

CHS Global Launch: Meet the Speakers



Master of Ceremonies

Bonaventure Sokpoh, Senior Policy and Outreach Advisor, CHS Alliance



Mr. Bonaventure Sokpoh joined the CHS Alliance in 2018. He leads on the Alliance's approach to strengthen local leadership. He was member of the CHS writing group and led on the consultations in various regions/countries. He led the production of the Humanitarian Accountability Report in 2018 and 2020 and advocates for change in policy based on experience with the CHS. Before joining the CHS Alliance, he worked in the humanitarian and development sectors for more than 20 years, conducting humanitarian programme evaluations and operational research, building monitoring systems, and designing and facilitating training sessions. He obtained his diploma of engineering in agro-economy in Lomé, Togo, and obtained a master's degree in sociology and economics in Lille, France.

Discussion Moderator

Christine Knudsen, Director of Humanitarian Policy, InterAction



Ms. Christine Knudsen is the Director of Humanitarian Policy at InterAction, bringing more than 20 years of humanitarian experience across the NGO community and U.N. system where she has deeply focused on coordination, policy, and principled partnership. She served as the Executive Director of Sphere during the 2018 revision process, and more recently as the Emergency Director of U.N. Habitat based in Nairobi, working previously with UNICEF on Humanitarian Partnerships and with OCHA on protection and coordination. Earlier in her career, she worked closely with InterAction as co-chair of the Protection Working Group while serving as a senior child protection officer with Save the Children. She has also served in the field with both UNHCR and Catholic Relief Services, and has been deployed globally throughout her career. Christine holds an M.A. in International Relations.

Panelists

Christian Modino Hok, Humanitarian Director, Caritas Internationalis, Italy



With more than 20 years of experience in the Humanitarian Sector. Mr. Christian Modino Hok started his career back in 1999 working as a consultant at UNESCO on HIV/AIDS prevention research programmes. Since 2002 he has been supporting humanitarian responses across the globe with ACF, Oxfam, CAFOD, and Crown Agents. In 2017, he joined CBM Global Disability Inclusion as Humanitarian Director and co-chaired the Reference Group on Inclusion of persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (2020-2023) and ELRHA Technical working group on Age and Disability Inclusion (2020-2023). In 2023, he was involved in the CHS review process and consultations and represented the SPHERE Board at the CHS Review Steering Committee. In January 2024, he was appointed Caritas Internationalis new Humanitarian Director and joined the SCHR Working Group.

Elizabeth Tan, Director for International Protection, UNHCR, Switzerland



Ms. Elizabeth Tan joined the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1995 and held numerous positions in Protection, Policy and management. She worked as Associate Protection Officer in Burundi 1995 – 1997 and Sudan 1997– 1998, in the Africa Bureau in Geneva 2000-2006, and in Sri Lanka as Senior Protection Officer 2006 – 2010. Ms Tan was Deputy and then Representative in Egypt 2010 – 2016 and Deputy Representative in Sudan 2016 – 2021 Since June 2022, she has joined UNHCR's headquarters in Geneva where she is the Director of the Division of International Protection. Elizabeth Tan studied law and languages at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.

Gloria Soma, Executive Director, Titi Foundation, South Sudan



Ms. Gloria Soma Modong Morris is a South Sudanese activist for women and children in South Sudan and the Executive Director for Titi Foundation a national women led NGO. She is a steering committee member for a number of important accountability and gender initiatives, including the national NGO Forum, the localisation steering committee in South Sudan, a member to the IASC RG5, and part of the grand bargain localisation work stream representing the charter4change. She also sits on the Board of the CHS Alliance and has been part of the CHS Revision Steering Committee. Gloria has over 7 years of work experience in both humanitarian, innovation and development work and a vast experience in program management, coordination, administration, financial management, and gender analysis. Gloria holds a master's degree in Business Administration from NIBM India. She also holds a bachelor's degree in banking and finance from the University of Dar es salaam.

**Mervat Shelbaya, Head of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat,
Geneva, Switzerland**



Ms. Mervat Shelbaya is the Head of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) secretariat, appointed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. She plays a critical role supporting UN and non-UN humanitarian partners in this forum on critical operational, policy and advocacy issues in support of strengthened humanitarian action. She is also Director of OCHA's Inter-Agency Support Branch (IASB) which comprises key inter-agency services and tools, including thematic essentials on AAP, PSEA, inclusion, as well as Peer-2-Peer project, ProCap & GenCap. Ms. Shelbaya has over 20 years of experience in humanitarian affairs, including serving as the Deputy Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) secretariat where she was instrumental in delivering a successful Summit in 2016, which culminated in key commitments made by global leaders to address the root causes of conflict, end need and enable countries and communities to better prepare for and respond to crises.

Ms. Shelbaya also managed response in the Asia-Pacific region as Section Chief in OCHA's Operations and Advocacy Division. Prior to joining OCHA, she served with the UN World Food Programme in Afghanistan, Jordan, Liberia, the UAE and Rome and served as Director of Operations with ADRA International in Albania and managed its operations in Kosovo.

**Shama Mall, Deputy Regional Director, Programs & Organizational Development,
Community World Service Asia, Pakistan**



Ms. Shama Mall has worked with Community World Service Asia since 1998 and is based in Karachi, Pakistan. She manages the organisation's development and humanitarian programming in Asia, including organisational development, and program development, visibility & fundraising. A champion for mainstreaming of quality & accountability (including CHS), she has developed and implemented large programs for responding to emergencies, on quality & accountability, health, education, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction etc.

Ms. Shama has extensive experience of promoting quality & accountability across 18 countries in Asia through training, deployments, strengthening of regional partnerships and management of the focal point system. She is also involved in managing the Q & A Hub for ADRRN1 in Asia. She is the Vice Chair on the CHS Alliance Board of Governance and on the CHS2 Steering Committee. Accountability towards affected people is central to how she and her team engage with communities they work with. Ms. Shama has an MA in English Literature and an MSC in Applied Development Studies.

Unni Krishnan, Global Humanitarian Director, Plan International, UK



For over two decades, Dr Unni Krishnan has worked on humanitarian, development and health issues- on the frontlines where people encounter hostile forces such as natural disaster, human rights violations, ill-planned development, and extreme weather. He worked in senior management, leadership, representational, governance and advisory positions for Oxfam, ActionAid, Plan International, Save The Children and War Child, and initiatives by community groups, the UN and academics. He worked as a lead author for the 2018 edition of the Sphere Handbook (health chapter); co-author of 'Psychological First Aid' (WHO), as a Task Force member to develop the (UN/) Inter Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings and as the co-editor of 'India Disasters Report' series (Oxford University Press).

Zeina Mohanna, Member of Board of Directors, Amel Association International, Lebanon



Dr. Zeina Mohanna is the Executive and Administrative Board Member of Amel Association International. Her work includes more than 20 years of humanitarian support through strategic planning, policy advocacy, research including the support to migrants, refugees, counter-trafficking, youth leadership, and women's empowerment, among others. She is also a University Professor at the Political Sciences and Public Administration Department at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Zeina holds a PhD in Political Studies on 'Citizenship and Human Rights in Lebanon' and received a scholarship for a programme on forced migration from Oxford University, and also works and consults for the United Nations. She is also a founding member of the NGO Ibtissama, Board Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of MUBS university, education consultant for the Lebanese Union for Childcare, and President of the Middle Eastern Chapter of the Stars Foundation based in Switzerland.