

breakout session two

1:10 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

South Hub

Advancing Localization Through Partnership and Trust

After conducting research in Malawi, Bangladesh, Syria, DRC, and Somalia, Concern Worldwide is ready to share key learnings on localization. Through interactive discussions and real-world examples, participants will gain practical guidance on fostering mutual trust, effectively sharing risks with local partners, and overcoming procedural barriers.

Speakers:

Mark Johnson is the Senior Technical Adviser on Localization with Concern Worldwide and leads the Beyond Barriers research project. Mark has previously worked overseas for Concern Worldwide, managing humanitarian programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, and the Central African Republic. Mark's experience with the partnership-based INGO Trócaire in Malawi and Myanmar provided him with hands on experience of managing partnership programs. Mark has further experience on local systems strengthening in Malawi and Cameroon where he worked on Access to Justice projects.



Ariana Marnicio, MPH, is the Senior Program Specialist for the Beyond Barriers research project at Concern Worldwide U.S. Ariana specializes in the design and management of capacity strengthening trainings for humanitarian professionals and the execution of impact-oriented research. Prior to joining Concern, Ariana managed research and training programs at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, the Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, and the Baker Institute for Public Policy.



Nimo Hassan is the Director of the Somali NGO Consortium (SNC), a coordination mechanism of NGOs for NGOs. At the global policy level, she co-chaired the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Result Group One Subgroup on Localization. She is also an ICVA representative at the IASC Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG). Ms. Hassan has held several positions with CARE International, Africa Educational Trust, Candlelight for Environment, and Education and Health in Somalia.



Mazen Alhousseiny is Help Age International's Capacity Strengthening Advisor supporting its local partners' organizational capacity. Mazen has 10 years of experience in the humanitarian and development domain mainly in the Syrian context, with both INGOs and Syrian Diaspora NGOs. Mazen was involved in establishing a working group advocating for the usage of the partnerships' principles for Northwest Syria and led several studies that promoted and reviewed localization in Northwest Syria.



Forum North

Social Cohesion in Multisectoral Programs: A Measurable Force Multiplier

How can NGOs foster social inclusion, reduce social divisions, and build positive relationships among diverse communities while implementing multisectoral programming? Using examples from Niger, South Sudan, and the DRC, this session explores how integrating social cohesion into multisectoral programming improves development outcomes and identifies lessons to guide

future nexus interventions and foreign assistance. Best practices for sequencing, layering, and measurement will be discussed, along with strategies for developing staff capacities and leadership buy-in to responsibly integrate social cohesion in humanitarian and development initiatives.

Speakers:

Yohannes Subagadis is a Technical Advisor for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and an agriculture expert with over 14 years of experience working in natural resources management, climate change, and integrated water resources management. Yohannes coordinates the implementation of CRS' strategic initiative on Transforming Livelihoods and Landscapes in Africa, seeking to scale the restoration of degraded agricultural land. Yohannes previously worked with CRS in Sudan. Before joining CRS, Yohannes worked on climate adaptation and resilience programs in South Sudan with UNESCO and the U.N. University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources in Germany. He holds a doctorate in hydrology from Dresden University of Technology and a Master of Science in civil engineering from Addis Ababa University.



Megan E. Corrado, Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Alliance for Peacebuilding, is an international lawyer and policy and advocacy practitioner working to promote human rights, peacebuilding, gender mainstreaming, transitional justice, and post-conflict legal and governance reform. She has extensive experience in international development, grant implementation, and political campaign management. Megan has worked on democracy and peacebuilding programs and processes in conflict-affected and post-conflict states across the Middle East and North Africa region, South and Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Eastern Europe.



Charles Bibuya is a technical expert in strategic planning and organizational management. Charles joined CRS in 2011 and has over 12 years of field experience developing and implementing Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) and Information and Communications Technology for Development systems and strategies across CRS' programs. He has worked in the Central Africa region, including Togo, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where he is currently a Technical Advisor II for MEAL. Born in the DRC, Charles graduated in Information Systems Design and Information Management Systems with a focus on Statistics from the Institut Supérieur de Commerce and the Institut Supérieur de Statistiques et des Nouvelles Technologies, respectively.



