



GLOBALWA

**GOALMAKERS**

2021 CONFERENCE SUMMARY REPORT



## INTRODUCTION

The past couple of years will be remembered as a period of massive global disruption and upheaval. The overlapping crises of the pandemic and social inequities have also created an opportunity to reset, re-imagine, and rebuild existing systems for a more fair and just future. Those in the global development community are responding to urgent and growing needs and re-evaluating their role in the world with a frame of inclusive, country-led development.

In December of 2021, Global Washington convened “Goalmakers” whose work is critical to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goalmakers are those who are singularly focused on building a more equitable, healthy, and prosperous world for everyone.

Goalmakers weigh the possibilities, they work in partnership with others who share their goals, they center equity inside their organization and in their programs, and they keep finding ways to move forward. They do not give up, because the stakes are simply too high to fail: fighting COVID and other deadly diseases, eliminating poverty and hunger, stopping climate change, educating the next generation, strengthening local economies, protecting human rights, safeguarding food supplies, and delivering clean water. These are not hopes and wishes. These are tangible goals and they are achievable.



The 2021 Goalmakers virtual conference was attended by over 330 participants and speakers from around the world. Using an online event platform called Whova, participants watched sessions, participated in Q&A and icebreaker discussions, posted photos, networked and messaged each other, visited exhibits, shared articles, posted job openings, and earned rankings on the conference leaderboard.

The conference addressed many themes relevant to the SDGs:

- The Climate Action Imperative
- Responses to COVID-19
- Disaster Relief
- Gender Equality
- Child Welfare
- Natural Capital & Livelihoods
- Inclusive Growth and Innovation
- Leadership, Funding, and the Future of Global Development

Insights from the 2021 conference:

- **Participation:** A virtual conference allows for more speakers and attendees from outside the United States
- **Value:** Attendees valued the issue-based networking the most
- **Content:** The topic of community-led, globally-connected development was a major theme throughout the conference. Some call this “decolonizing global development.” People attended the conference to learn about trends and topics to advance their work.

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## Welcome and Overview

Kristen Dailey, Executive Director of Global Washington, welcomed everyone. This was Global Washington's 13th annual conference and Kristen reflected on the past 19 months and how the global development community has confronted the pandemic both personally and professionally.



Kristen Dailey

*“ The pandemic has demonstrated the inter dependence and the connections among issues such as global health, economic prosperity, education, human rights, and so much more. It’s now more obvious than ever before that we need to create networks of partnership for success and create holistic solutions.*

- Kristen Dailey, GlobalWA

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Kristen shared that Global Washington has been using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework over the past three years for members to enhance their work, find partners, and sharpen data-driven approaches to advance the SDGs. Kristen also positioned the SDGs as a roadmap for the future, as we get back on track to achieve the goals.

Talking about the conference and the community, Kristen said, “Goalmakers are driven to make global development more effective, inclusive, and country-led, and that’s why we’re all here today.”

## Opening Keynote Presentation



Scheaffer Okore

The opening keynote presentation was given by Scheaffer Okore, who is on the Goalkeeper Advisory Board at the Gates Foundation and is the Director of Policy and Advocacy at Women Political Leaders (WPL), which is a global network of more than 9,000 female political leaders. Scheaffer challenged us all to be more intentional in our work.

Scheaffer said that the Sustainable Development Goals' biggest lesson is that we have to go beyond the goals and statistics and find the people who are not represented or seen. "Human beings are the reason we are working towards the goals, and why the goals are necessary in the first place." It's important that people tell their own stories so that we understand "what it means to live in a world where dignity is lacking, injustice is thriving, and inequalities live amongst the people."

*"Talking alone is not enough. This must be the time for amplified action."*

- Scheaffer Okore, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Women Political Leaders

Scheaffer addressed the lack of women representation in leadership at the international scale and the power of the collective. She said that behind every successful revolutionary or progressive strategy is the courage and care of a relentless community ready to give everything for radical, mutual, beneficial change. "Talking alone is not enough. This must be the time for amplified action," she said.

Scheaffer ended with a strong call for action.

“The global goals at their best embody diversity in issues, reminding us that we are all made up of other people’s stories... We must move and create room for bodies with different abilities, for bodies of different races, geographies, orientations, genders, identities, classes and religions. We must demand political will, financial commitments and investments with tangible inclusion that allow for the abundance that women create in society to be able to thrive.

“The next phase of global goals work must dare to move the needle of progress towards informative leadership, especially the leadership of women – the leadership that we have seen lacking during COVID-19, the leadership that we have seen that the world is in dire need of, and that we are all praying for. The work must significantly reduce inequalities and create space where narratives of invisible people behind the goal exist at the forefront.”

## BREAKOUT SESSION 1

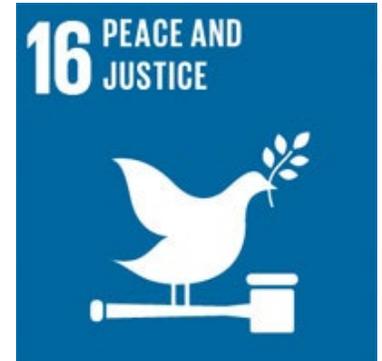
### SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

#### Catalyzing and Building Strong Institutions

This breakout session framed the discussion around questions about SDG 16. SDG 16 focuses on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, but what are “Strong Institutions”? What are the qualities that make some governments stronger, better performing, and more responsive to their citizens’ well-being? How do those inside and outside of government measure success? And what is the role of civil society to ensure that strong institutions actually result in better lives for the people institutions should serve?

This breakout session featured three accomplished women who answered those questions: Nancy Lindborg (President & CEO of the Packard Foundation) is supporting civil society organizations around the world to create more peaceful and just societies, Laura Chinchilla (Former President of Costa Rica) has governed a nation, and Elizabeth “Betsy” Andersen (Executive Director of the World Justice Project) is helping define and measure what it means to be a strong institution.

Moderator Leslie Tsai (Director of Social Investment at the Chandler Foundation) started the session with framing thoughts. She discussed President Biden’s inaugural Summit for Democracy and shared the fact that 84.7% of the world’s population lives in a country where rule of law is deteriorating (according to the World



Nancy Lindborg



Laura Chinchilla

Justice Project’s 2021 Rule of Law Index). She said, “With the growing distrust in government, it is critical that we pay attention to the systems and structures that are meant to deliver better outcomes for people.”

Betsy noted that the full language of SDG 16 doesn’t use the phrase “strong institutions.” She said, “What member states signed up for in Goal 16 was to ‘promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.’” She added, “A strong institution does enforce laws and hold people accountable, but it also is accountable itself under the law.”

