

MAY 6–8, 2026

INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS

A Global Technical Financing Forum

KIGALI, RWANDA

**TRACK 2: MEASUREMENTS, RESULTS, AND
VERIFICATION**
May 7, 2026



In support of **actFOR**
Early Years





Dialogue 3: How can we strengthen the financing architecture for young children?

Moving from funding to financing.



Dialogue 3 Track 2: Measurements, Results, and Verification (Kinigi 1st floor)

- **Focus:** What is the minimum data and verification needed to support financing instruments such as contracts, subsidies, guarantees, or results-based payments?
 - What is the minimum data and verification needed to support financing instruments such as contracts, subsidies, guarantees, or results-based payments?
 - How can accountability and verification systems be designed so they are credible and practical, without overwhelming governments or excluding smaller providers?
 - What underlying systems—such as provider registries, payment rails, quality assurance, and grievance mechanisms—need to be built to support transparency and trust?
- **Chair & Framing:** Emily Gustaffson-Wright, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution
- **Discussants:**
 - Simone Carter, Financial Director, DataDrive2030
 - Jane Aik, Senior Director, Education Financial Products, Opportunity International
 - Grace Malthape, Executive Director, SmartStart
 - Angela Rugo, Country Lead Rwanda, Education Outcomes Fund
- **Rapporteur:** Lauren Pisani, Associate Director, Research Program on Children and Adversity, Boston College

Speakers

Chair



Emily Gustafsson-Wright
Senior Fellow,
The Brookings Institution

Panelists



Simone Carter
Financial Director,
DataDrive2030 NPC



Angela Rugo
Country Lead,
The Education Outcomes Fund



Grace Matlhape
Chief Executive Officer,
SmartStart



Jane Aik
Interim Senior Director,
Opportunity International EduFinance

Key Issues Areas to be Covered



1. Data for Innovative Finance - What Data are Required?
 2. Linking Measurement to Finance — How Outcomes-Based Financing Changes the Data Game
 3. Financing ECD Providers at the Ground Level — School Loans, Fee Finance, and the Private Sector
 4. Government as the Anchor — How Do National Systems Use Data to Drive Spending Decisions?
 5. The Equity Imperative — Using Data to Reach the Most Excluded Children
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Activity 1:

Turn to the person next to you & discuss what you think innovative finance could solve in ECD.



Activity 2:

1. Which type of result in ECD is most important to measure?

2. Which type is easiest to measure?



Government Perspectives:

**What does it take to
embed ECD
measurement into
national M&E
frameworks?**



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Thank you

Together, we can unlock financing that will translate evidence into budgets and budgets into services for young children and their families!

