

# Facilitators and Speakers at the 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

## OVERVIEW:

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This booklet contains the biographies of the facilitators and speakers at the 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action in Panama City from June 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The biographies are organised by facilitators and speaker in alphabetical order by first name and are searchable by name, title, and organisation. The facilitator and speaker biographies are also available on the Sched Mobile App.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

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### Facilitators

<u>A-E</u> .....	2
<u>F-J</u> .....	4
<u>K-O</u> .....	6
<u>P-T</u> .....	8
<u>U-Z</u> .....	11

### Speakers

<u>A-E</u> .....	12
<u>F-J</u> .....	16
<u>K-O</u> .....	19
<u>P-T</u> .....	27
<u>U-Z</u> .....	32

## FACILITATORS:

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### A-E

#### **Anita Queirazza, Head of Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Plan International**

Anita Queirazza is the Head of the Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Unit at Plan International. She has over 15 years of experience in the field of child protection in the humanitarian sector with a Master of Clinical Psychology and a specialisation in Child Psychology. Anita has worked globally and directly managed child protection responses in a variety of humanitarian settings in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. Under her leadership, Plan International has spearheaded a number of global thematic initiatives to develop program guidance and improve the capacity of humanitarian practitioners to implement programming for the protection of children in crisis and displacement settings. Anita represents Plan International in a number of external child protection in humanitarian action fora. Her current position includes strategy development, quality program design, capacity strengthening and deployment to large scale emergencies to manage child protection programs.

#### **Catalina Fernandez, Regional Child Protection Expert, UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean**

Catalina Fernández has over 15 years of experience working in the child protection field. She has worked for the United Nations and civil society organizations in humanitarian and development settings,

including emergencies such as natural disasters, armed conflict and migration contexts. She currently works as a Child Protection Specialist at the Regional UNICEF Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. She has a postgraduate degree in Communication and Human Rights and International Relationships.

#### **Beatriz Torres, Social Worker, Legal Services for Children**

Beatriz is a social worker at Legal Services for Children (LSC) in San Francisco, CA. She has over 10 years of experience working with children, youth, and their families. At LSC, she has worked with detained immigrant youth and immigrant youth in the community, providing clinical case management services and leading BEAT (Building, Educating, Advancing, Transforming), a group project for youth involved or at-risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system or criminal justice system. Prior to joining LSC, Beatriz worked in New York City as a counsellor for Esperanza, an alternative to incarceration program for youth, where she predominantly served youth and families of Puerto Rican and Dominican heritage. Beatriz works from a stated-interest approach and sees every young person as powerful, talented, and capable. She strongly believes that the world would be a better place if youth were given more leadership opportunities. Beatriz is passionate about her work and enjoys meeting and exchanging ideas with others working in solidarity with youth, particularly BIPOC youth.

### **Camilla Jones, Deputy Director, Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**

Camilla has worked on humanitarian, development, and child protection issues since 2006. She has worked in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and supported programmes in the Americas. Camilla has supported prevention and response programming for refugee children in Kenya with Save the Children, in Jordan with UNICEF, and in Lebanon with the International Rescue Committee. She has conducted a number of consultancies primarily on case management. Before the Alliance Camilla worked at Family for Every Child, a member-led global network of national organisations, where she facilitated the organisation's children on the move portfolio and was responsible for the organisation's research into the sexual violence affecting boys, the importance of family, linkages between social protection and children's care, and between education and children's care.

### **Domenico di Nuzzo, Protection in Emergencies Advisor, Plan International UK**

Domenico di Nuzzo is a Child Protection Practitioner with more than a decade experience in development and humanitarian contexts. He is currently working as a Protection in Emergencies Advisor at Plan International UK with strong focus on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, GBV programming, safeguarding and PSHEA. He is currently the Protection in Emergencies Advisor for Plan International UK, and he is part of the surge capacity of Plan International Federation in responding in context of rapid on-set,

forced displacement and polycrisis. He holds expertise as a frontliner and as a global specialist. He has served as a front-line worker in most of the recent humanitarian crises including the Rohingya, Venezuela, South Sudan, Mozambique and Ukraine response. Within the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action he represents Plan International in the global child labour task force, child protection minimum standard working group, and case management working group. He is also contributing to the inter-agency effort in quality programming tackling child marriage in humanitarian action, children on the move and cash for protection.

### **Elena Giannini, Learning and Development Working Group Co-lead, Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**

Elena Giannini is a child protection in humanitarian action professional with over 10 years of experience as a programme manager and technical advisor in sudden onset emergencies and protracted crisis. Elena has also been piloting and implementing the Child Protection in Emergencies Professional Development Programme in 3 regions: Asia Pacific, Middle East and Eastern and Southern Africa. Combining competencies in child protection and learning and development in 2020 Elena has joined the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action as one of the Co-leads of the Learning and Development Working Group. Elena has been working in reshaping learning and development products to ensure the new access needs in the context of the pandemic and is working towards ensuring capacity strengthening is approached in a strategic and competency-based way to ensure quality and relevance for CPHA practitioners.

### **Eleonora Mantoan, Child Protection Technical Advisor, World Vision - Moldova and Ukraine**

Eleonora Mantoan is Child Protection Technical Advisor for World Vision Ukraine Crisis Response Team. For more than 5 years, she has been working in protection, with a particular interest and passion for child protection and safeguarding in emergency and non-emergency settings. Eleonora has a Master's in International Relations with a focus on Eastern Europe and previous working experience in diverse contexts ranging from Nicaragua, Belarus, Ukraine and South Sudan. Working three years for Nonviolent Peaceforce in South Sudan, Eleonora has implemented first-hand the Unarmed Civil Protection methodology to address the most pressing protection concerns of people affected by displacement, conflict, and natural disasters in highly volatile contexts. She has led discussions to identify protection concerns and collaborated with partners in developing and implementing mitigation strategies. She has facilitated capacity strengthening for staffs and affected populations on community-based child protection, protection mainstreaming, and GBV prevention and response. Being an activity member in the South Sudan national Protection Cluster and Technical Working Groups, Eleonora has advocated for the needs of the most vulnerable children and has worked to strengthen the system in family reunifications for abducted children. Since she has joined World Vision International Ukraine Crisis Response, she has been supporting various projects focused on protecting the most vulnerable children through multisectoral integrated approaches. As WVI representative, she's also co-leading with UNICEF the regional Child Protection Area of Responsibility in the Dnipropetrovska oblast. Her main interests include sustainable interventions for children and adolescents,

learning through play in child friendly spaces and family reunifications.

### **Elsbeth Chapman, Strategic Partnership and Advocacy Specialist, Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**

Elsbeth Chapman is the Strategic Partnership and Advocacy Specialist with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. With over 14 years of experience in diverse humanitarian contexts, she passionately advocates for children's rights. Elsbeth has led the design and implementation of child protection and other humanitarian programmes in fragile and conflict settings, including the Syria crisis and Afghanistan and has managed diverse teams from 5 to 40 individuals. Committed to sharing her knowledge, Elsbeth has also designed and delivered an interactive workshop for a Master's program, inspiring the next generation of humanitarians.

## **F-J**

### **Gurvinder Singh, Senior Advisor Child Protection, Participation, and Safeguarding, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

Gurvinder has worked in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for 24 years. He works in the IFRC Protection, Gender, and Inclusion team as the global Senior Advisor for Child Protection, Participation, and Safeguarding. Gurvinder focuses on partnering with National Societies to strengthen community-based disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, and response programming to protect and assist children including in conflicts, disasters, and the climate crises, and

to enhance systems for meaningful child participation, especially for those children who are often left out and left behind. He is based in Vancouver, Canada.

### **Hani Mansourian, Director, Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**

Hani Mansourian is the Director of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Hani has worked with children and refugee populations in development and humanitarian contexts since the year 2000. He has worked with local and international NGOs, as well as several UN agencies. Hani has participated in child protection responses in over a dozen humanitarian contexts. Hani holds a Bachelors of Science in Engineering, a Masters degree in International Affairs, and a Doctoral degree in Leadership in Global Health and Humanitarian Systems from Columbia University. Hani currently lives in Kenya.

### **Joanna Wedge, CPMS Working Group Co-lead (the Alliance), International Rescue Committee**

Trained as a social worker, Joanna received her MSW and graduate diploma in Refugee and Migration Studies at York University, Canada. Over the last 20 years, she has worked in dozens of emergent and protracted crises, as well as in preparedness and recovery contexts. She was a regional resettlement officer for UNHCR in East Africa and the Great Lakes, the child protection technical advisor in Sudan and South Sudan for Save the Children, as well its director of a cross-border protection strategy in West Africa for child soldiers,

unaccompanied & separated children, and young survivors of sexual violence. In 2016, she was in Greece as the national Coordinator for the inter-agency Child Protection response. Joanna wears many hats. She currently co-leads the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action's Minimum Standards team (IRC). Her focus is on accountability to children and wider capacity development, including the CPMS e-course. For the past five years, she has lectured on Humanitarian Affairs & International Development Law at Centennial College in Toronto. She also runs a thriving consulting practice with a variety of INGO and UN clients.

### **Joy Cheung, Senior Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Advisor, World Vision International**

Joy Cheung is a child protection in humanitarian action specialist with more than 17 years of professional experience working in diverse contexts, such as South Sudan, Iraq, Libya, Türkiye, Kenya, Uganda, etc. Through years of field work, Joy has led and implemented various child protection programmes in conflict affected areas, refugee camps, migrant crises, and natural disaster responses. She has worked with UNICEF, the Red Cross, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes and now is the Senior CPHA Advisor with World Vision Global Team. Joy has been part of many initiatives of CPHA Alliance and currently is the lead of the Community-level Child Protection Task Force. Joy holds a Master Degree in Development Studies from the University of Sydney. She is based in Honk Kong, with frequent travel to support humanitarian responses in different locations.

