

speaker biographies



Sitra Nuredin Ababulgu Program Officer, Woman in Global Health

Sitra Nuredin is a medical doctor and project management professional based in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. Currently working as the Program Officer on Gender Transformative Leadership at Women in Global Health. Sitra has a multitude of experience in health advocacy, RMNCH research, project management and policy advocacy and community outreach. Sitra serves as a board member for the local non-profit as well as the director for advocacy at the International Working Group for Health Systems Strengthening.



Luis Aliera Anyang South Sudan Union of the Visually Impaired and International Disability Alliance

Mauot Anyang is from South Sudan. He is inclusion expert well is determined to transform his lived and work experience of both disability and humanitarian context into life changing impact for persons with and without disability. He has worked for international disability Alliance at OPD Regional Fellow focussing on Anglophone Africa and Humanity and Inclusion in the field of inclusive humanitarian action. In addition to acquired education as a lawyer and served as a consultant with Abulis Consulting Company and others.



Hala Alkarib Regional Director, Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa

Meet Hala Al-Karib, Sudanese activist dedicated to women's rights and civil society. She is currently serving as the Regional Director for the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA), a coalition of women activists from the region. SIHA's mission is to empower grassroots women's networks and groups while challenging women's subordination and violence in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHoA). Hala's work focuses on promoting women's rights and increasing women's involvement in politics and decision-making. She believes that justice and social justice are crucial for achieving peace in the Horn of Africa.























Regina Antequisa

Executive Director, Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits

Regina "Nanette" Salvador-Antequisa has over 30 years of experience in the Philippines on development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding work. She is the founding Executive Director of ECOWEB established in 2006. She is a strong advocate of the survivor and community-led crisis response (sclr) approach and serves as a convenor of the Community-led Empowering Actions for Resilience Network (CLEARNet). She represents the victims of disaster and calamities sector in the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the National DRRM Council. She co-facilitated the 2021 Localisation dialogue in the Philippines, a collaborative initiative of ECOWEB, A4EP, OXFAM and OCHA, that enabled participation of crisis-affected communities, local and national NGOs/CSOs, INGOs, UN and some government agencies. She serves as chair of the Alliance for Empowering Partnership (A4eP), a signatory of the Grand Bargain; a member of the coordination group of the Charter for Change.



Maria Margarita Arias

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Colombian Red Cross

Politologist, with Master Studies in Strategic Management, and more than 15 years of experience in social and humanitarian field and international cooperation. She became part of the Red Cross Movement in 2007 as Technical Project's Coordinator of the American Red Cross Delegation in Colombia for three years. After her Master Studies in the Netherlands, she joined the Colombian Government as Head of Cooperation and Advisor to the General Director in the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management for 6 years. Since august 2018, she is the Head of Strategic Alliances in the Colombian Red Cross National Society, in charge of the cooperation, project management and fundraising strategies in a national level.



Grace Awino

Head of Gender, Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations, WFP South Sudan

Grace Awino is a graduate of Law and an Advocate of High in Kenya. She has over 12 years of experience working in complex humanitarian emergencies and development contexts in the East, the Horn of Africa, and the Middle East. She currently heads Gender, Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations with the World Food Programme in South Sudan and previously served in a similar capacity in Ethiopia and Syria. Before joining WFP, she worked with UNHCR and UNAMID in the Darfur region of Sudan, implementing Gender-Based Violence and Gender programs. Over the years, she has led programmes on Protection, Accountability to Affected Populations, Gender, Gender Based Violence, Disability Inclusion, PSEA and Conflict Sensitivity.























Nancy Balfour
Managing Trustee, Centre for Humanitarian Change

Nancy is an environmental health professional who has specialized in delivering water and sanitation services in complex emergencies. Her early work with conflict affected communities in South Sudan in the 90s and early 2000s provided the foundation for a commitment to humanitarian support for people in fragile areas. She has held global and regional positions with the EC and Red Cross movement advising on humanitarian policy including humanitarian good practice, disaster risk reduction and inter-agency coordination. She has also led the UNICEF WASH teams in South Sudan and Somalia during pivotal moments in these countries.



Fatoumata Belarbi Head of Communications, Médecins du Monde France

Fatouma Belarbi has 17 years' experience in communications, mainly in international and humanitarian organizations. She is particularly interested in communications as a vehicle for citizen engagement and mobilization. She joined Médecins du Monde France in October 2022 as Communications Manager.



Katri Bertram Global Health Consultant

Katri is a senior global health professional with 20 years of work experience in building international health and development partnerships. She is specialised in donor government relations and strategic stakeholder engagement, and is an experienced manager of teams. In her work, Katri's aim is to ensure that all people can live healthy lives, equity becomes a reality, and the power of inclusive partnerships is leveraged for more impact. Katri currently works as an independent global health consultant for international organisations. She previously worked at the German Federal Ministry of Health, where she was project management lead for the German G7 Presidency (health track) and worked on G20. She has also worked at the World Bank, where as a member of the leadership team she headed external relations (governance, fundraising, partnerships and communications) for the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF). Prior to this she worked at Save the Children, a non-governmental organisation with offices in 120 countries, where she as a member of the global executive leadership team headed global advocacy, policy and campaigning.

























