

LUCY BASSETT

Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy
University of Virginia

434. 243.1251 (office) | 202.420.8181 (cell)

lucybassett@virginia.edu | lucybassett@gmail.com

EDUCATION

The Fletcher School, Tufts University
M.A., Law and Diplomacy (MALD), focus on Development Economics
Medford, MA
January 2008

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University
M.S, Nutrition
Ph.D. Candidate (ABD)
Boston, MA
January 2008

Carleton College
B.A., English (Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude)
Northfield, MN
June 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA
Associate Professor of Practice of Public Policy
August 2018-present

- Teach Masters and undergraduate students in topics including policy analysis, international education, poverty, child and youth policy, and feminist public policy.
- Elected member of Batten School Executive Committee (2021-23).

Co-founder ChildArise
Oct 2022-present

- Co-founded a woman-owned 501c3 organization that seeks to transform the lives of young children and families affected by crisis through impact storytelling and creative problem-solving.
- Co-designed and co-manage \$1m grant from Lego Foundation to support child-centered policy and programming in crisis contexts.

Co-director UVA Humanitarian Collaborative
August 2019-present

- Co-direct UVA Humanitarian Collaborative, an initiative dedicated to conducting collaborative applied research to promote more effective humanitarian action.
 - Co-PI numerous projects (\$600,000 grant from UVA 2019-2023, among others)
- Provide advisory and technical support to a variety of organizations on global ECD policies, programs, and research
 - Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN), Sesame Workshop, Global Refugee Forum Education Task Team, Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), ECD Task Team, Lego Foundation, World Bank, etc.
- Expert reviewer
 - American Institutes for Research (AIR) Equity Initiative - Scholars and Leaders Awards (2022, 2023, 2024)
 - Lego Foundation Build a World of Play challenge (2022)
 - Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship (2020, 2019, 2018)

World Bank

Washington, DC

Education and Social Protection Specialist

August 2009-August 2018

- Led and co-led multi-million-dollar operations focused on improving social protection, nutrition, and education services to support vulnerable children and families in development and humanitarian or post-conflict contexts, including Haiti, Ethiopia, Serbia, Honduras, etc.
- Represented the World Bank in a consortium to develop measurement tools for child development and preschool quality (Measuring Early Learning Quality and Outcomes, MELQO) along with UNICEF, Brookings, and UNESCO.
- Advised country teams and governments on measurement of child development and quality of early learning, including tool selection, adaptation processes, data interpretation, decision-making, and policy formulation.
- Managed \$7m grant Early Learning Partnership portfolio supporting early childhood development and education programs in Africa and South Asia.
- Authored numerous evidence-based policy documents on early childhood development, nutrition, and social protection, which have been translated into policy decisions by Governments.
- Represented the World Bank in the Early Childhood Development Action Network, a global initiative to harmonize investment and support for child protection and development.
- Disability Advisor for Human Development teams, providing guidance and implementation examples for social protection, education, and health and nutrition programs.

Consultant (Haiti)

February 2008-July 2009

- Led a review of national policies for children; spearheaded the development of a national nutrition strategy in collaboration with government ministries and UN partners; member of a national Steering Committee for nutrition and social protection with other donor representatives.

Consultant (Central America)

October 2006-May 2007

- Wrote a policy paper on the design and implementation of community-based programs to improve nutrition and early childhood development in Central America.

Consultant

March 2006-January 2007

- Developed qualitative data collection tools and conducted interviews and qualitative data analysis about working multisectorally in nutrition.

Consultant

January-June 2006

- Reviewed international experience on programmatic and policy successes and failures in improving child health, nutrition, and WASH with relevance to Ecuador; analyzed country-level data; and prepared a study report.

