

Modupe Adefeso-Olateju, Ph.D.

Profile

Dr. Modupe (Mo) Adefeso-Olateju is education policy expert with multisectoral experience in the development sector, and established competencies in evidence-generation, monitoring, evaluation, technical support for scaling up education innovations, policy implementation advisory and the design of public-partnerships. She served on the **Ministerial Technical Working Group responsible for developing Nigeria's Medium- and Long-Term Strategic Development Plans (MTNDP 2021-2025, 2026-2030 and Nigeria Agenda 2050) for Education and Human Capital Development**. She has been co-convenor of the **Federal Ministry of Education's annual education conference (NAEC)** since 2018, leading the technical design of the meetings. She also **drafted a section of the 2011-15 Ministerial Action Plan**, and has supported the implementation and scale up of education programming and capacity development in 3 countries. She led the establishment of the **LEARNigeria, an innovative citizen-led household assessment and action programme** which has reached 49,000 children in 21,600 households in Nigeria, and implements an effective remedial programme in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. She oversaw the **Regional Hub for the Center for Education Innovations (CEI)**, and leads the implementation of the **annual pan-African Education Innovation Summit (NEDIS)**, now in its 6th year. She also led the team that served as **Regional Learning Partner for the Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education (PSIPSE)**. She is an experienced fundraiser and has supported programmes funded by UK-FCDO, USAID, Hewlett Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Global Partnership for Education, World Bank, Global Partnership for Education, Open Society Foundations, Google.org, UNICEF, UNESCO Institute of Statistics, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Ford Foundation. She serves as a Commissioner on the **Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges** at McMaster University, Canada, and was an Advisory Committee Member of the **Brookings Institution Center for Universal Education Millions Learning 2.0 Programme** which focuses on learning what works to scale innovations that are improving access to quality education around the world. Mo sits on a number of governance boards including **Malala Fund U.S., Slum2School US** and **Human Capital Africa**. She serves as a peer reviewer of several international development grant proposals. As a Doctoral Centenary Scholar (Africa). Mo earned her PhD. in Education and International Development from the **UCL Institute of Education (UCL-IOE)**, London. She received a Master's degree with distinction from the same institution.

Nationality

Nigerian

Languages

English, Yoruba

Key Skills and Qualifications

- Policy Development, Review and Implementation
- Programme Design and Scaling Up Advisory
- Design and Implementation of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Programmes
- Design and Management of National and International Assessments and Learning Programmes
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
- Design and Implementation of Capacity Development Programmes
- Structuring and Facilitating International Multi-stakeholder Convenings and Dialogues

Education

- 2013 – PhD., Education and International Development, Institute of Education, University College London, UK
- Centenary Doctoral Scholar
- 2006 – M Ed., Education and International Development, Institute of Education, University College London, UK
- 1999 – B. Ed., Educational Administration, University of Lagos, Nigeria

Doctoral Thesis

- Public-Private Partnership and a Critical Inquiry into the Effectiveness of Public and Private Schools in Nigeria

Employment History

2023 – date	Fellow, Center for Universal Education, The Brookings Institution
2013 - 2023	The Education Partnership (TEP), Centre, Nigeria, CEO
2012 - 2017	UKAID (FCDO) ESSPIN and DEEPEN programmes; Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Workstream Lead, and Evaluation Consultant
2006 - 2008	Youth Dynamix, Associate Director of Marketing and Operations
2002 - 2004	Junior Achievement of Nigeria, Regional Vice President, Programmes
2001 - 2002	Accenture, Management Consultant (Analyst)
1999 - 2001	Magnum Trust Bank, Account Relationship Officer

Relevant Experience

2023 to date | Fellow | Center for Universal Education, The Brookings Institution

- Leadership of the Knowing-Doing Network

2013 to 2023 | CEO | The Education Partnership Centre (TEP Centre)