## K-O

### **Khadiga Alsharif, Advisor II, Child Protection, ChildFund International**

Khadiga Alsharif is a community psychologist professional with over 13 years dedicated to advancing child protection and mental health support globally. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Community Psychology from The American University in Cairo, Egypt. Prior to joining ChildFund International, Khadiga's roles contributed to academia through her role as a university lecturer in psychology and focused on enhancing protective measures and support systems for children through her roles across organizations such as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Her previous roles within UNICEF included the development and implementation of comprehensive programs that address both needs of vulnerable children and their communities in Egypt and assessing the impact of violence against children in the UAE. In her role as Advisor II in Child Protection at ChildFund International, Khadiga supports community-based child protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) program interventions across 20 Country Offices in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. She brings together the development and execution of grant proposals focused on child protection and MHPSS, contributing to the expansion and enhancement of ChildFund's global outreach. Khadiga's work includes building organizational strategies and strategic partnerships to align ChildFund's initiatives with international child wellbeing objectives. Her efforts include a commitment to incorporating trauma-informed policies and online safety measures within programming, to ensure that children are not only protected from

harm but also have access to the support they need to thrive, especially within the digital age. Khadiga is also committed to research and policy development, continually seeking to build and solidify ChildFund's position as a leader in the fields of both child protection and mental health. She emphasizes her commitment to a strong sense of community and collaborative teamwork, to advance ChildFund's values of psychological safety, innovation, and deep commitment to child wellbeing.

### **Lavinia Spennati, Humanitarian Child Protection Technical Advisor, Save the Children Spain**

Lavinia Spennati counts with 10 years' experience working on the protection of populations in situations of vulnerability across the humanitarian and development sectors with organisations such as Save the Children, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the United Nations. She has worked in armed conflict and forced migration settings in the Middle East, Latin America, and Asia. Ms. Spennati holds a BA in Middle Eastern Studies and a MA in Human Rights and Democratisation and is about to graduate from a Social Science MA on Gender and Intersectionality. Within Save the Children Spain, she is in charge of supporting teams globally to build child protection technical expertise and ensuring the technical quality of projects implemented at the global level in response to emergencies.

### **Mara Tissera Luna, Independent Consultant and Fellow at the Collaborative on Global Children's Issues at Georgetown University**

Mara Tissera Luna is an international consultant focusing on understanding the root causes of forced displacement in Latin

America and the Caribbean and improving protection responses for displaced populations with multiple vulnerabilities. She has provided technical advice and applied research for UNICEF, Georgetown University, IOM, the University of Edinburgh, Refugees International, and IRAP in 14 countries, contributing to 25+ reports, handbooks, and short articles. She's a member of ACPHA's Localisation Advisory Group and the Latin American Council of Social Sciences.

### **Mariana Zavala Specialist, Child Protection Technical Advisor, World Vision**

Mariana Zavala is a lawyer specializing in Human Rights of Children and Adolescents, university professor and consultant in child protection, with more than 22 years of experience, including roles in government and non-governmental national and international organisations, where she has participated in various aspects of child protection. With experience in advising and supervising protection programs, as well as in the supervision of care teams in the protection area, with the ability to plan strategies and develop work plans, community for family counselling, mediation, dispute, and conflicts resolution programs, as well as peacebuilding. Certified in international studies on Case Management, Management, Leadership and Supervision of Humanitarian Projects. Currently, she works as a Child Protection Technical Advisor for the Response to the Migration Emergency of World Vision Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Marta Passerini, Humanitarian Case Management and Information Management Consultant (Global), UNICEF**

Marta Passerini is currently a key member of the UNICEF Child Protection in Humanitarian Action team based at Headquarters. In

her current role, Marta's primary focus is on humanitarian case management and information management specific to case management. Marta brings a wealth of experience to her position, having previously worked in diverse contexts including Lebanon, Myanmar, Tunisia, Kenya, and Haiti. Her professional background includes roles within UNICEF as well as with international non-governmental organizations where she has been involved in various aspects of child protection, ranging from community-based protection initiatives to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs, and social and behavioral change projects. Marta's academic qualifications include a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University and a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from the University of Florence (Università degli Studi di Firenze).

### **Marcello Viola, Global Protection Advisor, Street Child**

Marcello has dedicated his career to protecting and promoting children's rights and advancing the localisation agenda. Since 2013 when he moved from the development sector, Marcello has been instrumental in Street Child's humanitarian efforts primarily in Africa, starting with the Ebola response in Sierra Leone. Over the past decade, he has opened and led Street Child's operations and programmes in Nigeria and Mozambique, also providing leadership and technical support in Cameroon and the DR Congo. His strong focus on protecting children in conflict zones is complemented by his commitment to the localisation agenda. Marcello's alignment with Street Child's mission around promoting local ownership contributed to the establishment of several successful and long-lasting partnerships with local organisations in the countries he managed. His dedication to safeguarding children's rights traces back to his

early career. Following the completion of his master's degree in international cooperation, he worked as a social worker in Italy for three years. His efforts focused on advocating for the rights of Roma children and facilitating the safe integration and protection of unaccompanied migrant children, enriching his understanding of frontline challenges, and guiding his subsequent career trajectory. Recently, Marcello assumed the co-lead role for the Alliance's Advocacy Working Group, coordinating with other members to advance the WG's strategic objectives.

**Michelle Van Akin, Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Advisor, Plan International**

Michelle Van Akin is a Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Advisor with Plan International with a decade of experience in child protection in humanitarian action at both the country and global level. Michelle has directly managed child protection responses in a variety of humanitarian settings in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Since joining Plan International in 2020, Michelle has supported a number of global thematic initiatives, including playing a key role in supporting the Alliance's Prevention Initiative. Michelle also co-leads the InterAction Protection Working Group.

**Nery Roldan, Regional Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Advisor for Latin America and Caribbean, Save the Children International**

Nery Roldán has more than 20 years of experience as a specialist in child protection in emergencies and humanitarian action. He has participated in various responses to disasters and catastrophes around the world, including hurricanes, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and floods. In recent years, his work has focused

on responding to armed violence in North and Central America, as well as migration and displacement issues. Mr. Roldán has worked for a number of international and civil society organisations. He has a degree in psychology with a specialisation in community psychology. He currently serves as Regional Emergency Protection Advisor for Latin America at Save the Children International.

**P-T**

**Raniere Pontes, Child Protection and Safeguarding Regional Advisor, World Vision International**

Raniere Pontes is a human rights activist with over 30 years of experience in child protection within NGOs and the UN System. Raniere is a pedagogue and specialist in human rights and education, as well as an administrator with expertise in public management, organizational leadership, and a master's degree in project management and agile methods.

**Sandra Maignant, CAAFAG Advisor and Co-lead of the CAAFAG Task Force, Plan International**

Sandra Maignant is CAAFAG advisor working with Plan International with 20 years of experience in the field and in global child protection in emergency work. She has led the development of various CAAFAG resources and the implementation of the programme development toolkit in 8 countries. She is also co-leading the CAAFAG Task Force along with UNICEF.

**Sazan Baban, Child Protection Case Management and IM4CM Advisor, Save the Children**



Sazan Baban brings just over 10 years of expertise in child protection, particularly in case management for refugees and children affected by conflict. Throughout her career with international and national organisations (including Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, East Ukraine, and Myanmar), she has championed child well-being across various settings. Sazan's experience spans across several key areas, including co-leading country-level case management task forces, ensuring effective responses for vulnerable children, and supporting and strengthening the capacity of social service workforces. Currently, she oversees and supports all aspects of IM4CM within Save the Children's child protection case management work and co-leads the Case Management Task Force with the Alliance in Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

#### **Silvia Onate, CP-FS Technical Lead, Plan International**

Silvia holds a Master's degree in International Humanitarian Action and a BA in Journalism and Social and Cultural Anthropology. She is a Child Protection expert with more than 12 years' experience working with international organisations in the humanitarian sector. She is currently Interim Child Protection and Food Security Technical Lead with Plan International Global Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Unit. At global level, she has been co-leading different Task Forces and Groups under the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Currently, she co-leads the Working across Sectors Advisory Group. Throughout her career, she has taken the leadership of different country initiatives and projects as part of various deployments across contexts. From setting up and strengthening the capacity of CPIE local partners in the Ukraine response, conducting a context analysis and capacity strengthening activities for preventing and responding to child marriage in the

Rohingya response to piloting tools and guidance for the provision of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Child Protection outcomes in Uganda for the South Sudan regional response. Before this role, Silvia worked with Save the Children as Child Protection in Emergencies Specialist in South Sudan, the European Refugee Response in Greece and with the Global Child Protection team. Based in Spain, Silvia is committed to work across sectors for the protection of children and adolescents in humanitarian settings.

#### **Stephanie Acker Housman, Assessment Measurement and Evidence Working Group Co-Lead, Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight**

Stephanie Acker is a research, policy, and communications practitioner who has worked locally, nationally, and internationally to improve protection for forcibly displaced individuals. Stephanie currently works at UNICEF Innocenti as the co-lead for the ACPHA's Assessment Measurement Evidence Working Group and as a Research Associate at the European University Institute's Migration Policy Centre. Her previous roles have included serving as a policy analyst and national spokesperson for the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, managing emergency homeless shelters for the City of Boston, and running community-based, sport as protection programmes for refugee children and families. Stephanie holds a bachelor's in social work from Gordon College and a master's in public administration from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

#### **Stephany Arzaga**

Stephany Arzaga is a first-generation American, child of Mexican immigrants, with over 8 years of experience representing undocumented immigrants, primarily children and youth.