Laura discussed the relationship between the SDGs and sustainable development, emphasizing human rights. “Only through effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions will it be possible to protect those that are left behind... sustainable institutions for sustainable development do not depend on the will of one leader or group of people, it depends on the formal arrangements that citizens have agreed upon.” She shared findings that “there is no dichotomy between institutions being effective and institutions being inclusive and accountable. The pandemic has shown that they can all go together.”



Leslie Tsai



Elizabeth “Betsy” Andersen

*“...there is no dichotomy between institutions being effective and institutions being inclusive and accountable. The pandemic has shown that they can all go together.”*

- Laura Chinchilla, Former President of Costa Rica

“When the system itself is unjust or unequal, you cannot maintain your precious development gains; you almost always plant the seeds for greater conflict, renewed violence – all of the issues that

Goal 16 seeks to address,” said Nancy. “The backbone and the huge difference between the millennium development goals and the sustainable development goals is Goal 16.”

As they discussed measurement tools and how they enable institutions to deliver better, Betsy shared the saying, “If you want to change it, you’ve got to measure it.” She said these tools can be powerful diagnostics, they’re helpful for building political will around reform efforts, and they can be important tools for building trust in institutions. She also emphasized the importance of using people-centered data. Other data can be useful, but it’s essential to understand how justice is being experienced in people’s lives. And disaggregated data (broken down by demographics, geography, age, etc.) is also important so that you can understand people’s experiences.

*“If you want to change it, you’ve got to measure it.”*

- Elizabeth “Betsy” Andersen, World Justice Project

Nancy addressed systems change and gave an example from the U.S. Institute of Peace where they created a citizen-based alternative for adjudicating land disputes in Afghanistan in order to address corruption. “As we talk about fragility, or loss of confidence in core institutions, it’s a rising issue that we need to pay very close attention to here in the United States,” Nancy added.

Laura talked about what has been most helpful and also detrimental in helping Costa Rica make progress on the SDGs, regarding external stakeholders like nongovernmental organizations. She said the international support has been mostly helpful, giving examples like when Costa Rica abolished their

armed forces and won a land dispute with Nicaragua at the International Court of Justice.

Leslie recapped the main themes of this conversation.

- SDG 16 is the moral backbone of the 2030 agenda
- It may be helpful to reframe the phrase “strong institutions” as effective, transparent, and accountable institutions that are inclusive
- System approaches to tackling problems are important, as are people-centered experiences and approaches
- The panelists called out some of the great powers in this ecosystem, including the U.S. multilateral institutions and the roles they can play in solving important social challenges

## BREAKOUT SESSION 2

### SDG 3: Global Health Systems



#### Good Health and Well-Being; Global Health Systems- Vulnerability and Resilience Through the Pandemic

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Currently, the world is facing a global health crisis unlike any other – COVID-19 is spreading human suffering, destabilizing the global economy, and upending the lives of billions of people around the globe. The panelists in this session provided their unique perspectives on the pandemic’s impact on health systems and global health supply chains, developing and distributing COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, and more. They discussed how the pandemic is much more than a health crisis. It requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response – one that GlobalWA member organizations are working together to achieve.



Lakshmi Sethuraman



KJ Zunigha

“This pandemic has certainly highlighted both the vulnerability as well as the resilience of our health systems,” said moderator KJ Zunigha (Senior Consultant at Linksbridge SPC).

Lakshmi Sethuraman (Principal at Sattva) talked about a multidisciplinary response to the crisis in India and bringing the entire community together – startups, non-profits, private, and public sectors. In India, there was a crisis with the migrant population losing their livelihood overnight and the partners



Shivanshi Kapoor

collaborated to address that, as well as the immediate needs for vaccines and oxygen, and the long-term need of helping hospitals become more sustainable. Sattva is addressing vaccine equity, working with governments to set up vaccination campaigns and high volume vaccination sites, as well as integrating vaccines into existing commodity distribution systems. One of the things that Lakshmi and staff learned from COVID was not to look at disease in silos but to leverage integration across all programs within healthcare – both within the government and the private sectors.

Shivanshi Kapoor (Senior Program Officer, Strategy, PATH South Asia Hub) shared PATH’s perspective in South Asia, the gaps they saw, and how they responded. Shivanshi’s team worked to demonstrate new cost effective, sustainable, and scalable testing solution packages to reduce the burden on testing laboratories and get quicker results. She also addressed behavior change in getting communities to take vaccines, and working with the governments across India on communications strategies. PATH also helped strengthen the oxygen delivery process and ensured better preparation for any future pandemics. To address power supply challenges, PATH is exploring the use of solar energy to run Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants, which is a great solution for onsite oxygen production.



Simba Nyanyiwa

Simba Nyanyiwa (Senior Manager for Supply Chains at VillageReach) shifted the discussion to Sub-Saharan Africa. VillageReach focuses on the “last mile” of the supply chain and has core teams in Mozambique, Malawi, and DRC, as well as staff in Cote d’Ivoire, Tanzania, Liberia, and other countries. Simba discussed the unique role that is played by community health workers and how important they are for the delivery of health services in countries where there are less resilient health systems.

Community health workers are essential for bringing services closer to people in their own communities. VillageReach and partners created the COVID-19 action fund for Africa (CAF Africa) to raise funding and provide community health workers with critical supplies like personal protective equipment (PPE). “One of the things that became very clear at the beginning was that as the pandemic was spreading, so was the infodemic,” said Simba. VillageReach worked to get the right information about COVID and vaccines to people and combat misinformation, using existing structures and programs (training existing hotline operators, for example).

“ *One of the things that became very clear at the beginning was that as the pandemic was spreading, so was the infodemic.*

- Simba Nyanyiwa, VillageReach

”

KJ wrapped up the breakout session by sharing one of her takeaways about focusing on the community healthcare workers and valuing what they can do - both delivering products and services and also combating misinformation and vaccine hesitancy.

## BREAKOUT SESSION 3

### SDG 13: The Climate Action Imperative

When U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry addressed the 2021 annual American Bar Association meeting, he remarked: “you are all climate lawyers now.” The same could be said for the international development field: we are all climate development practitioners now.

This panel explored the call to action of SDG 13, and the many areas where our organizations have committed missions and resources to combat climate change and its impacts. The panel discussed overall trends to tackle the climate imperative in development work, as well as several specific efforts: addressing deforestation through protection of Indigenous community tenure rights, climate smart agriculture initiatives, and government commitments to safeguard coastal mangroves areas.

Rachel McMonagle (Climate Change and Land Tenure Specialist at Landesa) began the conversation with how Landesa is including climate change within their mission. “When we were looking at using land rights as a tool for poverty reduction, we couldn’t be doing that without also addressing climate change as part of that constellation of development issues.” They found success in building climate resilience within the communities they’re securing land tenure for, so they are finding interventions that can benefit both livelihoods and the local environment. She talked about how women are increasingly vulnerable to climate change and that



Rachel McMonagle

securing their land tenure provides security, political power, and decision making ability within their household and community. Rachel also discussed how Landesa works with governments to recognize collective land rights as legitimate land holdings, which is a powerful tool for them to defend their land and exercise stewardship.

