Speakers & Moderators

2024 UNICEF-NGO Consultations:
Partnering for Children in the Climate Crisis
16-17 April 2024 | Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Session: Day 1

Speaker Hazel De Wet

Hazel De Wet became Deputy Director of UNICEF’s Office of Emergency Programmes in Geneva in January 2023.

Hazel has 23 years of extensive and diverse experience in political affairs, human rights, protection of civilians, women's rights, international relations, and diplomacy in the United Nations, she is a former diplomat and a committed United Nations staff member. Hazel’s experience spans across a wide spectrum of action, from the grassroots level in the field directly with local actors, to policy making, high-level political engagement and intergovernmental processes at UN headquarters.

For last 14 years Hazel was at the frontlines of conflict, post conflict and emergency contexts in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in Sudan and South Sudan. In her previous role Hazel has been serving as the Head of Office of the States of Jonglei and the Upper Nile in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan where she has dealt with crisis situations and successfully navigated volatile and sensitive political scenarios. Her most recent role has been the Director of civil Affairs in South Sudan. Hazel is a Namibian national and holds Law degree in Human Rights from University of London and bachelor’s degree in political science from University of Western Cape.
Speaker Jamie Munn

Jamie has a background spanning over 16 years in aid programming, strategic development, NGO coordination, and policy formation. He joined ICVA in November 2023 after completing his tenure as Country Director in Iraq for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Throughout his career, Jamie has held roles across head office, regional, and country levels with various NGOs and the United Nations. He firmly believes that NGOs play a pivotal role in fostering solutions-based approaches to global challenges. With a doctorate from the University of Exeter, Jamie has contributed to research areas on gendered identities in conflict zones, aid accountability and transparency, and post-conflict nationalism.

At ICVA, Jamie brings to the table his expertise in strategic leadership, innovation, effective advocacy, and a steadfast focus on accountability and coordination. His forward-thinking approach and commitment to driving positive change in the humanitarian sector compliments the expertise already inside the ICVA secretariat and its broader membership.

Moderator David Andrés Viñas

David Andrés Viñas

Name: David Andrés Viñas
Title: Humanitarian Advocacy Specialist, Division of Global Communication and Advocacy
Organization: UNICEF
David is a humanitarian policy and advocacy specialist with over 15 years’ experience at country, regional and global levels in leading the development and implementation of advocacy initiatives to drive positive change. He joined UNICEF two years ago and leads humanitarian advocacy on the African continent, as well as on climate change and famine prevention for the Division of Global Communications and Advocacy (GCA). Before joining UNICEF, David worked at Save the Children as Senior Humanitarian Advocacy Advisor in NY focusing on the UN Security Council, and as Regional Advocacy Manager in Jordan covering the Middle East with a focus on Syria and Yemen. Prior to that, he worked in the State of Palestine, in Gaza, as Programme Policy Advisor with Oxfam, as well as in Brussels with various organisations on EU foreign policy.

He holds a Master’s Degree in European Foreign Policy from the London School of Economics, a post-graduate degree on European Studies, and a Bachelor’s Degree on Political Science. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Catalan and also speaks some French and Arabic. David loves to play board games, bike around the city, and fulfill his duties as an uncle to his two nieces and nephew.

### Session 1: Climate Change and Children: Setting the Scene

**Speaker Brigitte Rudram**

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<th>Brigitte Rudram</th>
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<td><strong>Title:</strong></td>
<td>Co-Lead of the Climate Hub and Climate Change and Resilience Specialist</td>
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**Speaker Sumnima Tuladhar**

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Sumnima Tuladhar is a pioneer child rights defender in Nepal. She has extensive experience in child protection issues, child sexual exploitation, street children, trafficking in women and children, child participation, and children in armed conflict. As an expert on child protection issues in Nepal, she is engaged in policy advocacy on child rights and direct child protection interventions. As a founding member of CWIN-Nepal, (the first child rights organization in Nepal) Sumnima has been working passionately towards these causes for the past 36 years in various capacities within CWIN. She currently serves as the Executive Director of CWIN-Nepal.