Nell Bolton serves as the Technical Director for Equity, Inclusion, and Peacebuilding and as Lead for a strategic initiative on Fostering Just and Cohesive Societies at CRS. She has supported CRS' peacebuilding and governance programming throughout the world, including as a Regional Technical Advisor in the Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia region; East and South Asia; and Central Africa. Following a return to her native New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, she led a variety of civic engagement, advocacy, and faith-based coalition-building initiatives and remains active in social, racial, and restorative justice initiatives in Louisiana. Ms. Bolton holds an M.A. in International Peace Studies from the Kroc Institute at Notre Dame and an M.T.S. degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University.



Central Hub

How Eco-Anxiety and Eco-Optimism Are Making Youth Lead the Climate Change Movement

A new global survey from UNICEF illustrates how young people today view climate change. Findings validate the media's portrayal of eco-anxiety among young people, but also show the majority of youth have feelings of optimism. The more anxiety and exposure youth have to climate change, the more resilient and action-oriented they become.

This session explores how young people, fueled by both eco-anxiety and eco-optimism, are taking charge in the climate change movement. Global youth leaders and decision-makers identify and illustrate youth engagement mechanisms through the lens of their own experiences, highlighting their respective mechanism's successes and challenges, particularly as it relates to climate change and climate action.

Speakers:

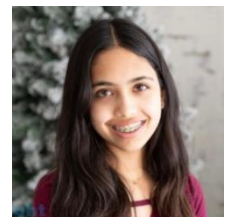
Darla M. Silva is the Chief Global Program Officer for UNICEF USA, providing direction, vision, and voice to organizational leadership. Darla leads engagement with UNICEF through development of program content including proposals, reports, virtual visits, briefings, and in-country visits. Prior to UNICEF USA, she was a Senior Advisor at UNICEF in the Public Partnerships Division leading partnership engagement with the USG. Previously, she led the Humanitarian Financing Unit in UNICEF and led operations for the front office of UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. From 2006 to 2010, she worked as a Humanitarian Affairs Officer at OCHA. Before the U.N., she was Deputy Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at UNICEF USA in Washington D.C. and worked as the Washington Liaison for the Women's Refugee Commission.



Elizabeth Vance is the Technical Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and Green Jobs Strategy Lead for the International Youth Foundation (IYF). Liz joined IYF in 2013 with over 14 years of experience facilitating solutions to problems in the youth, economic, community development, and community safety and justice fields. Prior to IYF, she built organizational and technical capacity with Hispanics in Philanthropy; developed trainings on market-oriented product design with ByHand Consulting; designed violence prevention initiatives with TetraTech's Community Life and Citizenship Program; scaled interventions to help women micro-entrepreneurs in rural Mexico; and spearheaded initiatives related to education, recidivism, policing, and housing with the Urban Strategies Council in San Francisco. Liz has a Master of Science in Development Management from the London School of Economics and bachelor's degrees in development studies, geography, and education from the University of California Berkeley.



Bella is a 14-year-old youth speaker from Houston who has been working with UNICEF for years as a child rights and climate change activist. She's involved with UNICEF HQ, UNICEF USA, and the city of Houston around her climate action work. She's received grants from the city and other partners for local composting work, is involved with the city of Houston's Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, and has done climate awareness events and campaigns in Houston with UNICEF USA. She's a Child-Friendly Cities Initiative Ambassador for UNICEF and is part of Youngo, the official children and youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



North Hub

Disability-Led Development and Humanitarian Relief

This riveting session on disability-led development and humanitarian relief is where concepts come to life through real-life examples. Get ready for lightning talks packed with key learning insights and impactful "calls to action" from dynamic presenters. In a unique Wants/Needs Exchange format, you can connect with like-minded individuals, discover resources to support disabled leaders, exchange expertise, and foster collaborations for a future that champions disability-led development and humanitarian action.

Speakers:

Marcie Roth is the Executive Director and CEO of the World Institute on Disability. Recently named to Forbes Magazine's inaugural Fifty Over 50 Impact List, and by Women's eNews as one of their 21 Leaders for the 21st Century, Marcie has served in executive leadership roles since 1995, leading coalitions committed to operationalizing accessibility and inclusion. In the aftermath of 9/11, Marcie turned toward improving emergency preparedness and disaster outcomes for people with disabilities, building accessible disaster-resilient communities, and launching disability inclusive climate initiatives. She served as Senior Advisor to the FEMA Administrator from 2009 to 2017, establishing and directing the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination. From 2012 to 2017, Marcie represented the USG internationally as an expert on whole community inclusive global disaster risk reduction and has served as a leader on the development and implementation of the U.N. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.



