

FROM EVIDENCE TO POLICY

A Decision Science Symposium with the Government of Rwanda and J-PAL

Conference Agenda

May 21, 2013

Host: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

Conference Inauguration

9.00 - 9.15 **HON. PROTAIS MUSONI**, Minister of Cabinet Affairs

Overview of the Decision Science Approach

DR. RACHEL GLENNERSTER, Executive Director, J-PAL Global

9.15 - 9.45 What is innovative about evidence from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) that scientifically measure which programs work best to reduce poverty? Dr. Glennerster will discuss different models for building evidence from RCTs into policy.

Panel 1

USING SCHOOLS TO TRANSFORM THE ECONOMY: School Health and Quality of Education

Chair

DR. LAMIN MANNEH, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme

Panelists

9.45 - 11.00

HON. DR. VINCENT BIRUTA, Minister of Education

HON. DR. ANITA ASIIMWE, Minister of State in Charge of Health

DR. RACHEL GLENNERSTER, Executive Director, J-PAL Global

DR. PAUL GERTLER, J-PAL affiliate, Li Ka Shing Professor, Haas School of Business, Director of Graduate Program in Health Management, UC Berkeley

Panel 2

UPTAKE OF TECHNOLOGY IN RURAL AREAS: Improving Agricultural Productivity

Chair

MS. CAROLYN TURK, World Bank Country Manager

Panelists

11.15 - 12.00

HON. DR. AGNES M. KALIBATA, Minister of Agriculture

MR. INNOCENT BULINDI, CEO, Business Development Fund

DR. RACHEL GLENNERSTER, Executive Director, J-PAL Global

DR. TAVNEET SURI, J-PAL affiliate, Maurice F. Strong Career Development Associate Professor of Applied Economics, MIT

PANEL 1

USING SCHOOLS TO TRANSFORM THE ECONOMY: School Health and Quality of Education

Chair

DR. LAMIN MANNEH, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme



Dr. Manneh has served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Rwanda since 2012. Prior to his appointment in Rwanda, Dr. Manneh served as the UN Resident Coordinator in Congo Brazzaville. Since 1996, Manneh has served in several Senior Managerial Positions within the United Nations Development Programme, both at Headquarters as well as in Country Offices. Before serving with UNDP, Dr. Manneh worked with the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund as well as with the Ministry of Economic Planning and the Central Bank in the Gambia.

Panelists

HON. DR. VINCENT BIRUTA, Minister of Education



Dr. Vincent Biruta is the Minister of Education in the Government of the Republic of Rwanda since December 2011. Prior to joining this position, he served 11 years in Parliament as President of the Senate from 2003 to 2011 and Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly from January 2000 to August 2003. From 1997 to 1999, he was the Minister of Health. He also served as a Minister of Public Works, Transport, and Communications from 1999 to 2000. Dr. Vincent Biruta is a medical doctor by training (National University of Rwanda).

HON. DR. ANITA ASIIMWE, Minister of State in Charge of Health



Dr. Anita Asiiimwe specializes in Public Health Strategies tackling the HIV/AIDS epidemic and other diseases' conditions. A Medical Doctor by profession, she holds a Master's degree in Public Health from Dundee University (UK). She is currently the Minister of State for Health in charge of Public Health and Primary Health Care. Under her docket, she is mandated to promote the health of the Rwandan population through delivery of preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services. Dr. Asiiimwe has conducted and provided oversight to multiple research studies especially on the Rwandan HIV/AIDS program.

DR. RACHEL GLENNERSTER, Executive Director, J-PAL Global



Rachel Glennerster is the Executive Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Her research includes randomized evaluations of community driven development; the adoption of new agricultural technologies; improving the accountability of politicians in Sierra Leone; empowerment of adolescent girls in Bangladesh; the behavioural economics of complying with tuberculosis medication in Pakistan; and health, governance, education, and microfinance programs in India. She serves as Scientific Director for J-PAL Africa, Co-Chair of J-PAL's Agriculture Program, and is a board member of the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI). Between 2007 and 2010 she served on the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) Independent Advisory Committee on Development

Impact.

