

2021 SYMPOSIUM

*EdTech for Accelerating Foundational Literacy
and Numeracy in Low-Resource Contexts*

Join us virtually for our 11th annual
symposium featuring foundational literacy
and numeracy builders from across the
globe!

27- 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

FINAL SCHEDULE BELOW
All times listed in EDT

Special thanks to our sponsors:



ALLIANCE DAY: 27 SEPTEMBER



Please Note: Alliance Day is an invite-only event for staff of mEducation Alliance member institutions and special guests.

8:30 - 9:00 am

Opening Remarks

- Anthony Bloome, Founder and Executive Director, **mEducation Alliance**
- Robert Hawkins, Senior Education Specialist, **The World Bank**
- Michael Hollaender, Head of Section Education, Vocational Education and Training, Labour Markets, **GIZ**
- Jane Kinney Meyers, Founder and President, **Lubuto Library Partners**

9:00 - 9:30 am

Networking

9:30 - 10:30 am

**Are We Powering up
Education Through the Use of
Open Innovation Challenge
Calls?**

Description: Do open innovation challenge calls in education actually work? This participatory session will examine that question with a focus on the rationale for when to use (or not) open innovation competitions. Panelists will discuss the associated considerations for design, use, and measuring the effectiveness and impact of these types of calls to attract non-traditional problem-solving approaches and innovators.

Moderator: Anthony Bloome, Executive Director, **mEducation Alliance**

- Donika Dimovska, Chief Knowledge Officer, **Jacobs Foundation**
- Kumar Garg, Senior Managing Director and Head of Partnerships, **Schmidt Futures**
- Eliza Berg, Lead, **Learning & Solv[ED] Communities, MIT-Solve**
- Shelly Malecki, Senior Program Manager, **All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development**

ALLIANCE DAY: 27 SEPTEMBER



9:30 - 10:30 am

Towards a Global Declaration on Connectivity for Education

Description: This UNESCO-organized session will overview the Global Declaration on Connectivity for Education.

The Declaration gives orientation to international and national efforts to use connected technologies to support the right to education in the 'new normals' emerging from the pandemic and at a moment when digital spaces are, in many contexts, becoming increasingly central to our lives and learning.

The Declaration, developed through a partnership between UNESCO and Dubai Cares and guided by a 22-person advisory group, will be launched at the December 2021 RewirEd Summit in Dubai.

Presenters will introduce the three principles and underlying commitments in the Declaration and invite feedback from session participants.

- Mark West, Education Specialist, **UNESCO**
- Leila Toplic, Head of Emerging Technologies Initiative, **NetHope**
- Jacqueline Strecker, Connected Education Lead, **UNHCR**

10:30 - 11:30 am

Designing EdTech with Inclusion for Refugees

Description: Compared to other modalities, the use of digital was considered within low-income countries as one of the most effective approaches to distance learning during Covid-19 closures. Yet access to connectivity, devices, and digital learning resources is limited. During this session, we'll discuss how policies and initiatives successfully support the inclusion of refugees within national EdTech initiatives.

- Jacqueline Strecker, Connected Education Lead, **UNHCR**
- Judith Flick, Programme Director, **Cant Wait to Learn**
- Cindy Bonfini-Hotlosz, CEO, **Centreity**
- Tala Sweiss, Director, **Madrasati Initiative**
- Frankie Randle, Connected Higher Education Specialist, **UNHCR**

ALLIANCE DAY: 27 SEPTEMBER



10:30 - 11:30 am

Persuasive Social and Behavior Change Communications (SBCC): A Missing Link for EdTech

Description: The World Bank Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (Oct 2020) concluded that investing in hardware alone was a bad buy when not accompanied by complementary measures. While common in health and gender programming, SBCC with persuasive and innovative formats remain rare in education. This session will summarize new evidence of SBCC campaigns in health, gender and education delivered through radio, television, social media and community events. Campaign producers will also share their insights on the challenges and opportunities for complementing EdTech campaigns with innovative SBCC.

