



**WHAT WORKS**  
GLOBAL SUMMIT 2021

# *Evidence for Development*

Online conference 18-26 October 2021  
#evidence4dev

Hosted by



## Concept note

### Introduction and overview

Evidence on development policies and interventions is key to effectively addressing many crucial questions: what do children learn when sitting in a classroom? What does it take for children to actually go to school? How can children be properly nourished and escape malnutrition? What will it take for women to be granted equal access to the job market or to be compensated fairly for their work? What will it take for billions of dollars spent on ineffective programmes to be redirected and better targeted to desired development outcomes?

It is over 15 years that the Center for Global Development asked *When Will We Ever Learn?*<sup>1</sup>, pointing out that billions of dollars are spent each year on development programmes of unknown effectiveness. Since then, there is a growing body of evidence about what works. And that evidence shows that a large proportion of development interventions are ineffective.

The availability of this growing body of evidence worldwide is welcome. But there are still three major challenges.

First, to ensure that the evidence is relevant to decisionmakers – policymakers and practitioners – by addressing not only what works, but how, why, for whom and at what cost? And that this evidence, contextualized in ways which enhance transferability, is not generic.

Second, to ensure that evidence is communicated in timely and usable ways, which often involves a process of knowledge translation or knowledge brokering and a good understanding of policy processes.

And third, to make sure debates on policy challenges are informed by varied and competing sources of evidence, and the people involved in them are capable of discerning between them.

The What Works Global Summit 2021 – *Evidence for Development* – takes up these challenges.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/when-will-we-ever-learn-improving-lives-through-impact-evaluation>

## About the conference

The conference is an all-online event from 18-26 October 2021 encompassing both the annual Global Development Conference and the What Works Global Summit. Given the complementarity of our work, our members and target beneficiaries, the Campbell Collaboration and the Global Development Network have decided to co-host this flagship event for 2021.

Events include:

- Plenary sessions by leaders in the field of evidence for development
- Parallel sessions in a range of formats to encourage broad participation
- Rapid fire presentation sessions of the latest evidence for development
- An online poster session and presentations of competitively selected short videos
- A conference expo with information about the conference organizers and sponsors
- Virtual coffee table chat sessions for networking

## Advisory panel

An Advisory Panel is being formed of leading figures in evidence for development. The panel will help identify plenary speakers, identify conference themes and promote the event in their communities.

## Conference themes

Submissions are welcome on all development-related themes addressing 'what works, how, for whom and at what cost'. The conference will include sessions on the following issues:

- Innovative approaches to knowledge brokering
- Measuring Impact
- Innovative approaches to impact evaluation and evidence synthesis
- Assessing evidence claims
- Climate change, biodiversity and development
- Health-environment-economic wellbeing nexus
- Inequality and social inclusion
- Building resilience
- Gender
- Disability
- Ageing
- Social protection
- Mental health
- Better business practices
- Transitions (social, environmental, energy, political, economic)
- AI, big data, machine learning and development
- Industrial policy and productivity
- Youth employment
- Quality of education
- Crime and justice
- Child protection
- Governance and accountability

## Key audiences

The conference will target 400 participants, drawn from a diverse group of researchers, evaluators, policymakers, representatives of international organizations, civil society, development practitioners and the private sector.

## Call for proposals

A call for proposals has been issued for the following categories: individual presentations, panels, and posters. All submissions will be reviewed by a scientific committee with representatives from the Campbell Collaboration and Global Development Network. To see the full call for proposals, go to [www.gdn.int/evidence4dev](http://www.gdn.int/evidence4dev) (Apply by 22 April 2021).

## Conference sponsorship

Conference sponsorship is sought at three levels:

- Platinum sponsor: (US\$30,000): Name listed on conference website. Acknowledgement given in opening and closing plenaries. Thanks for sponsorship on social media. Space provided in Expo. Possibility to have a 'Meet the sponsor...' session. Have one guaranteed parallel session in the programme and a slot on one of the plenary sessions at no further charge, if desired. Sponsors are vetted by the organization committee.
- Gold sponsor (US\$10,000): Name listed on conference website. Acknowledgement given in opening and closing plenaries. Thanks for sponsorship on social media. Space provided in Expo. Have one guaranteed parallel session in the programme if desired. Sponsors are vetted by the organization committee.
- Session sponsor (US\$3,000): Name listed with the sponsored session. Space provided in Expo. Have one parallel session in the programme (subject to acceptance).

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## About the conference organizers

### *Campbell Collaboration*

The Campbell Collaboration is an international research network supporting the production and use of rigorous evidence synthesis. Its journal, Campbell Systematic Reviews, publishes systematic reviews and evidence maps on a wide range of topics.

The What Works Global Summit is an opportunity for those working with the Campbell Collaboration around the world – Coordinating Groups, National and Regional Centres, networks, and authors – to talk about their work, hear from others, and engage with policy makers and practitioners.

### *Global Development Network (GDN)*

GDN is a public international organization headquartered in New Delhi that supports high quality, policy-oriented, social science research in developing and transition countries to promote better lives. It provides researchers and research institutions with financial resources, global networking, as well as access to information, training, peer review and mentoring. GDN acts on the premise that better research leads to more informed policies and better, more inclusive development. Through its global platform, GDN connects social science researchers with policymakers and development stakeholders across the world.

The GDN Global Development Conference is a prestigious event, held in a different region and on a different theme each year. The event connects developing countries' researchers, especially young academics, with the world's most influential researchers and decision leaders on a common platform, where they can share their research and discuss the most pressing challenges for sustainable social and economic development.

*Organization committee*

Staff of Campbell and GDN have constituted an organizing committee.