Sumnima is a former member of the Board of Trustees of ECPAT International and is also a founding secretary of the board of the Duke of Edinburgh Award (Saksham Yuva), Nepal. She is a founding member of AATWIN (Alliance against trafficking in women and children) and Women’s Network for Peace (Shanti Malika), Nepal’s first network of women working for conflict transformation and peacebuilding. She is also a board member of ICDI (International Child Development Initiatives), The Netherlands. She has also led nationwide interventions for the protection of children in armed conflict and recovery for women and children affected by earthquake and Covid-19. She is advisor to the GREEN CHAKRA campaign led by young people. Along with Child Psychiatrist, Dr. Arun Raj Kunwar, she co-led to establish Nepal’s first child and adolescent psychiatry and child mental health service in Nepal.

Sumnima has a Masters degree in Literature from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. She has carried out a number of research and studies on different child protection issues such as trafficking, child sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation of children, children in conflict, child labour, etc.

**Speaker Anurita Bains**

Prior to this role she was appointed the UNICEF Associate Director, HIV/AIDS in December 2022. In this capacity Bains oversees the global HIV response for children, adolescents, and pregnant women. She brings more than two decades of experience in driving programmatic excellence and nurturing partnerships to advance the rights of children and women. Her contributions to the global HIV response include leading teams at country, regional and global levels with UNICEF, the Global Fund, UNAIDS, and the Clinton Health Access Initiative.
Before this role, Bains was the UNICEF Representative in Lesotho, providing critical support to the government in the Covid-19 response and recovery plan, implementing climate-change programming, and mobilizing resources to reach adolescent girls and young women living with HIV.

From 2002-2007, at the height of the AIDS pandemic, Bains supported the work of Stephen Lewis in his role as the UN Envoy for AIDS in Africa by advocating for attention to and resources for the HIV response in Africa. Prior to her work with the UN Envoy, she lived and worked in South Africa, where she supported Nelson Mandela and Graça Machel as part of UNICEF’s Global Movement for Children and worked with the government of South Africa in their efforts to advance child rights.

She started her career as a journalist in Canada, where she was twice nominated for the National Magazine Awards. Bains is a graduate of the University of Toronto in Canada and the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. She is a Canadian national.

**Moderator Mirela Shuteriqi**

Mirela Shuteriqi joined ICVA in 2019 as Director of Policy. She steers the policy work of ICVA ensuring NGO members are kept abreast of and supported to influence international legal and policy developments. As a human rights lawyer, Ms Shuteriqi has over 15 years of professional experience on humanitarian and development issues working for both NGOs and UN Agencies. In 2015-2017, she worked with UNICEF as advocacy coordinator on the rights of refugee and migrant children in Europe. Prior to UNICEF, Mirela served as global protection adviser for Terre des hommes, covering programmes aiming at preventing child exploitation and trafficking in Asia, Europe and West Africa. For several years she provided direct legal services to vulnerable families and Albanian children exploited or living in the streets of Albania and Greece. She holds an LLM degree and has authored various publications on human rights and migration law.

**Name:** Mirela Shuteriqi  
**Title:** Director of Policy  
**Organization:** ICVA
Session 2: How to enhance UNICEF-NGO engagement on climate change, including supply chain anticipatory action, preparedness and response

Speaker Emma Visman

Name: Emma Visman
Title: Senior Advisor, Humanitarian Climate Crisis Unit
Organization: Save the Children International

Emma leads Save the Children’s climate-related Anticipatory Action. She rejoined the organization in 2022, having previously worked for Save the Children’s humanitarian operations in East, Central and Southern Africa and Middle East from 1991-6. She combines more than 30 years’ experience across operations, policy and research, and has focused on climate science-humanitarian and development policy and practice exchange since 2008. She was Futures Group Manager at the Humanitarian Futures Programme, King’s College London 2005-2014, where she also held a Natural Environment Research Council Knowledge Exchange Fellowship.

She has since been engaged in a range of climate-resilience building consortia undertaken in both rural and urban contexts and focused on timeframes from immediate to long-term. Focused on co-production of climate services tailored for specific livelihoods and decision-making processes, these engagements have been through positions at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (2019-2022), King’s College London (2016-22) and consultancies with a range of partners including the (UK) Met Office, IFRC national members, Christian Aid and GNDR.

