

*The National Academies of*  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

**FORUM ON INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN GLOBALLY (iYCG)  
WORKSHOP #9**

**INNOVATIONS IN INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN GLOBALLY**

Held in partnership with the Jacobs Foundation, the Institute for Human Development  
at the Aga Khan University, and the Bernard van Leer Foundation

[Hotel Tiama](#)

Boulevard de la République  
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

October 20-21, 2016

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In this ninth and final workshop of the Forum, speakers will explore research on the costs of quality investments in young children; policies and financing that capitalize on existing investments and other contextual advantages; and practices and research that are culturally grounded and developmentally. This workshop will also provide an opportunity to highlight the work of innovators from academia, non-governmental organizations, governments, and businesses conducting cutting edge work in these areas. While not traditionally considered “innovative”, long term approaches to investing in young children in West Africa will also be presented. Furthermore, given the unique circumstance of Francophone countries in Africa, the workshop will highlight some of the challenges and barriers to investments in young children in these countries as well as identify examples of research, policies, and practices that overcome these barriers to support young children.

Specific topics to be addressed:

1. Explore the costs and financing of quality early childhood development programs and policies with a focus on innovative financing tools, models or ideas. Include views from outside the traditional child health and development fields that may be complementary to strengthening investments in young children’s health, education, nutrition, and social protection.
2. Highlight innovations from research, program development and evaluation, and technology and product development that seek to improve children’s health, education, nutrition, and social protection. Innovations can be longstanding successes or ideas that have not yet been launched or scaled.
3. Discuss the challenges and historical and sociopolitical barriers to investing in Francophone countries; and explore opportunities to build off existing promising investments and innovations.



**Planning Committee****Kofi Marfo (Co-chair)**, Aga Khan University**Simon Sommer (Co-chair)**, Jacobs Foundation**Mathilde Bienvenu Wargo**, Bernard van Leer Foundation**Amina Abubakar**, Lancaster University**Lola Adedokun**, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**Mariavittoria Ballotta**, UNICEF**Pamela Collins**, National Institute of Mental Health**Angela Diaz**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**Vesna Kutlesic**, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development**Dominique McMahan**, Grand Challenges Canada**Alan Pence**, University of Victoria**Cheryl Polk**, HighScope Educational Research Foundation**Eduardo Queiroz**, Fundação Maria Cecília Souto Vidigal**Sabina Vigani**, Jacobs Foundation**Hiro Yoshikawa**, New York University**Thursday, October 20 PUBLIC SESSION Ebene Room****4:00-4:15 Welcome Remarks****4:15-5:45 Investing in young children in West Africa across sectors: Roundtable discussion**

*Objectives: Discuss cross-sector partnerships and programs in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal. Presenters will consider the challenges and barriers to working cross sector; explore the costs and financing of quality programming; highlight innovative models and policies; and share perspectives on gaps and opportunities for investing in young children in West Africa.*

**Moderator: Lola Adedokun**, Program Director for Child Well-Being and Director for the African Health Initiative, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Niale Kaba**, Minister of Planning and Development, Cote d'Ivoire
- **Koku Awoonor-Williams**, Deputy Director for Policy Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation, Ghana Health Service
- **Jose Saavedra**, Chief Medical Officer, Nestlé Nutrition
- **Cheikh Mbacké**, Senior Fellow at the Center for Research on Applied Economics and Finance of Thiès (CREFAT), University of Thiès, Senegal

**5:45-6:30 Presentation of the *Lancet* series on early childhood and moderated discussion**

*The Lancet series brings together the work of 45 authors representing 22 premier institutions around the globe and from academic disciplines ranging from neuroscience, psychology, and paediatrics, to educational psychology, biology, global health equity and economics. The series consists of three papers:*

- *Paper 1: Early child development coming of age, from science to practice*

- *Paper 2: Improving early child development with effective interventions*
- *Paper 3: Invest early for global progress towards sustainable development*

**Moderator: Michael Feigelson**, Executive Director, Bernard van Leer Foundation

**Speakers:**

- **Gary Darmstadt**, Associate Dean for Maternal and Child Health and Professor, Division of Neonatal and Developmental Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine
- **Zulfiqar Bhutta**, Founding Director, Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University and Robert Harding Inaugural Chair in Global Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children

Friday, October 21	PUBLIC SESSION	Ebene Room
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8:00am Breakfast

8:30-9:00 Welcome Address

9:00-9:30 Introductory Remarks

- **Kimber Bogard**, Director, Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally
- **Zulfiqar Bhutta**, Forum co-chair; Founding Director, Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University and Robert Harding Inaugural Chair in Global Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children
- **Kofi Marfo**, workshop co-chair; Professor and Foundation Director, Institute for Human Development, Aga Khan University (South-Central Asia, East Africa, UK)
- **Simon Sommer**, workshop co-chair; Head of Research, Jacobs Foundation