DR. PAUL GERTLER, J-PAL affiliate, Li Ka Shing Professor, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley



Paul Gertler is the Li Ka Shing Professor at the Haas School of Business and Director of Graduate Program in Health Management at the University of California, Berkeley. Gertler's research explores health, childhood development, and microfinance in developing countries. He has also conducted field research on conditional cash transfers in Mexico, aging in Bangladesh, contraception and fertility in Indonesia, and the effect of performance-based payment of healthcare providers on use and quality of child and maternal care services in Rwanda, in partnership with the Government of Rwanda.

PANEL 2

UPTAKE OF TECHNOLOGY IN RURAL AREAS: Improving Agricultural Productivity

Chair

MS. CAROLYN TURK, Rwanda Country Manager, World Bank



Carolyn (Carrie) Turk, United Kingdom national, joined the World Bank Group in 1998, and has held positions in the East Asia and Pacific region (as a Senior Poverty Economics, based in Viet Nam) and in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region where she was managing the Social Development team. Prior to joining the World Bank, Carrie worked with the UK Department for International Development. Ms. Turk was appointed Country Manager for Rwanda in September 2012. She holds undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Economics from the University of Cambridge UK, and has authored numerous publications on poverty and inequality, most recently a book based on research into gender inequality in 20 countries.

Panelists

HON. DR. AGNES M. KALIBATA, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources



Dr. Kalibata is the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources of the Republic of Rwanda. She is responsible for developing and implementing the ministry's policies and for working with other ministries on matters pertaining to agriculture, such as land use, land management, agricultural trade, and development. Dr. Kalibata previously served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and as a scientist with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. She holds a Ph.D. in plant, soils, and insect science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, a M.Sc. in crop science from Makerere University, and a B.Sc. in Applied Entomology and Biochemistry from Makerere University Kampala.

MR. INNOCENT BULINDI, CEO, Business Development Fund



Mr. Innocent Bulindi is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Business Development Fund (BDF Ltd), a fund which facilitates Rwandan SMEs to access finance by providing guarantees, grants, MFI/SACCO refinancing, quasi-equity financing, capacity building and business development advisory service. Prior to joining BDF, he spent nearly 10 years working in the field of accounting and finance as an accountant, Financial Manager and Director of Finance with MTN Rwanda (a Mobile Telephone Network company) and the Rwanda Development Bank (BRD). Innocent is a holder of a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Maastricht School of Management (Netherlands) and is also a certified accountant by the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA, UK).

DR. RACHEL GLENNERSTER, Executive Director, J-PAL Global



Rachel Glennerster is the Executive Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Her research includes randomized evaluations of community driven development; the adoption of new agricultural technologies; improving the accountability of politicians in Sierra Leone; empowerment of girls in Bangladesh; and health, governance, education, and microfinance programs in India. She serves as Scientific Director for J-PAL Africa, Co-Chair of J-PAL's Agriculture Program, and is a board member of the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI). Between 2007 and 2010 she served on the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact.

DR. TAVNEET SURI, J-PAL affiliate, Maurice F. Strong Career Development Associate Professor of Applied Economics, MIT



Tavneet Suri is the Maurice F. Strong Career Development Associate Professor of Applied Economics at MIT and the Co-Director of the Agriculture Research Programme at the International Growth Center (IGC). Suri is from Kenya and completed her undergraduate studies in Economics at Trinity College, University of Cambridge and her PhD in Economics at Yale University. Suri's research centers on applied microeconomic issues in sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, she works on technology adoption (agricultural, water, cell phone), risk sharing and consumption smoothing, the role of measurement error in poverty dynamics, and the role of infrastructure in the development of markets. Her research currently spans Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Rwanda, including an evaluation to increase adoption of agricultural technology for coffee farmers in Rwanda.