

Jenny Perlman Robinson

Westport, CT, USA. Twitter: @jennyperlman.

PROFILE

- International development expert on education practice and policy, with a focus on youth development, gender, crisis-affected contexts and systems change
- 25+ years of experience researching and analyzing education policies and programs, designing and leading large-scale action-oriented policy research initiatives, and managing programs and partnerships with governments, UN, civil society and academia
- Successful track record influencing programmatic, policy and funding decisions at international and national levels
- Experience researching and working in 15+ countries, including Afghanistan, Bolivia, Botswana, Cuba, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, India, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Thai/Burma Border, and Uganda
- Publications include book chapters, research studies, policy briefs and articles in peer-reviewed journals

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Brookings Institution, WASHINGTON, DC

Nonresident Senior Fellow, Center for Universal Education (CUE)

1/22 –

- Co-authored country case studies on scaling education initiatives in multiple low- and middle-income countries and cross-country comparative analysis on large-scale progress in improving children and youth's education.
- Advised on design, implementation and dissemination of Millions Learning project's research findings and recommendations.

Senior Fellow, Center for Universal Education

7/19 – 12/21

- Led multi-year, multi-million-dollar *Millions Learning* action research project that identifies where and how large-scale gains in learning have been achieved among disadvantaged populations to inform policy, practice and investment decisions around scaling quality education and systems change.
- Developed and launched global scaling research initiative as part of the Global Partnership for Education's flagship Knowledge and Innovation Exchange, largest investment in research in scaling in education.
- Influenced global and national education policy and large-scale programs, including UN, foundations, and international and local non-governmental organizations.
- Raised more than \$10MN from foundations, corporate philanthropies, and governments.

Fellow, Center for Universal Education

11/10 – 6/19

- Researched and wrote seminal publications, including on developing a framework on scaling quality education in Global South countries and a global policy agenda that identifies key policy priorities to improve learning opportunities and outcomes for marginalized girls and boys, contributing to shift in global education agenda from access to access *plus* learning.
- Informed policies and strategies of multilateral agencies, philanthropic institutions, implementing organizations and national governments.
- Mobilized and led an international broad-based constituency to develop a shared agenda on learning, including writing background analytical papers, assembling global advisory group and moderating meetings.
- Served as secretariat of Task Force to develop the UN Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative, including developing vision document and establishing Youth Advocacy Group.

Women's Refugee Commission, New York, NY

Senior Program Officer, Children and Youth

1/09 – 11/10

- Developed and managed global research and advocacy project to improve education and job training programs for conflict-affected youth.
- Influenced humanitarian programs, policy and funding to expand educational opportunities for displaced youth. Campaigns contributed to increased attention to needs of youth in global frameworks, such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Education Cluster and Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), in donor funding practice, such as the World Bank and UNICEF and in programs, such as Norwegian Refugee Council.
- Conducted applied research in 10+ conflict / post-conflict countries (including Afghanistan, Darfur, Uganda and Jordan) to identify programs and policies required to prepare young people for safe, dignified work.
- Developed and implemented a monitoring system to capture learning and track progress towards meeting advocacy objectives.
- Established a youth advisory board comprised of 15 young women and men from various conflict-affected countries to provide ongoing feedback to the youth project.
- Supervised team, including program manager and 10+ consultants.

Program Officer, Education in Emergencies Initiative

4/05 – 12/08

- Co-developed and implemented strategy to promote education as part of humanitarian response in emergencies.
- Authored reports, training tools, policy papers, news articles and other advocacy materials, including handbooks for literate and non-literate audiences on the right to education during displacement.
- Provided assessments and recommendations to Congress, US Administration, other governments, UN, donors, NGOs and displaced communities to advance advocacy objectives. Served as invited speaker on panels and convened roundtables, including at the Clinton Global Initiative.
- Strengthened the capacity of youth organizations in Northern Uganda resulting in long-term funding.
- Increased awareness and utilization of global education standards in Darfur. Field research and advocacy led to funding for education programs in Darfur and securing \$250k to conduct a qualitative and quantitative research study on children, protection and education in Darfur.

