



**For Immediate Release**

Media contact: Marianne Amoss, Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health  
410-502-9067 / [mamoss@jhu.edu](mailto:mamoss@jhu.edu)

## ***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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