**Susanna Davies, Senior Humanitarian Advisor, Inter-agency Child Protection, Save the Children**

Susanna Davies has more than 15 years of experience leading, developing and supporting child protection programming in humanitarian settings across Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Susanna currently serves as Save the Children’s Senior Humanitarian Advisor for Inter-agency Child Protection, where she leads a portfolio of global inter-agency partnerships, provides technical leadership on humanitarian standards and coordination, and supports country responses. At the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Susanna co-leads the Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group and the Working Across Sectors Advisory Group. Susanna has a significant background in humanitarian coordination, having led multi-country inter-agency projects on localisation, child protection mainstreaming and integration, and served as a response level coordinator for the child protection sector in both refugee and cluster settings. Other areas of technical expertise include refugee child protection, sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response, humanitarian standards, case management, and child protection mainstreaming. Susanna is a passionate advocate for children’s rights and protection, combining her depth of technical knowledge with a desire to learn, grow and work collaboratively

towards solutions for children. She holds a MSc in Social Work from Columbia University and a BA in International Affairs from George Washington University.

**Tasha Gill, Senior Advisor for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF**

Tasha Gill is the Senior Advisor, Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, at UNICEF Headquarters, and Co-Lead of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. She has over 20 years of experience as a child protection and humanitarian action expert for UNICEF, Non-Governmental Organizations, and the U.S. Government. Prior to her current role, Tasha Gill was a Humanitarian Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, where she focused on humanitarian crises in Africa and peacekeeping. Tasha has worked in numerous humanitarian responses. She served as Country Director of the International Rescue Committee in Mali and a Child Protection Specialist for UNICEF Country Offices in Uganda, Nepal, Madagascar, and Democratic Republic of Congo. She holds a Master’s Degree from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York.

## U-Z

### **Viktorija, Child Facilitator**

Viktorija is a Ukrainian 15-year-old girl from Donetsk (East Ukraine). She has been facing war since 2014, the year in which she was displaced with her family to Bakhmut. Due to the Russian full-scale invasion, in April 2022 she was displaced once more and forced to move in Kyiv region. Thanks to the program «Support for Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine», implemented by the NGO Girls and World Vision, she received the needed support and regained her confidence, while enthusiastically participating and contributing to the program’s activities. Viktorija participated in the virtual Alliance for CPHA Annual Meeting in 2023 and shared in this forum her personal experience of displacement and the positive coping mechanism she learnt to put in place to manage her stress and negative feelings. She is interested in human rights and protection and aspires to complete her university studies in International Relations to become a future diplomat. Currently, Viktorija is a volunteer of the charity foundation “Svidoma Ukraina (Conscious Ukraine)” and supports in organizing events and recreational holidays for other children. She also tutors her peers in learning and improving their English knowledge.

### **Yvonne Agengo, Global Practice Lead for Child Protection, International Rescue Committee (IRC)**

Yvonne represents IRC as a Steering Committee member in the Alliance for Child Protection in humanitarian settings. At the IRC, Yvonne provides Child Protection evidence and programmatic direction and technical oversight for IRC globally. Yvonne has worked in Child Protection across development and humanitarian settings in East and Central Africa, Middle East, and Asia. She is keen to see translation of evidence into practice and solutions that drive protection outcomes for children. Before joining the IRC, Yvonne worked with and collaborated with different organisations including Save the Children, UNHCR and World Vision. Her academic background is in Anthropology, and she has a Master’s degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford. She is based in Geneva.

## SPEAKERS:

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### A-E

#### **Ana Carolina Fonseca, Programme Officer – Education and Child Protection, UNICEF**

Master in Communication and Contemporary Sociability. Specialist in Development, Management, and Evaluation of Social Projects in Urban Areas. Bachelor in Social Communication/Journalism. With more than 15 years of experience in the field of children's and adolescents' rights, working in communication activities, project management, and monitoring of budgets and public policies. At UNICEF, worked for three years as an adolescent development and participation officer at the Rio de Janeiro office. Since 2020, works as program officer for education and child protection at the Brazil Country Office in Brasília. Leads the Education that Protects against Violence strategy and is the focal point for gender-based violence. On the armed violence agenda, led the participation of adolescents in the development and evaluation of the strategies of violence prevention and response in Rio de Janeiro. Currently, leading a study on violent lethality and another on the impact of armed violence on education, both in partnership with civil society organizations in Brazil.

#### **Amelie Hollebecque Gnanou, Save the Children**

Amelie holds a Master's degree in International Relations. She is a child protection expert with more than 20 years' experience working with international organisations in the development and humanitarian sectors. Before joining Save the Children, Amelie worked with Plan International, United Nations Association International Service, WaterAid in various managerial positions. She joined Save the Children Finland in February 2014 as Child Protection Advisor supporting the WCA region. At SCF, she strengthened the child protection portfolio, advanced integrated quality programming, and led innovative child participation initiatives. Throughout her career she has been particularly involved in capacity building and integrated programmes at all levels, enhancing endogenous solutions. Based in Burkina Faso, Amelie is extremely committed to WCA and in advancing children's rights in the region.

#### **Azucena Márquez Pérez (17), Child Speaker from ChildFund Mexico, ChildFund Alliance**

Azucena is a young indigenous woman who is 17 years old. She is a speaker of the Tutunaku language, and has values and principles instilled by her grandparents, with the grand cosmovision that identifies native indigenous people. She is interested in improving the

world, without losing the essence of the cultural biodiversity of native peoples, to revive, preserve and disseminate the practices and customs that are currently becoming extinct. She has participated in the national workshop “The Role of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples in the Implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”, as the youngest participant and the only representative from the state of Puebla. She participates in a programme called "My Voice Demands" organized by a civil society organization called NIÑOS TONACOS A.C., promoting the rights of children and adolescents, their empowerment and the 2023 agenda. She speaks about the results of work carried out by NIÑOS TONACOS A.C on the TZINAKA radio. She is passionate about issues related to the care and preservation of the environment, revival and conservation of customs and traditions, especially the Tutunaku indigenous language, the protection and guarantee of the rights of children and young people. She is also an advocate for a life free of violence, contributing a grain of sand to each issue.

#### **Brenda Yaneth Menjivar Urrutia, Researcher, World Vision**

Brenda graduated from the University of El Salvador in 2020, specializing as a social researcher, addressing topics such as: The privatization of water in 2018, the sustainable management of communal water boards in 2019, the violence that was experienced in Salvadoran households in pandemic contexts in 2021. Since 2020 Brenda began working in psychosocial care for children, adolescents, and their families in situations of vulnerability, migration, and return. Brenda has worked with girls, boys, adolescents, families, and their communities in institutions such as: Fundación Redentor, Fe y Alegría, Training and Research Association for Mental Health ACISAM and is currently working for World Vision, continuing with the focus

of serving the most vulnerable populations in El Salvador and with more reason, in a context of economic, political, social, housing, employment, among others, crisis.

#### **Cecilia Ortiz, Project Manager for Safe Passage Project, ChildFund International Mexico Country Office**

Ms. Ortiz is currently the leader of ChildFund’s Safe Passage program in Mexico has nine years’ experience in the implementation of humanitarian response projects. Ms. Ortiz holds a Degree in Communications.

#### **Caroline Bryan, RET International, Psychosocial Case Management Officer**

Caroline Bryan was born in Panama, a General Psychologist by profession with more than 8 years of experience working from different areas of intervention for the promotion of mental health; mainly, focused on the study of emotional and cognitive development in childhood and adolescence; developing in different areas such as Learning Disorders, Assessment and Intervention, Vi, ABA Method, Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Family Violence and Gender. She currently works as a Psychosocial Case Management Officer for the RET International Organization, in the identification, care and referral of situations of unaccompanied or separated migrant children, who enter through the Darién, in the mixed migratory flow. Among the qualities that distinguish her are her ability to communicate assertively, based on mutual respect and the search for a balance between her own needs and those of others; as well as their integrity and work ethic that demonstrate their commitment to honesty and fairness by encouraging collaboration and teamwork, demonstrating management and leadership skills.

Among her favorite activities are exploring and getting to know new places, immersing herself in an intriguing novel with a cup of black coffee, gardening and above all, listening to her daughter talk non-stop.

**Daniela Esguerra Suárez, Head of Advocacy, World Vision International (Colombia)**

Daniela is a political scientist, who specialized in Feminist and Gender Studies at the National University of Colombia. In her current role with World Vision, she works on protection and gender issues in the humanitarian response. Her approach is to develop strategies for migrant, refugee and host populations to access or restore their rights, with emphasis on the most vulnerable children. Daniela has also worked at the district / community level with conflict-affected populations, and with peasant organizations on human rights defence.