Moderator: Victor Orozco, Senior Economist, **The World Bank**

- Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, **Population Foundation of India**
- Ericka Rascon-Ramirez, Associate Professor in Development Economics, **Middlesex University London**
- Regan Alsup, Director of Production and Media Strategy, **Impact(Ed) International**
- Nandan Rao, Researcher and PhD Candidate, **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona**
- Oluwakemi Akagwu, Online Platforms Manager, **Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs**
- Rachel Glennerster, Assistant Professor, **University of Chicago** and Former Chief Economist, **UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Monitoring & Evaluation of EdTech Programming – How do we know it’s working?

Description: As the global community searches for ways to achieve the sustainable development goal of a quality education for all by 2030, education technology is widely accepted to be part of the solution. At the same time, the risk of wasting limited resources on innovative but unproven education technologies highlights the importance of rigorous monitoring and evaluating. The aim of this session is to provide multilateral, bilateral, and INGO education professionals with examples of evaluation approaches that have proven useful when measuring learning gains in EdTech programs. This interactive session will describe and compare tools used to monitor and evaluate EdTech programs, especially those aimed at improving foundational learning skills. Participants will engage in activities and discussions, as well as hear from M&E experts in the field.

- Mark Lynd, President and Co-Founder & Carol da Silva, Senior Director of Impact & Learning, **School-to-School International**

ALLIANCE DAY: 27 SEPTEMBER



11:30 am - 12:30 pm **Using the FLN Global Proficiency Frameworks for Ed Game Development**

Description: This session will feature a discussion about the GPFs for Reading and Mathematics and what education game developers (tech and non-tech) should know about these standards for future product development and acceptance by national education authorities. First developed by UNESCO in 2018 and subsequently refined, these frameworks define the global minimum proficiency levels that learners are expected to demonstrate at the end of each grade level, from grades one to nine.

Moderator: Dr. John Comings, Literacy Advisor, **mEducation Alliance** & Adjunct Professor, **University of Massachusetts Amherst**

- Dr. Saima Malik, Senior Research and Learning Advisor & Rebecca Rhodes, Senior Education Advisor, **USAID**
 - Dr. Scott Nicholson, Escape Games for Education Strategic Advisor, **mEducation Alliance**
 - Paul Miller, US Country Head, **Whizz Education**
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Public Symposium Events will take place 28-30 September and can be found on the next pages.

For further updates and developments please see the [mEducation Alliance webpage](#)

To register find our event [registration page](#)

DAY 1: 28 SEPTEMBER



7:00 - 8:00 am EdTech Hub Research Hour: Teacher Professional Development

Moderator: Sara Hennessey, Research Director, **EdTech Hub**

- Natalie Denmeade, Educational Technology Specialist & Ian Reid, Senior Education Technology Consultant, **Inclusiv Education** & Stanley Kumasimba, Education Program Manager, **Save the Children Australia**
- Wendy Smith, Director of Education Programs & Ethel Sakitey, Regional Director for West Africa, **World Reader**
- Tae Young, Impact Strategy and Partnership Development, **Enuma, Inc.** & Dayani Mbowe, Country Manager, **Camara Education Tanzania**
- Adam Kreimeia, Research Assistant, **EdTech Hub**

8:00 - 8:30 am Opening Remarks

- Anthony Bloome, Founder and Executive Director, **mEducation Alliance**
- Verna Lalbeharie, Executive Director at **EdTech Hub**
- Elinor Sisulu, Executive Director, **Puku Foundation**

8:30 - 10:00 am Gallery Walks: Literacy League

For our Gallery Walks sessions, we're recreating the experience of being in a physical conference-- only virtually! This is your opportunity to mill around and visit different virtual conference booths. Participants will rotate between organizations every 15 minutes, giving you the chance to have an intimate presentation from different organizations during this session.

