

John Young

Executive Director

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Biography

John Young is a senior researcher, adviser, evaluator, programme manager and team leader in international development. He has over 20 years' overseas experience, from community-level field work on livestock services in Sri Lanka and Kenya, through leadership and management of national NGOs and government organisations in Kenya and Indonesia, and over 15 years based in the UK undertaking research, evaluations and other assignments in over 20 developing and emerging countries and advising international NGOs and bilateral and multilateral development organisations. He joined INASP as Executive Director in 2018 after 15 years as Head of the Research and Policy in Development Programme at the Overseas Development Institute. His main research and practical experience has been on supporting and evaluating the impact of research on policy, policy engagement and influence, organisational and institutional development, capacity development, especially of think tanks and other development research organisations, government service reform, monitoring evaluation and learning and strategic communication.

Languages: English (native speaker). Bahasa Indonesia (Basic)

Main country experience: Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia, China, India, Nepal.

Key skills and expertise

- Research-Policy linkages
- Policy influence
- Institutional development
- Think tank capacity development
- Government service reform
- Strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Leadership
- Management
- Communication

Specialist thematic areas

- Animal health and livestock services
- Natural resources management
- Youth employment
- Science policy
- Innovation
- Inequality

Posts held

2018 – Present	Executive Director, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2003 – 2018	Head of Programme, Research and Policy in Development, Overseas Development Institute (London, UK)
2001 – 2001	Research Fellow, Rural Group, ODI (London, UK)
1995 – 2001	Team Leader/Project Manager, DFID DELIVERI Project (Indonesia)
1992 – 1995	Country Director, ITDG Kenya
1989 – 1992	International Livestock Programme Manager, ITDG Rugby (UK)
1986 – 1989	Livestock Project Officer, ITDG Rugby (based in Kenya)
1983 – 1986	Veterinary Surgeon – in mixed practice in Sherborne and Cardigan (UK)



1982 – 1983	Voluntary Service Overseas, Sri Lanka – veterinarian to milk cooperative (Sri Lanka)
1981	Veterinary Surgeon – in small animal practice in Lincolnshire (UK)

Qualifications

1981	Vet M.B, Cambridge University, UK
1978	B.A. Medical Sciences, Cambridge University, UK

Project experience

2016 – 2019	Pan-participatory governance on earthquake resilience in the Ordos Region of China (PAGER-O): Increasing resilience to earthquakes in China. Principle Investigator. Funded by NERC/Newton.
2016 – 2018	Team Leader of the Learning Partnership and consortium steering committee member, Ghana and Uganda. Funded by Mastercard Foundation.
2014 – 2018	Earthquakes without Frontiers (EWF): a project on earthquake resilience, China. Principle Investigator/Lead on policy engagement and uptake. Funded by NERC.
2014 – 2015	Evaluation of the impact of CIFOR’s work on REDD+ policies and programmes., Global. Team Leader. Funded by CIFOR.
2013 – 2017	Technical support to the Knowledge Sector Initiative, Indonesia. Lead on monitoring, evaluation and learning. Funded by DFAT.
2013 – 2014	Evaluation of research use by AusAID Managers for the Office of Development Effectiveness, Global. Team Leader. Funded by AusAID/DFAT.
2012 – Present	Increasing Resilience to Earthquake Hazard Project. Co-Principle Investigator. Funded by NERC/ESRC.
2012 – 2013	DFID-ESRC Growth Research programme, Global. Programme Coordinator. Funded by DFID.
2012	Evaluation of the Think Tank Initiative, Global. Co-team leader. Funded by the Gates Foundation.
2011	Developing a programme of work on the role of middle-income countries in low-income countries, China and India. Funded by DFID and AusAID.
2010	Contributing to a programme of support on communications and policy engagement for 3ie grant holders, Global. Funded by 3ie.
2010	Contributing to a study on the political economy of research uptake for the design phase of a \$300m programme to strengthen the knowledge economy, Indonesia. Funded by AusAID.
2009	An evaluation of the impact of the Livestock for Life engagement programme, Global. Funded by the Wellcome Trust.
2009	An evaluation of the impact of the SDC research programme, Global. Funded by Swiss Development Corporation.
2008	A review of the impact on behaviour and research outcomes of their emphasis on better communication in DFID-funded research programmes, Global. Funded by DFID.
2008	Development of a capacity-building programme to improve policy engagement in the Vietnamese Academy of Social Science, Vietnam. Funded by UNDP.



2008	A research communications workshop for recipients of Australian Development Research Awards, Australia. Funded by AusAID.
2008	A workshop on evidence-based policy for the Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Policy Programme, Egypt. Funded by the Ministry of Finance.
2007	A review of international development research funders' approaches to capacity development, Global. Funded by DFID.
2007	A project to help develop an approach and framework to guide the development of SNV's work on local capacity building, Global. Funded by SNV.
2006 – 2007	A capacity-development programme for organisational ability to strengthen impact on policy, Nigeria. Funded by Nigeria Economic Summit Group.
2006 – 2007	A field study in 8 countries on how ICTs can enhance development in rural areas, Global. Funded by Infodev/World Bank.
2005	A workshop for the Small and Medium Enterprise Policies (SMEPOL) Project to expose stakeholders to current theory and practice of evidence-based policy making, Egypt. Funded by CIDA/IDRC/GOE.
2005	An action-research programme to identify and institutionalise innovative research and development mechanisms and approaches that lead to pro-poor policy outcomes, East Africa. Funded by the International Livestock Research Institute.
2004	A support visit to help improve the policy impact of DFID's Forestry Support Programme in South Africa, South Africa. Funded by DFID.
2004	A resource book on communications in PRSPs, UK. Funded by the World Bank and DFID.
2004	A series of workshops on how to improve the impact of research on policy and practice, Moldova, India, Kenya, Morocco and Indonesia. Funded by DFID.
2004	A seven-year partnership programme to improve the capacity of southern civil society to use research-based evidence for development policy and practice. Includes research, advice and capacity-building, long term partnerships with southern policy research institutes and global collaborative action-research-policy projects, Worldwide. Funded by DFID.
2003	Developing the joint WB/FAO/DFID Information and Communications for Rural Livelihoods Project, Worldwide. Funded by FAO.
2003	Coordinating the second, research phase of the Global Development Network Bridging Research and Policy Project, Worldwide. Funded by GDN.
2003	Providing advice on communications component of the Central Research Team's new research strategy, UK. Funded by DFID.
2003	Member of steering committee for Livelihoods Connect Website, UK. Funded by DFID.
2003	Developing a website and online discussions for and contributing section on policy uptake for DFID-funded Forum for Food Security in Sub Saharan Africa, UK. Funded by DFID.
2003	Developing a website for the Options for Supporting Onfarm Conservation in Eastern and Southern Africa project, UK. Funded by GTZ and DARWIN.
2002	On team for knowledge demand assessment for DFID/WB transport and Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project, UK. Funded by World Bank/DFID.
2002	A research project to develop a framework for and undertake three case



	studies of research-policy linkages (April 2002 – March 2003), UK. Funded by DFID.
2002	A two-month project to help the DFID Multistakeholder Forestry Programme in Indonesia develop a Communications and Information Strategy (May – June 2002), Indonesia. Funded by DFID.
2002	An initial literature review as part of a knowledge demand assessment for the World Bank/DFID Transport and Rural Infrastructure Services Project (May 2002), UK. Funded by the World Bank and DFID.
2002	A desk study mapping agencies involved in strengthening the capacity of southern research organisations UK. Funded by DFID.
2001/2	Providing intermittent support to the DFID-funded, Delivering Quality Services project, aiming to improve government services (August 2001 – March 2002), Indonesia. Funded by DFID.
2001	A six-month project to help FAO develop a strategic programme to improve the effectiveness of FAO's information systems in influencing poor people's livelihoods (June – December 2001), India and Uganda. Funded by FAO and DFID.
2001 – 2002	Coordinating the establishment and first year of the Global Development Network's Bridging Research and Policy Project, UK and USA. Funded by the Global Development Network.
2001	Preparing a project proposal for the Bridging Research and Policy Programme. Included visits to Washington and Brazil (July-December 2001), Various. Funded by the Global Development Network.
2001	Follow-up support to the Delivering Quality Services Project, Indonesia. Funded by DFID.
2001	Resource person for regional livelihoods workshop, Bangladesh. Funded by DFID.
2001	Developing a three-year programme to improve ITDG's Knowledge Management systems, including the integration of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation systems, technical, socioeconomic and thematic information, UK. Funded by ITDG.
2001	Helping to develop an 18-month collaborative programme to promote the Quality Service Approach throughout Indonesian government services, Indonesia. Funded by DFID.

Selected Publications

2017	Tilley, H., Shaxson, L., Rea, J., Ball, L. and Young, J. (2017, January). <i>10 things to know about how to influence policy with research</i> . London: ODI.
2016	Datta, A., Marpaung, L., Meirio, A., Sabri, R., Mackenzie, J. and Young, J. (2016, September). <i>The Indonesian knowledge sector: a contextual analysis</i> . ODI Working and discussion papers. London: ODI.
2015	Young, J. and Bird, N. (2015, November). <i>Informing REDD+ policy: an assessment of CIFOR's Global Comparative Study</i> . London: ODI.
2015	Young, J., Cui, K., Dominelli, L., Sim, T., Weizhong Chen, W., Li, N., Zhang, L., Bin, Z., Yang, Y., Tucker, B., Zhang Jun, T. and Zhang Jun, P. (2015, October). <i>Pathways to earthquake resilience in China</i> . London: ODI.
2015	DFAT Office of Development Effectiveness (2015, February). <i>Research for better aid: an evaluation of DFAT's investments</i> . Canberra: DFAT.