Developing and employing a range of participatory tools, she has particularly focused on strengthening confidence of decision-makers to appropriately use climate information and meteorologists’ appreciation of the decision-making contexts they are seeking to support (Learning to Co-produce | Walker Academy (reading.ac.uk). She has also focused on developing inclusive frameworks for tracking the impacts of climate services across process and partners Defining metrics for monitoring and evaluating the impact of co-production in climate services - ScienceDirect
Speaker Shiraz Akhtar Wajih

Name: Shiraz Wajih  
Title: President  
Organization: Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group

Dr Shiraz Wajih is a development professional working as researcher, directing projects, trainer and facilitator since last 40 years. He is associated with Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (www.geagindia.org) since its inception and is currently President of the organization. He has been Professor in University College of Gorakhpur University. Dr Wajih completed his MSc and then Ph.D. in Ecology.

He has directed several projects related to issues like Sustainable Livelihoods, Natural Resource Management, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and livelihood resilience etc in collaboration with Governments, UN agencies and national and international agencies. He has published more than 70 research papers and reports.

Dr Wajih has worked on Board of various national and international organizations like Oxfam India, International Youth Federation, SPWD, Institute of Social and Environmental Transition (US). In various capacities he received recognitions like Global 500 (UNEP), Momentum for Change (UNFCCC).

Speaker Sebastien Truffaut

Name: Sebastien Truffaut  
Title: Programme Manager on Environmental & Social Safeguards (ESS), Programme Effectiveness, Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring  
Organization: UNICEF

Sebastien Truffaut has about 28 years of professional experience in the Risk Management, and the Environment sector in various settings and currently leads the development of the UNICEF's ESS framework.

Before his current position, Sebastien was UNICEF’s WASH Chief in Ukraine (2017-2023), and WASH Specialist in Gaza, Palestine (2015-2017). Prior to joining UNICEF, between
2001 and 2015, he held a position of Senior Engineer (expert and deputy manager specialized in the field of groundwater remediation on polluted sites) in a consulting firm in France (private sector) and acted for 5 years as HSE Director (Occupational Safety/Environment) concurrently in the same company. From 1998 to 2001, he worked with the INGO Action Contre la Faim and was assigned to several countries in the Horn of Africa as a Chief WASH for 3 years, in emergency contexts. In early career years, he supervised environmental projects in the private sector in France for 3 years.

Sebastien holds a master’s degree in Sciences, with majors in Geology and Hydrogeology, second specialization in Environmental Engineering at University of Franche-Comté in Besançon, France.

Speaker Mohammad Harun Rashid (Harun)

Name: Mohammad Harun Rashid
Title: Emergency Specialist, Office of Emergency Programmes
Organization: UNICEF

Harun, based in Istanbul, Turkey, leads UNICEF’s global work on Anticipatory Action. He is working towards institutionalization and scale up of Anticipatory Action within UNICEF’s policies, programmes and partnership. He supports regional and country offices for the design and implementation of AA.

Prior to joining this post, Harun has been working as the Chief of Emergency and DRR in UNICEF Nepal Country Office for the past 5 years during which time he has been leading three important cross-cutting areas of work such as emergency preparedness and response (EPR), disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate action. He led the integration of comprehensive school safety into the government of Nepal’s school sector’s policy and plans; influenced government to adopt a risk-informed results-based local planning approach; piloted anticipatory action for floods in the last two years; coordinated COVID-19 response and recovery efforts; and designed and managed the first-ever climate project for Nepal office focusing on both mitigation and adaptation.

Harun has almost 20 years of technical and management experience in the multisectoral/integrated EPR, DRR and Climate programmes with diverse organizations such as UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan, CARE, and Oxfam GB in developing countries. He has also worked in several emergency response and recovery programmes. He holds an M.A. in Disaster Management from BRAC University, Bangladesh; a Graduate Certificate of Humanitarian Leadership from Deakin University, Australia; and an Entrepreneurial Leaders' MBA+ Programme from Portland State University, the United States.
Moderator Nishanie Jayamaha

Nishanie has over 20 years of experience working in the United Nations, International Organisations, Government institutions, NGO and private sectors in a variety of roles with expertise ranging from disaster management and risk reduction, humanitarian and early recovery coordination, protection, access negotiations, gender, civic space, learning and since of late on climate change. She started her humanitarian career in Sri Lanka following the Indian Ocean Tsunami, has worked at country, regional and HQ levels on policy and practice.