Journalist, Commentator, and Author

Nikolaus Blome is Head of Politics and Business at RTL and ntv. Since 2020, Nikolaus Blome has been head of the Politics & Business department at RTL and ntv. Born in Bonn in 1963, the journalist has worked for Tagesspiegel, Welt, Bild and Spiegel, for whose news magazine Blome is still a columnist. On RTL and ntv, Blome regularly takes a critical look at political and economic issues and decisions in the format "Mal ehrlich ...". (Let's be honest ...). On RTL Nachtjournal, Blome has been appearing with Jakob Augstein since August 2021 in episodes of "Gegenverkehr", a format in which the two discuss current political issues while Blome chauffeurs Augstein around Berlin.



Renaud Boulet Board Member, Médecins du Monde France

Renaud is a humanitarian worker from Belgium. His degree in social work has led him to manage projects in Belgium and several countries around the globe for more than 15 years, mostly around young offenders, sex work and drug related harm reduction. Today, Renaud is coordinating the Brussels based NGO Défi Belgique Afrique, working around youth education and agroecology in Belgium and six African countries. He is also Board member of Médecins du Monde France.



John Bryant

Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute

As a Research Fellow with the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI, John's work has covered a range of global humanitarian crises and reform issues including supporting locally-led responses, improving accountability and the impact of digital technologies on inclusion in the sector. John is currently leading HPG research on how different narratives shape humanitarian policy and decision-making, using examples including the growth of cash assistance and the response to the war in Ukraine. This work will consider how frames and narratives shape policy on issues including aid conditionality, fundraising and upholding principles, and how they could be better managed to support more effective humanitarian responses.



Nils Carstensen

Humanitarian Worker and Documentarist, Local to Global Protection

Nils Carstensen is a co-founder of the Local2Global Protection initiative (L2GP). With a background in journalism, Nils has worked with humanitarian crisis response since the late 1980's. He has been involved with humanitarian activities, research and documentation in among other Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, North Korea, Burma/Myanmar, Palestine (oPt), Haiti and Syria. Nils is also an independent writer, filmmaker, and photographer. The Local to Global Protection (L2GP) initiative focus on documenting and supporting crisis affected communities' and citizens' own efforts to protect, survive and recover. L2GP is a semi-autonomous research and innovation unit co-hosted by DanChurchAid, ACT Church of Sweden and Christian Aid.

























Technical Assistant, ECHO

Currently working in Colombia, Jessica Chaix builds upon more than 15 years' experience in managing humanitarian programmes in complex emergencies in conflict, forced displacement or large-scale disaster settings. Prior to joining ECHO in Colombia in 2021, she led emergency and field operations for UNICEF in Jordan and Myanmar, as well as supporting the Ukraine response. She also worked with Oxfam and Save the Children in Bangladesh, Sudan, Chad, Haiti, Congo DRC and Mozambique. A French citizen, she holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the Institute for Political Science of Aix-en-Provence, France, and a Master's Degree in Development Management from the London School of Economics.



Michelle Childs

Policy Advocacy Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) Michelle Childs joined DNDi in April 2016 as Head of Policy Advocacy. Ms Childs has an extensive experience in proposing and advocating for solutions to access and innovation barriers faced by developing countries and health providers. She has helped to develop several proposals on innovation using open knowledge principles for Chagas disease, TB and was a co-author of the original proposal for the creation of a patent pool for HIV medicines by Unitaid. Prior to that, Ms Childs was an expert adviser for the WHO to help further develop four open knowledge demonstration projects from India, Brazil, South Africa and Thailand. Until March 2013 Michelle was Director of Policy Advocacy at Médecins Sans Frontières Access Campaign leading a multidisciplinary and multinational team. She has worked for leading consumer, health and knowledge rights organizations and public authorities including KEI, Which? and the Hong Kong and UK telecom regulators, and as member of a number of NGO and public advisory boards including the four person advisory board of the UK competition authority. She started her career as a commercial litigation lawyer in a City of London law firm.



Gemma Connell

Chief, Assessment, Planning & Monitoring Branch, OCHA

Gemma Connell is the Chief of the Assessment, Planning & Monitoring Branch for the UN Office for the Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), where she oversees work related to humanitarian needs assessments, appeals and coordination. She has been with OCHA since 2011—most recently as Head of OCHA's Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa (2017-2023) and Deputy Head of Office in South Sudan (2015-2017)—during which time she has responded to major complex emergencies, sudden-onset climate emergencies, disease outbreaks, and slow-onset disasters, as well as supporting humanitarian reform processes, including the IASC Transformative Agenda. Prior to joining OCHA, Gemma worked with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza and began her career working on women's rights and human rights with the UN and NGOs.























Dr. Glenda Cooper Deputy Head of the Journalism Department, University of London

Dr. Glenda Cooper is the deputy head of the journalism department and BA programme director at City University of London. She is the author of Reporting Humanitarian Disasters in a Social Media Age (Routledge, 2018) and co-editor of Humanitarianism, Communications and Change (Peter Lang, 2015). Prior to City she worked as a staff editor and reporter at The Independent, Daily Mail, Sunday Times, Daily Telegraph and as a correspondent for the BBC News Channel and Radio 4. She was the Laurence Stern Fellow at the Washington Post where she covered 9/11 and was the Guardian Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford.