9:30-11:00 **Session 1: Research innovations from regional scholars**

*Objective: Scholars present their research and innovative ideas for culturally grounded work/metrics/measurement/data collection; highlight challenges, barriers, and opportunities for furthering the science in West Africa; highlight language as culture.*

**Chair: Aderemi Kuku**, President, African Academy of Sciences

**Moderators:**

- **Angela Diaz**, Jean C. and James W. Crystal Professor of Pediatrics and Preventative Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- **Kofi Marfo**, Professor and Foundation Director, Institute for Human Development, Aga Khan University (South-Central Asia, East Africa, UK)

**Speakers:**

- **Oumar Barry**, Senior Lecturer, University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar-Senegal

- **Anselme Siméon Sanou**, Medical Epidemiologist, Centre MURAZ, Burkina Faso

**11:00-11:30 Break**

**11:30-1:00 Session 2: Innovative problem solving roundtables**

*Objective: Highlight innovations from research, program development and evaluation, service delivery, and technology and product development that seek to improve children's health, education, nutrition, and social protection. Innovations can be longstanding successes or ideas that have not yet been launched or scaled.*

**11:30-12:00 Practice and delivery**, *examples may include: innovative program development and service delivery and evaluation; include children with developmental and physical disabilities*

**Moderator:**

- **Cheryl Polk**, President, HighScope Educational Research Foundation

**Speakers:**

- **Frank Baiden**, Head of Epidemiology, Ensign College of Public Health, Kpong, Ghana
- **Marjolein Meande-Baltussen**, Inclusive Child Development Advisor, CBM

**12:00-12:30 Research**, *examples may include: new methodologies, uses of big data, integrating the whole child, measurement, epidemiology, indicators of child well-being*

**Moderators:**

- **Beverly Pringle**, Chief – Global Mental Health Research, National Institute of Mental Health
- **Hirokazu Yoshikawa**, Courtney Sale Ross University Professor of Globalization and Education, New York University

**Speakers:**

- **Eddy J. Walakira**, Head for the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, School of Social Sciences, Makerere University School of Social Sciences, Kampala, Uganda
- **David Kaawa-Mafigiri**, Senior Lecturer, Makerere University School of Social Sciences, Kampala, Uganda
- **Henriette Hanicotte**, Research Manager, Innovations for Poverty Action, Cote d'Ivoire

12:30-1:00 **Technology and product development**, *examples may include cross sector approaches to improving the well-being of young children and their caregivers*

**Moderators:**

- **Dominique McMahon**, Program Officer – Targeted Programs, Grand Challenges Canada
- **Eduardo Queiroz**, Executive Director, Fundação Maria Cecília Souto Vidigal

**Speakers:**

- **Kaja Jasinska**, Research Scientist, Haskins Laboratories

1:00-2:00 **Networking lunch**

2:00-3:00 **Session 3: Economic investments in children, families, systems**

*Objective: Identify systems that need to be changed to improve investments in young children*

**Moderator: Simon Sommer**, Head of Research, Jacobs Foundation

**Speakers:**

- **Jennifer Brooks**, Senior Program Officer, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Ted Miller**, Principal Research Scientist, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

**Reaction and Commentary:**

- **Eva-Maria Hempe**, Manager, Bain & Company

3:00-4:30 **Session 4: Capacity building and innovative partnerships**

*Objective: Discuss innovative models for delivering training and technical assistance to further build capacity in research and leadership in Africa; creating opportunities for and elevating research by African scholars; and developing inter-sectoral partnerships across Africa in an effort to make more strategic investments in young children in Africa and around the world.*

**Moderator: Amina Abubakar**, Research Fellow, Lancaster University

**Speakers:**

- **Alan Pence**, Early Childhood Development University (ECDVU)
- **Kofi Marfo**, African Scholars and Institutions (AS&I) Initiative
- **Hirokazu Yoshikawa**, Education, Quality, and Learning for All (EQUAL)
- **Juliana Seleti**, Sub-Saharan Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN)

4:30-5:30 **Session 5: Public Comment on iYCG Summary Document**

- **Moderator: Zulfiqar Bhutta**, Founding Director, Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University and Robert Harding Inaugural Chair in Global Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children

**5:30-5:45**      **Closing Remarks**

- **Kofi Marfo**, workshop co-chair; Professor and Foundation Director, Institute for Human Development, Aga Khan University (South-Central Asia, East Africa, UK)
- **Simon Sommer**, workshop co-chair; Head of Research, Jacobs Foundation

**5:45pm**      **Adjourn**