She has a Masters in International Relations from the University of Colombo and a Bachelor’s Degree in English, Sociology and Psychology from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Session 3: Child-responsive and climate-informed Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Speaker Yukiko Yamada Morovic

Name: Yukiko Yamada Morovic
Title: Technical Director, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
Organization: World Vision
Yukiko Yamada Morovic is the Technical Director of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action from World Vision. In her role, she leads World Vision’s overall strategy on environment and climate action for children living in the most vulnerable communities. She works in close collaboration with technical experts and field colleagues across the globe. World Vision’s flagship initiatives include Regreening Dry Corridor of Central America, Amazon Basin, Regreening Communities and Farmer Managed Natural Regenerations (FMNR), among others.

Yukiko has been working in the field of international development over 15 years, serving in a variety of roles, serving multiple countries in Asia, Central America and West Africa. She holds a masters degree in comparative politics from London School of Economics.

Speaker Elisabethe Zerbo

Elisabethe Zerbo is an education specialist dedicated to the cause of out-of-school children for over 20 years. After her time at Helvetas Swiss Intercoopération, she went on to work for Tin Tua, a national NGO in Burkina Faso with over 30 years experience in development and 7 years experience in humanitarian aid. Elisabethe holds a master's degree in linguistics, and has attended several training courses on humanitarian issues, to better contribute to the implementation of humanitarian projects. As coordinator of Tin Tua’s education axis, she pilots projects implemented as part of the triple nexus of humanitarian aid, development and peace, and linked to climate change for the benefit of Burkina Faso’s vulnerable populations in general, and children and women in particular.

Elisabethe was instrumental in the recognition of the Tin Tua education method by the government of Burkina Faso in 2021, and the winning of an award from the UNESCO King Sejong International Prize for alternative education at the Banma Nuara Centre “La connaissance éveille” in 2009. Thanks to her dynamism and leadership, Tin Tua has been able to ensure educational continuity for 63,898 children, including 29,386 internally displaced pupils in 2023.

In her spare time, Elisabethe enjoys cooking, especially local dishes, spending time with her family and taking part in cultural activities.
Speaker Ndeye Marie Diop (Marie)

Ndeye Marie Diop (Marie) and has joined the Programme Group Leadership Team (PGLT) on January 23rd 2023. As a Programme Specialist (Program Group Humanitarian Coordination) she acts as the liaison for all activities covered within UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Previously, Marie was the Child Protection Specialist (Emergencies) in UNIFEC Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) and enjoyed supporting COs during emergencies and to help strengthening risk informed programmes and HDP Nexus approaches. She notably built a strong capacity in key areas such as PSEA, migration and MHPSS. Part of her responsibilities also included enhancing UNICEF relationships with the African Union Regional Economic Communities such as EAC, IGAD and their Member States in addition to partnerships with IOM, UNHCR and Save the Children in relation to children on the move. Marie’s past experience include: CP Chief for the DRC Eastern Zone based in Goma, CP Specialist in emergencies in Dadaad refugee camps and FGM focal point within the UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Programme in Senegal. Prior to joining UNICEF, Marie worked for the European Space Agency and HE Space Operations, contributing to setting up a European Space Policy within the European Union. Marie holds a Master Diplomatie, Entreprises et Organisations Internationales from Paris XI-Sceaux. Her hobbies include travelling, walking, discovering new towns and cultures as well as reading.

Moderator Yvonne Agengo

Yvonne Agengo is a Senior Technical Advisor for Child Protection at the International Rescue Committee.
International Rescue Committee (IRC). Yvonne is the moderator for Session 3: Child-responsive and climate-informed Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

Yvonne has over 15 years experience in Child Protection across development and humanitarian settings in East and Central Africa, Middle East and Asia. She currently leads IRC’s child protection teams across all regions the IRC has presence. programs. She leads Program Design, child centered implementation, support and development of technical resources as well as evidence generation. She supports teams to adapt interventions for children across IRC country programs based on evidence from research and learning from implementation across contexts. Her academic background is in Anthropology, and she has a Master’s degree in International Human Rights Law. She is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Oxford - Department of Social Interventions and Policy Evaluation. She is based in Geneva.

About the IRC: The IRC provides lifesaving humanitarian assistance to individuals and communities affected by conflict and disaster, including the climate crisis. We work with community groups, public institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to improve their self-reliance and capacity to provide effective and responsive services to individuals, households and communities affected by conflict and disaster. We understand the context where we work and design activities that minimize harm and contribute towards a peaceful society.