**Debla Lopez, Regional Gender and GBV Emergency and Migration Specialist, UNICEF**

Debla Lopez Mendoza is a dedicated advocate for gender equality and Gender-based violence (GBV), with extensive experience in emergency response and migration contexts. Currently serving as a Regional Gender Advisor (OIC), she has been working for 5 years as a Regional Gender and GBV Emergency and Migration Specialist at UNICEF, Debla plays a pivotal role in supporting country offices in fulfilling gender and GBV commitments in humanitarian response. In her role, Debla provides technical support and assistance to country offices on emergency response programs and projects, ensuring the integration of gender analysis and GBV considerations into strategic documents and operational plans. She actively participates in inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, representing UNICEF and

advocating for gender and GBV issues. Moreover, Debla mobilises resources and provides technical input on gender components in funding proposals to support initiatives and programs addressing GBV. Prior to her current role, Debla served as the Regional GBV Coordinator at the UNFPA - Regional Interagency Platform to respond to mixed flow migration from Venezuela. In this capacity, she coordinated and facilitated the development and implementation of regional strategies to respond to sexual violence and other forms of GBV, while providing technical guidance to national coordination platforms. Debla's commitment to gender equality and GBV prevention is evident throughout her career, including her roles as a Gender Based Violence Consultant for L'Hospitalet de Llobregat Municipality and a Gender and Learning Consultant for Oxfam Intermón. In these positions, she conducted assessments, raised awareness, and developed prevention strategies to address sexual violence in various contexts. With her wealth of experience and expertise, Debla Lopez Mendoza continues to make significant contributions to advancing gender equality, protecting the rights of women and girls, and ensuring a more inclusive and equitable response to emergencies and migration challenges.

**Deborah Esther Grajzer, Doctor in Education and Human Rights Specialist, Member of the Research Group on Human Rights and Vulnerability at UNISANTOS, Brazil**

Deborah Grajzer is a doctor and holds a Master's in Education with the Universidad Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC). Holding a degree in International Relations and Pedagogics, she specializes in human rights and she has been investigating children migration and children's rights since 2015. Dr. Grajzer worked as a teacher in the public education system and has worked in protection for

international organizations such as the IOM and UNICEF, as well as civil society organizations. She worked for two years with the migration Venezuelan response unit in Roraima, as a project manager for the protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in AVSI Brazil and as a project assistant at the IOM.

### **Decireth Moya, La Guajira Regional Coordinator, the Renacer Foundation**

Decireth Johana Moya Gutiérrez is a psychologist graduated from Universidad Simón Bolívar of Barranquilla, with a master's degree in Families and Family Intervention from Universidad de la Guajira. She currently serves as the La Guajira Regional Coordinator of the Renacer Foundation, with 5 years of experience in active search processes for children and adolescents who are victims or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. She has participated in the development of diagnoses and analysis of the impact of sexual violence against children and adolescents in the context of the migration crisis of Venezuelan nationals to Colombia, especially in the municipalities of Maicao and Riohacha, near the border crossing located in the Colombian department of La Guajira. For the past two years, she has been involved in processes of comprehensive care for women survivors of gender-based violence in the “Casa Segura” program implemented by the Renacer Foundation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Moya, on behalf of Renacer - EPCAT Colombia, serves as co-leader of the Gender-Based Violence group of the Interagency Group on Mixed Migratory Flows (GIFMM) in Guajira.

### **Diohema Anlleu, Fundación Juconi México, Advocacy Director**

Diohema Anlleu is a feminist and human rights defender specializing in Latin American issues, focusing on the most pressing problems facing the region. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, and a Master's degree in Psychology, and is certified by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in strategic litigation in the field of human rights of children and adolescents. With 15 years of experience in political and social advocacy, coordination of social projects at the regional level, human rights campaigns, and strategic alliances. For the social agenda of children and young people. I have extensive experience in coordinating multidisciplinary and multicultural groups at a distance, the ability to negotiate with different stakeholders or social actors, and to give attention to issues simultaneously. I can speak and act on issues related to Human Rights and the social impact on children and youth.

### **Emily Galloway, Senior Technical Advisor (Protection), Global Communities**

Emily is a Senior Technical Advisor specializing in Protection at Global Communities (GC), with whom she has worked for the past 9 years in humanitarian response. Her experience spans over 13 years in various roles, including with the United Nations and NGOs, both in global and country teams. She is committed to improving the safety and well-being of at-risk individuals and communities who have been affected by disasters and crises. In her current role, Emily is responsible for providing technical guidance and surge support to Protection projects, including in Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence. She also leads GC's Safe & Accountable Programming

strategy, which aims to ensure that our Humanitarian Assistance projects around the world are accountable to and protect the safety and dignity of crisis-affected individuals and communities. This includes ensuring that components such as Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Accountability to Affected Populations, and Do No Harm are integrated into every project. Prior to this role, Emily served with GC as Senior Protection Manager for Protection programming in Syria and as Humanitarian Officer to support implementation of a variety of GC's humanitarian projects. In addition to her roles with Global Communities, Emily has worked for the International Labour Organization to research and implement projects aimed at addressing Child Labor, including work with children formerly associated with armed groups in Somalia. She has also supported refugees newly resettled in the U.S. in a variety of capacities. Emily holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis and a Masters of Peace & Conflict Studies from the University of St. Andrews.

## F-J

### **Fernando Antunez**

Fernando Antunez, MSW has multilevel professional experience in community mental health, program development for system-impacted latine youth, and qualitative research design.

### **Francesco Cecon, Head of Global Boys Initiative, ECPAT International**

Francesco Cecon is the Head of the [Global Boys Initiative](#) at ECPAT International and leads the programme design and implementation with members and partners since May 2022. Previously, he worked for several years with Save the Children as a Child Protection Advisor across West Africa, Europe and Central America in both development and humanitarian contexts, focusing on case management services for child survivors of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking, along with psychosocial support interventions. Francesco holds a Master's degree from the University of Warwick and can be reached at: [francescoc@ecpat.org](mailto:francescoc@ecpat.org).

### **Francisca Cruz Encino, Legal Services for Children**

Immigrated unaccompanied at 14 years old to the United States from Chiapas, Mexico, and native to the Mayan language, Tzaltal, Francisca made her dreams of academic pursuit a reality in the U.S. by becoming one of the first women in her family to graduate high school, and the first in her family to earn a collegiate degree. At 14 years old, she worked diligently to graduate from San Francisco International High School in 2019, to then strive for her Bachelor of Sociology at San Francisco State University in 2023. During her time in the United States, Francisca has participated in several programs which focus on supporting immigrant youth. This included 'Photovoice', where she worked with Legal Services for Children (LSC) to participate as a researcher in 2020, and then as a lead researcher in 2022. From her previous work at LSC, she has progressed to working as a Paraprofessional at her former high school, SFIHS, where she advocates for students with special needs, inspiring the



youth of her community to plan and dream of brighter futures for themselves.

### **Haley Sands, Foreign Affairs Officer – PRM’s Policy Resource and Planning Team**

Haley joined the U.S. Department of State in 2014 in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) for six years. During that time, she covered and traveled to over thirty-six countries in Africa and Europe. She then served as Political Officer at Embassy Niamey in Niger for three years before joining PRM’s policy team covering Child Protection, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Human Trafficking. Prior to joining the State Department, Haley lived in South Sudan for three years where she worked for a national NGO working to provide protective services for child survivors of human trafficking. Originally from Ohio, she studied and completed both of her degrees in London, most recently her master’s in international human Rights Law at the London School of Economics.

### **Hector Saul Hernandez, Child Protection Associate, UNHCR Honduras**

Saul Hernandez was born in the city of San Pedro Sula, Honduras. He has a degree in International Relations from the Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana (UNITEC) and a Masters in International Cooperation for Development from the University of Zaragoza, Spain. For more than 5 years I have held different positions and functions within the humanitarian world and International Cooperation in institutions and organizations such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras and USAID in Honduras. Along with my work experience, I have been a volunteer

in Techo Honduras and Rotaract Honduras in different activities at a national level. Since 2021, I have been working as a Child Protection Associate in the Childhood, Gender Violence and Community Protection Unit at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) located in the Country Office in Tegucigalpa Honduras, allowing me to develop and be the focal point for children's activities at the national level.

### **Jelena Petrovic, Program Manager, IRC Serbia**

Jelena brings over 15 years of dedicated experience to child protection and education initiatives, with a master’s degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Belgrade, Serbia, coupled with expertise in safeguarding children’s rights and well-being. Currently serving as a Program Manager with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Serbia, Jelena oversees a diverse range of projects spanning the Balkans and neighbouring countries focused on addressing critical issues such as child protection, education, socio-economic empowerment, psycho-social support, and social inclusion for vulnerable children and families in the refugee context. Prior to joining IRC, Jelena held significant positions at local child-oriented NGOs, where she led multifaceted projects aimed at positive parenting, combating discrimination against Roma children, preventing child marriages and human trafficking, and promoting child-friendly justice. She developed innovative methodologies for working with children, conducted educational workshops, and created scenarios for awareness-raising videos on different child rights issues. Jelena actively engaged with professionals from the social protection system and schools, advocating for positive changes and fostering collaboration for improved outcomes. She also supports the development and planning of child protection and

education-related program activities, supervising their implementation to ensure alignment with child protection standards, such as Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), and IRC-owned Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (SHLS), and Healing Classroom (HC) methodologies, while providing trainings for professionals working with children on child protection in emergencies and related IRC methodologies, and overseeing the planning and implementation of prevention and response activities for children and their families.

### **Jennifer Michelle Cartagena Enamorado, Casa Alianza, Honduras**

I was born in San Pedro Sula, Cortés (Honduras), I am 29 years old. In 2011 I graduated from the Bachelor of Science and Literature at the Catholic School Sampedrano, then in 2016 I got a degree in psychology and in 2019 a master's degree in social psychology at the Catholic University of Honduras. I got my first job in 2019 as a Polygraph technician, which consisted of conducting polygraph tests to people who were applying for a job in order to measure the reliability, ending in 2021. Then I started working in September 2021 in Casa Alianza Honduras as a psychologist, and in 2023 I was promoted to the position of Coordinator of the Family Reintegration Program in the northern zone.