- *Open Licensed Children's Books that Everyone Can Use*, Dorette Louw, Director & Julia Norrish, Executive Director, **Book Dash**
- *African Storybook Reader and Maker Apps: Library and Publisher in your Pocket!*, Dorcas Wepukhulu, African Storybook Partner Development Coordinator for East and West Africa & Dr. Tony Lelliott, Programme Specialist, **Saide**
- *Teaching Foundational Literacy Over the Radio*, Craig Esbeck, Director & Jimmy Mwoci, Literacy Specialist, **Mango Tree Literacy Lab**
- *GraphoGame: A Model for Early Literacy Education in Latin America*, Jesper Rynnänen, Co-founder and COO & Stuart Clarke, Director of Business Development, **Graphogame**
- *Driving Literacy and Digital Literacy - Lessons from the iMlango Programme in Kenya*, Adam Smith, Co-founder and CEO & Rabasa Onyango, Head of Education, **sQuid**
- *Nationwide English Literacy with Mobile Technology*, Surinder Sharma, Founder and CEO, **Smart Kidz Club**

DAY 1: 28 SEPTEMBER



8:30 - 10:00 am

Gallery Walks: Math Power!

*Please see Gallery Walk description on Page 6

- Annapoorni Chandrashekar, Senior Manager of Digital Innovations & Suchitra Bapat, Math Digital Content Lead, **Pratham Education Foundation**
- *CWTL's Response to the Challenge of Delivering Quality Contextualised Education at Scale*, Judith Flick, Programme Director & Glenn McCance, Education Specialist & Nataliya Vasylevska, Business Development Manager, **War Child Holland**
- *Helping Students Help Each Other: How Mobile Apps Can Be Leveraged to Provide Mass-Scale Tutoring in Low Resource Contexts for Minimal Per-student Costs*, Phil Kwok, Co-founder and CEO & Dom Kwok, Co-founder and COO, **Easy A**
- *Using an Integrated USSD System to Skill Primary School Pupils with Numeracy and Literacy Skills*, Angele Messa, Founder, **EduClick**
- *Foundational Learning Through Digital Parent-Teacher Communities*, Utsav Kheria, Co-founder & Pavleen Arora, Communications Lead, **Rocket Learning**
- *M-Lugha App, First Language First!* Abdinoor Ali, Founder, **M-Lugha Technologies**

10:00 - 11:00 am

Lightning Talks: Math Festival Champions

Moderators: Julia Sylla, Director of Programs, and Carine Allaf, Senior Programs Advisor, QFI

- Andreas Matt, Director, **Imaginary**
- Tom Crawford, Maths Communicator, **Tom Rocks Maths**
- Gordon Hamilton, Founder and Director, **MathPickle**
- Kiran Bacche, Co-founder, **DhiMath**
- Erick Kaaya, Ambassador, **Global Math Project Tanzania**

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Literacy League Panel

Moderator: Lena Olsen Somme, Sector for Education Advisor, Norad

- Carolyn Johnson, Educator and Chair, **Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group**
- Stephanie Gottwald, Co-founder and Director of Content & Tinsley Galyean, Co-founder and Executive Director, **Curious Learning**
- Anand Ramaswami, Program Manager & Head of Content, **Google Read Along**
- Lily Nyariki, Book Development Specialist, **Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)**



DAY 1: 28 SEPTEMBER

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Math Power! Panel

- Dr. Karen Levesque, Senior Director for Measurement and Evaluation & Dr. Antonie Chigeda, Regional Director for Africa, **Imagine Worldwide**
- Nicola Pitchford, Professor, **University of Nottingham**
- Bethany Huntington, PhD Student, **University of Nottingham**

Accessibility Panel

Moderator: Sergio Ramirez-Mena, Chief of Party, **All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development**

- Sonia Shannon, Associate Coordinator for Multilingual Deaf Education, **SIL Global Sign Languages Team** & Lisseth Amaya, Educator and Cohort Member, **FUDIPEs**
- Dr. Valerie Karr, CEO, **Inclusive Development Partners** & Vibol Ratanak, Project Officer, **Cambodia Disabled People's Organization (CDPO)**
- Dr. Christopher Kurz, Professor and Director & Stephen Jacobs, Professor, **World Around You**
- Matt Utterback, Co-founder and Chief Content Officer & Georgine Auma Obura, Director of Studio KSL, **eKitabu**