Moderator Samantha Cocco-Klein

Name: Samantha Cocco-Klein
Title: Senior Climate Consultant for Humanitarian Programmes
Organization: UNICEF

Dr. Samantha Cocco-Klein is Senior Climate Consultant for Humanitarian Programmes, UNICEF. For over 20 years, she has led and executed social policy and programmes, evaluation and research and humanitarian support for children, from the grassroots to global level with UNICEF, the United Nations, and INGOS.

Dr. Cocco-Klein also serves a Senior Advisor at Equity for Children at The New School, with a research focus on environmental change and children’s wellbeing, and as Adjunct Professor of Social Policy at the Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter
College (CUNY), where she is introducing a new course on environment, climate change and social welfare.

She is mother to two young people, Gabe and Sara, and two dogs, Ollie and Noodle. Her husband, Bernardo Cocco, is a long-term staff member of UNDP.

Closing Session: Day 1

Moderator Luc Chauvin

Luc Chauvin is Chief, Inter-Agency & Humanitarian Partnerships with UNICEF Office of Emergency Programme (EMOPS) in Geneva. Prior to that, he had worked for over 25 years in different humanitarian and development contexts in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
Opening Session: Day 2

Moderator Mirela Shuteriqi

Mirela Shuteriqi joined ICVA in 2019 as Director of Policy. She steers the policy work of ICVA ensuring NGO members are kept abreast of and supported to influence international legal and policy developments. As a human rights lawyer, Ms Shuteriqi has over 15 years of professional experience on humanitarian and development issues working for both NGOs and UN Agencies. In 2015-2017, she worked with UNICEF as advocacy coordinator on the rights of refugee and migrant children in Europe. Prior to UNICEF, Mirela served as global protection adviser for Terre des hommes, covering programmes aiming at preventing child exploitation and trafficking in Asia, Europe and West Africa. For several years she provided direct legal services to vulnerable families and Albanian children exploited or living in the streets of Albania and Greece. She holds an LLM degree and has authored various publications on human rights and migration law.

Session 4: Accountability to climate-affected communities

Speaker Charles Antoine Hofmann

Name: Charles Antoine Hofmann
Title: Chief, Accountability to Affected Populations, Office of Emergency Programmes
Organization: UNICEF
Speaker **Tanya Wood**

Tanya Wood is the Director of the CHS Alliance, a global network of more than 200 organizations joining together for greater accountability to people affected by crisis, through the application of the Core Humanitarian Standard. She brings leadership experience in the humanitarian sector, from headquarters and a decade of humanitarian work in Africa, Asia and the Americas. All her career has been spent in leadership of international membership organisations, with a strong conviction of the power of collaboration for creating change. This has included work with the IFRC, ICVA and as CEO and Chair of two international health networks, prior to joining CHS Alliance in 2018. She studied at University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies and holds an MBA and a master’s degree in international development. She lives in Geneva, with her family and a menagerie of dogs, cats and chickens.

**Name:** Tanya Wood  
**Title:** Director  
**Organization:** CHS Alliance

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Speaker **Tatenda Songore**

Tatenda is an award-winning social entrepreneur, founder, and Executive Director of Youth Advocates Zimbabwe. He has demonstrated unparalleled expertise in responding to emergencies and fostering positive youth development within the context of youth poverty, disease, and climate change in East and Southern Africa. His role at Youth Advocates Zimbabwe has seen him manage over five emergency grants from

**Name:** Tatenda Songore  
**Title:** Executive Director  
**Organization:** Youth Advocates Zimbabwe (YAZ)
UNICEF, leveraging human-centred design, rigorous research, and a strong commitment to accountability towards affected populations. Through innovative approaches, technological solutions, and community feedback mechanisms, Tatenda annually leads humanitarian and development projects that empower over 200k children and youth in crisis to survive, recover, and rebuild their lives. His leadership has significantly shaped scientific evidence, policy, and practice nationally and internationally. Tatenda holds a Master of Science in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, a diploma in Disaster Management and Emergency Planning, and a certificate in Digital Media and Research for Health Outcomes, complemented by diverse professional certifications in project management, monitoring and evaluation, and social behaviour change. Beyond his professional endeavours, Tatenda finds fulfilment in nature walks and volunteering in local schools, mentoring young individuals to pursue education and embark on entrepreneurial ventures.