*“ When we were looking at using land rights as a tool for poverty reduction, we couldn’t be doing that without also addressing climate change as part of that constellation of development issues.*

- Rachel McMonagle, Landesa

Kartick Kumar (Senior Portfolio Manager at King Philanthropies) talked about how King Philanthropies focused on mitigating extreme poverty, and that as they saw climate change as a threat to global economic development everywhere, they began to invest in organizations like Landesa who are doing important work around land and livelihoods in order to increase resilience. He said that King Philanthropies is looking at innovative financial tools to use in the philanthropic space to address social issues and address climate change.



Kartick Kumar

Khalil Shahyd (Managing Director for Equity and for Environmental and Equity Strategies with the Natural Resources Defense Council) posed a question for the panelists to talk about how efforts to mitigate future climate action can also coincide and complement efforts to adapt and build resilience to existing climate impacts.



Khalil Shahyd

Rachel said that she doesn’t think it can be viewed separately – that in Landesa’s work there’s acknowledgment of climate change happening and they’re engaging the communities to consider

consider climate change and build resilience at the same time. It's a broader systems approach that takes the reality of climate change into account.

Rachel and Kartick both pointed out that farmers may not think about it explicitly as climate change, but rather as changes in rainfall or crop production. It takes education to build those patterns into land-use planning and address existing vulnerabilities that may be heightened by climate change. Khalil agreed and said that when we focus too much on technology, we miss the full integration of social risk factors like gender.

Next, Khalil shifted the conversation to lessons from the COVID pandemic that can be used as we approach climate change. Kartick talked about the loss of livelihoods and increase in poverty during the pandemic, which we're likely to see with climate change as well. He also pointed out the different responses and inequalities at the country level. Rachel brought up migration patterns: typically people move from rural to urban areas to seek jobs, but during COVID people moved away from dense population centers. That's similar to climate-induced migration where people move because of natural disasters or other crises.

Khalil then asked the panelists to address how to leverage discussions and pledges from the recent Conference of Parties (COP26 conference) in Glasgow. "If sustainable recovery solutions are not prioritized, writ large, things like COVID-19 that keep coming up and with new variants and others, they're going to delay global climate commitments, and these are going to

exacerbate the disparity,” said Kartick. He was hopeful about the incremental changes and the involvement of the private sector at COP. Rachel talked about shifting climate change from a purely environmental issue to a human-centered issue. She also emphasized the need to align reporting mechanisms for finance streams to make it a more collaborative and less competitive process. The panelists also discussed climate change impacting the value of land and restoration of degraded lands.

*“If sustainable recovery solutions are not prioritized, writ large, things like COVID-19 that keep coming up and with new variants and others, they’re going to delay global climate commitments, and these are going to exacerbate the disparity.”*

- Kartick Kumar, King Philanthropies

The panelists also talked about the importance of diversification of development interventions and solutions, to prevent the vulnerability of putting all your eggs in one basket. Discussing Landesa’s work in Myanmar, Rachel said, “Restoring mangroves can protect inland farmlands. It can create fish habitat, which are two income sources. They also can start beekeeping more intentionally, and mangrove honey is a really lucrative product, and so each of these things that would not be enough on their own to sustain these communities from a food-security perspective or an income perspective, but combined they’re a lot stronger, and also then if the croplands fail or if they’re flooded, they have alternatives to fall back on.”

## 2021 Global Hero Awards



Jerilyn Brusseau

Melissa Merritt (Board Chair of Global Washington) presented the 2021 Global Hero Awards. Every year for the past 10 years, Global Washington has recognized an extraordinary individual who has demonstrated a deep commitment, leadership, and impact in our global community by offering the Global Hero Award, and at this conference, we gave that award to not one but two global heroes.

Jerilyn Brusseau turned the tragic loss of her brother in the Vietnam War into healing by founding PeaceTrees Vietnam with her husband in 1995. “In our 26 years of work in Vietnam, we’ve cleared 111,000 ordinance items, dangerous unexploded munitions remaining from wartime, provided mine risk education and accident survivor support to benefit 300,000 individuals. Nearly 5,000 children have attended the 21 schools built by PeaceTree donors. What inspires me still every single day is the level of trust that has been built over these 26 years with our Vietnamese partners. It is a gift beyond description. Because of this trust, it’s PeaceTree Vietnam’s privilege to clear more and more unexploded bombs and mines, increasing the safety, well-being and future possibilities for the children and families of Central Vietnam. Thank you, Global Washington, from the bottom of our hearts for this inspiring honor. We’re thrilled to be part of growing Washington State’s positive humanitarian and developmental impact in the world. I’d like to thank my family, the entire PeaceTrees team in the U.S. and in Vietnam and every single person whose positive thoughts, love, encouragement, and generosity has made



Rose Berg

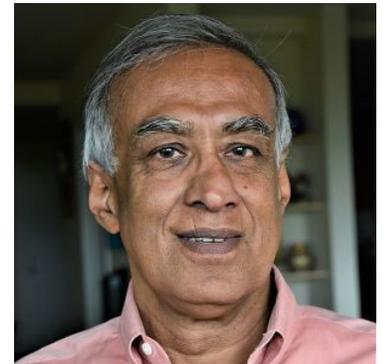
PeaceTrees' work possible. Together, all of us here today are proving that we can heal what once seemed impossible and build strong bridges of trust and friendship with our neighbors and nations around the world," said Jerilyn.

Our second Global Hero Award for 2021 honors Rose Berg who tragically passed away earlier in the year. Rose's colleague, Tim Hanstad (CEO of the Chandler Foundation) accepted the award on her behalf.

"Throughout Rose's career, she was an advocate for social justice, equitable systems change and just challenging the status quo here in Washington State and across the globe. She started her career in journalism, migrated over the years to politics, to public affairs and to philanthropy, but wherever that impressive career path took her, she was a force for championing changes for a better, more equitable world," said Tim. "Rose had the ability to deeply connect with people even on a very first meeting, and she always used those strong relational skills and her professional expertise in service of creating a more equitable world. She truly was a global hero."

## Plenary Panel: The Future of Global Development

The moderator, Akhtar Badshah (Distinguished Practitioner & Senior Lecturer at the University of Washington), began the plenary panel with thoughts on the enormous transition that has come about over many years in the international development field and has been accelerated over the last couple of years. He said that in some ways the pandemic has given new vigor for some of those changes that are happening, especially the commitment of the development community to decentralizing leadership. Over the past few years, each of the panelists' organizations have done an internal examination and committed to decentralizing leadership to improve programs through country-led design.