François De Keersmaeker Executive Director, Médecins du Monde Germany

François de Keersmaeker is the current Executive Director at the German chapter of the international humanitarian organization Médecins du Monde (MdM)/Ärzte der Welt. He took over this position in 2016 and is based on the German chapter's headquarters in Munich. He priorly worked for the international non-profit Organization Handicap International from 1998 until 2015 and used to be the Organization's director.

From 1989 until 1997, François de Keersmaeker is worked as a consultant and development aid worker in multiple countries in Africa and Asia.



Sophie Desoulieres

Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Doctors Without Borders Netherlands

Sophie Desoulieres heads MSF (OCA)'s humanitarian affairs, operational communications and advocacy department. She started working with MSF as a humanitarian affairs adviser supporting operations in North East Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen and Venezuela. Prior to joining MSF, Sophie worked as a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group covering Afghanistan and Pakistan. She holds a Masters in Anthropology from Universite de Provence/Maison Mediteranneene des Sciences de l'Homme and a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University.



Mahamat Moussa Djibert Manager, Help Chad Development Association

Mahamat Moussa Djibert started working in the humanitarian and development sector in 2003 with the Dafour crisis in Sudan.























Dmytro Drizhd
Country Representative, arche noVa Ukraine

Dmytro Drizhd was born in Ukraine in 1976. In 2009, he graduated from Donetsk Trade University. In 2015, he joined the international humanitarian movement with Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF (Doctors Without Borders) in response to the crisis caused by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. In 2016, Dmytro started working with the German NGO arche noVa in its relief mission in Ukraine. After suspending the arche noVa`s activities in Ukraine in 2019, he led the national team of the mission as the Head of the established local NGO `NEW WAY`. He successfully ran the organisation for almost three years until 2022, when he re-joined arche noVa in a new role as a country team leader.



Lisa Eckenwiler
Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of Health Care Ethics, George Mason
University

Lisa Eckenwiler is an associate professor at George Mason University and faculty director of the Global Ethics Fellows program; she teaches bioethics and global health ethics with the special focus on migrants and their access to global health services. She has written several books and currently works on the finalization of her book "Placemaking for Health Justice" (tentative title).



Dr. Abdulkarim Ekzayez Senior Research Associate, King's College London

Dr Ekzayez is a Health System Expert at King's College London and a Co-Investigator on the NIHR funded Research for Health System Strengthening in Syria project. He specialises in Health Systems, Humanitarian Health, Health Security, Epidemiology and conflict-based public health. He has led major humanitarian health programmes for Save the Children and Expertise France among others. With a medical background in neurosurgery, he established some of the first field hospitals in the Syrian conflict. Dr Ekzayez has authored over 35 journal articles & four chapter books. He is also General Secretary of the Syrian British Medical Society, Trustee for Amna (Refugee Healing Network) & deputy chair of the Syrian Public Health Network.



Maria Theresa Niña Espinola-Abogado Program Manager, B-READY Global Scale-up, Oxfam

Niña is the Manager of Oxfam's global project on anticipatory action called BREADY or Building Resilient, Adaptive and Disaster Ready Communities. For over a decade, Niña has pioneered the development of Oxfam's flagship program on financial inclusion and digital aid disbursement for programs on disaster preparedness, disaster recovery, anticipatory action, and forecast based financing. Her pivot role on innovation led to pioneering a multistakeholder's partnership of Oxfam among private sector and global payment giants such including Visa, i2c, and Lenddo. She has 3 decades of program experience on humancentered program designing and innovation which gained recognition and awards such as: Quill Merit award, Google Impact Challenge award, Anvil Silver Awards; Community





















Advocacy Award; Nominet Top Worldwide 100 innovative project, Asia Impact Accelerator top 3 most innovative projects and Outstanding partner for financial inclusion.



Prof. Michael Onyebuchi Eze Lecturer, California State University

Teaches Africana studies at California State University, Fresno. He has PhD in Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge and a Ph.D (Summa Cum Laude) in History and Cultural Reflection from Universität Witten-Herdecke, Germany. He has published over 50 essays and given public lectures (including TED talk) on humanitarian action challenges, practices and imaginary spaces. He has worked in the area of global justice, dialogue and human reconciliation. His most recent publication include "Political Justice Beyond Decolonization", "Citizenship Under Siege: Contemporary African Nationalism and the Trauma of Modernity", "Decolonizing Humanitarianism: Beyond the Politics of Morality", "Humanitarianism Through Ubuntu Philosophy", "Ubuntu/Botho: A Theory of Humanism in African Philosophy" amongst others.