Program Manager, Women's Protection and Participation Project

7/03 – 3/05

- Increased capacity and supported advocacy efforts of local women's groups in conflict-affected countries.
- Managed \$235k Afghan women's fund: reviewed proposals, ensured accurate reporting and financial disbursements, compiled case studies and gathered lessons learned to inform grant-making to the region.
- Co-created and co-facilitated workshops in Afghanistan and Pakistan on advancing the UN Millennium Development Goals among displaced populations.
- Represented the Women's Refugee Commission at inter-agency working groups and at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women, produced advocacy briefs, brought women from conflict-affected areas to speak at UN and secured stronger language in UN outcome documents.

NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, New York, NY

7/03 – 2/04

Acting Coordinator

- Developed priorities and led activities to promote implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; served as a bridge between women's human rights defenders working in conflict-affected situations and policy-makers at UN Headquarters.

- Organized two roundtables with the UN Security Council on implementing Resolution 1325, resulting in the development of a checklist to mainstream gender in the Security Council's work.

The Hunger Project, New York, NY 8/01 – 7/03
Program Associate, Research and Communications / Coordinator, Latin America Programs

- Managed programs to support grassroots organizations in Mexico, Bolivia and Peru to address underlying factors contributing to hunger.
- Developed strategic initiatives on women's rights, local democracy, microcredit and HIV/AIDS.
- Crafted global communications, including newsletters, concept papers, program reports and speeches.
- Led workshop on HIV/AIDS and gender inequality in Uganda.

World Bank, Washington, DC 11/00 – 5/01
Consultant, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network (PREM)

- Analyzed gender-based differences in HIV/AIDS programming to inform World Bank funding in Africa.
- Conducted field research to assess gender dimensions of a World Bank HIV/AIDS project in Kenya.

Trickle Up, La Paz, Bolivia 6/00 – 8/00
Field Representative

- Monitored and evaluated microfinance program throughout Bolivia.
- Conducted business training workshops on financial recordkeeping, marketing and needs assessment with local women's organizations.

Office of the Vice-President of Bolivia, La Paz, Bolivia 11/98 – 3/99
Consultant, Encuentro Nacional de Mujeres

- Organized and secured funding for workshops designed to empower female leaders in Bolivia as part of Vital Voices.
- Served as a liaison between international donor community and local project.

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Washington, DC 6/96 – 6/98
Program Assistant, Central America and Cuba Team

- Advocated to the US Administration, Congress and World Bank to improve human rights and social justice in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Cuba.
- Conducted research to identify and document human rights abuses, including field research in Cuba.

EDUCATION

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), New York, NY 1999 – 2001
Master of International Affairs (MIA) in Economic and Political Development

- Coursework in Gender, Human Rights, Project Management and Development
- Honors: Full-tuition scholarship serving as first SIPA student to be a Teacher's Assistant for Economics

Colgate University: Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, Hamilton, NY 1992 – 1996

- Phi Beta Kappa honor society; high honors in Latin American Studies and Peace Studies
- Honors: Charles A. Dana Scholar, Dag Hammarskjold Award, Dean's Award all semesters
- Semester Abroad: School for International Training (SIT), Chile

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Alpar, S. and Perlman Robinson, J. (2009) "Hope and Opportunities for Young People". *Forced Migration Review*. Issue 33. September 2009. University of Oxford. Refugee Studies Centre.

Anderson A. and Perlman, J. (2005) *Education in Emergencies: A Precondition for Meeting the Millennium Development Goals*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Anderson, A., Kirk, J., Heninger, L. and Perlman, J. (2006) "Ensuring a Gender Perspective in Education in Emergencies". UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

Anderson, A., Martone, G., Perlman Robinson, J., Rognerud, E. and Sullivan-Owomoyela, J. (2006) "Standards Put to the Test: Implementing the INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crisis and Early Reconstruction". *Humanitarian Practice Network Paper*. Number 57. December 2006. United Kingdom: Overseas Development Institute.