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Going Global

Moderator: Ed Metz, Program Manager, **US Department of Education**

- Dr. Jill de Villiers, Professor of Philosophy and Sophia and Austin Smith Professor of Psychology, **Smith College**
- Aparna Ramanathan, Co-founder and CEO, **Sound Town (by Hoogalit Inc.)**
- Dr. Lana Israel, Founder and CEO, **Muzology**
- Christopher Cerf, President, **Sirius Thinking, Ltd.**
- Sarah Siegal, Vice President for Research and Practice, **Learning Ovations**
- Maria Burns Ortiz, Co-founder and CEO, **7 Generation Games**
- Sage Salvo, Founder, **Words Liive**
- Dr. Nancy Madden, Board Member, Co-Founder and CEO, **Success for All Foundation**
- Dr. Scott Laidlaw, CEO, **MidSchoolMath**

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Innovator Showcase

Featuring amazing presentations from our sponsors!

- Sooinn Lee, Cofounder and CEO, **Enuma, Inc.**
- Catherine Uwimana, Innovation Hub Manager, and Theophile Harushyamagara, Communications Specialist, **Save the Children**

DAY 2: 29 SEPTEMBER



8:00 - 8:30 am

Opening Remarks

- Anthony Bloome, Founder and Executive Director, **mEducation Alliance**
- Alex Palacios, Former Director for Private Sector and Foundations Engagement, **Global Partnership for Education**
- Momar Dieng, Chief Strategy and Partnerships Officer, **African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)**

8:30 - 9:30 am

EdTech Hub Research Hour: Girls' Education

Moderator: Rachel Chuang, Engagement Team, **EdTech Hub**

- Victor Orozco, Senior Economist with the Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) Department, **The World Bank**
- Dr. Helen Crompton, Associate Professor, **Old Dominion University**
- Nicola Pitchford, Professor, **University of Nottingham**

9:30 - 10:30 am

Unconference Sessions

So what is an Unconference Session? This is the time where participants get to decide what topics they want to speak about. The mEducation Alliance Team will be pulling these suggestions straight from Twitter, so be sure to get your suggestions in!

10:30 - 11:30 am

Ground-Truthing EdTech Investments In Low-Resource Settings

Moderator: Gus Schmedlen, President and Chief Revenue Officer, **Merlyn Mind**

- Sophie Hoffman, Investor, **GSV Ventures**
 - Vinit Sukhija, Partner, **Learn Capital**
 - Suraj Shah, Regional Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning Lead, **Mastercard Foundation**
 - Rob Jenkins, Global Director of Education, **UNICEF**
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DAY 2: 29 SEPTEMBER



11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Literacy League Gallery Walk

*Please see Gallery Walk description on Page 6

- *Education in the Home: Empowering Parents to Support their Child's Literacy and Learning*, Jeremy Bhatia, Manger of R&D, **Avenues: The World School** & Drew Edwards, Co-founder and CEO, **PANGEA**
- *How to Easily Create Interactive Literacy Apps from Existing Content*, Dana Rozier, Co-founder, **AutoCognita**
- *Developing a Love of Reading Through Technology in Indonesia*, Kerri Thomsen, Associate Director of Literacy, **Room to Read**
- *Foundational Literacy for Improved Livelihoods in Sierra Leone*, Jessica Rothenberg-Aalami, Founder and CEO & Nuri Bruner, Global Project Success Lead, **Cell-Ed**
- *Using Apps and Analytics to Support Data-Driven Literacy Interventions*, Nevin Katz, Senior Technology Associate, **Education Development Center**