Akhtar Badshah



Rose Tchwenko

Rose Tchwenko (Ghana Country Director at CARE), started by looking at movements such as Black Lives Matter, the decolonization conversation, and the emergence of democratic states across the Global South. She said that for CARE this journey began a long time ago. When she joined CARE in 2005, they changed how they refer to the people they work with, from recipients or beneficiaries to participants and contributors. “For our initiatives to be truly globally-led and community-led, that means valuing the knowledge and the expertise of the communities we serve and bringing leaders from within those communities to lead decision making and not just implementation of our initiatives,” said Rose.

“ *For our initiatives to be truly globally-led and community-led, that means valuing the knowledge and the expertise of the communities we serve and bringing leaders from within those communities to lead decision making and not just implementation of our initiatives.* ”

- Rose Tchwenko, CARE

Ruth Sincinele Sakhile Bechtel (Vice President of Programs at VillageReach) talked about what it means to be locally driven and globally connected. In 2017, VillageReach committed to decentralizing leadership; they tried to hire as close to the work as possible and committed to hiring people who are from or live in the places where they work. Ruth shared that when COVID hit, it was easier for VillageReach to switch gears and respond to the pandemic because they already had staff in place at the country level and were driving their programming from the communities.



Ruth Sincinele Sakhile  
Bechtel

Rowlands Kaotcha (Global Vice President at The Hunger Project) shared that The Hunger Project has been community-led from the beginning, in partnership with the people who are living with chronic hunger. He said they ask themselves tough questions, like “Is our decentralized program management coupled with decentralized decision making and resource control? Where is power located in our organization, and why is it located there? What more and what new?” That last one addresses steps an organization can take to scale up what’s working and innovate with new ideas so that they are truly community-led.



Rowlands Kaotcha

Rowlands also addressed what it means to be community-led (“putting local voices in the lead of everything we are doing”) and what we need to watch out for in order to not romanticize

community-led development. Here are three signs that could indicate an organization is not truly committed to community-led development. First, there's too much talk which is not paired with action and funding. Second, he said watch what happens when the discussion of funding reaches large, meaningful amounts. If the conversation changes and becomes an issue of trust and capacity, then there is not a true commitment to community-led development. And lastly, "If decolonizing aid conversation comes with a decline in resources for development, that is not decolonization of aid conversation. It means we are having a totally different conversation. I think we are having a conversation about dwindling political will and dwindling money and resources over to development, and we cover it up and sugarcoat it as decolonizing aid or decolonizing development," said Rowlands.

Rose said that for CARE, diversity is a strength and also a challenge when it comes to building consensus around change. "Locally-led" means different things to different people, even within organizations. She also talked about shifting mindsets, that Ghana has said they want to be beyond aid by 2030 and what that could mean for CARE. She said that very few local organizations have the resources that large INGOS like CARE have and that there are benefits to being globally connected.

Rowlands reminded everyone to enjoy the creative tension that these issues bring for every organization because "there's no going back."

Akhtar recapped the main themes from this panel: locally-driven and globally connected, community-led and proximate leadership, identifying community strengths, and identifying and decentralizing who holds the purse strings.

## Plenary Conversation: A Clash of Contagions: COVID-19, Conflict, and Humanitarian Response



Dina Esposito



Mayesha Alam

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic go far beyond a public health crisis. Recent research by Mercy Corps reveals how COVID-19 and response measures are exacerbating the underlying drivers of conflict and fraying state-society relations. From an uptick in criminal and gender-based violence, to expanded recruitment by armed opposition groups, this panel discussed how these trends could spark new conflicts or worsen existing ones if left unchecked, the challenges this poses for humanitarian actors, and the steps we must take now to address the warning signs.

Dina Esposito (Interim Vice President for Policy, Research and Technical Leadership at Mercy Corps) gave an overview of Mercy Corps and the work they've been doing during the pandemic.

Mayesha Alam (Senior Adviser for Policy & Research at Mercy Corps) shared some highlights and recommendations from the "[Clash of Contagions](#)" report. She said that one of the motivations for the report was to go beyond just counting incidents of violence and that hearing from and understanding how people experience violence is critically important. Mayesha's team conducted interviews and workshops with more than 600 men and women across Afghanistan, Colombia, and Nigeria in the first quarter of 2021. She said they found that the pandemic was exacerbating underlying drivers of conflict by diminishing trust in government,



Miji Park

increasing economic hardship and resource scarcity, and diminishing social cohesion between and within communities. A common thread is that governments have struggled to provide services and helped communities deal with the many consequences of the pandemic. Consequently, a variety of armed groups capitalized on the conditions created by the pandemic. Based on what they learned, Mayesha shared the key recommendations from the report:

- It's critical to ensure a conflict-sensitive approach to all relief and recovery efforts
- Policymakers, practitioners, and donors need to work directly with communities in order to be effective and inclusive
- Conflict prevention and peacebuilding approaches should be adapted to anticipate, track, and address various types of conflict

Mayesha then moderated a panel with two Mercy Corps team leaders from Colombia and Liberia to delve into how COVID-19 has impacted instability in these countries. Jennifer Daum (Director of Programs in Colombia for Mercy Corps) started with background about Mercy Corps in Colombia. She said the pandemic exacerbated conflicts, delayed peace process programs, devastated livelihoods, and that armed groups didn't respect the lockdown. Miji Park (Country Director of Liberia for Mercy Corps) gave a brief overview of Liberia and said that while there has been an increase in violence, there has also been instances of communities coming together, such as religious leaders working together to provide social services and relief to communities.

## Plenary Keynote

Michele Sumilas (Assistant to the Administrator at USAID) began the plenary keynote by talking about the Interim National Security Strategy, released by the White House and National Security Council. The priorities from that strategy included responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, responding to climate change, supporting democracies and anti-corruption, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility activities. Michele talked about a speech USAID Administrator Samantha Power gave, laying out a new vision for global development and identifying key priorities: increasing diversity, focusing more on the voices and needs of the most vulnerable, and continuing the focus on confronting the global challenges as laid out by the National Security Strategy.



Michele Sumilas

Michele talked about USAID's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategy, which she said includes placing local communities in the lead to either co-design the projects, set priorities, drive for implementation or evaluate the impact by 2030. It will also expand outreach and engagement with women, children, youth, Indigenous communities, LGBTQ communities, people with disabilities, and those with unmet mental health needs.

Michele related the importance of partnerships and localization. USAID has committed to contribute a quarter of their funds directly to local partners in the next four years. She said a new soon-to-be-released local capacity-building strategy will ground this work.

“We are a development agency that not just fights specific diseases, although that is really important, but we’ve also seen the decades of progress have been unraveled by this pandemic, and we are concerned that the SDGs are no longer within our reach. So we are also committing resources and shifting our existing funds to help address some of the underlying impacts,” said Michele. Impacts such as job loss, democratic back-sliding, increases in gender-based violence, and school closures. These are all urgent concerns in addition to COVID-19 that are being addressed by USAID.