Anne-Meike Fechter

Professor in Anthropology and International Development, University of Sussex

Anne-Meike Fechter has worked on aid and international development, including aid workers as mobile professionals, and mutual aid among displaced people, mostly in Southeast Asia. Her book on 'Everyday Humanitarianism', on small-scale aid practices and how they matter, is being published by Manchester University Press



Patrick Gathara Senior Editor for Inclusive Storytelling, The New Humanitarian

Patrick Gathara is a Kenyan journalist, cartoonist, blogger, and author. He is also a regularly published commentator on regional and international affairs. His work has appeared in multiple publications, including The Washington Post, Al Jazeera, The Star and The New Humanitarian. Gathara is currently a curator for Kenyan news site The Elephant. He is also the author of Gathara Will Draw for Food, a collection of his political cartoons and commentary on the Kenyan political scene. He is also Senior Editor for Inclusive Storytelling, at The New Humanitarian.























Sarah Graham Journalist and Author

Sarah Graham is an award-winning freelance health journalist, author, and founder of the Hysterical Women blog, specialising in health, gender and feminism. She has written extensively on these subjects for the i newspaper, Refinery29, the Telegraph, Grazia, Guardian, the BMJ and many others. She was a finalist in the 2021 Medical Journalists' Association Awards.



Mareike Günsche Photographer, The Human Perspective

Mareike Günsche is a UK-based photographer and educator with over 20 years of experience focusing on human rights, gender topics and social change, with a special interest in photography's ability to empower. In her work she often combines audio interviews and storytelling with photography to make a variety of voices heard. After working as a pressphotographer, Mareike studied photojournalism and documentary photography, supported by a scholarship from the Hans-Böckler Foundation. Her work has since appeared in international media and she has worked for Reuters news agency. 2019-2021 Mareike was Senior Lecturer in Photography at the University of Arts in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. In 2020 she was commissioned by Brigstow Institute and Bristol Photography Festival to complete a project for the photography festival 2021. The project "We Are Still Here" about the HIV community in the UK combined audio interviews and photographic portraits. It was exhibited at the Bristol Photo Festival, for World Aids Day in London and at "AIDS 2023" in Montreal, Canada.



Sharmila Hashimi Activist and Journalist, Handbook Germany

Sharmila Hashimi is an activist and journalist, born 1987 in Herat (Afghanistan). She studied journalism and completed a dual study course on political sciences and law. In 2014 she came to Germany and started to work as a journalist again, amongst others for Amal Berlin, Süddeutsche Zeitung and the Chrismon Magazin. She joined the Handbook Germany team as an editor where she's responsible for the Farsi web content. Her goal is to provide information for people in their native language and to help improving equal access to information for everyone.

























Fatima Hassan is a human rights lawyer and social justice activist and the founder of the HJI. She is the recipient of the 2022 Calgary Peace Prize. She has dedicated her professional life to defending and promoting human rights in South Africa, especially in the field of HIV/AIDS. She has worked as a Ministerial Advisor, and in philanthropy as well as the not-for-profit sector. She has served on several NFP boards and is the recipient of several awards, and often writes for local and international media publications. She is currently a Board Member of Global Witness and serves on the Advisory Group for Resolve to Save Lives.



Tirana Hassan Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Tirana Hassan is Executive Director at Human Rights Watch, one of the world's leading international human rights organizations, which operates in more than 90 countries and has over 500 staff members. Tirana is a qualified social worker and lawyer who has spent the past two decades working with individuals and communities pursuing their rights and fighting for justice. She was a founding member of a refugee legal service during Australia's refugee crisis in 2000 before working across the globe in international humanitarian operations specializing in child protection and civilian protection in complex emergencies. Tirana has worked for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children, amongst others, across East and West Africa and South and South-East Asia. Tirana specializes in human rights protection in conflicts and crises. Between 2010-2015, she worked as a senior researcher in Human Rights Watch's Emergencies Division, where she carried out dozens of investigations in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. She later served as director of Amnesty International's Crisis Response Program, where she led teams of investigators and an inter-disciplinary team that advanced innovative research methodologies for human rights investigations and evidence collection. She also served on the organization's interim executive team. She has authored reports and op-eds for major publications worldwide. Tirana graduated with honors degrees in both social work and law in Australia and holds a master's in international human rights law from Oxford University.



Dr. Benjamin Herfort Product Manager, HeiGIT

Dr. Benjamin Herfort is a product manager at HeiGIT and a researcher at Heidelberg University. He has recently finished his PhD, for which he investigated questions of representation and data quality in OpenStreetMap. In his research and work he is dealing with the temporal dynamics and spatial pattern in OpenStreetMap and data from crowdsourcing applications such as MapSwipe. He is supporting organizations in developing open source software tools and applying GIS methods for disaster management and humanitarian aid.























Maryna Hovorukhina Advisor, Common Sense Communications

Maryna Hovorukhina, an expert in the field of strategic communications with 12 years of experience. Author of the books "Communications for Non-profit Organizations" and "Strategic Communications for Non-profit Organizations." She assists non-profit organizations in developing communication strategies and informational campaigns.



Lateef Johar Human Rights Advocate and Social Media Activist

Lateef Johar is a Balochi human rights defender, who currently resides in Canada; University of Toronto Student and social media activist, dedicated to the human rights situation of the Balochi minority in Pakistan, he co-founded the Human Rights Council of Bacholistan.



