



Conference programme

Day 1: Tuesday, 15 September

08:00–09:00: Registration

09:00–09:20: Opening remarks

Michelle Kaffenberger · What Works Hub for Global Education

Rachel Hinton · UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

09:20–09:40: Implementation science and implementation measurement

Noam Angrist · What Works Hub for Global Education



09:45–11:00: Panel session – Measuring and accounting for implementation

Chair: **Sabina Morley** · UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Sharnic Djaker · What Works Hub for Global Education

Measuring implementation quality vs quantity

Poornima Garg · Room to Read, India & **Shashi Ranjan** · Jharkhand Education Project Council, Government of Jharkhand

State Project Management Unit (SPMU) for quality improvement in primary grades, Jharkhand

Fernanda Soares · University of Notre Dame

High fidelity, uneven impacts: when observed program delivery and mechanism activation diverge

Tahir Andrabi · Pomona College

Free to choose: introducing technology for foundational learning in Pakistan

11:00–11:30: Break



11:30–12:30: Lightning talks – Iteration for improved effectiveness and efficiency

Chair: **Rosa Robinson** · Hempel Foundation

Wilima Wadhwa · Pratham Education Foundation

What kind of teacher support improves foundational learning? Evidence from iterative A/B testing in Uttar Pradesh's government school remedial programme

Konstantin Büchel · Youth Impact

Teacher coaching made cost-effective: evidence from two A/B tests in Namibia

Ama Anaman · World Bank

Building in the feedback loop: experimental evidence on scaling differentiated learning in Ghana

Whitney Warren · Building Tomorrow

Iterative implementation research to improve literacy programming in Uganda

Mercedes Sidders · Innovations for Poverty Action

Adaptive learning cycles for scaling: evidence-informed approaches to government-led remediation. FCDO Scaling Access and Learning in Education (SCALE), Malawi TaRL-informed remediation innovative partnership

12:30–13:30: Lunch



13:30–14:45: Panel session – Evaluating implementation through government systems

Chair: TBC

Leo Mfura · Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development and Evaluation
Scaling teacher performance contracts: an adaptive experimental study in Rwanda

Guthrie Gray-Lobe · Development Innovation Lab, University of Chicago &

Alex Eble · Teachers College, Columbia University

Targeted learning without deep remediation: experimental evidence from India

Andreas de Barros · University of California, Irvine

Targeting foundational skills at scale: skill specificity and transfer

Wayne Sandholtz · Nova School of Business and Economics

Information and the politics of school quality: evidence from a nationwide reform in Brazil

14:45–15:15: Break



15:15–16:15: Lightning talks – Implementing with and through the middle tier

Chair: **Dhir Jhingran** · Language and Learning Foundation

Abhinav Ghosh · Harvard University

Middle, but not central? Bureaucrats implementing FLN instructional support

Deborah Kimathi · The Learning Generation Initiative, Education Development Center

Translating research into practice: strengthening the middle tier for effective implementation of foundational learning reforms

Elizabeth Adelman · FHI 360

Making coaching work at scale: how middle-tier actors can enable school-based teacher support

Rebecca Swiftens · Madhi Foundation

Building the middle tier - insights from three Indian states

Raj Misser · Gauteng Education Department, South Africa

From credibility to consequence: government-led learning data in Gauteng, South Africa

16:15–16:45: Break



16:45–17:45: Keynote panel – Real talk with education leaders on implementing foundational learning at scale

Chair: **Jonathan Stern** · Deputy Director of Global Education, Gates Foundation

Grace Muzila · Former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Botswana

Flora Mutezigaju · Deputy Director General, Rwanda Basic Education Board

Rukmini Banerji · Senior Advisor and former CEO, Pratham Education Foundation

17:45–17:55: Closing remarks

David Lee · Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

18:00–20:00: **Day 1 Reception** with remarks by:

Jo Bourne · Global Partnership for Education

Kulula Manona · Department of Basic Education, South Africa

Day 2: Wednesday, 16 September

08:00–09:00: Registration

09:00–09:15: **Opening remarks**

Anders Holm · Hempel Foundation



09:15–10:30: **Panel session – Evaluation at scale**

Chair: **David Evans** · Center for Global Development

Abhijeet Singh · Stockholm School of Economics

Adapting for scale: experimental evidence on technology-aided instruction in India

Jennifer Opare-Kumi · What Works Hub for Global Education

Randomized evaluation of markets for impact in Ghana and Sierra Leone basic education sectors

Pedro Freitas · What Works Hub for Global Education

Evaluating education interventions at scale: quasi-experimental and experimental results from India

Adrienne Lucas · University of Delaware

Scaling down costs to scale up effective programs: evidence from two randomized interventions

10:30–11:00: Break



11:00–12:00: **Lightning talks – Ensuring effectiveness for all**

Chair: **Pauline Rose** · REAL Centre, University of Cambridge

Ahmed Mohamed · Street Child UK

Teaching at The Right Level (TaRL) in crisis: learning from Somalia & Somaliland

Emilie Berkhout · Youth Impact

Stories that shape us: evidence from a gender-empowering literacy program

Laraib Niaz · REAL Centre, University of Cambridge

Advancing gender equality, disability and social inclusion in education: insights from What Works Hub for Global Education focus countries

Keomany Thongpaseuth · Research Institute of Educational Sciences, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR

From pilot to policy: scaling spoken Lao to strengthen foundational learning for ethnic minority students

Neha Raheel · Luminos Fund

Scaling structured pedagogy with government in Ethiopia

12:00–13:00: Lunch



13:00–14:15: Panel session – Better measurement and use of student learning data

Chair: **Armando Ali** · PAL Network

Jack Rossiter · Independent Education Researcher

The illusion of comparability among standardised effect sizes: Why education evaluations should report raw effects

Akashi Kaul · Central Square Foundation

Using system assessment data for policy decisions in states to improve student learning outcomes

Nompumelelo Nyathi-Mohohlwane · Department of Basic Education, South Africa

Funda Uphumelele National Survey

Nishant Baghel & Amanda Beatty · Pratham International

Making expert practice visible: a data-driven approach to understanding effective TaRL implementation

14:15–14:45: Break



14:45–16:00: Panel session – Government use of evidence and data

Chair: **Samuel Kembou** · Jacobs Foundation

Parmod Kumar · Department of School Education, Haryana, India

Optimizing structured pedagogy in Haryana: high-impact teaching strategies for improved implementation fidelity

Akash Shankar · Government of Karnataka, India

Data, discipline, and delivery: a decentralised mechanism to improve learning outcomes in Chitradurga

Hamna Tariq · Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan

Teacher capacity vs. system capacity: lessons from scaling the Targeted Instruction Project (TIP) in Pakistan

Barbara Trudell · SIL Africa & **Momodou Jeng** · Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, The Gambia

Language-in-education reform to improve foundational learning in The Gambia: design and implementation

16:00–16:30: Break



16:30–17:30: Keynote panel – From policy to action: driving evidence-based policymaking and implementation

Chair: **Nompumelelo Nyathi-Mohohlwane** · Director for Reading, Department of Basic Education, South Africa

Hon. Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education Conrad Omalikeh Sackey · Sierra Leone

Dr. Obiageli 'Oby' Ezekwesili · Founder & President, Human Capital Africa

Benjamin Piper · Director of Global Education, Gates Foundation

Christian Bodewig · Director for Education and Skills, World Bank

Ranil Dissanayake · Deputy Chief Economist, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

17:30–17:45: Closing remarks

Michelle Kaffenberger · What Works Hub for Global Education

Noam Angrist · What Works Hub for Global Education

17:45–19:30: Day 2 Reception