*“ We are a development agency that not just fights specific diseases, although that is really important, but we’ve also seen the decades of progress have been unraveled by this pandemic, and we are concerned that the SDGs are no longer within our reach.*

- Michele Sumilas, USAID

Michele said that this Administration has recognized that the climate change crisis is impacting everything and is addressing climate change differently than in the past. They are taking climate change into account across all of their work and there are many strategies for agencies to all work together. Democracy assistance is also a large concern for USAID; they see it as one of their core projects. Michele said that USAID is pretty busy but committed to all the issues that are central to the SDGs.

## NETWORKING

Networking is an important element of attending conferences and, fortunately, there were several opportunities for virtual networking built into the 2021 Goalmakers conference agenda. Day 1 kicked off with time for networking and visiting the Virtual Exhibit Hall, featured an issue-based networking break mid-morning, and then ended with rounds of speed networking.

Day 2 also began with time for networking and visiting the virtual exhibit hall, and ended with virtual happy hour tables. Participants sent 1,770 private messages, joined 113 private group chats, exchanged virtual business cards, and viewed each other's profiles. Participants voted networking as their favorite part of the conference. This conference was a great opportunity to connect with like-minded people who work in Global Development around the world.

## Plenary Conversation: The Gates Foundation's Strategic Approach

For the second day of the 2021 Goalmakers Annual Conference, Ankur Vora (Chief Strategy Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) gave the opening keynote in conversation with Sara Rogge (Chief of Staff for Global Policy & Advocacy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation). The session covered the foundation's approach over the past two years given COVID and how the foundation thinks about strategy and the issues they take on at the foundation.

When making strategic choices, Ankur said that as a data-driven organization, the foundation looks at the burden and the causes of a problem, and then they look at their role and the impact the foundation has in that area and whether it makes sense for them to get involved. Ankur acknowledged that everyone has a different perspective and may make different choices, so it's an evolving conversation.



Ankur Vora



Sara Rogge

*“Are there ways we could use this moment to try to push us to be even better in the future?”*

- Ankur Vora, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Ankur gave an example about the foundation addressing financial inclusion and helping improve digital transactions and access to benefits - that was an area the foundation decided they could play a helpful role during COVID. “Are there ways we could use this moment to try to push us to be even better in the future?” asked Ankur.

Sara asked Ankur how the foundation shifted priorities during COVID and he talked about how they'd gone from seeing tremendous progress on global health issues to reversing trends during the pandemic. He said that the foundation shifted to think about the immediate emergency support they could provide for things like oxygen supply, education about Covid, and financial services.

Sara pointed out that the foundation works with partners and grantees as a facilitator and investor. Ankur agreed, "There is no pathway to impact that doesn't go through our partners, and so, who we work with, how we work with them and how they work with their stakeholders and beneficiaries on the ground is probably as equal or even more important than what you work on and what's your technical solution." Ankur also talked about shifting from a position of impatience and scale to thinking about sustainability, context, and local capacity.

*“ There is no pathway to impact that doesn't go through our partners, and so, who we work with, how we work with them and how they work with their stakeholders and beneficiaries on the ground is probably as equal or even more important than what you work on and what's your technical solution.*

- Ankur Vora, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

On a personal level, Ankur said he's thinking a lot about climate change mitigation and adaptation, especially for smallholder farmers, and how that will impact food insecurity. Other issues he said he's looking at are noncommunicable diseases, which are rising quickly in low- and middle-income countries, mental health, and gender equity. Sara ended the conversation by noting two values she heard that are important for the foundation – a blend of optimism and rigor.

## Plenary Conversation: Amazon's Disaster Relief Program



Bettina Stix



Jane Meseck

The next fireside chat was with Bettina Stix (Director of Right Now Needs and Disaster Relief at Amazon) and Jane Meseck (Former Senior Director of Global Programs at Microsoft Philanthropies).

Jane started out by talking about leading global humanitarian action work and Microsoft Philanthropies' response to COVID in the past two years. "Increasingly, there's a disproportionate impact of crises on our most vulnerable communities. So as a humanitarian sector ... we all recognize the need to rethink how we respond to crises and how we work more collaboratively and how we do so in a more community-led way." She said that corporations have a responsibility to support the communities where their employees live and work and also to leverage their strengths and assets to address crises. She introduced Bettina and said this session would present a case study on Amazon and how they've approached the changing world of disaster response.

*" ... we all recognize the need to rethink how we respond to crises and how we work more collaboratively, and how we do so in a more community-led way.*

- Jane Meseck, Microsoft Philanthropies (former)

*"*

Bettina said that Amazon is focused on helping communities around the world be healthier and thrive. She said they look at "what can we do to help them overcome disasters, become more resilient, and help them in what I call 'the everyday disaster,' which

is what we call ‘right now needs’-people being food insecure, not having the basic items to live, not being in a state to even keep their head above water and thrive.” Bettina talked about how Amazon is known for delivering items quickly, so employees and customers were asking the company to help do that for disaster supplies. Starting in 2017, Bettina said they figured they could become a one-stop solution for on-demand help. They heard that the faster the response is to a disaster, the shorter the recovery will be, and fast is what Amazon can help deliver. And that year there were a bunch of disasters that put the concept to the test quickly - multiple major hurricanes and earthquakes. Bettina’s team talked to partners on the ground about their needs, such as problems with their supply chain and how Amazon can help as a logistics and supply chain expert. Bettina shared an example of when India was hit by the second COVID wave, they needed medical equipment, so the India team at Amazon worked with the local community and the Disaster team in Seattle to get \$5 million worth of hospital equipment out to hospitals.

Bettina ended the conversation by thanking everyone in the humanitarian sector and encouraged everyone to review Amazon’s Disaster Relief program on their webpage and let them know if there are ways Amazon can advance their work. “Share with us what innovation you would like to see in the world, and hopefully we can work together.”

## Fast Pitch

Following the morning keynote discussion, representatives from four Global Washington non-profit member organizations had the opportunity to pitch their organizations' missions to the audience as well as answering the question: "What does decolonizing global development mean to your organization?" They each had a time limit of two minutes to wow the audience.

"At The Hunger Project, our most powerful partners are those living with chronic hunger across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We knew solutions designed by and for those living in poverty are the ones that last. This practice called 'community-led development' is, by nature, anti-colonial," said Tim Prewitt (President & CEO of The Hunger Project). "We've learned that decolonizing development starts within each of us; examining our mindsets and shifting them."

"Long before the United Nations started its millennium development goals, Sukarya had already started working with a holistic approach to address all major issues of women living in urban slums and hard-to-reach villages in Delhi, Rajasthan, and Haryana of Northern India," said Debadutta Dash (Secretary of Sukarya USA).