Fatima Khaddour Head of Programs, Basmeh and Zeitoonah

Fatima Khaddour is a humanitarian professional with over seven years of experience working in the field of partnership, donor relations and program management in the Middle East. She led a two-year response to the August 4th, Beirut Explosion in Lebanon and has been deeply involved in the relief reponse to the Syrian crisis for many years. Since September 2021 she works as Head of Programs for the Lebanon reponse of Basmeh & Zeitooneh.























John Kimani Advisor, United Disabled Persons of Kenya

John Kimani has over 12 years of experience in multi-sectoral program design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning processes in both humanitarian and development context. Currently, John is working with Handicap International as Inclusive Humanitarian Action Specialist based in South Sudan. John believes in creating a culture of high-quality disability, age and gender inclusive program implementation and monitoring, evaluation and promoting learning processes both at national and global level. To achieve this beside working with HI, John is a member United disabled person of Kenya. Kenyan national OPD and Africa Unition of the blind AFUD a continental OPD. John has a bachelor's degree in education, diploma in counselling of marginalized groups and is currently completing his Master degree in education management.



Pedro Silva Rocha Lima Convenor of the Anthropology, Humanitarianism Network

Pedro is a social anthropologist with a research focus on armed violence, humanitarianism, risk, and the state in Brazil. His current project investigates conceptions of normality in relation to gun violence among local state actors and citizens in Greater Rio, through long-term ethnographic research of a program created by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He has also conducted research for MSF and is the convener of EASA's Anthropology of Humanitarianism Network (AHN).



Dr. Lars Löfquist President and Director, Network on Humanitarian Action

Lars Löfquist works as Senior Lecturer at the Theology Department and as Programme Director for NOHA programme Uppsala and for the Master programme in Humanitarian Action in Conflict. His background is in the field of Ethics with a PhD degree in Theological Ethics 2008. He has primarily researched in applied ethics with emphasis on humanitarian ethics, development, and energy questions.



Henrik Maihack
Head of Africa Department, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Henrik Maihack is the head of the Africa Department of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Berlin. Previously he headed the FES offices in Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda and Bangladesh. He is a political scientist and received his PhD from the University of Duisburg-Essen.









In cooperation with:















Massimo is the Head of Delegation of the first ICRC Delegation for Cyberspace, in Luxembourg. Massimo is a member of the Advisory Board and a Fellow of the European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity (ECPC) at the University of Maastricht, co-director of the Humanitarian Action Programme at ECPC, and the co-editor of the DigitHarium, a global forum to discuss and debate digital transformation within the humanitarian sector, with a focus on humanitarian protection, policy, ethics and action. He is also the co-editor of the Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action. Prior to his current role, Massimo established and headed the Data Protection Office at the ICRC, and held several assignments with the ICRC in the field and at the headquarters.



Andrea Marshall

Program Director Displacement and Dialogue South Asia, DW Akademie

Andrea Marshall is Program Director at Deutsche Welle's DW Akademie in Berlin, Germany, for the program Displacement and Dialogue South Asia. Her team and its South Asian partners support freedom of expression and access to information for displaced people and migrants in the region, mainly for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and Afghan refugees in Pakistan and other countries. They also promote dialogue between refugees and host communities and qualify and connect media practitioners and experts across the region. Andrea is also a qualified journalist trainer and an experienced journalist. For more than 20 years, she worked as a news editor, managing editor, reporter and author, in radio, television and online, mainly for the public service broadcaster RBB in the German capital. Andrea studied Communications, Political Science and English Literature in Berlin and London and holds a Master's Degree.



Chris Melzer
Senior External Relations Officer, UNHCR Germany

Chris Melzer was a journalist the biggest part of his life and as a foreign correspondent at home in many countries of the world. Since 2017 he works for the United Nations as spokesman of UNHCR. Based in Berlin, he is part of UNHCR's Emergency Response Teams and worked so in many crisis regions of the world.























Ruona Meyer

Journalist and Manager, Africa Initiative, Solutions Journalism Network

Ruona Meyer is an investigative reporter, researcher, and the first Nigerian journalist to be nominated for an International Emmy Award. With over 20 years' experience across Africa and Europe, she specializes in DEI consultancy for Africa-focused grants and donor organizations. Ruona served from 2021 to September 2023 as Manager, Africa Initiative at the Solutions Journalism Network, overseeing a project across 60 newsrooms in four countries. She sits on several journalism award juries, recently for the European Journalism Centre and WAN-IFRA. Currently a PhD scholar at De Montfort University, UK, Ruona's thesis explores power dynamics within transcontinental investigative journalism networks. She designs and partakes in media development research in various capacities, including Visiting Senior Research Associate, Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicines, King's College London; Advisory Board Member, Next Gen News Study—research by Financial Times Strategies, Google News Initiative and Medill Northwestern University on young people's news consumption habits.



Jason Mills

Regional Humanitarian Advisor, Doctors Without Borders Southeast, East Asia & Pacific

Jason Mills is the Regional Humanitarian Advisor for Southeast Asia, East Asia and Pacific for Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontiers (MSF). He joined MSF in 2007 in Sierra Leone and has worked in projects in Darfur, South Sudan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Chad, Turkey & Northeast Syria, and most recently Myanmar in 2021. Jason also represented MSF to United States Government and other Washington based institutions from 2016 to 2019.

