

MAY 6–8, 2026

# INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS

A Global Technical Financing Forum

KIGALI, RWANDA



In support of **ASTFOR**  
Early Years

## Day 3 Forum Agenda

Last updated: 5/7/2026



### Day 3: Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> [Partner-led sessions]

| Location/<br>Time | Simba ballroom<br>(ground floor)                                                                                                                        | Muhabura & Gasabo rooms<br>combined<br>(first floor)                                                                                                           | Kinigi & Kivu rooms<br>combined<br>(first floor)                                                                                     | Inyange boardroom<br>(first floor)                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30-10:30        | Public Expenditure Review<br>for Early Childhood Years<br>made easy with AMPERA –<br><a href="#">OPM/Thrive</a>                                         | Launch of the Home-based<br>Childcare Alliance –<br><a href="#">NurtureFirst</a> , SmartStart,<br>OneSky, aeioTU, BRAC IED,<br>NAFCC, Tiney                    | From Commitments to<br>Results: Capacity Building<br>for Strengthened ECD<br>Advocacy in East Africa –<br>AfECN<br>(invitation only) | Fourth Meeting of the<br>Technical Advisory Group<br>(TAG) on the 2026 Global<br>Report on Early Childhood<br>Care and Education – UNESCO<br>(invitation only - 9:00 start) |
| Tea break         |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 11:00-13:00       | Big Wins to Bold<br>Commitments – <a href="#">Theirworld<br/>and Genesis Analytics</a>                                                                  | Rwanda's Nkuza Neza Fund,<br>Designing and Delivering<br>Outcomes-Based Financing in<br>Practice - <a href="#">Education Outcomes<br/>Fund</a>                 | Continue                                                                                                                             | Continue                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Lunch             |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 14:15-16:15*      | The Critical Role of Cost<br>Data in ECD for Advocacy,<br>Budget Allocation, Priority<br>Setting, and Scaling –<br><a href="#">Brooking Institution</a> | Driving Systemic Change in<br>Early Childhood: Aligning<br>Government Capacity, Capital,<br>and Service Transformation in<br>Colombia – <a href="#">aeioTU</a> | Continue                                                                                                                             | Continue                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tea break         |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                             |

\* The Thrive workshop will be in Inyambo boardroom (ground floor) at this time and is by invitation only.

### **Day 3 Parallel Session Descriptions**

#### **Public Expenditure Review for Early Childhood Years made easy with AMPERA – OPM/Thrive**

*Public Expenditure Review (PER) is the most reliable way to analyze government budget allocations. But until recently, conducting a PER on a cross-sectoral issue like ECD remained out of reach of most governments. It was a highly resource-intensive one-time exercise that would take large teams many months to complete, which few governments can afford. To make PER more accessible, Oxford Policy Management (OPM) has developed the AMPERA tool. This harnesses the power of new technologies like machine learning and artificial intelligence to deliver PERs more quickly, more accurately, and more affordably. AMPERA equips policymakers to understand what investments are being made in ECD, and to decide whether these are appropriate, at a fraction of the cost and in a fraction of the time of a traditional PER. Join us in this session to learn more about how OPM's AMPERA tool can equip you to find the answers you need.*

#### **Launch of the Home-based Childcare Alliance – NurtureFirst, SmartStart, OneSky, aeioTU, BRAC IED, NAFCC, Tiney**

*This session marks the official public launch of the Global Home-Based Childcare Alliance, a new global coalition dedicated to elevating home-based childcare as a first-choice, high-quality early childhood care and education option to improve equitable access to high-quality childcare globally and support positive child development outcomes. The event will bring together the Alliance's founding members, ECD funders, and practitioners from across the globe to address a critical gap in the early years financing landscape: the persistent underinvestment in home-based childcare despite its prevalence, cost-effectiveness, and potential for scale. Join us to learn more about how the Alliance will mobilize finance and global policy to make home-based childcare a recognized, resourced, and high-quality option for families, supporting universal and equitable childcare coverage.*

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#### **Big Wins to Bold Commitments – Theirworld and Genesis Analytics**

*The world's first International Financing Summit on Early Childhood takes place in 2027. It will only recognize funded, time-bound, and deliverable commitments from governments, mayors and local leaders, business leaders, and philanthropic actors. The work to secure those commitments starts now, at national and sub-national levels, with the coalitions and networks who understand both the evidence and the politics well enough to connect them. This session uses the Act for Early Years Big Wins for Early Childhood framework as a practical commitment-building tool. Working backwards from the Summit, participants will map what it takes to move a specific decision-maker toward a specific, credible pledge in their own context, whether that decision-maker sits in a national ministry, a city government, a development bank, or a business. Join us to begin to identify the political entry points, financing pathways, and coalition conditions that make a commitment achievable rather than aspirational.*

#### **Rwanda's Nkuza Neza Fund, Designing and Delivering Outcomes-Based Financing in Practice – Education Outcomes Fund**

*Nkuza Neza is a \$13 million outcomes-based fund within Rwanda's early childhood care and education (ECCE) sector. This interactive session will help participants understand its distinctive features and its financing architecture. Attendees will analyze how outcomes funds can be structured in close partnership with government to align with national budget cycles and public financial management processes. Additionally, the session will clarify strategies for risk allocation and incentive alignment, providing participants with a framework for using outcomes-based models to strengthen domestic systems rather than creating parallel mechanisms. Participants will gain actionable insights from the program's transition from design to implementation, which illustrates how such models can be effectively embedded within a*

*national education reform agenda. Join us for this deep dive into Nkuza Neza and explore how outcomes-based financing might work in your country context.*

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### **The Critical Role of Cost Data in ECD for Advocacy, Budget Allocation, Priority Setting, and Scaling – Brookings Institution**

*There has never been a more critical time for governments, funders, and implementing organizations to make sound decisions about financing early childhood interventions. But to make informed decisions, cost data are critical at local, national, and global levels to allow for accountability of spending, priority setting, budgeting and planning, managing program activities, and advocating for investment. This session aims to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the opportunities for increasing the amount of high-quality and consistent cost data in the sector. The Brookings Institution will be sharing its dual approach—partnering with local actors and governments through Costing Labs using the Childhood Cost Calculator (C3) while addressing longer-term institutional barriers through the Global Costing Taskforce for Education and ECCE. No costing expertise required, only a commitment and desire to work together to address this critical gap in the sector!*

### **Driving Systemic Change in Early Childhood: Aligning Government Capacity, Capital, and Service Transformation in Colombia – aeioTU**

*Colombia offers an emerging example of how systemic change in early childhood can be pursued by aligning service transformation, government leadership, and financing architecture. While the country has made important progress in expanding access and building policy continuity, sustaining quality at scale remains a major challenge. This session will focus on the case of Cartagena, where local government, service providers, and philanthropic actors are working together to strengthen quality in early childhood services. Through this example, participants will explore the financial, operational, and institutional conditions required to sustain quality improvements at scale. The session will combine short framing presentations with an open discussion on how governments, funders, and implementation partners can move from fragmented initiatives toward more sustainable systems for young children.*

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**Thank you for joining us!**

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

