



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Evidence for Development

What Works Global Summit 2021

Online: 18-26 October, 2021

The 2021 What Works Global Summit / Global Development Conference Organizing Committee is issuing a call for innovative proposals (papers, presentations, full panels or posters) that explore the evidence for development interface. Submissions should address one of the themes listed below.

Introduction and overview

Evidence on development policies and interventions is key to 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 programs 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?*¹, 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 decision-makers - policy makers and practitioners - by addressing not only what works, but how, why, for whom and at what cost? And that it this evidence contextualized in ways which enhance transferability not generic.

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

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.

About the conference

The conference is an all-online event from 18-26 October 2021. It will also serve as the Global Development Conference that GDN normally hosts every year. Given the complementarity of our work, our members and target beneficiaries, the Campbell Collaboration and the Global Development Network have decided to join hands and co-host their 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

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

Request for proposals

Proposals are welcome under the following headings:

- Sponsored parallel session: We welcome proposals for full panels in any format e.g. chat show, audience participatory approaches, fishbowl and conventional panel with Q&A. The organizers of sponsored panels are requested to pay US\$3,000 toward conference costs. They will be acknowledged in the conference materials. No male only panels will be accepted.
- Individual presentations by researchers and practitioners from low- and middle-income countries. We welcome submissions for individual presentations by researchers and practitioners from low- and middle-income countries on any of the above themes. These are expected to either (1) add new, relevant evidence; (2) identify relevant evidence gaps; or (3) discuss the potential or actual use of evidence in a structured way, or the challenges faced in producing and using evidence. These will be clubbed together thematically in the parallel sessions during the conference.
- Poster presentations: An online poster session will run throughout the conference. The online poster is a conventional conference poster accompanied by a short presentation of up to five minutes. Presenters of accepted posters will be sent instructions on how to prepare their poster.

All submissions will be reviewed by a Scientific Committee with representatives from the Campbell Collaboration and Global Development Network.

Proposal submission:

Proposals should be submitted using the online form which is available here <https://forms.gle/9Y13hy6b6YQ61Boz5>.

Proposals must be submitted by **April 22nd**, 2021 (6 pm IST). Ineligible proposals, and proposals submitted after the deadline, will not be considered. For any queries, please write to portes@campbellcollaboration.org or conference@gdn.int.

Please follow the guidelines for submission. Even if there are multiple co-authors, each presentation or panel or poster should only be submitted once. All submissions should be proofread.

The Scientific Committee of the conference will evaluate all submissions in terms of **originality, consistency with the conference theme, scientific quality/analytical rigor, and clarity**. Authors of accepted submissions will be informed by **May 30, 2021**.

Additional information on the overall conference program will be posted on the GDN and Campbell Collaboration websites over the coming months.