### **Jessica Stuart-Clark, Child Protection Officer, UNHCR Division of International Protection (DIP), Headquarters**

Jessica Stuart-Clark is a South African international humanitarian aid worker, based in Cape Town. She is a Child Protection Officer with UNHCR Headquarters, in the Division of International Protection. Jessica has 10+ years' experience working in development and then conflict and forcible displacement settings, with experience in

International Protection, Community-based Protection, Gender-based Violence and Child Protection. She is specialised in Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Best Interest Procedure and inter-agency child protection case management, with a focus on information management for case management, data analysis and capacity strengthening. Jessica is particularly interested in putting technology and data to work, to enhance service delivery for children at heightened risk.

### **Juan Carlos López Discua, Fostering Hope Project Coordinator and Safeguarding Support, World Vision Honduras**

Juan Carlos López Discua is a human rights advocate for vulnerable groups (focused on children). He has over 20 years of experience organizing and leading citizen platforms for development; organizing and advising interinstitutional and multidisciplinary networks and directing social volunteering processes. These include legal counseling and free representation for people with low financial resources. He is currently responsible for the programming and financial implementation of the Fostering Hope project from World Vision Honduras in the Sula Valley. This focusses on the protection and assurance of children's rights, especially those vulnerable to violence and forced displacement acting as a link to law enforcement. As safeguarding focal point, he contributes to the implementation of safeguarding policy, protocols and child protection standards in Honduras in each intervention.

### **Juan José Castellanos Piedrahita, Program Manager, War Child Alliance, Colombia**

Juan José is the Program Manager at War Child Alliance Colombia Office. He joined the organisation in 2020 and has an extensive

background in community level child protection and mental health and psychosocial support programming. In Colombia the War Child Alliance has been working closely with communities and local led civil society in child protection programming to strengthen community mechanisms for child protection in connection with the formal protection system. Juan José has been leading child protection programs in conflict affected settings with a special focus on the prevention of child recruitment and use by armed forces and armed groups. Since 2021 he has been involved in a community of practice along with other INGOs and academics that promotes community led child protection and has been working on understanding how this approach can promote community ownership and sustained change. Juan José also has been working on integrated programming and focusing on supporting building qualitative and quantitative evidence around the effectiveness of community led approaches for Child Protection as part of the research agenda led by the War Child Alliance. Juan José is currently pursuing a master's in interdisciplinary studies of development in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Development, at Universidad de los Andes, Colombia; and has earned a major in Psychology from Universidad de los Andes.

## K-O

### **Katie Robertson, Learning and Development Working Group Co-lead, the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**

Katie Robertson is a humanitarian learning and development specialist, with more than 12 years' experience designing and delivering capacity strengthening interventions and programmes for

humanitarian actors. She has designed learning interventions for a wide range of humanitarian audiences and organisations and led RedR International's capacity strengthening responses to the Nepal Earthquake, Typhoon Haiyan, and West Africa Ebola outbreak. Katie has co-led the Learning and Development Working Group at the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action since late 2020, during which time she has focused on increasing the application of adult learning theory and competency-based learning approaches in the work of the Alliance, its working groups, task forces and initiatives.

### **Karen Gonzalez, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF – Nicaragua**

Karen Gonzalez Garcia, has a Master's degree in Public Policy, specialising in family law and migration, and is currently a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Nicaragua. She has more than 15 years of experience working within the Child Protection system and has been a member of the legislative commissions drafting the Laws against Trafficking in Persons and the Family Code to incorporate the prohibition of physical punishment, has worked with networks of adolescents and young people in the prevention of sexual violence and with adolescents assisted by the adolescent criminal justice system for social reintegration in her country and in Central America. She has more than 10 years of experience in working with children, adolescents and families in emergency contexts, direct attention in shelters and development of strategic plans for community returns, as well as being a focal point for prevention policies against sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as ethics in her organisation.

### **Karla Gallo Campos, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Mexico**

Karla Iréndira Gallo Campos is a lawyer with 30 years of experience specializing in public international law, children's rights, gender equality, and migration. Holding a Master's degree in Ibero-American Higher Studies with a focus on economic management and development planning from the Complutense University of Madrid, she has experience in legislative reforms, public policy, research, and project implementation within Mexican public institutions and international bodies. Karla has held positions such as Director of the Law Program at the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE) in Mexico and Associate Researcher in the Legal Studies Division of the same academic institution. Her dedication to the field has led her to contribute significantly through publications on children on the move, children's access to justice, gender-focused justice, and international mechanisms for human rights. Her international engagements include presenting and facilitating discussions at global meetings on children on the move in countries such as the Philippines, Egypt, and Turkey. She played a role in designing UNICEF's Children on the Move (ChoM) strategy at UNICEF headquarters in New York. She supported the CoM national program design during a stay in South Africa. Nowadays, she is a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Mexico, serving as the focal point for climate change and children's rights. She also contributes to the Global Practice Group on Migration, bringing together experts in migration and childhood issues.

### **Laura Vanessa Dorado Jimenez, Profesional Technical Project Manager, Aldeas Infantiles SOS Colombia**

As a lawyer specialized in social management, Ms. Dorado has a distinguished career in the protection of rights, particularly in the areas of migration and international protection. Currently holding a key role as technical project manager for SOS Children's Villages Colombia, she leads initiatives focused on child protection and the implementation of social projects that seek to improve the access to rights and basic services for vulnerable populations. She has worked at SOS Children's Villages Colombia since 2017, performing different roles and duties. Her highlights include leading case management and project coordination. Her experience extends from migration regulation to children's rights protection. Her participation in developing and carrying out specific programs for children at risk deserves special mention. She complemented her professional training with diplomas and specialized training in Protection of Rights in Mixed Migration Contexts and Child Protection. Her leading skills, team-work ethic, and adaptability make her a goal-oriented proactive professional who aims to achieve relevant results in the social field.

### **Lauren Bienkowski, Global Help Desk, Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR)**

Lauren Bienkowski is currently the Global Help Desk with the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility (led by UNICEF) and works closely with a team of three other Help Desks to provide rapid, on-demand technical support to child protection coordination groups across more than 40 humanitarian contexts. Lauren previously worked in Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, Thailand, and Liberia with

international NGOs and UNICEF, focusing on both child protection and gender-based violence (GBV), and also supported several other country programs across East Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia in a previous role as technical advisor for GBV and child protection programming. Lauren has a Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health from Tulane University and practiced social work in the United States before shifting to humanitarian assistance in 2006.

**Leisha Anne Beardmore, Senior Advisor, Gender-based Violence and Project and Technical Lead, PRISM: Supporting LGBTQI+ Children and Families in Humanitarian Settings through CP Case Management, Save the Children**

Leisha Beardmore (she/they) is the project and technical lead for the PRISM project at Save the Children. This inter-agency project is focused on supporting LGBTQI+ children and families in humanitarian settings in child protection case management (CP) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Leisha has 15 years' experience in humanitarian contexts, including Afghanistan, NE Syria/ Iraq Crossborder, Haiti, and Greece. Their work has focused on CP, gender-based violence (GBV) and MHPSS, including with LGBTQI+ children, adolescents, and adults. They have masters' level education in clinical psychology, politics and international affairs and law from Columbia University, Harvard University and London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Outside of Save the Children, they are a Research Fellow at the Stanford University Program in Human Rights and Trauma in Mental Health Program and co-facilitate a psychotherapy group for asylee survivors of torture who identify as LGBTQI+ in New York City.

**Lucero Nieto, Local Coordinator for the City of Juárez, Plan International Mexico**

Lucero holds a master in public administration in the process of graduating from the Universidad del Valle de México and graduate in Law from the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez with Diplomas in Public Policies from the Autonomous University of Chihuahua and the National Autonomous University of Mexico, as well as a diploma in Senior management in public administration from the Centre for Economic Research and Teaching. She is also a Delegate in Juárez of the Chihuahuense Youth Institute from 2016 to 2018 and general director of the same institute until 2021. She has been a speaker at the national meeting of strategic allies of the United Nations Population Fund in Mexico (UNFPA) at the youth table in 2019 and promoted the creation of the Social Public Expenditure Report on Adolescence and Youth in the State of Chihuahua: 2010 -2018 with this same agency, as well as the Police Action Protocol for adolescents in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua with civil society organisations in 2020. During her time in public service, she designed public policies focused on the decentralisation of services to guarantee free access and to improve the mental health of youth, which have transcended the change of administrations in the state of Chihuahua. She is currently the local coordinator of Plan International in the city of Juárez.

**Marco Grazia, Global Director Child Protection and Education in Emergencies, World Vision**

Marco Grazia is the Global Director of World Vision International's Technical Unit for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and Education in Emergencies, which is part of WVI's Global Rapid Response Team. Marco's team ensures that WVI disaster responses

in the two sectors are timely, effective, and appropriate, ensuring surge capacity to Global Emergency responses and supporting National and Regional offices responding to national emergencies.