Combined Math Power! and Literacy League Gallery Walk

*Please see Gallery Walk description on Page 6

- *Preparing for the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, Hal Speed, Advisor, **AI4K12**, **tinyML4K12** & Marco Zennaro, Researcher, **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics**
 - *Building Foundational Literacy and Numeracy through Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)*, Danielle De La Fuente, Founder and CEO, **Amal Alliance**
 - *Puzzle Your Way to Numeracy*, Dr. Hector Rosario, Founder and Executive Director, **CYFEMAT**
 - *Alpha Tiles: What Does an App Look Like Designed to Scale Up for Thousands of Minority Languages*, Aaron Hemphill, Mobiles for Literacy Advisor, **SIL**
 - *Supporting Learners to Take the Steps Towards Full Literacy*, Heikki Lyytinen, Developer, **GraphoLearn**
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DAY 2: 29-30 SEPTEMBER



1:00 - 2:00 pm

Math Power! University Panel

Moderator: Michael Trucano, Senior Education & Technology Policy Specialist,
World Bank

- Amanda McGarry, Associate Director of Math, **PhET Interactive Simulations, University of Colorado-Boulder**
- Wendy Ann Forbes, PhD student, **Brock University**
- Dr. Eric Dearing, Professor and Member, Development and Research in Early Math Education (DREME), **Stanford University**

10:30 - 11:00 pm

Opening Remarks: Asia Showcase

- Anthony Bloome, Founder and Executive Director, **mEducation Alliance**
- Frank van Cappelle, Regional Education Specialist, **UNICEF**
- Seejoon Chang, Director of Digital Education Policy Division, **KERIS**
- Jeffrey Jian Xu, Senior Education Specialist, **Asian Development Bank**

11:00 pm - 12:00 am

Asia Showcase Presentations

*Please see Gallery Walk description on Page 6

- Ritica Lacoul, Senior Program Manager & Melody Zavala, Director of Books for Asia, **The Asia Foundation**
 - Seulki Choi, Core Impact Team, **Enuma**
 - Vatsala Sharma, Consultant & Sashwati Banerjee, Director, **Nudged Trust (Top Parent)**
 - Yolanda Quijano, Chief of Party & Arminia Mojica, Deputy Chief of Party, **Resources for the Blind, Inc.**
 - Marni Silalahi, Education Adviser, **Save the Children** & Bardie Barclay-Sutton, Impact Consultant, **Inclusiv Education**
-

DAY 3: 30 SEPTEMBER



7:00 - 8:00 am

Ministry of Education (MoE) Roundtable Panel

Moderator: Juan-Pablo Giraldo, Innovations in Education Specialist, **UNICEF**

- Thomas Podarua, Assistant Secretary, Information & Communication Technology Division, **Department of Education, Papua New Guinea**
- Hon. Wahab Alawiye King, Executive Chairman, **Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB)**
- Dr. Waleed Al Ali, General Coordinator, **Digital School initiative at MBRGI**

Philippines Ministry of Education (MoE) Roundtable Panel

- Sarah Pouezevara, Senior Education Research Analyst and EdTech Specialist, **RTI International**
- Caspar Groeneveld, Specialist, **EdTech Hub**
- Ferdinand Pitagan, Dean, **School of Teacher Education at the National Teachers College, Philippines**
- Mark Sy, Executive Assistant, **Department of Education Philippines**
- Abram Abanil, Director IV, Information and Communications Technology Service, **Department of Education, Philippines**

8:00 - 8:30 am

Opening Remarks

- Anthony Bloome, Founder and Executive Director, **mEducation Alliance**
- David Barth, Vice President of International Programs, **Save the Children**
- Ju-Ho Lee, Chairperson, **Education Commission Asia**; former Minister of Education, Science and Technology, **South Korea**

8:30 - 9:30 am

Math Power! Panel

Moderator: Mich-Seth Owusu, Project Officer, **African Union**

- Chris Wright, Founder and Math Educator, **Early Family Math**
- Brent Hutcheson, Director, **Care for Education**
- Dr. Junaid Mubeen, Director of Education, **Whizz Education**
- Christine Laetitia, Education & Capacity Building Projects Lead, **INNODEMS, Kenya**

