



For Immediate Release

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2016 Winners of 120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders Announced Today

The [Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#) announced the 2016 winners of [120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders](#) today.

120 Under 40 recognizes and highlights the achievements of the next generation of family planning leaders worldwide; it is led by the Gates Institute with support from [Bayer](#). Over the course of this multi-year project, 120 young family planning champions will be highlighted, 40 in each of the three project years.

This year's 40 winners are journalists, medical doctors and service providers, advocates, researchers, and founders of nonprofits. They work all over the world—in clinics and universities, in offices, and in the field—to advance family planning and reproductive health.

In Ethiopia, Minister of Health Kesetebirhan Admasu has championed the country's highly successful Health Extension Network, which improves the quality and availability of primary health care services—especially family planning and reproductive health—through community-based health workers. In India, Vithika Yadav is providing accessible, non-judgmental information on sexual and reproductive health and rights through the digital platform Love Matters India. From the United States, Turkey native Burcu Bozkurt co-leads the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning, a global network of 50-plus country coordinators working to amplify and empower the voices of young family planning and reproductive health advocates.

The 40 winners for 2016 were chosen through public online voting, scoring by a jury of experts and leaders in family planning, and the project secretariat. The winners each receive \$1,000 from the Gates Institute to continue their work in family planning.

“We were thrilled by the caliber of the nominees in this first year of 120 Under 40, and these 40 winners are truly an outstanding group,” says Jose “Oying” Rimon II, Director of the Gates Institute and chair of the 120 Under 40 Jury. “With these young leaders at the helm, the family planning movement and its commitment to protecting health and saving lives are in excellent hands.”

A smaller representative group of winners have been invited to attend the 120 Under 40 celebrations in the United States from September 21 to 23. These celebrations, which coincide the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York, will include training in advocacy and leadership, meetings with influential leaders, and opportunities for the winners to share personal stories about their passion for family planning and reproductive health. The activities will be co-hosted in Baltimore, Washington DC, and New York City by the Gates Institute, Bayer, Population Council and the FP2020 partnership.

Year 1 of 120 Under 40 officially concludes on World Contraception Day, September 26, an annual day of observance organized by Bayer to focus international attention on contraception, especially young people's need to access contraceptive and reproductive health information, services and supplies.

The 2016 winners of 120 Under 40 are as follows (full bios of the winners are available upon request):

Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, Ethiopia
Minister
Federal Ministry of Health

Rose Aduful, Ghana
Senior Nursing Officer/Public Health Nursing
Reproductive Health Centre, Korle bu Teaching
Hospital

Dr. Priya Agrawal, United Kingdom
Executive Director, Vaccines & Women's Health
Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.

Margaret Bolaji, Nigeria
Associate Researcher
Population and Reproductive Health Initiative

Vicky Boydell, Great Britain
Senior Rights and Accountability Advisor
The Evidence Project/International Planned
Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

Burcu Bozkurt, Turkey (based in the United States)
Director of Operations
International Youth Alliance for Family Planning

Atif Ikram Butt, Pakistan
Executive Director
Center for Communication Programs Pakistan

Patricee Douglas, Guyana
Medical Doctor, Advocate
Women Across Differences

Denise Dunning, United States
Founder and Executive Director
Rise Up

Isaac Ejakhegbe, Nigeria
SRHR Program Officer
Women's Health and Action Research Centre

Morenike Fajemisin, Nigeria
Regulatory Affairs and Medical Marketing Manager
DKT Nigeria

Rakibul Hasan, Bangladesh
Features Editor
The Bangladesh Today

Sharon Migariza Kiyingu, Kenya
Founder/Chairperson
Women Promotion Centre

Julia Kohn, United States
National Director of Research
Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Simon Manga, Cameroon (based in the United States)
Reproductive Health Specialist/Family Planning Supervisor
Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services

Marvin Masalunga, Philippines
Deputy Municipal Health Officer
Municipal Health Office of Coron, Palawan

Christopher Meraiyebu, Nigeria (based in Uganda)
Behavioral Change Communications Specialist (PSI Fellow)
Programme for Accessible Health, Communication and Education (PACE), Uganda

Tlaleng Mofokeng, South Africa
Medical Doctor, Deputy Chairperson
Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition of South Africa (SRJCZA)

Barwani Msiska, Malawi (based in the United States)
MPH Candidate
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Brian Mutebi, Uganda
Features Writer
The Daily Monitor

Phionah Fortunate Naigaga, Uganda
Project Officer
Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung (DSW)

Mariam Nakabuubi, Uganda
Project Officer, Maternal and Child Health
Health Child

Paul Nyachae, Kenya
Project Lead
Jhpiego

Catherine Nyambura, Kenya
Deputy Director
Dandelion Kenya

Tom Oludhe, Kenya
Founder and Executive Director
AfyaElimu Community Based Organization

Ufuoma Omo Obi, Nigeria (based in Sierra Leone)
Country Director
Marie Stopes Sierra Leone

Maricianah Atieno Onono, Kenya
Medical Doctor/Research Scientist
Kenya Medical Research Institute

Juliana Ooi, Malaysia

Youth Researcher

Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Family
Reproductive Health Association

Ankita Rawat, India

Youth Champion Initiative Fellow
Feminist Approach to Technology

Ash Rogers, United States

Executive Director

Lwala Community Alliance, Kenya

**Jean Christopher Rusatira, Rwanda (based in the
United States)**

Co-Director, Research & Development
International Youth Alliance on Family Planning

Diodio Sacko, Mali

Midwife, Sexual/Reproductive Training Officer
Marie Stopes Mali

Dr. Surendra Sharma, India

Senior Program Officer
Jhpiego

Ashish Kumar Srivastava, India

State Program Manager
Jhpiego

Indra Tumur, Mongolia

Country Director
Marie Stopes Mongolia

**Muzabel Welongo, Democratic Republic of the
Congo (based in Kenya)**

Executive Director and Founder
Solidarity and Advocacy in Crisis (SAVIC), Kenya

Lucy Wilson, United States

Technical Advisor
FHI 360

Vithika Yadav, India

Head
RNW Media - Love Matters Programme

Ghulam Yaseen, Pakistan

Channel Lead/Deputy General Manager Operations
Marie Stopes Society Pakistan

Olukoya Yetunde, Nigeria

Demand Creation Specialist
Society for Family Health Nigeria

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