- 2014 Young, J., Shaxson, L., Jones, H., Hearn, S., Datta, A. and Cassidy, C. (2014, June). [RAPID Outcome Mapping Approach \(ROMA\) guide to policy engagement and influence](#). London: ODI.
- 2013 Young, J. (2013, September). [Final report of the external evaluation of the Think Tank Initiative](#). London: ODI.
- 2012 Young, J. (2012, June). [Evidence-based policymaking: challenges, methods, and innovations in assessing policy influence](#). London: ODI.
- 2011 Young, J. (2011, December). [Developing capacities for better research uptake: the experience of ODI's Research and Policy in Development programme](#). London: ODI.
- 2011 Datta, A., Jones, H., Febriany, V., Harris, D., Kumala Dewi, R., Wild, L. and Young, J. (2011, September). [The political economy of policy-making in Indonesia: opportunities for improving the demand and use of knowledge](#). London: ODI.
- 2011 Datta, D. and Young, J. (2011, September). [Producing home grown solutions: Think tanks and knowledge networks in international development](#). Development Outreach. World Bank.
- 2009 Young, J. and Mendizabal, E. (2009, September). [Helping researchers become policy entrepreneurs](#). ODI Briefing Paper 53. London: ODI.
- 2008 Young, J. and Sable, J. (2008, December). [ODI in Partnership: Leading the Pack or One of the Gang?](#) JNORRAG News 41.
- 2008 Young, J. (2008, September). [Impact of research on policy and practice. Working with Complexity](#). www.capacity.org. London: ODI.
- 2008 Young, J. (2008, February). *Strategies for impact and policy relevance*. Glocal Times, issue 10. Available at <http://glocaltimes.se/>.
- 2008 Ramalingam, B. and Jones, H., with Reba, T and Young, J. (2008, February). ODI Working Paper 285. [Exploring the science of complexity: Ideas and implications for development and humanitarian efforts](#). London: ODI.
- 2007 Jones, N. and Young, J. (2007, June). [Setting the Scene: Situating DFID's Research Funding Policy and Practice in an International Comparative Perspective](#). London: ODI.
- 2006 Court, J., Mendizabal, E., Osborne, D. and Young, J. (2009, June). [Policy Engagement: How civil society can be more effective](#). London: ODI.
- 2006 Court, J. and Young, J. (2006). 'From development research to pro-poor policy: evidence and the change process', pp 100-108 in The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Directorate General for Development Cooperation, *Dialogues at the Interface Science and Technology Policy for Development*.
- 2006 Blagescu, M. and Young, J. (2006, January). [Capacity Development for Policy Advocacy: Current thinking and approaches among agencies supporting Civil Society Organisations](#). ODI Working Paper 260, London: ODI.
- 2005 Young, J. ['Research, Policy and Practice: Why Developing Countries are Different'](#) (2005) in *Bridging Research and Policy in International Development*, (2005, August) Special Issue of the Journal of International Development, 17(6), Wiley.
- 2005 Court, J., Hovland, I. and Young, J. (2005). [Bridging Research and Policy in International Development](#). ITDG Publishing.
- 2005 Blagescu, M. and Young, J. (2005, September). ['Partnerships and Accountability: Current thinking and approaches among agencies supporting Civil Society Organisations'](#). ODI Working Paper 255, London: ODI.



- 2004 Court, J. and Young, J. (2004). *[Bridging Research and Policy in International Development: Context, Evidence and Links](#)*, ODI: London in Stone, D. and Maxwell, S. (eds) (2004) *Global Knowledge Networks and International Development: Bridges across boundaries*. London: Routledge.
- 2004 Young, J. and Court, J. (2004, October). *[Bridging Research and Policy in International Development: An Analytical and Practical Framework](#)*, RAPID Briefing Paper 1, London: ODI.
- 2003 Court, J. and Young, J. (2003, August). *[Bridging Research and Policy: Insights from 50 Case Studies](#)*. ODI Working Paper 213, London: ODI.
- 2003 Young, J. (with Court, J.). (2003, July). *[Good News When Researchers and Politicians Work Together](#)* in id21 Features, id21 Media.
- 2003 Young, J., Kajume, J. and Wanyama, J. (2003, April). *[Animal Health Care in Kenya: The Road to Community-based Animal Health Service Delivery](#)*. ODI Working Paper 214, London: ODI.
- 2002 Crewe, E. and Young, J. (2002, September). *[Bridging Research and Policy: Context, Evidence and Links](#)*. ODI Working Paper 173, London: ODI.
- 1996 – 2002 A wide range of information materials about the DELIVERI project including newsletters, conference papers and publications, book chapters, leaflets and brochures, the web-site and a multimedia CD-ROM See: www.deliveri.org.
- 1986 –1996 Two books on decentralized animal health systems care published by IT Publications (“*Village Animal Health Care in Kenya*”, and “*Animal Health Care in Nepal*”). A chapter in the book “*Ethnoveterinary Research and Development*” (also published by IT Publications). Many other publications on animal health care and other appropriate technologies.