The Pygmy Survival Alliance works with the indigenous people of Rwanda. "According to history, they are known as Batwa Pygmies. Because of population crowding and gorilla conservation, they lost their ancestral lands and struggled to survive. For many years, they've been fighting systemic discrimination and health inequities," said Karl Weyrauch (President of the Pygmy Survival



Alliance). “After 78 truly collaborative projects, the villagers have achieved greatly improved sanitation and hygiene, food and water security, jobs, and access to healthcare and education.”

“VillageReach is committed to making actionable change to decolonize global health. In the last year and a half, 75% of our new hires have been non-expat, local African hires. We’ve included diversity, equity, and inclusion targets in our 2021-2023 organizational objectives, and we offer quarterly personal learning and development sessions for staff on systemic racism and colonialism,” said Julia Guerette (Data Analytics Manager for VillageReach). “Collaborate with us to form a coalition of organizations who can be each other’s accountability buddies. Together, we will create a tool with sector-specific indicators that we as organizations will use to monitor our efforts to decolonize our work.”

This year, conference attendees voted for their favorite fast pitch participant via a poll in the Whova app. The winner of the Audience Choice Award was Tim Prewett from The Hunger Project – he won a free ticket to the 2022 Goalmakers conference.



## BREAKOUT SESSION 1

### SDGs 5 and 10: Gender Equity



Celeste Mergens

#### The Hidden Barriers to Gender Equity That Are Overlooked and Misunderstood

Achieving gender equity is one of the most important humanitarian issues of our time. In this special session we heard from a panel of women's rights experts about the barriers to equity for women that are often hidden, overlooked, and misunderstood. We learned how menstrual health, childhood marriage, gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, WASH, and legal rights have a fundamental impact on the opportunity, dignity, and equality for women and girls around the world.

Celeste Mergens (CEO & Founder of Days for Girls) kicked off the session by sharing a surprising key to reversing inequality in global development: access to menstrual resources and education. When Celeste learned about girls sitting on a piece of cardboard for days at an orphanage and school in Kenya because they didn't have menstrual products, she started Days for Girls. To address the global scope of the problem, she said that the organization has reached 2.4 million women and girls in 144 countries on six continents. Celeste also talked about the impacts of stigma on girls and effective approaches for combating stigma.

Moderator Katrina Kwan (Senior Project Manager at Dalberg Advisors) emphasized how menstrual equity is a cross-sectional



Katrina Kwan

issue, as it addresses lost productivity and opportunity as well as how girls and women see themselves and are treated by their communities. This issue incorporates many of the SDGs.

Nur Kara (Attorney at DLA Piper LLP and New Perimeter) said that she has represented survivors of domestic violence and immigrants who have fled torture and violence and are seeking asylum. “The term ‘women’s equity’ can be a bit misleading in that the barriers women face actually concern equity for all, for everyone, for the progress of civil society in its entirety and not just for women,” said Nur. She said that our legal system and laws are not adequately built for women, even in the United States. Nur also discussed the role of law and the role of a lawyer for enacting change and providing culturally-sensitive, trauma-informed, and holistic representation.



Nur Kara

“ *The term ‘women’s equity’ can be a bit misleading in that the barriers women face actually concern equity for all, for everyone, for the progress of civil society in its entirety and not just for women.*

- Nur Kara, DLA Piper LLP, New Perimeter



Severina Lemachokoti

Next up, Severina Lemachokoti (Board Member at Samburu Women Trust) shared that as a survivor of female genital mutilation (FGM), she uses her story to educate and help young girls and communities say no to FGM. She talked about barriers that prevent girls and women access to equitable health services, like illiteracy, lack of education, and lack of community participation. “When we talk about policymaking, when we talk about global change or even when we talk about the sustainable development goals at the national or global level, are we really thinking about the community themselves? Are we thinking about



Ina Jurga

their own cultural practices and their own traditions that they value? How do we involve our communities, our leaders and women and young girls so that we can listen to their voices and their views during the process of making these laws and policies?” asked Severina. She also discussed the intersections between FGM, child marriage, periods, and gender-based violence, as well as how to engage boys and men in these conversations.

Ina Jurga (International Coordinator for Menstrual Hygiene Day at WASH United) said that when she talks about gender equality, she mostly means women and girls but that it’s also important to consider perspectives from LGBTQ and transgender people. She said that a key barrier to gender equality is gender blindness and shared an example she encountered as an engineer. Most of Ina’s colleagues are men who design and construct infrastructure and they wouldn’t think about girls’ menstrual needs when they design school toilets. “On a positive note, because the issue is coming to the forefront now, there’s also now males and engineers that put these design standards forward and start to think about menstrual health and hygiene in their standards and policies. This is an example of how you can turn around blindness into something when you’re really opening up, listen to the voices and break down taboos and stigma,” said Ina.

“ On a positive note, because the issue is coming to the forefront now, there’s also now males and engineers that put these design standards forward and start to think about menstrual health and hygiene in their standards and policies.

- Ina Jurga, WASH United

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Menstruation is also closely connected with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), which has a dedicated SDG, number 6. Ina said that if we achieve SDG 6, it will have a ripple effect on SDG 5 and 10 and benefit the entire society.

Katrina thanked the panelists for sharing powerful stories, recognizing the widespread intersections of these issues across countries, and giving us hope and inspiration for the path forward. She said that the panelists highlighted how global, universal, and widespread these issues are.

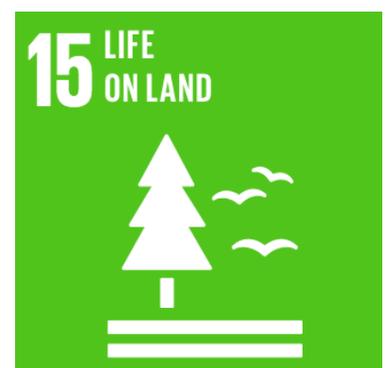
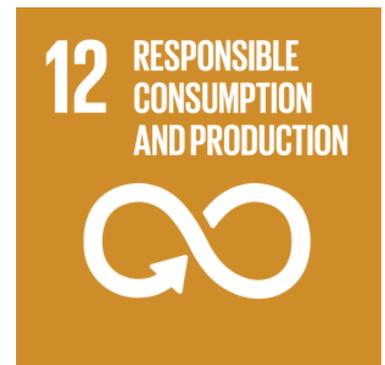
## BREAKOUT SESSION 2

### SDGs 7, 12, 14, 15: Natural Capital & Livelihoods

Coming out of nearly two years of tremendous disruptions following a global pandemic in addition to the increasing severity of the impacts of climate change, communities and industries that rely on natural resources have experienced new levels of challenges. We have seen global supply chains struggle, putting already vulnerable communities further at risk, and examples of local and diversified supply chains flourishing. This session explored how we can leverage this opportunity to rethink the relationship between our natural resources and community livelihoods and rebuild the blue and green economies with a focus on regeneration.

