



## ANDE London Member Meeting

April 8, 2024

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE

9:30 AM

### Registration Opens; Open Networking

Coffee & Tea

10:00 AM

### Welcome Remarks

Room: Central Building CBG Auditorium

Remarks by: **Abigayle Davidson**, Director of Research and Impact, ANDE  
**Vivian Bronsoler Nurko**, Director of Programmes and Impact, IGC  
**Elliot Gerson**, Executive Vice President, Aspen Institute

10:20 - 11:00

### Plenary Session

**Devin Chesney**, Interim Executive Director, ANDE

11:00 - 11:30

### Networking Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:45

### Concurrent Breakout Sessions (A)

#### 1A. Pathways to more inclusive and accessible financing for young entrepreneurs

Room: CBG.1.07

Facilitators: **Anita Tiessen**, CEO, Youth Business International  
**Didi Onwu**, Managing Editor, Anzisha Prize

What does it mean for young entrepreneurs to be financially healthy? This session will discuss pathways and insights for ESOs to support more inclusive and accessible financing.

#### 2A. Investing in Inclusion: Designing gender-smart investment and business strategies driven by data

Room: CBG.1.06

Facilitators: **Allie Burns**, CEO, Village Capital  
**Yasmina Zaidman**, Chief Development and Partnerships Officer, Acumen  
**Brigit Helms**, Executive Director, Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship

This interactive session will share insights on how funders, investors, and capacity development providers can create the conditions to facilitate greater gender inclusion based on evidence. By the end of the session, participants will leave with practical take-aways for reducing gender bias in investment decisions as well as which gender-smart business strategies have the greatest outcomes for women.

### 3A. Circular Economy & Early Stage Climate Solutions

Room: CBG.1.07

Facilitators: **Juan Carlos Thomas**, VP of Entrepreneurship & New Ventures, Technoserve  
**Dan Barker**, President and CEO, Halcyon  
**Katerina Hoskova**, Community and Initiatives Specialist, World Economic Forum Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship  
**Maelisa Carrero**, Managing Partner, Catalyst Fund

In this interactive session, we will explore how funders and enterprise development support organizations are helping climate innovators as they navigate a rapidly evolving funding landscape, fragmented policy and regulatory environments, and emerging technology trends.

12:45 PM

### Networking Lunch

*Lunch will be provided*

1:45 PM

### Concurrent Breakout Sessions (B)

#### 1B: Raising the bar or stifling innovation? How national BDS standards can be leveraged to drive evidence-based SGB support

Room: CBG.1.06

Facilitators: **Andrea Warriner**, Managing Director, AMI Impact  
**John Walugembe**, AMI Consultant, Ugandan SME ecosystems expert  
**Harry Devonshire**, Advocacy and Research Manager, Argidius Foundation

In Africa and beyond, projects to institute national standards of quality for BDS support are gaining traction. BDS standards have the potential to improve the quality of support received by SMEs by providing guidelines for evidence backed offerings. This panel will unpack the potential of national BDS standards, the risk of poorly implemented standards projects, and live learnings from AMI's work to implement national standards in Uganda.

#### 2B. Unpacking best practices for effective incubation & nonfinancial support

Room: CBG.1.05

Facilitators: **James Naughton**, Head of Development Finance and Investment, DAI  
**Max Baiden**, Senior Manager, DAI

This session will discuss the importance of non-financial support to start-ups and SMEs. What are the most useful forms of support? Is there a way to quantify the impact of this support? What is the value of custom-made support vs. standard acceleration/incubation models? How can the wider start-up ecosystem improve the quality of BDSPs and Entrepreneurial Support Organisations (ESOs) to offer the right services? And how to incentivize start-ups/SMEs to pay for these services?

**3B. Exploring challenges and opportunities of emerging technologies like AI for nonprofits and ESOs: An open discussion led by Micromentor and Producers Direct**

Room: CBG.1.07

Facilitators: **Anita Ramachandran**, Executive Director, Micromentor by MercyCorps  
**Claire Rhodes**, CEO, Producers Direct

Emerging technologies like AI have the potential to leapfrog progress toward reaching the SDGs, but large gaps still exist in who has access to new technologies. As nonprofits dedicated to empowering hard-to-reach and under-resourced entrepreneurs through the fusion of human connection and technology, Micromentor and Producers Direct are committed to exploring the dynamic landscape of AI/technology innovation to reach our missions. Join an interactive discussion about the challenges and opportunities AI can create for program operations, service delivery and impact measurement.

**3:00 PM**

**Break**

*Coffee, tea and light snacks will be provided*

**3:30 PM**

**Plenary Session: Why practitioners and researchers are more powerful together than apart**

Room: Central Building CBG Auditorium

Moderator: **Christopher Woodruff**, Scientific Advisor to the SGB Evidence Fund, IGC

Panelists: **Allie Burns**, CEO, Village Capital

**Juan Carlos Thomas**, VP of Entrepreneurship & New Ventures,  
Technoserve

**Golvine De Rochambeau**, Economist, IFC (World Bank Group)

This panel discussion will share experiences from researchers and practitioners about how they formed partnerships to build new evidence on best practices for supporting SGBs, and some of the implications of their work.

**4:45 PM**

**Wrap Up - Closing Remarks + Participant Reflection**

Room: Central Building CBG Auditorium

**5:00 PM**

**Adjourn**

**6:00 - 8:00**

**Reception - Impact Hub Euston**

*Wine, beer, soft drinks and light canapes will be served*