Marco Grazia represents WVI in several fora and networks:

- Co-leads on behalf of WVI with UNICEF the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action
- Member of the Working Group of Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies,
- The Strategic Advisory Group of the Global Education Cluster (co-leading with Plan International the Global Cash and Voucher Task Team for Education in Emergencies)
- The Strategic Advisory Group of the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility

Prior to his work with World Vision, Marco Grazia managed and supervised complex education and child protection programs in emergency settings, early reconstruction phases and in developing contexts in Middle East (West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan), Sub-Saharan Africa (Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi) and the Balkans (Kosovo) for various NGOs and for the Italian Governmental Aid Agency, also covering the role of Education cluster coordinator. Before his international work Marco had a career as social worker for case management of children in conflict with the law.

### **María Cecilia Dedios, Associate Professor, School of Government Universidad de los Andes**

María Cecilia Dedios, PhD. is a social psychologist and associate professor at Los Andes University School of Government in Colombia. Her research focuses on the impact of social vulnerability on interpersonal violence and mental health outcomes. Dr. Dedios works

mostly with young people in post conflict and humanitarian settings, employing qualitative and participatory methods.

### **María Daniela Añez Valentinez, Child Protection Manager, International Rescue Committee (Venezuela)**

María Daniela Añez is currently Protection Manager for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) based in Venezuela. In her current position, María Daniela is in charge of working on the projects that the IRC implements through its partners, in the women and child protection components, specifically in the border states of the country, with a response focus on emergency aimed at local and mobile populations. María Daniela has focused her work on responding to the complex humanitarian crisis that Venezuela has experienced, and her experience includes other functions in child protection in international and local organizations. She has also developed work in strengthening local organizations, and other IRC teams in the response in Central America, with training processes in the sector and transfer of methodologies and experiences that were adapted to the Venezuelan context. María Daniela's academic qualifications include a Master's Degree in Social Sciences and Social Intervention from the Pablo de Olavide University of Seville-Spain and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from the Central University of Venezuela.

### **Maria Isabel Remolina, Protection Associate, UNHCR Mexico**

María Isabel Remolina is Protection Associate in UNHCR Mexico, serving as national focal point for child protection. She has over ten years of experience working on forced migration with a focus on

refugee child protection since 2015. She is currently responsible for coordinating UNHCR's child protection strategy across the country, overseeing the provision of technical assistance for government counterparts and other humanitarian actors, with a focus on inclusive child protection systems and best interest procedures for refugee children. She holds a degree in International Relations, specializing in forced migration.

### **María Landazuri, Project Coordinator for Lives in Dignity Project, ChildFund International Ecuador Country Office**

Maria is a dedicated humanitarian professional with over a decade of experience in the private non-profit sector, specializing in human mobility, particularly focusing on migrant women and workers. Recognized for her action-oriented approach, teamwork skills, adaptability, creativity, trustworthiness, and rapid learning abilities. She excels in humanitarian work, policy development, and international cooperation, demonstrating a strong commitment to enhancing the well-being of vulnerable populations, and unwavering dedication to uplifting marginalized communities. Maria holds a Master's Degree in Public and Social Policies, a Diploma in Management Skills and Competencies, and recently obtained certification as an Online Teacher. Currently serving as the Lives in Dignity – ChildFund Project Coordinator, Maria leads economic integration, educational inclusion, and protection initiatives for displaced individuals in Cuenca and Guayaquil, Ecuador. She also acts as the focal point for the Humanitarian Pathway expansion strategy with Colombia and as a Human Mobility Specialist, overseeing NOFO proposals, international cooperation projects, and collaborations with UN agencies and NGOs. Maria's most intriguing experience lies in her role as an Ecuadorian Diplomat at Foreign Affairs Ecuador

Secretary, where she managed migrant and refugee services, spearheaded protection mechanisms development, and coordinated governmental investment projects for the public sector from 2010 to 2018. She served as the official delegate for the National Commission of Migration, conducted consular officials training, and fostered relations with stakeholders and international cooperation entities. Her comprehensive expertise and leadership in managing migrant and refugee services and developing protection mechanisms highlight her invaluable contributions to humanitarian efforts.

### **Maria Vargas Simojoki, Protection, Gender, and Education in Emergencies Expert, ECHO**

Ms. Vargas Simojoki joined DG ECHO in 2016 as Protection Technical Expert for the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Since then, she has occupied protection and gender roles with DG ECHO in the Middle East and East Africa, before now once again returning to Latin America. As the regional Protection, Gender and Education in Emergencies Expert, Ms. Vargas Simojoki ensures the policy coherence for protection and gender actions across Latin America and the Caribbean. Ms. Vargas Simojoki also leads on specific global thematic files within DG ECHO – including child protection and children in armed conflict; as well as forced displacement and mixed migration. Previously, she worked with several NGOs and UN agencies in South Sudan, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Lebanon and Turkey. Ms. Vargas Simojoki holds a double MA in Social Sciences (International Development Studies and Sociology of Religion) from Roskilde University, Denmark, and Copenhagen University, Denmark.

### **Marina Berbiec, Global Roving Gender and GBV Specialist, Global Education Cluster**

Marina is a Protection, Gender and GBViE Specialist with 10 years of experience at field and global level with INGOs and the UN in emergency and complex protracted humanitarian crises such as Iraq and Northeast Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Ukraine, CAR, Chad and Mali, Cox's Bazaar and Haiti. She currently works with the Global Education Cluster (GEC) as Global Roving Gender and GBV Specialist, where she advocates for enhanced intersectoral collaboration between Education Clusters and Child Protection and GBV AoRs to reduce barriers and risks faced by girls in boys and support safe, inclusive and gender-transformative education in emergencies.

### **Marianela Fuertes, Deputy Director, Policy, and Partnerships for Latino America Center of Excellence, The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security**

Marianela Fuertes is a human rights lawyer. She began her career in Colombia working with the PUND (United Nations Development Program) working in the Peace Process that the government had with M19 (1990), then worked for the Assembly that wrote the new constitution (1991) in the process to advocate to create the Human Rights Commission (Colombia), where she worked for seven years being part to the team that develop human rights doctrine, implementation of the international instruments, knowledge dissemination and trainings for Colombian security forces and for the civil society. She was a law professor at the Colombian National University for 12 years teaching human rights and constitutional theory. In 2000, Marianela was named an associate justice of the Constitutional Court of Colombia. More recently, Marianela worked for eight years as a restorative justice case worker for the Youth Court

in Halifax NS, consulted for the UN High Commission of Human Rights in Colombia in projects relative with an index of international instruments and the implementation in Colombia. Also, she worked as a research analyst in Guatemala in a project about the constitutional law and the impeachment in Latino America and its potential to fight against corruption. Currently she works at Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security, Dalhousie University as Deputy Director, Policy, and Partnerships for Latino America Center of Excellence. Currently she teaches at Mount Saint Vincent University the course Roots of Peace and Conflict and the course Conflict Management and Mediation. Throughout her career, Marianela has authored two books on constitutional law and human rights and has contributed to various publications.

### **Martha Keays, Regional Director Americas, IFRC**

Martha Keays has worked with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for over three decades in various capacities, including managing complex emergencies and large-scale operations in Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America. Martha began her career with the American Red Cross as a volunteer. She went on to manage cross-border programmes in partnership with the Mexican Red Cross before joining the IFRC in 1993 as the regional disaster management delegate in Nairobi. After heading the IFRC Regional Delegations in Guatemala and Fiji, she served as Senior Advisor to the IFRC Secretary General in Geneva before returning to the American Red Cross as their Regional Representative in East Africa. Martha has also previously worked as US Peace Corps Country Director in Guatemala, Kenya and Colombia, as well as heading a US-funded development cooperation programme in El Salvador.



**Martín Peña Segovia, Humanitarian Action Coordinator,  
Educo Office in El Salvador**

A social worker with over 15 years of work experience in humanitarian action in the North of Central America, Mr. Peña's work has primarily been focused in processes of disaster risk reduction, as well as preparedness actions adapting to climate change. Over the last decade he has worked with vulnerable groups in crisis situations. These are primarily children, adolescents, women and families in forced displacement and/or irregular migration settings. This extensive experience has allowed him to counsel interinstitutional processes to inform protocols, road maps, and protection and inclusion strategies with human mobility groups.

**Dr. Mercy Oke-Chinda, Lecturer, University of Port Harcourt**

Mercy is a Lecturer at the Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She obtained a PhD in Law at the University of Manchester and a Master of Laws degree from Queen Mary University of London. Mercy also has a Bachelor of Laws degree from Rivers State University, Nigeria. She is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. In addition to her Law degrees she has a Bachelors, Master of Arts and Doctoral degrees in English studies (Literature option). Mercy has a Post graduate degree in Mass Communication and worked as a journalist for 16 years. She is a member of various professional bodies and has been involved in women's rights advocacy for over a decade. Mercy has to her credit academic papers published in national and international journals of law and related fields.

**Merenys Julieth Cantero Moya, Community Coach Officer,  
War Child Alliance, Colombia, La Guajira**

Merenys began her work in 2019 at War Child Alliance, Colombia office as a local facilitator in La Guajira of the evidence-based methodology of psychosocial support for girls, boys, and young people TeamUp. In 2020 she assumes a position as project officer in Uribia, La Guajira for the strengthening of child protection, education and well-being of children and adolescents in the Airport Settlement, inhabited mainly by Venezuelan migrants. She is currently a community accompaniment officer in Riohacha, La Guajira and continues to accompany migrant communities in leading processes of social change associated with child protection and the integration of the migrant community through her expertise as a community accompaniment, which allows her to promote building trust and guaranteeing the right to participation of communities in humanitarian action. Merenys is originally from Guajira, which has allowed her to create a feeling of trust, participation, and social fabric in the communities; Knowing the dynamics that develop in the territory creates the opportunity for the population to intervene to easily link to community processes, take ownership of the problems and establish strategies to solve them jointly, strengthening the dynamics of their day-to-day life within community. Merenys highlights the importance of community led work for communities. Recognizes that assuming the role of directing and guiding methodologies driven by the community awakens the human and social feeling of what is perceived with each population, added to this, recognition, support, and participation is achieved for working together, generating learning. reciprocally between communities and organisations.