UNICEF Bihar, India

Program Evaluator: nutrition and child development

May-August 2005

- Responsible for an impact evaluation of a community-based nutrition and early childhood development program building on India's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).
- Designed evaluation methodology; developed household questionnaires and qualitative research tools; trained enumerators; analyzed quantitative and qualitative data; wrote final report; and presented findings to a wide range of program stakeholders.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Senior Research Assistant

Washington, DC
May 2007-May 2009

- Designed quantitative and qualitative survey tools for the impact evaluation of a conditional cash transfer program, analyzed data, and prepared policy recommendations for government.
- Co-led a systematic review of cash transfer programs and co-authored a book and several papers on the design and implementation of cash transfer programs to increase their impact children and families affected by HIV and AIDS.

Community Child Protection Program
Group facilitator

Banikoara, Benin and Niamey, Niger
September-December 2004

- Facilitated child health, nutrition, and stimulation activities with staff and parents in rural health clinics.

Peace Corps
Community volunteer

Climentoro, Guatemala
May 2002-August 2004

- Worked with indigenous (K'iche') women's groups to promote improved child development, nutrition, and learning.
- Acted as President of the Peace Corps Gender and Development Committee.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Muratoğlu Pehlivan, B., Atalay, G.E., Bassett, L. Ülküer, N., Sav, S. (under review). Children's Perspectives on Life in Post-Earthquake Container Camps in Türkiye: Learning from a Photovoice Project.
- Howe, K., Stites, L., Bassett, L., and Ewart, M. (2024). Health and well-being of young mothers displaced by conflict: Experiences from South Sudan and the Kurdistan region of Iraq, *Social Science & Medicine*, ISSN 0277-9536. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.116710>.
- Bassett, L. and Ewart, M. (2023). Discrepancies between media portrayals and actual demographics of eating disorders in TV and film: implications of representation. *Journal of Eating Disorders* (11):161. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40337-023-00892-y>.
- Nguyen, A., Lasaster, M., Lee, C., Mallawaarachichi, I., Joshua, K., Bassett, L., Gelsdorf, K. (2023). Psychosocial support interventions in the context of forced displacement: A systematic review and meta-analysis of the global literature. *Journal of Migration and Health*, 7, 100168. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmh.2023.100168>
- Laughon, K., Montalvo-Liendo, N., Eaton, S., & Bassett, L. (2022). Health and safety concerns of female asylum seekers living in an informal migrant camp in Matamoros, Mexico. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 00, 1– 10. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.15511>
- Bassett, L. & Bradley, J.C. (2022). Strengthen Standards to Improve Early Childhood Development in Humanitarian Crises. *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs*: 4(1). <https://doi.org/10.7227/JHA.083>
- Bassett, L. and Nieto, A. (2017). The Early Childhood Development Action Network: a global network to strengthen support for young children. *Early Childhood Matters*. Issue 126.
- Quisumbing, A., Meinzen-Dick, R., Behrman, J. & Bassett, L. (2011). Gender and the global food-price crisis. *Development in Practice*, 21(4-5): 488-492.
- Adato, M. & Bassett, L. (2009). Social protection in the context of HIV and AIDS: The potential of cash transfers to protect education, health, and nutrition. *AIDS Care*. 2009 21(S1):44-59.

- Levinson, J., Barney, J., Bassett, L., & Schultink, W. (2007). "The Utilization of Positive Deviance Analysis in the Evaluation of Community-Based Nutrition Programs: An Application to the Dular Project in India." *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 28(3):259-265.

BOOKS

- Shah, S. & Bassett, L. (2023). *Young Children in Humanitarian and COVID-19 Crises: Innovations and Lessons from the Global South*. Routledge Humanitarian Studies Series.
- Adato, M. & Bassett, L. (2012). *Social Protection and Cash Transfers to Strengthen Families Affected by HIV and AIDS*. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.
- Garrett, J. & Natalicchio, M. (eds.), Levinson, J., Bassett, L. (2011). *Working Multisectorally in Nutrition: Principles, Practices, and Case Studies*. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.

REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

- Shah, S. and Bassett, L. (forthcoming) "Young Migrant Children's Voice through Imaginative Play: Dreams en Route in Colombia." Brookings Institution.
- Shah, S. and Bassett, L. (2025) "Facilitating expression through photovoice: An exploration of Turkish and Syrian children's experiences post-earthquake." Brookings Institution.
- Bradley, C., Bassett, L., Babaian, L. (2025). Phase 1 Evaluation: Amna's Community Partnership Program. Amna.
- Bassett, L. (2024). Remote ECD Services Semillas de Apego Watch, Play, Learn Pilot Colombia. Sesame Workshop.
- Bassett, L. (2024). Remote ECD Services Welcome Sesame Ukraine. Sesame Workshop.
- Save the Children (Bassett was co-author). (2024). Child-Centered Photovoice Project: Seeing through the eyes of children affected by the 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye. Save the Children.
- Childhood Education International (Bassett was co-author). (2024). Playful Foundations Core elements that led to success in the Play to Learn project. Play to Learn Consortium.
- Bassett, L. Overview on Remote ECD services (part of the global Early Childhood Development Action Network Knowledge Gateway). (2024).
- Advisor on Ward, J. and J. Voss (2024). Guidance Note on Applying Feminist Approaches to Humanitarian Action. GBV AoR Helpdesk Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.
- Bassett, L. and L. Babaian. (2023). Baytna Hub Pilot End-of-Program Evaluation. Amna.
- Bassett, L., T. Rahman, K. Inoue, S. Uttam, N. Rahman, & M. Golam. (2022). *Playful Pre-Primary Education in Bangladesh: Study on Professional Development Needs of Pre-Primary Teachers and Headteachers* (English). Washington, DC: World Bank Group.
- Dooley, B. & L. Bassett. (2022). "Childcare in Humanitarian Crisis: Programming Models for Acute Onset Emergencies." New York, NY: UNICEF.
- Bassett, L. (2021). "Evidence from Practice and Research: Remote Service Delivery for Early Childhood Development in Humanitarian Settings." Sesame Workshop, BRAC, IRC, NYU Global TIES, Lego Foundation, UVA Humanitarian Collaborative. Translated into Bangla, Spanish, Arabic.
- Bassett, L. et. al. (2021). "Early Childhood Development in Humanitarian Standards and Guidance." UVA Humanitarian Collaborative and Moving Minds Alliance.

- Ngyuen, A., C. Lee, M. Lasater, L. Bassett, & K. Gelsdorf. (2021). "Evaluation of psychosocial support interventions in the context of forced migration: A systematic review and narrative synthesis of the global literature." GIZ.
- Ngyuen, A., C. Lee, M. Lasater, L. Bassett, & K. Gelsdorf. (2021). "Psychosocial support interventions in the context of forced migration: Process and Findings from a Systematic Review of the Global Literature." GIZ.
- Bassett, L., S. Kurbanov, & C. Haddad. (2020). "Early Childhood Development in Tajikistan: A Rapid Review of the Regulatory Framework, Governance Environment and Current Programs." Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bassett, L. et al. (2018). "Early Stimulation: Supporting Parents to Help Their Children Thrive." Policy brief. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bassett, L., E. Di Gropello, J. Marshall, & J. Tabares. (2017). "Equatorial Guinea Education Sector Diagnostic." World Bank, Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bassett, L. et al. (2016). "Measuring Child Development and Early Learning." Policy brief. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bassett, L. et al. (2016). "Measuring the Quality of Early Learning Programs." Policy brief. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- El-Kogali, S., C. Krafft, L. Bassett, B. Benkassmi, M. Chavez, & A. Touhami. (2016). "Inequality of Opportunity in Early Childhood Development in Morocco over Time." Washington, DC: World Bank.
- El-Kogali, S., C. Krafft, L. Bassett, B. Benkassmi, M. Chavez, & A. Touhami. (2016). "The Impact of a Community Development and Poverty Reduction Program on Early Childhood Development in Morocco." Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bassett, L., S. Giannozzi, L. Pop, & D. Ringold. (2012). "Rules, Roles, and Controls: Governance in Social Protection with an Application to Social Assistance." Social Protection and Labor Discussion Paper No. 1206. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bassett, L. & J. Ruel-Bergeron. (2012). "Promoting Healthy Child Growth and Development: Advances and Opportunities for Community-based Nutrition Programs in Central America." Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Bassett, L. & J. Ruel-Bergeron. (2010). "Promoting Nutrition Security in Haiti." Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Villalobos, V., G. Blanco, & L. Bassett. (2010). "Management Information Systems for Conditional Cash Transfers and Social Protection Systems in Latin America: A Tool for Improved Program Management and Evidence-Based Decision-Making." Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Andrews, C., L. Bassett, et al. (2010). "Safety Nets How To: A Toolkit for Practitioners." Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Marini, A., Bassett, L., Bortman, M., Flores, R., Griffiths, M. & Salazar, M. (2009). "Promoción del Crecimiento para Prevenir la Desnutrición Crónica: Lecciones de Programas con Base Comunitaria en Centro America." Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Wiesmann, D., Bassett, L., Benson, T. & Hoddinott, J. (2009). "Validation of the World Food Programme's Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Alternative Proxy Indicators of Household Food Security." Discussion Paper. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.
- Hoddinott, J. & Bassett, L. (2009). "Conditional Cash Transfer Programs and Nutrition in Latin America: Assessment of Impacts and Strategies for Improvement." Working Paper #09. Santiago, Chile: FAO Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative.