Moderator Nisar Syed

Name: Nisar Syed  
Title: Chief, Global Cluster Coordination, Office of Emergency Programmes  
Organization: UNICEF

Session 5: Promoting partnership with local actors, including marginalised groups, in responding to climate-affected children

Speaker Jameel Abdo Ali Hodish

Name: Jameel Abdo Ali  
Title: CEO  
Organization: Tamdeen Youth Foundation

Jameel Abdo Ali, the CEO of Tamdeen Youth Foundation. Jameel has over 22 years of extensive expertise in program and project management within both
humanitarian and non-humanitarian fields, including 15 years in management roles. With a Master’s in Project Management and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, his leadership over eight years in humanitarian efforts, emergency response, economic recovery, peacebuilding, and local development is noteworthy. He thoroughly understands the humanitarian and social context and the needs of conflict-affected populations and groups in Yemen. As the CEO of the Tamdeen Youth Foundation, Jameel leads the localization movement in Yemen and collaborates closely with ICVA, RSH, NEAR, and other national, regional, and global platforms; Jameel is a member of the NEAR Leadership Council and member of Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG).

**Speaker Philimon Majwa**

**Name:** Philimon Majwa  
**Title:** Humanitarian Policy Specialist, Office of Emergency Programmes  
**Organization:** UNICEF

Philimon has over 18 years of experience in disaster preparedness and response, including humanitarian programming. He has worked as a humanitarian policy specialist for UNICEF, a disaster preparedness advisor for ActionAid International, a disaster management manager for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and a disaster risk reduction advisor for Oxfam and Caritas Malawi.

Philimon holds a Ph.D in Environmental Health, a Master’s of Public Health in Environmental Health, and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

**Speaker Ana Karina Pérez Peñate**

**Name:** Ana Karina Pérez Peñate  
**Title:** Professional Support for Environmental Sustainability Environmental Engineer  
**Organization:** SAHED Foundation (Fundación Para el Saneamiento, Ambiente, Higiene, Emprendimiento y Desarrollo Sostenible)
Ana is an environmental engineer with a specialized focus on greenhouse gas (GHG) management and its impact on the environment. Currently, she works for the SAHED Foundation as a sustainability professional, providing support to community projects that focus on innovation for productivity, competitiveness, and social development in various territories. In her role, she directly contributes to the design and implementation of strategies aimed at strengthening local capacities to reduce vulnerability to climate change. Ana works closely with communities, assisting them in developing and implementing initiatives that foster resilience and sustainability. She is passionate about bridging the gap between environmental conservation and socioeconomic development, advocating for solutions that benefit both the planet and communities. Ana looks forward to sharing insights and experiences at the upcoming event, as we collectively work towards a more sustainable future.

**Speaker Kirstin Lange**

**Name:** Kirstin Lange  
**Title:** Programme Specialist, Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action team, Children with Disability section  
**Organization:** UNICEF

**Moderator Smruti Patel**

**Name:** Smruti Patel  
**Title:** Founder and Co-Director / International Coordinator  
**Organization:** Global Mentoring Initiative / Alliance for Empowering Partnership (A4EP)

Smruti is the founder and Co-Director of Global Mentoring Initiative and International Coordinator for Alliance for Empowering Partnership (A4EP), a network of local and national organisations advocating for locally led action. She will be moderating session 5: “Promoting partnership with local actors, including marginalized groups, in responding to climate-affected children” at UNICEF-NGO Consultations 2024.
She has been working in the humanitarian and development sector for the last 25 years. She was a member of the Tsunami Evaluation team for Multi-Agency Thematic Evaluation and jointly authored the report *Impact of the international response on local and national capacities*, and since then has been an active advocate for locally led response and accountability to affected population, including at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. She was the Head of Membership Services and Certification at HAP International (now CHS Alliance) and currently accompanies organisation on accountability and PSEA.

She has been supporting A4EP as a focal point in its Grand Bargain engagement. She is involved in co-creating spaces to accompany international organisations, networks and donors in the change processes for better partnering and collaborations, focusing on shifting power, attitudes and behaviours; keeping equity, inclusion, anti-racism and decolonisation at the centre of the discussions. She acts as a sounding board and provides mentoring support to local women leaders to effectively take up their role at high-level international policy forums. She on the Board of Trustees of INTRAC.