### **Miguel Ángel López**

Defender of the human rights of children and adolescents, trained as a psychologist and vocational school counsellor, graduated from the University of San Carlos de Guatemala. With thirty years of professional experience in the area of political advocacy, university teaching, community and political psychology. Community and Political Psychology, focused on processes of protection and restitution of the rights of children and adolescents in conditions of vulnerability. Promoter of inter-institutional articulation and coordination. Since 1997 member of the National Association Against Child Abuse -CONACMI- and since 2010 Executive Director, former President of the Board of Directors of the National Commission for Children and Adolescents -CNNA- in Guatemala and member of the Global Network Family For Every Child.

### **Mónica Cervantes Díaz, Senior Leader in Migration and Internal Displacement, Save the Children Mexico**

Mónica Cervantes Díaz holds a degree in International Relations obtained from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. She has a postgraduate in International Migration and a Master's degree in International Migration Studies from the Colegio de la Frontera Norte de Tijuana, Baja California. Over the course of her career, she has worked in the humanitarian field, collaborating with different non-governmental organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières and Save the Children Mexico. She has provided direct support to the implementation of nationwide projects in migration and displacement contexts along the North and South Mexico borders. Since 2022, she has worked as a Leader in Migration and Internal Displacement at Save the Children Mexico.

### **Nuria Elkout, Senior Policy Advisor, Peace Operations Policy and Deployments (IRP)**

Nuria Elkout is the Senior Policy Advisor for Children and Armed Conflict at Global Affairs Canada. She leads Global Affairs Canada's working group on CAAC that involves individuals in various streams, to help facilitate communication, dialogue, and cooperation across the HDP nexus in the department. Nuria also leads the department's efforts on Children Born of Conflict Related Sexual Violence. Previously, Nuria was the Child Protection Policy Advisor for the department.

### **Oliver Castañeda, Chief of the Federal Child Protection Authority of Mexico**

Oliver holds a Master degree in Law from the Law School of the National University of Mexico (UNAM). Oliver has worked in various areas of public administration such as environmental policy, governance, economic and social development, and administrative modernization. Oliver also has experience in law enforcement, having worked in specialized agencies in children's affairs in the Attorney General's Office of Mexico City. Oliver, also worked at the National Human Rights Commission, where he was in charge of matters related to combating racism and discrimination and served as General Director of the Youth Institute of Mexico City. Oliver currently serves as the Chief of Mexico's Federal Child Protection Authority, where key outcomes have been achieved, such as the consolidation of a national residential care model, the expansion of family-based care alternatives, the first child protection information system and specialized protocols for the legal representation of children. Oliver is also a professor at the National University of Mexico Law School.

### **Oscar Calero, Child Protection Specialist, Plan Peru**

Oscar Calero is an experienced child protection specialist and sociologist with over 20 years of experience in development projects across urban-marginal and rural areas, specialising in addressing abuse and sexual violence cases involving children and adolescents, and strengthening local protection systems. With a decade of expertise in violence prevention, enhancing protection mechanisms, implementing policies, and developing safeguarding mechanisms for children and adolescents involved in programs and projects. Offers advice on the design and implementation of participation projects, accountability processes, and the development of local management. He possesses significant experience as a protection specialist in emergency and humanitarian crises, as well as in humanitarian response management since 2012. Currently, serves as the national technical coordinator for protection and safeguarding, the national safeguarding focal point, and the Child Protection in Emergencies focal point for Plan International in Peru. Additionally, is a member of Plan International's high-level safeguarding group representing the Americas region.

## **P-T**

### **Patricia Cornejo Garcia, Child Protection Expert (Humanitarian coordination, preparedness, and response), UNICEF**

Humanitarian professional with extensive experience in emergency and disaster preparedness and response. She currently works at UNICEF Mexico as a Child Protection Expert (Humanitarian

coordination, preparedness and response), a position from which she contributes to the improvement of the coordination of interagency processes for the protection of children and adolescents in emergencies and in human mobility, highlighting here the leadership of the National Subgroup for the Protection of Children in Human Mobility and the Co-Leadership of the Protection Sector, CP and GBV activated for the recent response to Hurricane Otis. From his position at UNICEF Mexico, she also leads the line of work to strengthen the federal government's emergency and disaster preparedness. Previously, she has worked in Ecuador with UNHCR and HIAS in the emergency protection response due to the humanitarian crisis of the Venezuelan population, with intense work on the Ecuador-Peru border. Also, in Ecuador she has extensive experience working from the government side in comprehensive disaster risk management, having held various positions in the areas of international cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and comprehensive disaster risk management. In this phase of government work, she was able to lead important national preparedness processes as well as lead the coordination for response to multiple emergencies. She has a degree in Economics from the University of Malaga (Spain), a Master's degree in Development Cooperation with a Specialty in Migratory Movements and Co-development from the University of Valencia (Spain) and a Specialisation in Gender and Human Rights from the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, FLACSO (Ecuador headquarters). She is certified by OCHA as a member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC).

### **Patricia Ollé Tejero, Senior UN Programmes and Prevention Advisor, All Survivors Project**

Patricia is Senior UN Programmes and Prevention Advisor at All Survivors Project (ASP). She joined the organisation in 2016 and co-leads ASP's work in Colombia where she directly accompanies male victims/survivors of CRSV, engages with victim/survivor networks, national entities, transitional justice mechanisms and the humanitarian community. In this context, she has conducted research on patterns of CRSV against men and boys, on CRSV against boys in the context of their association with armed forces or armed groups and on barriers faced by male victims/survivors in accessing healthcare and other responses. Patricia has also conducted extensive research on sexual violence against men, boys and/or LGBTI+ people in other situations of conflict and is a member of the South-South Institute on Sexual Violence community. Since 2015 she has also been involved in projects supporting access to health and education for indigenous communities in the rural highlands of Guatemala. Patricia earned her master's degree in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and received a Bachelor in International Relations from Richmond the American International University in London.

### **Rachel McKinney, Team Lead for Thematic Areas, Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies**

Rachel has 20 years of experience leading and supporting education programs in conflict, post-conflict, health, and natural crises settings in Western, Eastern, and Southern Africa; the Balkans; the Caucasus; Southeast Asia; the Middle East; Southern Asia; and North America. Although trained in education, much of her professional work has

focused on the shared space within and between education and child protection. After working with several INGOs and UN Agencies, Rachel joined The Alliance and INEE in 2021 to support the CPHA-EiE Joint Initiative. In this role, Rachel supported a range of work focused on increasing technical guidance, supporting advocacy, and strengthening the value placed on integrated CPHA-EiE programming, including finalizing the *Guidance Note on Supporting Integrated Child Protection and Education Programming in Humanitarian Action* (2022). In June 2022, Rachel transitioned to her current role of INEE's Team Lead for Thematic Areas, a role that includes supporting the continued partnership with The Alliance, along with other cross-cutting thematic issues, levels of learning, and modalities of reaching the most vulnerable learners and educators.

### **Ricardo Andrés Rico Suárez, Projects and Innovation Director, Aldeas Infantiles SOS Colombia**

Mr. Rico's profession is psychology and project management with a traditional and agile approach. Boasting over two decades of experience, he currently serves in the role of Projects and Innovation Director at SOS Children's Villages Colombia. Over the course of his career, he has led relevant initiatives pertaining to social development and child protection, especially in contexts of vulnerability and humanitarian crises. At SOS Children's Villages his professional approach focuses on innovating and improving the support programs and projects for children and youths affected by conflict, migration and loss of parental care, ensuring their well-being and rights. In his previous role as Coordinator of Livelihood Assurance at Save the Children, he implemented projects that supported financial and work inclusion for displaced and vulnerable population. He is renowned for his ability to handle crisis situations with a

humanitarian and strategic approach. His commitment to child protection is illustrated in his involvement in the formulation and execution of projects and proposals for a three-way impact: socially, financially and environmentally. He has led the development of information systems and data analysis to monitor and control programs to improve the living conditions of populations affected by resettlement, displacement and violence. His career path has been enhanced by his dedication to leading skills, strategical planning and teamwork; qualities that are key to take on child protection challenges in crisis and conflict situations.

**Riyad Al Najem, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer,  
Child Guardians (Hurras Network)**

Born in 1991, Riyad Al-Najem discovered his passion for human rights, particularly children's rights, when he volunteered with the Syrian Red Crescent in 2007. Riyad holds a Master's degree in Business Development in NGO settings, and mainly focuses on enhancing management modules for Non-Profit Organisations. Currently, Riyad serves as the CEO of Child Guardians and holds several other prominent positions. He is the co-lead of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (the Alliance), co-chair of the Alliance Localisation advisory group, Steering committee member of Syrisk-Svenska Demokrati Förbundet, and a board member of We Exist! Advocacy Alliance. Riyad firmly believes that protecting children's basic rights is the foundation of any healthy society.