Jason holds an MA in International Relations from The University of Kent at Canterbury's: Brussels School for International Studies (BSIS). Before joining MSF he worked for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Development Executive Group, and also worked in the publishing industry in the U.S.



Zainab Moallin

Research Officer, Overseas Development Institute

Zainab is a Research Officer in the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI working across various humanitarian research projects. Prior to joining HPG, Zainab worked in ALNAP on the 2022 State of the Humanitarian System report and CARE International UK with research experience in a range of topics including gender-based violence in emergencies and drought response in the Horn of Africa.























Dr. Francisco Moreno Secretary General, Colombian Red Cross

Juvenal Francisco Moreno Carrillo is the Colombian Red Cross Secretary General since 2018. He is a General Surgeon, and has extensive experience and knowledge in humanitarian crisis and emergency response. Has been involved for more than 30 years in public health and humanitarian management, and more than 10 years in strategic management of humanitarian organizations.



Grace Mutung'u Research Fellow, Centre for IP and IT Law, Strathmore University Nairobi

Grace Mutung'u is a technology policy researcher based in Kenya. Her interests include information controls and civic space, digital rights and public digital projects. She is currently a PhD student at the University of Nairobi. Her research is titled: Digital ID and Social Justice: How digital technologies affect access to public services in Kenya.



Zahra Nader

Editor-in-Chief, Zan Times

Zahra Nader is an Afghan-Canadian journalist and editor-in-chief of Zan Times, a media that covers human rights violations in Afghanistan with a focus on women, LGBTQI community and environmental issues. She started her career as a journalist in 2011 in Kabul and joined the New York Times bureau in 2016. She has been bylined in publications ranging from Time and Foreign Policy to the Guardian and DW. In October 2022, Zahra has briefed the UN Security Council during the Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security and in February 2023, she received the Kathy Gannon Legacy Award from the Coalition For Women In Journalism. She is currently based in Toronto, Canada, pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Gender, Feminist & Women's Studies at York University.



Hannah Newbery

Migration and Integration Policy Advisor, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Hannah Newbery is responsible for the field of migration and integration in the Political Consultancy Unit of the Analysis, Planning and Consultancy Department of the FES in Berlin, having held previous positions in the Democracy and Global and European Politics Departments of the FES. For the Federal Agency for Civic Education she co-developed and moderated the 'Master Class: Preventing Islamism', was a research assistant at the Leibniz Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, and has worked as an author and translator for various foundations and institutes on the topics of migration and integration. She has a background in journalism and was an editor for the New York Times and DIE ZEIT, among others. She studied Political Science, Middle East Studies and Arabic as well as European Studies in Berlin, Bath, and Grenoble.























Frances Nguyen Journalist and Editor, Women's Media Center - Women Under Siege

Frances Nguyen is a freelance writer and journalist covering race, identity, and migration. She also edits the Women Under Siege section of the Women's Media Center, which covers sexualized violence in conflict and gendered violence in international contexts. Recently, she was a contributing urban economic justice reporter for Prism and Next City, as well as a former editorial team member for Interruptrr, a newsletter of women disrupting the foreign policy and national security discourse. Prior to entering the media landscape in 2019, Frances worked as a communications professional in the humanitarian sector.



Umikalthum Shukri Noor Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UNOCHA

Umikalthum works at the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) as a Humanitarian Affairs Officer. Umikalthum has over 10 years of experience in humanitarian financing and has worked with the OCHA-managed Country-Based Pooled Funds in Somalia, South Sudan, and Iraq. Prior to joining the United Nations, she worked with the Danish Refugee Council - an international Non-Governmental Organization, as a Regional Finance Controller, overseeing the Horn of Africa Region. Umikalthum obtained her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Nairobi and a Master's degree in International Relations from the United States International University Africa in Kenya.



Sorcha O'Callaghan Director, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute

O'Callaghan is the Director of the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI where she leads research into rights in crises, humanitarian system reform and financing, and resilience in climate and conflict affected environments. A specialist in displacement, civilian protection and humanitarian action in protracted crises, she has worked extensively in East Africa and her policy, academic and media work has been published widely. Prior to HPG she was Head of Humanitarian Policy at the British Red Cross and previously coordinated the Sudan Advocacy Coalition, an NGO policy and advocacy consortium in Sudan. With a background in law, Sorcha has also worked in the refugee and asylum sector in Ireland.



Dr. Parnian Parvanta President, Doctors Without Borders Germany

Parnian was first elected to the Board of the German Section of Médecins Sans Frontières in May 2019 and served as Vice-Chairperson of the Board between June 2021 and June 2023. Since June 2023, Parnian has been President of the Board. Parnian's first mission took her to the Central African Republic in 2011, followed by India, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and, most recently, Iraq twice. Parnian completed her specialist training at the St. Marien Hospital in Düren, the University Hospital Erlangen and the University Hospital Mainz. Most recently, she worked as a senior physician at Mainz University Hospital. From August 2023, in addition





















to her board work for Médecins Sans Frontières, she will be working at the "PraenatGyn - Praxis für Prenatalmedizin Mainz".