### Session 6: Quality funding & equitable partnerships

**Speaker** Bethan Gilbert

**Name:** Bethan Gilbert  
**Title:** UN Donor Compliance  
**Organization:** Save the Children UK

Having worked for Save the Children UK as a Donor Compliance Manager since 2013, Bethan focuses on UN Partners. Prior to joining Save the Children, Bethan worked for Tearfund in various programme management roles in both the UK and overseas, including Darfur, South Sudan, Liberia and Afghanistan. Bethan also worked with ACTED in South Sudan.

Before joining the sector, Bethan studied Geography at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. In addition, Bethan has an MSC in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), part of the University of London. Bethan was born in Sheffield and now lives in Godalming in Surrey with her husband, three young boys and a very patient cat!

Bethan is delighted to have been asked to speak at the Consultations. She will be discussing good practice and challenges across our valued partnerships with UNICEF.
Speaker Niklas Rieger

Niklas leads Development Initiatives’ team of analysts and policy advisors that produces research and provides technical advice on humanitarian financing and system reform. We have partnered with UNICEF to gain clarity and make recommendations on overhead cost allocation in the humanitarian sector, with particular focus on the cost recovery by local and national partners. DI has also provided technical support to Grand Bargain reform efforts around quality funding and localisation over the years and we are now facilitating the revision of the Grand Bargain self-reporting indicators. Before leading DI’s crisis and humanitarian team, Niklas was senior analyst in that team and have got 7 years of experience in producing research, data analysis and policy advice on humanitarian issues. He studied Economics and Development Studies at the Universities of Bath and Cambridge.

Speaker Guillaume Sauval

Name: Guillaume Sauval
Title: Senior Adviser, Government Partnerships
Organization: UNICEF
**Speaker Fitsum Assefa**

**Name:** Fitsum Assefa  
**Title:** Chief, Programme Implementation Unit, Programme Effectiveness Team, UNICEF  
**Organization:** UNICEF

Fitsum Assefa is the Chief of Programme Implementation Unit, part of Programme Effectiveness Team of the Division Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring of UNICEF headquarters; a unit responsible for the development and rollout of procedures, tools and systems facilitating UNICEF’s planning, engagement as well as risk management (fiduciary, supplies, SEA as well as Environmental and Social safeguards); with close to 10,000 CSO and government entities globally, for programme implementation. Building on her extensive filed experience, in multiple countries/regions as specialist and chief of nutrition programme, in humanitarian and development contexts; Fitsum is an active promoter and supporter of localization - demonstrated by recently introduced clear measures in UNICEF’s partnership procedures; she is an advocate for simplification of partnership process, including through interagency harmonization. In addition to her experience with UNICEF, Fitsum also worked with CSOs in multiple counties/regions.

**Speaker Assem Chreif**

**Name:** Assem Chreif  
**Title:** Head of Programs  
**Organization:** The Lebanese Organisation for Studies and Training (LOST)
As a Senior Policy & Engagement Advisor, Elise Belcher contributes to DI’s mission to improve crisis-related financing, supporting the humanitarian sector to follow the money so that more goes directly to those who need it. Day to day, she works on strengthening partnerships to continue driving forward progress on the fairer provision of overheads for local and national NGOs. Elise also updates and produces reports and presentations so that more good practice can be shared and relevant policy recommendations made to ensure more quality funding reaches frontline actors.

Prior to joining DI, Elise worked for the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) as a Project Coordinator and Risk Driver Lead on Forced Displacement. She was responsible for coordinating three institutionally funded projects with GNDR’s global membership on ‘Making Displacement Safer’, ‘Local Leadership for Global Impact’ and ‘Evidence and Collaboration for Inclusive Development’. Elise has 15 years’ experience in development, humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction, and holds a Master’s in Development and Emergency Practice from Oxford Brookes University.

Name: Vania Gobbo
Title: Policy Officer
Organization: ICVA
Closing Session: Day 2

Speaker Hazel De Wet

Name: Hazel De Wet
Title: Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Programmes
Organization: UNICEF

Speaker Jamie Munn

Name: Jamie Munn
Title: Executive Director
Organization: ICVA

Moderator Luc Chauvin

Name: Luc Chauvin
Title: Chief, Inter-Agency & Humanitarian Partnerships Unit, Office of Emergency Programmes
Organization: UNICEF