

Expert Clinics

October 2 | 11:15 a.m.

What the Village Knows: Women's Groups and Community Health

Central Hub

Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are widely recognized for savings and empowerment. But what happens when groups become generators of community health knowledge and collective action? In rural Ethiopia's Kembata Zone, WEEMA International is embedding village health leaders within enduring women's SHGs, treating groups not as temporary program structures, but as community institutions capable of generating, interpreting, and acting on local health information. Drawing on early implementation experience and emerging data, this session explores women's groups as agents of community health data and action, asking what global health actors might learn from how communities understand and respond to health challenges.



Elizabeth McGovern

Co-founder and Executive Director, WEEMA International

Liz is the co-founder and Executive Director of WEEMA International, a nonprofit advancing community-led development in Ethiopia. WEEMA builds on women's self-help groups as the foundation for ending multidimensional poverty and strengthening community resilience. Liz is also a family physician and spent 16 years in Massachusetts community health centers, caring for underserved populations. She holds a B.S. from Haverford College and an M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and is pursuing an M.P.H. at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Steve Ollis

Director, Data and Innovation, WEEMA International

Steve brings extensive experience in digital health, data systems and health information systems to his role as WEEMA's Director of Data and Innovation. He has over 30 years experience in Information Technology consulting and global public health, with a specialty in program management. Prior to joining WEEMA he served as a Senior Digital Health Advisor for JSI, supporting programs in over 25 countries. He received a B.S. in Finance from The American University and an MBA in Information Systems and Finance from the University of Maryland-College Park.

Leadership Crucibles: How to Lead Authentically During Disruption

The Forum

How we lead and relate to others at this moment is just as crucial as what we do in our work. This session invites participants at all levels to reconnect with the inner resources and crucible experiences that shaped them. We will investigate how perceived obstacles might be the key to unlocking transformative change at the individual, teams, and systems levels.

Grounded in our social and behavior framework, this session will guide you to look at your vision for social change and leadership and how to best support your growing edges as senior or up-and-coming leaders. Whether you are navigating sector disruptions, transition within an organization, or hitting refresh on your dreams entirely, we will enhance your capacity to lead authentically and sustainably through disruption and uncertainty.



Madison Brazil

Senior Learning Specialist, Grounded Idealist

Madison is a trauma-informed facilitator and learning advisor with over a decade of experience in public and social sector work. Before joining Grounded Idealist, Madison was a conservation biologist, educator, and learning specialist for USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. Madison brings a unique perspective to systems change work, building regenerative learning ecosystems rooted in collective care, learning, and action. Madison Brazil is a graduate of James Madison University and George Washington University.



Fazel Rahim

Fazel Rahim is an accomplished Program Manager, learning and development professional, and facilitator with more than 20 years of experience leading multicultural teams and designing, managing, and delivering high-impact programs and learning initiatives across diverse organizational and cultural contexts. His experience includes facilitating staff meetings and retreats, leadership and workforce development programs, and national and international conferences in both in-person and virtual settings. His areas of expertise include gender equality, human rights, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA), leadership development, change management, workforce development, strategic capacity building, networking, and cross-sector collaboration. He has worked with local and global organizations, including U.S. Government agencies, United Nations agencies, international organizations, and the private sector. Rahim has served in several leadership and advisory roles, including Program Officer for Gender and Localization in USAID Headquarters, Gender and Learning Advisor with EnCompass LLC, Gender Advisor with USAID Afghanistan, and Regional Coordinator with UNDP Afghanistan. He

holds an M.A. in Management of Development from the University of Turin and a B.A. in Law from Herat University. He is fluent in English and Persian.

Bridging the Gap: A Growing Role for the Private Sector in Humanitarian Supply Chains

South Hub

An estimated 305 million people required humanitarian assistance in 2025, indicating rising need at time when funding is decreasing. Logistics and transportation choices about modalities, providers, and financial arrangements shape delivery timelines, geographic reach, operational risk, and, significantly, whether responses happen at all. Airlink will share findings from research it conducted with the Center for Humanitarian Logistics and Regional Development (CHORD) on how cross-sector partnerships can address both critical funding and operational gaps in humanitarian logistics. Speakers share the growing impact of donated transportation, what drives organizations to seek these partnerships, and the emerging shift from ad hoc corporate giving to strategic collaboration. Participants leave with data-driven insights and forward-looking recommendations for how to collaboratively build a more resilient humanitarian logistics environment.



Brigid McKeon

Associate Director of Partnerships and Innovation, Humanitarian Programs, Airlink

Brigid McKeon serves as the Associate Director of Partnerships and Innovation on Airlink's Humanitarian Programs team, where she manages strategic humanitarian partnerships and strengthens regional response networks by building logistics capacity for nonprofit organizations. She also leads Airlink's research on cross-sector engagement in humanitarian logistics, exploring how private-sector collaboration can address critical supply chain challenges and strengthen humanitarian responses. Drawing on more than six years of experience in building partnerships across the nonprofit, private, and public sectors, Brigid leads Airlink's global logistics preparedness workshop program, convening NGOs, airlines, logistics companies, and regional coordination bodies to strengthen humanitarian supply chains and improve disaster preparedness.



Valentina Muñoz Bernal

Researcher, Center for Humanitarian Logistics and Regional Development (CHORD)

Valentina Muñoz Bernal is a researcher at the Center for Humanitarian Logistics and Regional Development (CHORD) and a PhD student at Kühne Logistics University (KLU). She holds a Master of Global Affairs with a concentration in Sustainable Development from the University of Notre Dame, as well as bachelor's degrees in Economics and Political Science from the National University of Colombia. Beyond academia, she has over five years of

professional experience in NGOs and consulting organizations, with a focus on business and human rights, sustainability, and resilience.