Dr. Ambia Perveen Chairperson, Rohingya Medics Organisation

My name is Dr Ambia Perveen, a Rohingya, from Myanmar. I am a paediatrician and child and adolescent psychiatrist by profession, working in Germany and at the same time volunteering for the Rohingya community as chair of the European Rohingya Council and co-founder of the Rohingya Medics Organisation. I have already visited a camp in Bangladesh twice and will travel there again at the end of October this year.



Isabel Schayani

Journalist, Commentator and Moderator, Westdeutscher Rundfunk

Isabel Schayani reports for Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) with a focus on refugees and migration. Since 2016, she has been managing WDRforyou, a social media channel for refugees. She also presents Weltspiegel on ARD and occasionally comments on Tagesthemen. She has been awarded the Grimme Prize twice for her reporting.



Ed Schenkenberg Executive Director, HERE-Geneva

Ed Schenkenberg is co-founder and Executive Director of HERE-Geneva, an independent think-tank that works to close the gap between policy and humanitarian practice. Ed brings to HERE three decades of experience in humanitarian affairs both at the global level and on the ground. He has led major evaluations of responses to large-scale humanitarian crises and has engaged in a variety of bodies that cover humanitarian coordination and policy. Ed's special interests include humanitarian law and principles; protection and rights; and quality and accountability. Before, HERE, Ed was the Chief Executive of DARA in Madrid and led ICVA, the NGO consortium for humanitarian action in Geneva. Earlier, he worked with MSF, where he co-created the humanitarian affairs department. Ed is a member of the Supervisory Board of Stichting Vluchteling, a Dutch NGO.























Prof. Sabrina Schmitt Lecturer, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

Sabrina Schmitt (she/her) is a social worker, lecturer and researcher based in Berlin. She is currently a substitute professor of Gender and Care in Social Work at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. Her work focuses on Gender, (Health) Care, Welfare State and Social Work.



Annie Slemrod Journalist, The New Humanitarian

Annie Slemrod is an award-winning journalist, editor and innovative storyteller who has worked in the Middle East for more than ten years. She is The New Humanitarian's Middle East editor. Some of her recent work includes an inclusive bilingual timeline that looks at Lebanon's collapse through the WhatsApp messages of five people, and The Yemen Listening Project, which invites Yemenis to tell their own stories of the country's long war.



May Zin Win Soe Researcher, Covenant Development Institute

Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University since August 2023, my research interests lie in the fields of human rights, peace, and refugee studies. I am working for Covenant Development Institute, and I have actively contributed to the Protracted Displacement Economies project as a junior researcher, under the supervision of the University of Sussex. In this role, I conducted essential primary research through oral history interviews, key informant research, and focus group discussions, provided valuable training to community researchers, and engaged in various writing projects. My academic journey reflects a deep commitment to advancing human rights and peace efforts.



Haakon Spriewald
Project Coordinator, Handicap International

Haakon Spriewald has been coordinating the "Leave no one behind" projects at Handicap International / Humanity & Inclusion since 2017. The current Phase 3 "Mainstreaming Disability in Global and Local Humanitarian Action" strives in partnership with CBM and IFHV to support the operationalisation of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion and operates in globally and in Germany, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger. Haakon has been working with different NGOs in refugee and humanitarian projects in Istanbul & Ankara, in South Turkey & North Syria, in the Philippines, and in Greece. With HI, he specialized in inclusive humanitarian action and capacity development. He holds a Master degree in International Law and Diplomacy from Lancaster University with a focus on human









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rights and a dissertation on the change process towards inclusive humanitarian assistance in the German Federal Foreign Office.



Karl Steinacker

Lecturer, Alice Salomon Polytechnical University, Berlin

Karl Steinacker is an expert on digital identity. He had a long career with the United Nations. As a manager and diplomat of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) he was for several years in charge of registration, biometrics, and the digital identity of refugees. Currently he works for the International Civil Society Centre (ICSC) on this and related digital issues. He graduated in Political Science at Freie Universät Berlin (Germany) and studied Public International Law at Cambridge University (United Kingdom).



Dr. Andrea Steinke Researcher, Center for Humanitarian Action

Dr. Andrea Steinke is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Humanitarian Action in Berlin. She has a background in Social Anthropology and worked on humanitarian disaster relief, south-south cooperation, UN peacekeeping. At CHA she specializes on the HDP Nexus and currently leads the climate change portfolio.



Martin Suvatne
Managing Director, Norwegian Refugee Council Germany

Martin Suvatne currently serves as the Managing Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council Germany, a position he has held since 2023. Prior to this role, he gained experience and expertise through various positions. From 2021 to 2022, Martin held the role of Project Lead and Head of Administration at U.Reist Felleskjopet (Urban Green Development). Between 2016 and 2021, he served as the Director of Programme Policy and Development at the Norwegian Refugee Council. From 2008 to 2016, Martin held multiple positions within the Norwegian Refugee Council, including Head of Programme, Special Adviser for Shelter, and Programme Manager. He also contributed his skills and knowledge as a Technical Adviser at GIZ from 2005 to 2007. Martin's educational background includes earning a Diploma in Engineering in Architecture. He completed this program at the University of Karlsruhe, the National University of Singapore, and the Indian Institute of Technology between 1998 and 2004.