Berg, C., Perlman Robinson, J. and Willet, N. (2008) *Too Little for Too Few: Meeting the needs of youth in Darfur*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Buscher, D., Perlman Robinson, J. and Young, J. (2007) *Building from the Ground Up: Education and Livelihood Needs in South Sudan*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Curtiss Wyss, M., Perlman Robinson, J., Elliott, M. and Qargha, G.O. (2023) *Scaling impact in education for transformative change: Practical lessons from the Real-time Scaling Labs*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Curtiss Wyss, M., Perlman Robinson, J., Elliott, M. and Qargha, G.O. (2022) *Improving financial literacy skills for young people: Scaling the financial education program in Jordan*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Curtiss Wyss, M. and Perlman Robinson, J. (2021) *Improving children's reading and math at large scale in Côte d'Ivoire*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Hannahan, P., Perlman Robinson, J. and Kwauk, C. (2021) *Improving learning and life skills for marginalized children: Scaling the Learner Guide Program in Tanzania*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Hassinger-Das, B. et al (2018). *Learning Landscapes: Can urban planning and the learning sciences work together to help children?* Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Johal, R. and Perlman, J. (2004) *Advancing UNHCR's Commitments to Refugee Women and the UN Millennium Development Goals*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Lloyd, C., El-Kogali, S., Perlman Robinson, J., Rankin, J. and Rashed, A. (2010) *Schooling and Conflict in Darfur: A Snapshot of Basic Education Services for Displaced Children*. New York: Population Council.

McKenna, M. and Perlman Robinson, J. (2006) *Education in Darfur: A critical component of humanitarian response*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

McKenna, M. and Perlman, J. (2006) "The Conflict Effect: Challenges and Opportunities for Girls' Education". *EQUALS: Beyond Access: Gender, Education and Development*. Issue 17 April–July 2006.

Perlman, J. (2006) *Right to Education During Displacement: Resource for Organizations Working with Displaced People*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Perlman, J. (2007) *Your Right to Education: A handbook for refugees and displaced communities*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Perlman Robinson, J. and Curtiss, M. (2018) *Millions Learning Real-time Scaling Labs: Designing an adaptive learning process to support large-scale change in education*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J., Curtiss Wyss, M. and Hannahan, P. (2020) *Millions Learning Real-time Scaling Labs: Emerging findings and key insights*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J., Curtiss Wyss, M. and Hannahan, P. (2021) *Putting scaling principles into practice: Resources to expand and sustain impact in education*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J. and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Aflatoun: Scaling social and financial education through a global franchise*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Bridge International Academies: Delivering quality education at a low cost in Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Educate!: Riding the reform wave to scale up youth entrepreneurship in Uganda*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *INJAZ: Engaging the private sector for greater youth employability in Jordan*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Lesson Study: Scaling up peer-to-peer learning for teachers in Zambia*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Media Center: Innovating with distance learning in Amazonas, Brazil*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Pratham's Read India Program: Taking small steps toward learning at scale*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Room to Read: Scaling up literacy through localized solutions across Asia and Africa*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Sesame Street: Combining education and entertainment to bring early childhood education to children around the world*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Sistema de Aprendizaje Tutorial: Redefining rural secondary education in Latin America*. Washington, DC. Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Teach For All: Building a pipeline of future education leaders around the world*. Washington, DC. Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J and Kwauk, C. (2016) *Worldreader: Creating a culture of e-reading around the globe*. Washington, DC. Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J. and Young, J. (2007) *Listening to Youth: The Experiences of Young People in Northern Uganda*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Perlman Robinson, J. (2008) "Listening to Youth: The Experiences of Young Women in Northern Uganda." *Girlhood Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. Vol 1 (1).

Perlman Robinson, J. (2008) *Living in Limbo: Burma's youth in Thailand see few opportunities to use education and vocational skills*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Perlman Robinson, J. (2008) *Country at a Crossroads: Challenges Facing Young People in Sierra Leone Six Years after the War*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Perlman Robinson, J. (2009) *Living in Limbo: Iraqi Young Women and Men in Jordan*. New York: Women's Refugee Commission.

Perlman Robinson, J. (2010) *Life in the Promised Land: Resettled Refugee Youth Struggle in the U.S*. New York: Women's Refugee Commission.

Perlman Robinson, J. (2011) *A Global Compact on Learning: Taking Action on Education in Developing Countries*. Washington, DC. Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J. and Winthrop, R. (2016) *Millions Learning: Scaling Up Quality Education in Developing Countries*. Washington, DC. Brookings Institution.

Perlman Robinson, J. (2019) *Philadelphia Playful Learning Landscapes: Scaling strategies for a playful learning movement*. Washington, DC. Brookings Institution.

