

Expert Clinics

October 1 | 1:45 p.m.

Shifting Power and Building Futures: Community-led Action

Central Hub

What becomes possible when humanitarian systems are designed for young people's futures, not just their immediate needs? This session brings together iACT and Alight who are experts in co-designing programs with refugee communities. In eastern Chad and Cameroon, iACT has been partnering with refugees to design, lead and scale their own early childhood education and youth sport programs, while in Rwanda, Alight is collaborating with refugee youth to equip them with digital skills and pathways to economic independence. Presenters share evidence of outcomes, honest lessons from decades of implementation, and the structural shifts in the current humanitarian systems that make genuine community-led action possible. Participants leave with concrete frameworks for shifting power and co-designing programs with communities in their own contexts.



Abraham Leno

Director of Government Relations, Alight

Abraham Leno, Alight's Director of Government Relations, leads the organization's advocacy and strategic engagement with the U.S. Government, Congress, and faith-based partners. Over more than 25 years, he has led humanitarian response efforts amid some of the world's most complex crises — from Sudan and Liberia to South

Sudan, Ethiopia, Pakistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He is also co-founder and acting board president of Asili, an innovative social enterprise delivering affordable, high-quality healthcare and clean drinking water to underserved communities. Abraham's own experience as a refugee has profoundly shaped his worldview, inspiring a lifelong dedication to serving those forced to flee conflict and disaster.



Sedrick Murhula

Global Senior Manager of Programs and Partnerships, iACT

Sedrick is a global leader in community-led humanitarian action and localization, with over 15 years of experience partnering with refugees and conflict-affected communities, and organizations to design and lead sustainable solutions. As Global Senior Manager of Programs and Partnerships at iACT, he currently oversees

initiatives across Chad, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Mexico, advancing refugee-led early childhood education and sport-for-development programs. A former forcibly displaced person, Sedrick combines lived experience with technical expertise to champion refugee leadership and systems change. He has collaborated with governments, UN agencies, international NGOs, refugee-led organizations, and community-

based organizations across Africa and beyond, helping shift power to local communities. His work focuses on localization, strategic partnerships, capacity strengthening, and creating lasting opportunities for people affected by displacement.

The Future is Older: Demographic Transformations and Effective Humanitarian Action

The Forum

Globally, people aged 60 and older are the fastest-growing demographic group, and the majority of older people currently live in low- and middle-income countries. More older people than ever are affected by conflicts, crises, and disasters. However, the humanitarian system has yet to fully adapt to this demographic shift. HelpAge USA, along with the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, will explore participants' knowledge of population aging, fact-check common myths about older people in humanitarian crises, and share practical tools and lessons drawn from HelpAge's and partners' experience across diverse contexts. Participants will leave with an enhanced understanding of the implications of global population aging and actionable strategies to help humanitarian preparedness and response adapt to an aging world.



Jane Buchanan

Director of Global Impact, HelpAge USA

Jane Buchanan is the Director of Global Impact at HelpAge USA, a non-profit organization advancing the rights, well-being, and participation of older people in low- and middle-income countries. Jane leads the organization's global advocacy and partnerships initiatives, advancing knowledge and programs that lead to systems, policy, and legal changes that help countries respond to and prepare for global population aging. She has

15 years' experience conducting research and advocacy related to older people and people with disabilities in armed conflicts and natural disasters. Jane was awarded a Health and Aging Policy Fellowship for 2026-2027. She has an M.A in international affairs and international economics from the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a B.A. in Russian from Bowdoin College.



Tracy O'Heir

Program Officer for International Funds, Center for Disaster Philanthropy

Tracy O'Heir is the program officer for international funds at the Center for Disaster Philanthropy. She leads and manages international disaster recovery funds, working collaboratively with coalitions and local organizations. For nearly 14 years, Tracy led USAID humanitarian response programs and operations, including across Africa, in the Assistance Office of Technical and Program Quality, and on numerous Disaster

Response Management Teams. She also worked for InterAction as senior program manager for humanitarian practice and held leadership positions with Jesuit Refugee Service and Catholic Relief Services in Sudan, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Uganda. Tracy holds a master's from Fordham University in international political

economy and development, a bachelor's in social work from St. Louis University, and studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo.

Sustaining Innovation and Impact in Times of Austerity

South Hub

Innovation is a strategic imperative for international NGOs navigating funding constraints, shifting donor priorities, and increasingly complex global challenges. Leaders from Oxfam America and Two Five Capital will present findings from research conducted in collaboration with InterAction member organizations on how INGOs are sustaining innovation through adaptive strategies and emerging organizational models to maximize impact. Participants will engage in small-group discussions to validate emerging themes, refine practical recommendations, and identify actionable ways forward.



Dr. Laté Lawson-Lartego

Sr. Director Strategy & Insights Hub, Oxfam America

Dr. Laté Lawson-Lartego is Senior Director of Oxfam America's Strategy & Insights Hub, based in Washington, DC, where he leads global partnerships and oversees evidence-based insights, research and storytelling to inform strategy and mobilize resources for transformational impact on poverty and injustice worldwide. Previously, he served as Chief Innovation Officer (2022–2025), co-founding and leading aGILE, Oxfam's Global Innovation Lab for Equality, which developed and scaled solutions to complex inequality challenges across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and beyond. Since joining Oxfam in 2017, he has held leadership roles including Food Systems Director, Interim Vice President for Global Programs, and Director for Oxfam in Africa. Earlier, he spent 17 years with CARE in global and regional leadership positions and a few years in the private sector. He holds a Doctor in Business Administration (DBA) from Georgia State University and has published extensively on poverty reduction, innovation, food systems, sustainability and business strategy.



Amelia E. Thompson

Associate Researcher, Georgia State University, Center of Engaged Research

Amelia E. Thompson is a strategist and social impact leader with experience supporting governments, social entrepreneurs, and faith-based organizations in policy development, strategy, and program implementation. Formerly a Senior Technical Advisor at Catholic Relief Services, she also received training in innovative finance at Oxford's Saïd Business School and currently co-leads a leadership program focused on innovative finance and policy. Through her consulting firm, Two Five Capital, she has led projects for organizations including UNESCO, Google, and international development leaders. She is a 2027 Global Leadership Fellow with the World

Affairs Council of Atlanta. Through RenewToday, the nonprofit she founded, Thompson has advanced menstrual health initiatives in East Africa and supported social entrepreneurs across ten sub-Saharan African countries. She holds degrees from Vassar College, St. John's University and Harvard University.