The panel of speakers examined the opportunities for systems-level transformation, scalable innovative solutions, and the enabling conditions needed in order to implement them at a community level. Participants came away thinking about a path forward in moving towards a more regenerative future that promotes resilient and equitable livelihoods.

Moderator Ethan Miller (Senior Analyst at Resonance) introduced the panelists then handed it off to Nienke Stam (Program Director Landscape Finance at IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative). Nienke talked about how the pandemic exposed the vulnerability of the



global supply chains and the context in Liberia, where people rely on global commodity markets for people’s income. She said that while Liberia is used to unpredictability and disruption because of its poor infrastructure, the pandemic underscored the importance of diversified production systems, resilience, food security, and income diversification.

Diego Undurraga (Chile Director for Future of Fish) spoke next about Future of Fish working with small-scale fisheries who sell mainly in the domestic market—a sector dominated by informality. He said that some new supply chains were created, mainly from new online sales and delivery systems, which diversified the traditional sales market. Diego reiterated that in Chile the pandemic highlighted the importance of short supply chains and the importance of technologies. Future of Fish is working on helping fisheries create a more responsible, sustainable supply chain.

Dov Rosenmann (Head of Country for the Earthworm Foundation in Brazil) said that the pandemic has been catastrophic in Brazil. The number of people infected with and who died from COVID is huge, “so everywhere you go, there is a sense of grieving... and that created massive disruption in the entire society,” he said. “The COVID crisis really stressed this factor of community level resilience.” Dov talked about the economy, food security, land rights, migration, and accelerating poverty. Indigenous communities have been especially hard hit by crises around land use and indigenous rights – there’s a case under study at the International Crime Court, analyzing the Brazilian government for genocide. And, of course, degradation and deforestation is still happening.



Ethan Miller



Nienke Stam



Diego Undurraga



Dov Rosenmann

Ethan wrapped up the end of the breakout session with some key takeaways and threads he noticed in these conversations.

“This transition needs to happen because degradation is still happening at the same pace, and to make this transition, it’s every sector. It’s the financial sector. It’s consumers. It’s bringing technology into artisanal fishing, and it’s diversification is a critical need in this transformation. We need to do things that have never been done, and there’s risk, and it needs political will. It needs finance. It needs enabling conditions to make sure that this transition can be supported. There’s also a need for inclusivity and bringing projects to the ground and implementing, as well as engagement with the multitude of stakeholders who are involved in multifaceted landscapes that are outside of any one individual commodity,” said Ethan.

“ *We need to do things that have never been done, and there’s risk, and it needs political will. It needs finance. It needs enabling conditions to make sure that this transition can be supported.*

- Ethan Miller, Resonance

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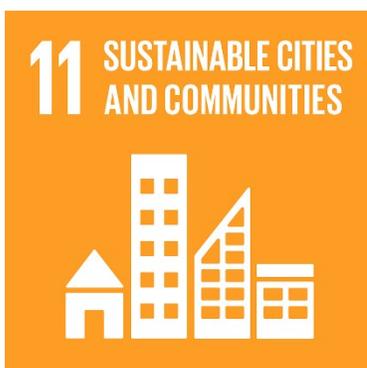
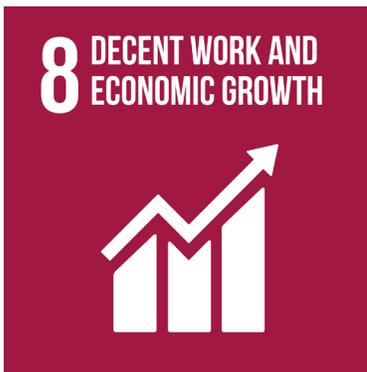
## BREAKOUT SESSION 3

### SDGs 1, 8, 9, 11: Inclusive Growth & Innovation



#### How Indebtedness or Lack of Savings Keeps People Living in Extreme Poverty

When Upaya Social Ventures, an organization focused on livelihoods for people living in extreme poverty, surveyed their jobholders during the COVID-19 pandemic, they discovered a concerning issue: despite continued employment and income, 77% of the poor households surveyed in India reported having no savings at all. Why, despite them having access to dignified jobs and regular wages were they unable to build such a cushion? Having adequate savings is absolutely critical for poor households to survive a crisis. Around the world the pandemic has exposed that too few people have saved up enough to weather the storm. This is especially pronounced among the extreme poor. Now as we recover and rebuild, it is imperative that the jobs of tomorrow help those living in poverty save and build a safety net for future crises. While historical data shows weak correlations between certain variables (such as amount of income, access to savings accounts, and job tenure) and a person's ability to save, we need better information around what factors correlate to encourage and support greater generation of savings.





Kate Cochran

Moderator Kate Cochran (CEO of Upaya) started the session by framing savings for the poor as a broader question of resilience and how we help our most vulnerable citizens. She said this panel would explore what we've learned during COVID about how savings can really be a lifeline for the poor and what are the ways we can improve how we help people build savings.



Alberto Solano

Alberto Solano (President & Executive Director at Agros) started the conversation with a look at how debt has changed in rural areas of Central America. He said that now there are retail stores that have extremely high interest rates and sell a dream of three dollar a week easy payments to get whatever people need at home, like bicycles and other consumer goods. Alberto also talked about studies that show that in order for saving to be successful, it has to be made easy. He said what they've been doing differently is helping women reflect on their decisions and the consequences of borrowing or saving.



Sybil Chidiac

Sybil Chidiac (Senior Program Officer for Gender Equality at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) said that the foundation is seeing similar situations in South Asia, where debt is rising and there's a need for financial services to build out more resilient livelihoods, and be able to diversify and contribute to the economy. She discussed the labor opportunities—from micro to enterprise—and looking at more resilient pathways that women can pursue that foster greater income. The foundation's strategy for advancing women's economic empowerment has been focused on Women's Empowerment Collectives in Africa and in India, which bring together women to provide economic, financial, and social supports to each other. Sybil said the foundation focuses on five key elements for attaining women's economic empowerment: pooled savings and shared risks, group solidarity in networks,

participatory learning and life skills, critical consciousness agenda (empowering women with a sense of personhood and rights), and access to markets and services.

Next, Kate shared that Upaya has been doing a lot of research, and invests for the purpose of creating jobs for the extreme poor. When they surveyed the people they work with after the second wave of COVID, many had a significant increase in debt. “We all know that debt is a stone around the necks of the poor, if they are trying to rise out of poverty.”