SELECT TEACHING, PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING and TRAINING EXPERIENCE

- Launch of cross-country analysis of six Real-time Scaling Labs report. Brookings: Washington, DC. June 2023. Presenter and moderator.
- Launch of Botswana Teaching at the Right Level Real-time Scaling Lab report. Gaborone, Botswana. May 2023. Presenter.
- Rotary International. April 2023. Workshop training on scaling and systems change.
- Brookings Institution Symposium on Systems Transformation in Education. February 2023. Presenter and moderator.

- Launch of Jordanian Financial Education Program Real-time Scaling Lab report. Dead Sea, Jordan. November 2022. Presenter and moderator.
- Brookings Institution How do we expand and sustain quality learning for children and youth? December 2021. Presenter and moderator.
- Launch of Elimu-Soko Lab: a marketplace for innovation in education. December 2021. Panelist.
- Scaling Development Outcomes Global Community of Practice. November 2021. Plenary speaker.
- Launch of Côte d'Ivoire Real-time Scaling Lab report. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. October 2021. Presenter.
- Launch of Tanzania Real-time Scaling Lab report. Dar es Salaam. September 2021. Speaker.
- Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference. March 2021. Presenter.
- Harvard Center for International Development. December 2020. Speaker.
- Scaling Development Outcomes Global Community of Practice. November 2020. Plenary speaker.
- Launch of Millions Learning Real-time Scaling Lab. Gaborone, Botswana. September 2019. Speaker.
- Millions Learning Global Convening. Feussisberg, Switzerland. July 2019. Speaker.
- Launch of Millions Learning Real-time Scaling Lab. Morogoro, Tanzania. June 2019. Speaker.
- Launch of Millions Learning Real-time Scaling Lab. Amman, Jordan. April 2019. Speaker.
- Launch of Millions Learning Real-time Scaling Lab. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. January 2019. Speaker.
- Millions Learning Global Scaling Training Workshop. Zurich, Switzerland. December 2018. Speaker.
- Obama Foundation Girls' Education Network. Inaugural seminar series. July 2018. Speaker.
- Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Summit on Improvement in Education. San Francisco, CA. April 2018. Panelist.
- "Education Entrepreneurship" course at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Cambridge, MA. March 2018. Guest lecturer.
- Social Innovation and Change Initiative at Harvard Kennedy School. Cambridge, MA. February 2018. Guest lecturer.
- Building a Teacher Professional Development@Scale Coalition in the Global South. Education University of Hong Kong. January 2018. Presenter.
- Digital Learning in Latin America: Opportunities and Challenges. EAFIT University. Medellin, Colombia. November 2017. Panelist.
- World Cocoa Foundation Partnership Meeting. Washington, DC. October 2017. Presenter.
- Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance Seminar. "Towards Sustainable Development: Lessons from MDGs & Pathways for SDGs". New York, NY. October 2017. Panelist.
- Global Education Ecosystem: Strengthening Local Capacity and Learning Across Borders to Reach the SDGs. New York, NY. September 2017. Moderator.
- Harvard Graduate School of Education. Cambridge, MA. May 2017. Guest lecturer.
- Financial Education Program Launch Event. Central Bank, Ministry of Education and INJAZ. Amman, Jordan. December 2016. Speaker and moderator.
- Aflatoun High-Level Policy Forum 2016. The Hague, The Netherlands. November 2016. Keynote speaker.
- UK Launch of Millions Learning. London, England. October 2016. Speaker and moderator.
- UNICEF and Results for Development Journeys to Scale launch. New York, NY. October 2016. Panelist.
- mEducation Alliance Symposium 2016. Washington, DC. October 2016. Keynote panelist.