- Leadership of Nigeria’s pioneering education partnership organization, advising federal and state governments across Nigeria on systematic scaling up of education innovations, effective public and private sector cooperation in education and providing technical support to programmes funded, assisted or managed by institutions such as FCDO, USAID, the World Bank, MacArthur Foundation, GPE, Hewlett Foundation, UNICEF, UNESCO Institute of Statistics, Ford Foundation, Google.org, Open Society Foundations, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dalberg Global Advisors, British Council, Misesan Cara (Irish Aid), Oando Foundation, Corona Schools Trust Council, DAI, Center for Global Development (CGD), ACT Foundation, LafargeHOLCM, the Federal Ministry of Education (Nigeria) and Lagos and Ogun State Governments
- Leadership of team that is implementing LEARNigeria; a citizen-led household assessment, advocacy and action programme focused on strengthening Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), which has collected demographic and learning outcomes data from 49,000 children aged 3-18 year-old, is assessing foundational and higher-order literacy and numeracy skills of 5-18 year olds, and implementing an innovative remedial learning programme in Nigeria. LEARNigeria is implemented in partnership with federal and state governments; agencies of education, statistics and demography; corporations; and civil society organisations
- Co-convener of the Nigeria’s Annual Education Conference (2018, 2019 and 2020), hosted by the Federal Ministry of Education, leading the technical design of the conferences
- Team Lead for the NEDIS Education Innovation Summit. Now in its 6th year; this is a multi-sectoral pan-African conference focused on identifying, connecting and scaling innovative education models

January 2008-date | Independent Education and Development Consultant

- Member, Annual Review Team evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the FCDO-funded DEEPEN programme which was designed to strengthen the market for low-fee private schools. Conducted four annual evaluations of this programme
- Led team of consultants who provided technical & capacity building support to Monitoring and Evaluation units in the Education Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the six FCDO-funded ESSPIN states. I trained policymakers on strategic planning and annual education sector reviewing
- Member, Technical Team assembled by the Honourable Minister of Education to draft and oversee implementation of 2011-2015 strategic education development plan for Nigeria. In this role, I drafted a section of the Nigeria’s national education policy
- Peer reviewer of several international development grant proposals

Leadership and Governance

- Board Trustee, *Malala Fund US, Slum to School Africa, Human Capital Africa, Global Schools Forum, FAB Inc UK, Education Reform and Innovation Team (ERIT) Nigeria*

- Member, Expert Review Panel, *Build a World of Play Challenge* – a 900m Danish Kroner initiative of Lego Foundation and Lever for Change
- Member, Advisory Board, *Peoples Action for Learning (PAL) Network*, Nairobi, Kenya
- Member, Technical and Policy Advisory Board, *Education Research in Conflict and Protracted Crisis (ERICC)*, a £15.8M FCDO funded initiative
- Fellow, *Asia Global Institute*, Hong Kong University (HKU), Hong Kong
- Commissioner and Co-chair of the Citizen-Led Working Group, *Global Commission on Evidence to Address Social Challenges*, McMaster University Canada
- Member, Technical Review Group, UNESCO GEM Report *Spotlight Series*
- Technical Advisor, *Education Cannot Wait's Holistic Learning Outcomes Measurement*, N.Y.
- Mentor, *Global Grid Mentorship Initiative*, Nexford (Online) University
- Facilitator, *Non-Profit Leadership and Management Programme*, Lagos Business School – 2020 to date
- Member, *Ministerial Technical Working Group for the Development of Nigeria's Medium-Term National Development Plan (2021-2025 and 2026-2030) and Long-Term Strategic Development Plan (Nigeria Agenda 2050)*
- Member, Advisory Group, *Millions Learning*; a programme of the Center for Universal Education at Brookings Institution, Washington D.C – 2018 to 2021
- Co-convener, *Nigeria's Annual Education Conference (NAEC)* hosted by the Federal Ministry of Education – 2018-2020
- Two-time Member, *Wise Head (Judges) Panel, MacArthur Foundation-supported 100 & Change*: a \$100 million grant to an initiative promising real, measurable progress in solving a critical problem of our time – 2016 and 2019
- Member, Project Advisory Committee, *FCDO-funded EDOREN programme*, Abuja (until its conclusion in 2018)
- Trustee, *Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council*, London (until 2012)