Dr. Fiona Terry
Head of Centre for Operational Research and Experience, ICRC

Fiona Terry heads the ICRC's Centre for Operational Research and Experience (CORE), which was created in the wake of the landmark Roots of Restraint in War study of which Dr Terry was co-author. She has three decades of experience in humanitarian operations in Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda, Liberia, Sudan, Myanmar, Nepal and Afghanistan, principally with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). She holds a Ph.D. in international relations and political science from the Australian National University and is the author of Condemned to Repeat? The Paradox of Humanitarian Action (Cornell University Press, 2002), which won the 2006 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order.



Nina Treu
Managing Director Economy and Society, Greenpeace Germany

Nina Treu is Director for Economy & Society at Greenpeace Germany. She studied political science, economics and law in Heidelberg and Paris and previously worked at the Laboratory for New Economic Ideas (Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie) in Leipzig, which she co-founded in 2011. Her main topics are climate justice, the social-ecological transformation of the economy and utopias.



Paul van den Berg Political Adviser, Cordaid

Paul van den Berg (1976) is political advisor at the Dutch NGO Cordaid, a member of the Caritas confederation. Paul is the chair of the Visibility Working Group of the Dutch Relief Alliance, a consortium of 14 humanitarian organizations in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has a strong track-record on locally-led humanitarian assistance. Paul has extensive experience in humanitarian advocacy.



Dr. Remco van de Pas Senior Research Associate, Centre for Planetary Health Policy

Dr. Remco van de Pas is a public health doctor and a global health researcher. He has a position as senior research associate at the Centre for Planetary Health Policy in Berlin and is a lecturer in global health at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp. His teaching and research focuses on global health governance, its political-economy and foreign policy with a special attention on health workforce development, health system strengthening, social protection and health financing, global health security, environmental determinants of health, globalization and its impact on equity. Remco is a visiting research fellow at Clingendael, Netherlands Institute of International Relations and at Maastricht University. He is an editorial board member of the academic journal Globalization and Health, and a member of the international research collective for the Political Determinants of Health. He is active in the People's Health Movement, a global civil society network. He worked as health policy adviser for Wemos, a public health foundation advocating for social justice and health equity and as medical coordinator for the NGO Médecins du Monde, of which the largest part in West-Papua, Indonesia. Remco practiced medicine in mental health services for refugees and migrants in Rotterdam.























Jean-François Véran

Senior Humanitarian Advisor, Doctors Without Borders France

Jean-François Véran is an anthropologist with a Ph.D. from the École des Hautes Études des Sciences Sociales in France and has served as an Associate Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro since 2008. He began his association with MSF in 2010, first as a Health Promoter in Haiti and later as an advisor. Véran specializes in anthropology in humanitarian contexts, applying both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to areas such as migration, epidemic crises, reproductive health, and urban violence. In 2020, he played a pivotal role in MSF's ethical review processes and led the establishment of the Laboratory of Applied Anthropology in Paris and Rio de Janeiro. Additionally, he co-authored the book "Médecins Sans Frontières and Humanitarian Situations, An Anthropological Exploration," which delves into the intersection of anthropology and humanitarianism within MSF.



Elena Voskresenskaya

Executive Director, AIDS Foundation East-West

Elena Voskresenskaya is the Executive Director of AIDS Foundation East-West Ukraine and has a Master Degree in Public Health from Emory University, Atlanta. She has been working in the field of international health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia for more than 15 years. Prior to joining AFEW in 2004 as a Deputy Regional Director, Elena has been working for the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) in Kyiv, managing projects on health partnerships in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus.



Badra Yusuf Managing Director, RAAGSAN Consulting

Badra is the Managing Director of RAAGSAN Consulting. She has over 15 years of experience working on gender, social inclusion social transfers, institutional capacity assessment, governance, disaster management, water sector, and food security. Badra is currently leading a research study and a program designed to enable women's representation and participation in political dialogue in Somalia for Rift Valley Institute (RVI). Badra also was part of the team of experts leading the development of key national policies and strategies (Water Resource Management Strategy, Hydromet Policy Development, Social Protection Policy, and National Disaster Management Policy). She was also part of the leading consultants that developed the Strategic Roadmap for Somalia's Flood and Drought Taskforce, which is meant to coordinate investments related to the water resource component of floods and droughts within the framework of the National Water Resource Management Strategy (NWRS). In addition, Badra has worked on various projects, including leading the research for the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development on the scale-up plan for mitigating and responding to child protection and gender-based violence risks that may emerge due to the potential COVID-19 epidemic in Somalia.























Astrid Ziebarth

Senior Fellow Tech and Society, German Marshall Fund

Astrid Ziebarth is senior fellow tech & society in the Berlin Office of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She focuses on the question of how digitalization and emerging technologies impact society, with a special focus on migration and migration policy as well as on the future of work. She does so by leading and coordinating international and interdisciplinary network projects using user-centric design, and by doing analysis and research. Astrid has a Master in North American studies, sociology, and anthropology.

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