DAY 3: 30 SEPTEMBER



8:30 - 9:30 am

Literacy League Panel

Moderator: Christin McConnell, Education Specialist, **Global Partnership for Education**

- Deborah Backus, Senior Director for Global Impact & Joan Mwachi-Amolo, Regional Director of East Africa, **Worldreader**
- Purvi Shah, Senior Director, StoryWeaver & Strategy, **Pratham Books**
- Amanda Medcalf, Editor and Senior Advisor, **onebillion**

9:30 - 10:30 am

The Role of Librarians in Early Literacy Practices in Africa:

Kirsty von Gogh (NBA) in discussion with Dr Nkem Osuigwe and librarians from the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AFLIA)

- Kirsty von Gogh, Project Manager, **Neil Butcher & Associates**
- Dr. Nkem Osuigwe, Human Capacity Development & Training Director, **African Library and Information Associations & Institutions**
- Beatrice Ampadu, Senior Librarian, **Ghana Library Authority**
- Mandla Mona, Programme Manager, **National Library of South Africa**

Alliance Member Gallery Walk

*Please see Gallery Walk description on Page 6

- *SBCC Approaches for Building a Culture of Reading and Maths*, Moazzem Hossain, Specialist in Global Basic Education, **Save the Children**
- *Remote Progress: Using EdTech to Continue Scale Up of Global Goods During Covid-19*, Dr. Saima Malik, Senior Research and Learning Advisor & Rebecca Rhodes, Senior Education Advisor, **USAID**
- *ProFuturo Mathematics*, Mila Gonçalves, Head of Education, **ProFuturo**
- *QRF's Parent Education Program - Piloting Chatbots*, Dima Eimesayel, Associate Manager in Content and Product Development & Nour Alawamleh, Research and Programme Development Coordinator, **Queen Rania Foundation for Education and Development**
- *How Machine Learning Can Maximize Remixing OERs in Low-Resource Environments*, Lauren Lichtman, Partnerships Manager, **Learning Equality** & Jacqueline Strecker, Connected Education Lead, & Xinxin Yu, Education Officer, & Stephen Kent Awiti, Connected Education Technical Design Lead, **UNHCR**
- *Researcher Database*, Julie Sill M. DEHS., PhD. Candidate, **Old Dominion University**

DAY 3: 30 SEPTEMBER



10:30 - 11:30 am

EdTech Hub Research Hour: Technology For Personalized Learning

Moderator: Taskeen Adam, Researcher, **EdTech Hub**

- Nat Dinham, Partnerships Lead, **onebillion**
- Joshua Valeta, Director of Open, Distance, and e-Learning, **Ministry of Education, Malawi Government**
- Dr. Nathan Castillo, Assistant Professor of Global Studies in Education & Ghaida Alrawashdeh, Doctoral Researcher, **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
- Tom Kaye, Country Lead, **EdTech Hub**

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Education Escape Game Workshop

Dr. Scott Nicholson, Escape Games for Education Strategic Advisor, **mEducation Alliance**

Youth Digital Champions (YDC)

Moderator: Mike McCabe, Agency Senior Advisor on Youth, **USAID**

- Reinhild Niebuhr, Founder, **ACADEMY For a Young Africa**
- Lara Pizarro, Founder and CEO, **Hexar Educación (YDC Winner)**
- Christer Gunderson, Senior Advisor, **Norad**
- Solomon Adewole, Coordinator, **Young Leaders Council**
- Scott Isbrandt, Director of Strategic Initiatives, **mEducation Alliance**

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Innovator Showcase and Closing Remarks

Featuring amazing presentations from our sponsors!

- Carmen Strigel, Director of Technology for Education and Training, **RTI**
- Leticia de Rato, Head of Global Partnerships, **ProFuturo Foundation**
- Monge Tlaka, Project Manager and Co-Owner, **Neil Butcher & Associates (NBA)**