Scader Louis, Risk and Compliance Manager at World Vision Malawi, is a disability rights advocate and co-founder of the Spinal Injuries Association of Malawi, an organization that promotes equal rights for persons with spinal cord injuries. Scader is a certified peer supporter for Motivation Africa and has been involved in developing disability inclusive policies, collaborating with policymakers and legislators to ensure that disability rights are effectively integrated, and lobbying for inclusion of persons with disabilities through constant engagements with authorities. She is the former Chairperson of the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), before which she served as Commissioner, responsible for the Disability and Elderly Thematic Committee. She is the Vice Chairperson of the National Executive Council of the Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi and Treasurer General of the Commonwealth Disabled Peoples Forum. Scader is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and has over 10 years of experience in financial management.



Ashley Holben is a Project Specialist at Mobility International USA (MIUSA). For over thirteen years, Ashley has supported MIUSA's mission to advance disability rights and leadership globally, providing technical assistance and support in areas including: Excellence in Development and Disability Inclusion (EDDI) and other initiatives to apply a disability rights lens to international development projects and programming; The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange, a project sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to promote the participation, representation and leadership of people with disabilities in international exchange; and MIUSA's short-term intensive leadership exchange programs to advance the leadership of disabled women and youth from around the world.



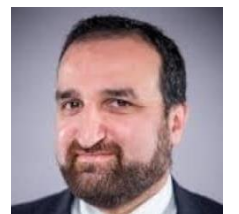
Forum South

Political Attacks on Aid and Development and the Solidarity Response

Solidarity is a powerful tool in the face of attack to lend a credible voice to the debate and demonstrate a united front. It can take a variety of forms, including the use of secular or faith-based allies, depending on the nature of the attack and the intended messaging. How does the Together Project's success of interfaith solidarity in countering anti-Muslim smear campaigns translate into rebutting political attacks on aid and development programming around gender, race, sexual orientation, and other issues that have been weaponized against NGOs? Join this invigorating session and have the opportunity to share questions and suggestions on how this model can be applied to an evolving political landscape.

Speakers:

Anwar Khan is the co-founder and current president of Islamic Relief USA. He has 30 years of experience working in humanitarian and development assistance with extensive experience in





conflict and disaster zones. He has traveled to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya, Palestine, Sudan, Haiti, Yemen, Pakistan, and Syria. He has also traveled for development work in Africa and South Asia. Khan has also served on the U.S. State Department's Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group, where he advised on humanitarian issues and the intersection of faith and development. Currently, he serves on the board of World Food Program USA, Joint Learning Initiative, and the Alliance to End Hunger. He is on the Advisory Council for Muslim Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University.

Mary Kate Costello is the director of International Policy and Relations at Church World Service (CWS). Mary Kate is a government relations and global policy specialist with over 10 years of experience in foreign development assistance. With CWS, she manages advocacy around long-term development issues—including food security, poverty, gender-based violence, gender equality, health, and climate change—and the achievement of the U.N. 2030 Agenda. Before joining CWS, Mary Kate was the senior policy analyst and U.N. representative of The Hunger Project. Mary Kate has also served as co-chair for the International Food Security Working Group in the Alliance to End Hunger and served on the executive committee of the Maternal, Newborn Child Health Round Table of the Global Health Council. She has a Master of International Relations from American University in Washington, D.C. and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Boston College.



Lisa Bos is the Senior Director of Government Relations at World Vision in the Advocacy and Government Relations Department. She leads World Vision's advocacy and education efforts with Congress and the Administration. Ms. Bos primarily focuses on budget and appropriations advocacy, in addition to maternal and child health, food security, education, gender, child protection, and humanitarian policy. Ms. Bos spent nearly 9 years as a legislative staff person in the U.S. House of Representatives, including 3 years as Policy Director for the Republican Study Committee. Ms. Bos also worked for Congressman Bill Huizenga of Michigan as the Senior Legislative Assistant responsible for defense, foreign affairs, education, and health care issues, and for Congressman Pete Hoekstra. Ms. Bos has worked in the private sector as well, serving as a Vice President at Cassidy & Associates and as an Account Director at Russ Reid. Ms. Bos is a native of Michigan and a graduate of Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

