement, shaping personal growth and GCF's future leadership development efforts. The program resembles the GCF Leadership Experience, emphasizing experiential learning, character formation, and practical application. Overall, it was a positive and formative experience that strengthened our relationship with Multiply School and the broader sports movement initiatives.

Key strengths included its clear "head, heart, and hands" approach, excellent facilitation, and well-structured learning environment. A notable feature was the intentional involvement of young, inexperienced facilitators, giving them space to develop real leadership skills. Interactive activities, play, and mentoring relationships were also central to the program's design. The team highlighted opportunities for greater alignment and collaboration. Insights from this trip will help shape GCF's upcoming leaders forum and future gatherings.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Because of you, we are now positioned to:

- Support the implementation of the WEA global commitment
- Mobilize churches worldwide for 4/14 Day 2026
- Expand the Leadership Experience into more regions
- Equip families and churches to engage children in meaningful discipleship
- Strengthen collaboration across networks committed to the next generation
- Build towards a gathering of emerging leaders in Zambia in June.

Your partnership is helping to transform families, empower leaders, and ensure that children around the world encounter the hope of Jesus.



# Thank you

On behalf of our global family, thank you for praying, giving, and standing with us. Together, we continue to raise up a generation who will love Jesus deeply and lead with courage.



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