**Rocio Aznar Daban, Child Protection Chief, UNICEF Mexico**

Ms. Aznar has worked internationally in the field of child protection for the last seventeen years. She has worked at UNICEF, UNHCR, Human Rights Watch and the International Federation for Human Rights in North, West and East Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Southeast Asia. She has worked in both development and humanitarian settings including natural disasters, armed conflict and armed violence, and migratory, refugee and displacement contexts. She has worked for UNICEF in Indonesia, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, and New York Headquarters. She is currently serving as a child protection chief in UNICEF Mexico. She holds a master's in public international law by Geneva Graduate Institute of International Relations.

**Ron Pouwels, Coordinator, Global Child Protection Area of  
Responsibility**

Ron Pouwels works for UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes as the Coordinator for the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility based in Geneva. Ron joined UNICEF as Regional Adviser Child Protection in South Asia in 2010 and subsequently was the Chief of Child Protection in the UNICEF China Country Office until 2021. Prior to UNICEF, he worked for seven years for child rights NGOs in the Netherlands (his home country) and Tanzania, and for 10 years for UNHCR in (child) protection in Ethiopia, Kenya and at its Headquarters. His work has included policy development, technical assistance, communication and advocacy, capacity development, and building and strengthening inter-agency networks both in development and humanitarian settings. He has Master's degrees in Law and in History from Leiden University, the Netherlands.

### **Dr. Roseline Olumbe, Coordinator and Lecturer, Institute of Child Development at Daystar University**

Dr. Roseline Olumbe holds a PhD in Holistic Child Development. She is the Coordinator and Lecturer in the Institute of Child Development at Daystar University. She has over 19 years of academic teaching in institutions of higher learning, research, and public policy development. She has led several research projects as the Principal Investigator at the national and international level on child-related matters. Her projects focus on child protection and safeguarding, child development, family well-being, education, and psychosocial support. She has been involved in conducting projects such as SOS Children's Villages's (SOS) global project on current policies, trends, and practices of Early Childhood Development (ECD); Save the Children's global project on Protecting Children from Online Grooming; SOS's project on Understanding the Factors that Result in Child-Family Separation in Kenya; ChildFund's national project on Mapping and Organizational Capacity Assessment of Existing and New Implementing Partners on Early Childhood Development among others. She is a member of various stakeholder forums and technical working groups of the Directorate of Children Services in Kenya. She has provided technical support for policy development including the National Guidelines for Psychosocial Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Kenya (2015). Roseline has chaired and hosted several international and national conferences on child-focused matters. She is a board member of several organizations including Scripture Union Christian Book Centre, WezaCare Solutions, Daystar University Institute of Disability Studies, and Early Start Africa among others. Currently, she is the managing editor of "The Interdisciplinary Journal on Child Protection", associate editor of School Psychology International, and reviewer of Child Abuse and Neglect – The

International Journal. Her research publication output can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/5fyaujwr>.

### **Senedia Bagayoko, Adolescent Girls Specialist, International Rescue Committee**

Senedia Bagayoko is a protection and gender expert, currently serving as the Adolescent Girl's Specialist for the Inspiring Girls and Grassroot Network for Inclusive and Gender Transformative Education (IGNITE) project at the International Rescue Committee (IRC). In this role, she collaborates closely with partner organizations in Africa and the Middle East, providing technical support to enhance efforts in protecting and empowering women and girls. Passionate about gender equality, Senedia works towards fostering lasting positive changes in the lives of girls and women in her region and beyond. Senedia's areas of expertise encompass Protection, Gender, Gender-based violence prevention and response and Migration. She has worked with various organizations, including civil society organizations, INGOs like IRC and Plan International, and UN agencies such as IOM and UNESCO, in both emergency and development contexts across Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and France. Senedia holds Master's degrees in International Law from the University of Sorbonne Paris and International Development and Gender Studies from Sciences Po Paris. Through her dedication and expertise, Senedia actively contributes to advancing gender equality and protection of children.

### **Sheema Sen Gupta, Director, Child Protection, UNICEF**

Sheema's UNICEF career, spans both development and complex humanitarian contexts. She has been Representative in Iraq and

Deputy Representative in Afghanistan and Bangladesh. In her various roles, she has led Programmes which focussed on making sustainable changes in systems, policy and service delivery for children and women. Sheema is well experienced in advocating for child rights in complex emergencies. Prior to these, Sheema was Chief of Child Protection Programme in Somalia and in Ghana. Sheema's UNICEF career began in Child Protection, with a focus on developing Psychosocial Support Programmes for UNICEF's emergency response. In the last 23 years Sheema has worked in India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Ghana, Somalia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Iraq. A Malaysian national, she holds a Master's in Clinical Psychology and practiced as a Psychologist and worked for The Calcutta Samaritans prior to joining UNICEF.

**Sterlinda S. Vital, Child Rights Specialist and Activist,  
Chronique Droit et Enfants**

My name is Sterlinda S. Vital, a Haitian Lawyer of Port-au-Prince Bar Association, a child rights specialist and activist. I hold a master degree in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law from the Geneva Academy (University of Geneva). I served with the UN for over a decade both as a National Child Protection Officer ( MINUSTAH) and as an International Civil Servant working on Children and armed conflict issues in Central African Republic (MINUSCA) . During my assignments, I made remarkable contributions to the internal legal reform on Child Trafficking, adoption. My portfolio also included Juvenile Justice; Sexual Gender based Violence. I advocated for the release of illegally detained children , monitored, and reported the six grave violations of child rights , consistently negotiated with the armed groups the vacation of occupied schools, the cease of the grave violations of child rights , especially the release

of hundreds of children who had been enlisted for armed purposes or sexually abused who were then referred to vocational programmes funded by UNICEF. I also conducted hundreds of trainings for UN components and National Stakeholders on Child Rights. 4 years ago, I created Chronique Droit et Enfants a local structure to mainstream and raise child protection awareness through research, trainings, advocacy. We campaigned against armed violence and sexual abuse against children, published articles, conducted consultations on various child protection issues, promoted good practices gathered in the field, supported national stakeholders, local and international organizations on child rights and other humanitarian issues.

**Steve Miller, Global Director of Child Protection, Save the  
Children International**

Steve is a committed advocate for child protection with over two decades in the non-profit sector. In his current role as the Global Director of Child Protection at Save the Children International, he helps shape strategies that resonate deeply with the mission of creating a world free of violence against children. Steve's career, marked by leadership in various organizations, reflects a consistent dedication to child rights, and his involvement in key global partnerships highlights his collaborative approach and ability to drive meaningful change. With academic credentials in Development Management and a heartfelt commitment to his work, Steve's approach is both strategic and compassionate. Born & raised in South Africa, and based in Johannesburg with his family, he remains focused on contributing to a world where children's rights are not only recognized but actively promoted and safeguarded.

### **Tawfiqullah Niazy, Child Protection Coordinator, International Rescue Committee**

My name is Tawfiqullah, and my father's name is Guljan. I have extensive child protection and protection knowledge enriched by over 9 years of humanitarian work experience with different national and international organisations. Including other child protection and protection training, I have been trained in PSS, PFA, GBV, SEL, Mental health, CCS and have also given training on GBV and S-GBV case management. I also contributed to the Afghanistan Case Management Task Force from IRC as a co-lead with UNICEF. My experience is well enhanced by a master's degree in LLM and working as a university lecturer, which can ensure and contribute to a quality flow of further cascading of this training for the other IRC staff and joint assistance organisations in Afghanistan. I recently participated in a five-day training program in Bangkok/Thailand, focused on caring for child survivors of sexual abuse. This training not only expanded my knowledge but also provided an opportunity for international exchange of information with participants from various countries and organisations. At present, I am leading the child protection mission in Afghanistan. I possess a comprehensive understanding of the context, the situation of children, and their psychosocial needs. Additionally, I have actively engaged in various child protection situational analysis surveys being conducted by local and international organisations, working groups and clusters, which have equipped me with the necessary skills to excel in this training. My education is in the field of law and I have served as a supervisor for several years. This experience has enabled me to effectively deliver training to other non-specialized providers. For nearly five years, we have successfully implemented a psycho-social learning program

using a safe healing and learning space approach, along with the family making the different interventions for parents.

## **U-Z**

### **Viviana Catalina Sosa, MEAL Coordinator, War Child Alliance, Colombia**

Viviana is the MEAL Coordinator at War Child Alliance Colombia Office. She joined the organisation in 2022 and has been leading MEAL in all country programs ensuring a meaningful participation and engagement of communities involved and specially of children and youth. Viviana led the development, implementation and analysis of a participative qualitative case study of the implementation of Seeds, a community led child protection approach in the Asentamiento Aeropuerto in Uribia, La Guajira. Viviana highlights and advocates for the active engagement of communities in accountability and monitoring and evaluation building from their own experiences and how supporting community-led mechanisms can lead to better engagement and specially ownership by the communities. Viviana holds a degree in Political Sciences and International Relationships from the Militar University and has follow up studies in gender.

### **William (Bill) Forbes, Global Lead of Child Protection and Participation, World Vision International**

Bill provides strategic leadership to World Vision's efforts to strengthen local prevention and response to abuse, exploitation and neglect of children as well as strengthening children's voice and participation in the world's most difficult places. This includes World



Vision's work to address child marriage, child labour, street children, child trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation of children, children affected by armed conflict, gender based and domestic violence and child safeguarding. Previously, Bill worked for World Vision in Cambodia for 8 years, providing leadership to the Peace and Justice Program, which included a special focus on peacebuilding and on trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse of children. Bill holds Bachelor and Master Degrees in International Development from Cornell University and Fuller Theological Seminary.