- Bassett, L. (2008). "Can Conditional Cash Transfer Programs Play a Greater Role in Reducing Child Undernutrition?" Social Protection Discussion Paper No. 0835. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Quisumbing, A., Meinzen-Dick, R., & Bassett, L. (2008). "Helping Women Respond to the Food Price Crisis." IFPRI Policy Brief. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.
- World Bank. (2007). "Nutritional Failure in Ecuador: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions." World Bank Country Study. Washington, DC: World Bank.

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

- Bassett, L. & Shah, S. (2023, Feb 8). "After an earthquake, children need more than just basic services." *Medium*.
- Expert commentator on TRT World Now: "Why children are at risk after Türkiye, Syria earthquakes."
- Bassett, L. & M. Ullman (2022, May 23). "Childcare is a critical need for women refugees. It must be made a priority." *New Humanitarian*.
- Bassett, L. & Yoshikawa, H. (2020, Dec 1). "Our Immigration Policy Has Done Terrible Damage to Kids." *Scientific American*.
- Gelsdorf, K., Nyugen, A., Bassett, L., & Poole, D. (2020, May 15). "Now is the time to prioritize mental health." *Devex*.
- Haddad, C. & Bassett, L. (2019, Oct 2). "Charlottesville's record-setting temperatures are emblematic of a global issue." *The Cavalier Daily*.

PRESENTATIONS

- Brookings Institution (Dec 2025); Presented "Young children in crisis: Listening and supporting in uncertain times."
- International Humanitarian Studies Association conference, Istanbul, Turkey (Oct 2025). Presented "Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services in Crisis Zones: Psychosocial Liberation through Local Knowledge and Decolonized Practice."
- Save the Children Good Practices in Child Participation and Leadership Workshop, Istanbul, Turkey (Oct 2025). Presented "Children and Youth Participation in Humanitarian and Development Work," and "Examples of Good Practices in Child Participation: Photovoice."
- International Play Congress (June 2025). Presented "Play and storytelling: Strengthening resilience and voice."
- Brookings Institution Symposium on Education Systems Transformation (April 2025). Presented "Centering young people's voice and agency in and through research and policy."
- Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) (April 2025). Presented "Using Technology to Uplift Young Children's Voices for Social Change."
- Aiming for Impact Photovoice Conference (Nov 2024). Presented "Seeing through the eyes of children affected by the 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye."
- Voices of Children: Life After the Earthquake International Symposium and Photography Exhibition. Uskudar University, Istanbul. Presented "Child-centered Photovoice."
- Voices of Children: Life After the Earthquake International Symposium and Photography Exhibition. Uskudar University, Istanbul. (Nov 2024). Presented "Child-centered Photovoice."