- University of California at Berkeley. The Science of Scaling: Building Evidence to Advance Anti-Poverty Innovations. September 2016. Panelist.
- Central America Donors Forum 2016. Antigua, Guatemala. September 2016. Keynote speaker.
- Partnership for Strengthening Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education East Africa Convening. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. June 2016. Presenter.
- Center for Universal Education Annual Research and Policy Symposium. Washington, DC. April 2016. Presenter and panelist.
- World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE). Doha, Qatar. November 2015. Keynote speaker and panelist.
- UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development. Oxford, UK. September 2015. Panelist.
- Guest lecturer at annual classes and seminars on international affairs, humanitarian policy and education in emergencies at New York University, Columbia University's Teachers College, Columbia University's School for International and Public Affairs and George Washington University.
- World Affairs Council. Salt Lake City, Utah. March 2015. Keynote speaker.
- Comparative and International Education Symposium. Vancouver (2016), Washington, DC (2015), Toronto (2014), New Orleans (2013). Panelist.
- Brookings Institution. *A Global Compact on Learning*. Washington, DC. June 2011. Presenter and panelist.
- International Center for Research on Women. *Adding It Up: An Expert Consultation on Leveraging Education to Facilitate Girls' Empowerment and Transitions to Adulthood*. Washington, DC. May 2011. Presenter.
- Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies' Global Consultation on Education. *Strategies to Improve Education and Skills Building Opportunities for Displaced Youth*. Istanbul, Turkey. April 2009. Chair.
- Bellagio Livelihoods Conference. *Introduction to Market Assessment Toolkit for Vocational Training Providers and Youth*. Bellagio, Italy. November 2008. Presenter.
- Making Cents International Youth Micro-Enterprise Development Conference. *Bridging the Gap: Linking youth livelihood programs to the market in post-conflict settings*. Washington, DC. September 2008. Panelist.
- Clinton Global Initiative. New York, NY. September 2007 and 2008. Education Table Facilitator.
- International Organization for Migration's International Youth Conference. *Lessons learned in working with and for youth*. Geneva, Switzerland. December 2007. Panelist.
- Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group Panel. *The Challenges and Opportunities for Girls' Education in Conflict and Post-Conflict Transition*. Ottawa, Canada. March 2007. Panelist.
- U.S. State Department's annual Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop. *Minimum Standards on Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction*. Washington, DC. October 2006. Trainer.
- Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies' North America Training of Trainers on the Minimum Standards on Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction. Washington, DC. May 2006. Selected participant.
- Minimum Standards on Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction trainings in North and South Darfur, Sudan. November 2005. Trainer.
- International Education Association at George Washington University. *Education in Emergencies: A Human Right During Conflict*. Washington, DC. September 2005. Panelist.
- UN Annual Youth Summit. *Education = Peace and Development*. New York, NY. August 2005. Panelist.
- Netaid's Annual Global Citizen Corp Summit. *Education in Emergencies: Case Study from Northern Uganda*. New York, NY. August 2005. Featured Speaker.

- UN Department of Political Affairs Gender Training. *Findings from UN Security Council Roundtables*. New York, NY. January 2004 and March 2004. Trainer.
- NYU Center for Global Affairs. *Women Shaping A Global Agenda*. New York, NY. March 2005. Guest Speaker.
- UN Commission on the Status of Women. *Understanding UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*. New York, NY. March 2004 and March 2005. Trainer.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS, ADVISORY ROLES AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Fiver Children’s Foundation: Board Member (2012—2016; 2022—).
- Rotary International: Programs of Scale Advisor (2023).
- Scaling Up Global Development Outcomes: Co-chair of Education Working Group and Executive Committee member (2020—2021).
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UK Department of International Development Advisory Group: Understanding Evidence Curation, Management & Uptake for Better Learning Result (2020).
- UNESCO and Pearson Initiative for Literacy: Improved Livelihoods in a Digital World. Expert Group (February 2017—August 2018).
- Global Education Ecosystem Strengthening Initiative: Steering Group (2017—2018).
- Accenture New Skills Now report: Expert Group (2017).
- UNICEF Journey to Scale report: Expert Review Panel (2016).
- MasterCard Foundation Transferable Skills Project Advisory Committee Member (2016).
- MIT Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab: Post-Primary Education Initiative Review Board (2013).
- Plan International Because I Am a Girl Report: Steering Committee Member (2012).
- Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict: Steering Committee Member (May 2006—November 2010).
- Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE): Youth and Adolescent Task Force Co-Chair (May 2009—November 2010).
- United Nations InterAgency Standing Committee (IASC): Education Cluster Working Group Member (August 2009—November 2010).
- United Nations Graca Machel 10+ Year Review of the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children: Advisory Group Member (2007).
- Alliance for International Youth: Working Group Member (2009—2010).
- Population Council: Research Advisory Group member on adolescent girls and education publication (2009).