

John Young

INASP Associate

Based in the United Kingdom

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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
- Institutional development
- Government service reform
- Planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Programme management
- Communication

Specialist thematic areas

- Animal health and livestock services
- Natural resources management
- Youth employment
- Science policy
- Innovation
- Inequality
- Research capacity building
- Equitable knowledge ecosystems

Posts held

From 2024	Associate, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2018-23	Executive Director, INASP (Oxford, UK)
2001-18	Research Fellow and Head of Programme, ODI (London, UK)
1995-2001	Team Leader/Project Manager, DFID DELIVERI Project (Indonesia)
1986-95	Livestock specialist then Country Director ITDG (Kenya)
1983-86	Veterinary Surgeon – in mixed practice in Sherborne and Cardigan (UK)
1982-83	Voluntary Service Overseas, Sri Lanka – veterinarian to milk cooperative (Sri Lanka)
1981-82	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

Selected project experience

2022-23	Providing online and face-to-face training and mentoring support to research teams in the IDRC GROW East Africa programme (IDRC).
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- 2022 Leading a participatory self-evaluation of INASPs Global Programme for Equitable Knowledge Ecosystems.
- 2020-21 An evaluation of the ACU Partnership for Enhanced and Blended Learning Programme including 7 online analytical and co-production workshops.
- 2020 Online workshop for the Association of Commonwealth Universities to facilitate the development of their organisational Theory of Change.
- 2020 Training course on research communication as part of the University of East Anglia Summer School on Impact Evaluation (UEA).
- 2016–18 Team Leader of the Learning Partnership and consortium steering committee member, Ghana and Uganda (Mastercard Foundation).
- 2014–15 Evaluation of the impact of CIFOR’s work on REDD+ policies and programmes., Global. Team Leader (CIFOR).
- 2013–14 Evaluation of research use by AusAID Managers for the Office of Development Effectiveness, Global. Team Leader. Funded by AusAID/DFAT.
- 2013–17 Technical support to the Knowledge Sector Initiative, Indonesia. Lead on MEL (DFAT).
- 2012–18 2012Evaluation of the Think Tank Initiative, Global. Co-team leader (BMGF).
- 2004-11 A seven-year partnership programme to improve the capacity of southern civil society to use research-based evidence for development policy and practice. Worldwide (DFID).
- 2001-3 Strategic programme on information for sustainable livelihoods (WB/FAO/DFID).

Selected Publications

- 2023 [Enabling Equitable Knowledge Ecosystems in Africa and Asia](#) a self-evaluation of the process and impact of INASPs Global Platforms for Equitable Knowledge Ecosystems (GPEKE) project from April 2019 to December 2022. Oxford: INASP
- 2021 [Blended Learning in Universities in East Africa: Lessons from the PEBL Partnership](#) - A Summative Evaluation of the Association of Commonwealth Universities Partnership for Blended Learning Programme (INASP 2021).
- 2019 2015Young, J. and Bird, N. [Informing REDD+ policy: an assessment of CIFOR's Global Comparative Study](#). London: ODI.
- 2015 DFAT Office of Development Effectiveness (2015, February). [Research for better aid: an evaluation of DFAT's investments](#). Canberra: DFAT.
- 2014 Young, J., Shaxson, L., Jones, H., Hearn, S., Datta, A. and Cassidy, C.. [RAPID Outcome Mapping Approach \(ROMA\) guide to policy engagement and influence](#). London: ODI.
- 2013 Young, J. [Final report of the external evaluation of the Think Tank Initiative](#). London: ODI
- 2011 Datta, D. and Young, J. [Producing home grown solutions: Think tanks and knowledge networks in international development](#). Development Outreach. World Bank.
- 2008 Young, J. [Impact of research on policy and practice. Working with Complexity](#). (www.capacity.org)
- 2008 Ramalingam, B. and Jones, H., with Reba, T and Young, J. [Exploring the science of complexity: Ideas and implications for development and humanitarian efforts](#). London: ODI.
- 2005 Court, J., Hovland, I. and Young, J. [Bridging Research and Policy in International Development](#). ITDG Publishing.
- 2002 Crewe, E. and Young, J. [Bridging Research and Policy: Context, Evidence and Links](#). ODI Working Paper 173, London: ODI.