- EdTech Conference (Oct 2024). Presented “Promising Practices: Remote & Hybrid Approaches in Early Childhood Education”
- Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) (March 2022). Chaired “Young moms and young kids: What do we know about adolescent parenting and early childhood development?” Presented “Re-imagining Technology Solutions in Early Childhood Programming in Settings affected by Conflict and Crisis: Experiences from research, design, and practice.”
- Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) (May 2022). “Childcare in Humanitarian Crisis.”
- Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) (Dec 2021). “What do we know (so far) about remote delivery of early childhood development (ECD) programs in settings affected by crisis and conflict?”
- Inter-agency Network of Education in Emergencies (INEE) Early Childhood Development (ECD) Task Team (Mar 2021). Presented “Early Childhood Development in Humanitarian Standards and Guidance and Assessment of Early Childhood Development Programming in Humanitarian Settings.”
- Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). (March 2021). Chaired “Early Childhood Development in humanitarian contexts: Addressing the crisis of care & learning”
- Wilson Journal of International Affairs Fall launch (Nov 2019). Presented keynote: “Children in crisis at the US/Mexico border.”
- James Madison University interdisciplinary lecture series (Nov 2019). Presented: “Central American Immigrants and the Humanitarian Crisis at the US/Mexico Border.”
- Early Childhood Development in the Republic of Tajikistan (Mar 2019). Presented: “Early Childhood Development Situation Analysis” and “Parenting Education: Reasons, Lessons, and Options.”
- Global Leadership Forum (Nov 2018). Presented: “Investing in Childcare for Women’s Economic Empowerment.”
- Expanding Opportunities in Early Childhood Development in the Middle East and North Africa: Regional Conference. Rabat, Morocco (May 2015). Presented: “Early Childhood Development & Inequality over Time: A Case Study of Morocco.”
- G20 Social Protection Side Meeting, “Comprehensive approach to social protection and food security for sustainable development.” Moscow, Russia. (Oct 2013). Presented “Family coaching in Haiti: an integrated approach to social protection and resilience.”
- Social Policy and Social Protection Network Meeting. Hosted by UNICEF, Nairobi, Kenya. (May 2009). Presented “Targeting mechanisms for cash transfer programs” and “Social cash transfers and integrated service delivery.”
- Third International Conference on Conditional Cash Transfers and Their Impact on Nutrition. Hosted by FAO, CEPAL, UNDP, and WFP, Santiago, Chile. (Dec 2008). Presented “Conditional Cash Transfer Programs and Nutrition in Latin America: Assessment of Impacts and Strategies for Improvement.”

AWARDS

- University of Virginia Art in Library Spaces Prize (2025)
- University of Virginia All University Faculty Teaching award (2021)
- University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy Excellence in Engagement award (2020-2021)
- University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy Excellence in Teaching award (2019-20)
- World Bank Vice Presidential Unit award (2020)

TRAININGS/CERTIFICATIONS

- Trained in Photovoice Basics by PhotovoiceWorldwide
- Trained and certified as PI in school quality and child development assessment tools (Teach ECE and AIM-ECD).
- Trained in Measuring Early Learning Quality and Outcomes (MELQO) tools (MODEL, focused on child development and learning and MELE, focused on early learning environments).

MEMBERSHIPS

- Developmental Scientists for Climate Action (DevSCA)
- Partner, Moving Minds Alliance
- Member, Inter-agency Network of Education in Emergencies (INEE) Early Childhood Development Working Group
- Member, ECDAN Knowledge Fellows Steering Committee
- Member, International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA)
- Member, Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)
- Member, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

OTHER

- Board member: ECD Measure
- Languages: advanced Spanish, French, and K'iche' (indigenous Guatemalan language).
- Danced in The Nutcracker with the Charlottesville Ballet (2025, 2024, 2023, 2019).