Awards

- Honorary Fellowship Award conferred by the National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Ondo, 2019
- Accelerator Award presented by Junior Achievement of Nigeria, Lagos, 2019
- Recognition Award as one of the 100 Guardians of Nigeria's Future presented by His Excellency, President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria – Abuja, 2013
- Outstanding Contribution Award presented by Rt. Hon. Kamalesh Sharma, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, on behalf of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council – London, 2008
- Centenary Scholarship Award (Africa) from University of London Institute of Education, London, 2007
- Young Nigerian Professional of the Year Award', as voted by Nigerian youth nationwide – Lagos, 2007

Selected Publications

- Azubuike, B. and Adefeso-Olateju, M. (2021) in Munene, I. (Ed). *Ensuring all Children Learn: Lessons from the South on What Works in Equity and Inclusion*. Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield
- Adefeso-Olateju, M., Usman, M., Adegboye, O. (2020). Measuring SDG 4: Experiences from designing and implementing an international citizen-led assessment in Africa. Working Paper 1. Nairobi: PAL Network
- Turner, F., Adefeso-Olateju, M. and Outhred, R. (2019). *GPE 2020 Country-Level Prospective Evaluations - First Annual Report: Nigeria (2019)*. Quebec: Universalia
- Azubuike, B. and Adefeso-Olateju, M. (2019). Linking Socioeconomic Background to Learning Outcomes: New Evidence from Nigeria. Working Paper 5. Lagos: The Education Partnership Centre
- Adefeso-Olateju, M. (2017). *Inclusive Skills Development*. Bridging the Skills Gap: Innovations in Africa and Asia. Jayaram, S., Munge, W., Adamson, B., Sorrell, D., Jain, N. (Eds.). Technical and Vocational Education and Training: Issues, Concerns and Prospects (26) pp 15-32
- Adefeso-Olateju, M. and Oyefuga, E. (2017). *Citizen action: does evidence have a role to play?* TEP Centre Working Paper 4. Commissioned by PacFaH
- Adefeso-Olateju, M. (2016). *Raising Alliances*. RSA Journal: 21st Century Enlightenment. Issue 1; 2016
- Walker, J, Cruz-Zuniga, M, and Adefeso-Olateju, M. (2014) *The Role of Research in Teacher Development: Case Studies from Nigeria*. Lagos: The Education Partnership Centre.

- Rolleston, C. and M. Adefeso-Olateju (2014). *'De facto Privatisation of Basic Education in Africa: A Market Response to Government Failure? A Comparative Study of the Cases of Ghana and Nigeria'* in I. Macpherson, S. Robertson and G. Walford (eds.) *Education, Privatisation and Social Justice: Case studies from Africa, South Asia and South East Asia*, Oxford: Symposium Books
- Adefeso-Olateju, M (2014) *'Mind the Gap': Addressing Employability Skills in the Nigerian Workforce*. Lagos: British Council
- Adefeso-Olateju, M (2013) *A Critical Inquiry into the Effectiveness of Public and Private Schools in Nigeria*. PhD Thesis. London: Institute of Education
- Adefeso-Olateju, M. (2012). *To Privatised, Purchase or Partner? Defining Public-Private Partnership in Education*. In R. Jones-Parry and A. Robertson (Eds), *Commonwealth Education Partnerships 2012/13*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat.
- Adefeso-Olateju, M. (2012). *To Privatised, Purchase or Partner? Defining Public-Private Partnership in Education*. In R. Jones-Parry and A. Robertson (Eds), *Commonwealth Education Partnerships 2012/13*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat.
- Adefeso, M. (2005). *Can Charter Schools Serve as a Model for Redressing the Falling Standards of Public Schools in Nigeria?* Unpublished M.A. Dissertation. London: Institute of Education