



In partnership with



Designing Digital Solutions for the Next Billion

Location: UNESCO Headquarters, ROOM 8

Date and time: Monday 26 March 2018, 16:30-18:00

Presenters: Steve Vosloo, UNESCO;
Jennifer Young, Pearson, United States

About the workshop:

In an increasingly online world, people need digital skills to work and live productively. Those without the required skills and literacy now face a double exclusion, not only from the real world but also from the digital one. There is a need to both develop the necessary skills and literacy amongst this group, as well as create inclusive digital solutions that are suitable for the skills levels they have today.

UNESCO, in partnership with Pearson, has been examining how inclusive digital solutions can help people with low skills and low literacy use technology in a way that supports skills development and, ultimately, improves livelihoods.

By conducting case studies on a diverse range of promising digital services for agriculture, health, the environment, government and displaced populations, we are generating new ways of thinking about the challenge of closing the global literacy gap and reducing the digital divide. Many of the solutions studied, especially in health, target women as users, and highlight ways in which the gender divide can be addressed.

UNESCO is also developing a set of guidelines for the development of inclusive digital solutions.

Meet the presenters:

Mr Steven Vosloo is passionate about using technology in education, with a specialisation in mobiles for literacy development. He has been head of mobile in the Innovation Lab, Pearson South Africa, led the mobile learning programme at UNESCO, held the prestigious fellowship for 21st Century Learning at the Shuttleworth Foundation, and is currently back at UNESCO to research how technology can better serve low-skilled users. In 2007 he was a

research fellow at Stanford University where he studied youth and digital media. He holds a Masters degree in Information Systems from the University of Cape Town.

Ms Jennifer Young, Director, Global Social Impact Programs, Pearson. For the past 15 years, Jennifer has worked across public, private and non-profit sectors to advance solutions to large-scale social and public policy challenges. At Pearson, she oversees the company's programs and partnerships for its global social impact campaigns, including Project Literacy. Before joining Pearson, Jennifer worked at Human Rights Watch, elevating issues related to women's rights and juvenile justice through targeted partnership building and advocacy, and co-founded the Halifax International Security Forum. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Chile and holds a B.A. in International Affairs and an M.P.A. in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy.