

Authentic Storytelling

Lightning Talk

Christine Nyirjesy Bragale leads the development and implementation of FHI 360's communications strategies and is the Director of the Corporate Communications team. She is passionate about connecting people with the information they need and telling stories that inspire action and influence public policy. Her decades-long career in public relations includes leadership roles at the Partnerships Incubator (operated by The Kaizen Company for the U.S. Agency for International Development), the News Literacy Project, Mercy Corps, Goodwill Industries International, and TASC, a national security company.

Bragale spent the first part of her career as a television news producer and editor, including at The Associated Press, where she helped launch the global news agency's television arm, APTN, and directed its news gathering operations in the Americas. As a member of the White House and United Nations press corps, she covered politics, diplomacy, and other international news. She has received many awards for communications campaigns, media relations, and print and video productions.

Bragale holds a bachelor's degree in history and a certificate in Latin American studies from Georgetown University, in addition to professional certificates in digital marketing from Columbia Business School and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. She holds certification as an accredited business communicator from the International Association of Business Communicators.



Maria Holsoffe is the Director of Communications and Creative Services at Plan International USA, an international humanitarian and development organization that partners with adolescent girls and children around the world to overcome oppression and gender inequality. Plan provides the support and resources that are unique to their needs and the needs of their communities, ensuring they achieve their full potential with dignity, opportunity, and safety. In this role, Maria oversees all aspects of external and internal communications, as well as brand and crisis communications. She works with a team of graphic designers, writers, and event staff to bring Plan's brand to life for a wide variety of audiences, including the U.S. government, individual donors, corporations, and young people.

Prior to joining Plan, Maria supported USAID's Feed the Future program through the Knowledge Driven Agricultural Development project and spent a decade in higher education. She was the program director for Georgetown University's Executive Masters in Global Strategic Communications and worked for Eastern Mennonite University's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. Maria is a current board member for TAD PGS, a government staffing agency.

Maria holds a bachelor's degree in visual and communicating arts from Eastern Mennonite University and a master's degree in public relations and corporate communications from Georgetown University. In her free time, you will find her gardening, baking, reading, or running.

