

## Main Stage

### October 1 | 10:45 a.m.

#### ***A Fireside Chat with Ryan Shrum***

##### **The Forum**

The architecture of American humanitarian engagement has undergone a historic transformation over the last year. Following a broad overhaul of U.S. foreign assistance, the State Department launched the new Bureau for Disaster and Humanitarian Response (DHR). Headed by Senior Bureau Official Ryan Shrum, this highly centralized bureau has been tasked with a narrowed, tightly focused mandate: delivering life-saving crisis response while ensuring taxpayer dollars are strictly aligned with U.S. national interests. Operating through a new network of 12 regional hubs globally, the DHR represents a profound shift away from legacy models of foreign aid. In this fireside chat, Ryan will offer a behind-the-scenes look at the first months of standing up the DHR and will address how the U.S. is redefining "efficiency" in international disaster response, what an "America First" humanitarian framework looks like in practice, and how the bureau is navigating ongoing crises amid a strained global funding environment.



**Ryan Shrum**

*Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Disaster and Humanitarian Response, U.S. Department of State*

As of March 20, 2026, Ryan Shrum serves as the first ever Senior Bureau Official for the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Disaster and Humanitarian Response (DHR).

Senior Bureau Official Shrum takes on his new role in DHR after serving as the Chief of Staff to the Department's new Office of the Under Secretary of Foreign Assistance,

Humanitarian Assistance, and Religious Freedom. As a leader in the U.S. government's America First foreign and humanitarian assistance under the Trump Administration, he served a key role in responsibly managing a multi-billion-dollar U.S. taxpayer-funded budget while regularly working across agencies and branches of the U.S. government. Ensuring U.S. taxpayer dollars are being used responsibly while maximizing their impact are just some of the core principles Senior Bureau Official Shrum brings to DHR. His prior experience in the Legislative Branch, on grassroots campaigns, and in the private sector as a business owner shape his practical approach to policy development and international collaboration.



**Tom Hart**

**President & CEO, InterAction**

Tom Hart joined InterAction as President and CEO in December 2023. Before InterAction, Tom was at the ONE Campaign where he served in numerous roles since 2003, most recently as acting CEO and then President. Tom has years of experience in driving the fight to end extreme poverty, a deep knowledge of and experience in making change

happen, and an undying commitment to enhancing foreign aid. Prior to serving as acting CEO at ONE, Tom was the North American Executive Director, where he oversaw advocacy in the United States and Canada, as well as ONE's global campaign against the COVID-19 pandemic. Tom has been part of the adoption of significant initiatives to support global health, increase electrification and private sector investment in Africa, and raise billions of dollars in poverty-fighting assistance. Before ONE, Tom was the Director of Government Relations for the Episcopal Church, USA, and an aide to Senators Alan Cranston and Jay Rockefeller. He is married with two adult daughters.