Alberto and Sybil talked about focusing on families and the community, while also working with women specifically. In many rural communities, it’s necessary to involve men and the broader communities beyond the household in order to be effective. Sybil also emphasized the multiple shocks that vulnerable communities are dealing with – floods, drought, locust invasions, COVID, etc. All of these can deplete savings, so we have to figure out how to build resiliency to address multiple issues. This can be done through a variety of hand-holding services, like coaching, mentoring, etc. Sybil warned that credit is not the answer and we need to learn from the debt crisis in other geographies. Alberto talked about the barriers to entry for savings.

Kate wrapped up the session, noting that the conversation was less about structures and regulatory changes and more about people and behavior.

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*We all know that debt is a stone around the necks of the poor, if they are trying to rise out of poverty.*

- Kate Cochran, Upaya

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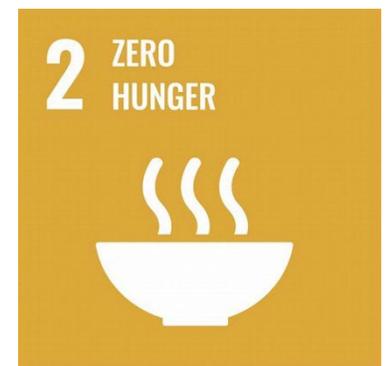
## BREAKOUT SESSION 4

### SDGs 4, 2, 6: Child Welfare

Going on 21 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, let's consider what was lost, what was gained, and what we should retain related to the well-being of children around the globe. Panelists explored the unanticipated outcomes of prolonged school closures on students and communities, as well as the opportunities arising amongst local families, teachers, and other champions. Furthermore, the pandemic has shown us the importance of capacity building at the grassroots level for navigating present and future crises.

Moderator Patrick Kimani Nyambura (Intern at Alliance for Children Everywhere) introduced the panelists and then handed it off to Eskinder Endreas (WASH Promotions Manager at Splash International) to start the conversation. Eskinder gave an overview of Splash, then talked about the impact COVID had in Ethiopia on children. He said that the closure of schools allowed them to complete WASH infrastructure projects but significantly delayed behavioral change interventions they normally do with children and families.

Jane Beck (Executive Director at Project GRAD in the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska) spoke next about working with children who are already isolated in rural communities and how COVID increased that isolation. She expressed more concern about children's socioemotional connections with caring adults, more than their academic loss, since the children in very small



Patrick Kimani Nyambura

communities don't have access to many people outside their families and the stresses on families all trickle down to stresses on children. Jane said that they're also concerned about infrastructure, like sanitation and water in some places.

Malahat Mazaher (Executive Director of Sahar Education) gave context about Afghanistan, where a large percent of the population is young and lack access to basic needs like food, shelter, healthcare, education, etc. During the pandemic, there was a lot of uncertainty, including when schools were closed or open. And while Sahar provided thermometers, soaps, face masks, and education on social distancing, Malahat said that some schools don't have running water and can't social distance in a class full of 40-50 students. Malahat also addressed the recent humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and rise of the Taliban to say that children, as with other conflicts, are the first victims and they suffer the most. Sahar's programs are on pause and they are working on new strategies to support children and families.

Switching to what has been gained, Jane said that the sense of urgency around education is getting more attention now and that they've shifted their mindset at Project GRAD to transform constraints into opportunities. Malahat agreed that there's a lot to be gained from the crisis and that it gave Sahar an opportunity to try different methods to deliver services. She said it also gave them a chance to understand some of the gaps in services and reassess their goals. Eskinder noted that hand hygiene became more of a priority for the government during the pandemic, and that private firms came up with technology solutions for handwashing stations - all of which led to an increase in children washing hands with soap.



Eskinder Endreas



Jane Beck



Malahat Mazaher

“In our work in global development, crisis management is one of the most powerful things that we can equip our local leaders with. As we continue to move on from the past into year three of what we have been going through throughout the globe, it is important for us to reflect on what has worked and what has not worked, and continue to pivot as needed,” said Kimani. He then shared his personal story of growing up in Kenya picking coffee beans for \$2 a day until a non-profit sponsored his high school education.

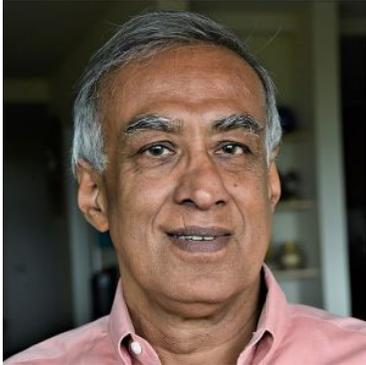
“ *In our work in global development, crisis management is one of the most powerful things that we can equip our local leaders with.*

- Kimani Nyambura, Alliance for Children Everywhere

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The panelists wrapped up the discussion by talking about technological access and programs that will affect how child welfare changes in the future across their different geographies.

## Plenary Panel: The Future of U.S. Based NGO Leadership



Akhtar Badshah

Moderator Akhtar Badshah (Distinguished Practitioner & Senior Lecturer at the University of Washington) began the Plenary Panel by noting that this session had a parallel session the previous day that featured NGO executives based in Africa talking about the future of global development. This panel featured NGO CEOs based in the United States talking about the future of U.S.-based NGO leadership.



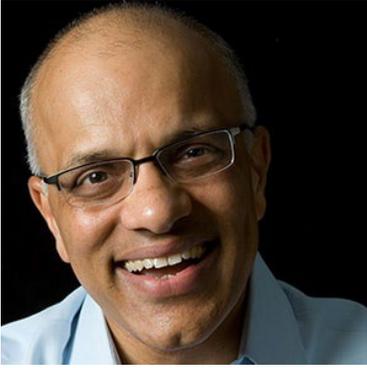
Janti Soeripto

Janti Soeripto (President & CEO of Save the Children) began the discussion by talking about decentralizing leadership. She said that Save the Children is far from perfect but has been working with its country teams and partners to understand where they're making progress and where significant improvement needs to be made. The 100-year-old organization "is probably still coming out of the phase of being unconsciously incompetent. And if we get to consciously incompetent over the coming months, I'd be happy," said Janti. Save the Children has been working on this for a long time, but they are humble enough to know they are still in the early stages. She also talked about power imbalances and acknowledged that giving power to someone else, usually means giving something up. Which is hard, but collectively you get more power and it's incredibly beneficial in the long-run.



Nikolaj Gilbert

Nikolaj Gilbert (CEO of PATH) shared that when he joined PATH at the beginning of 2020, he listened to staff, partners, local NGOs, ministers of health, and others and discovered that there was a lot of expertise at the local and country level that wasn't



Atul Tandon

acknowledged. Nikolaj said they had to make some structural changes to create more regional and country-based leadership, diversity in the executive team, etc. He also said it's not enough to just create innovative tools but it's also important to build innovation capacity from global networks in health. Nikolaj finished by talking about how to say a meaningful yes to donors that allows for inclusivity and innovation, as well as funding and time to understand the landscape.

Atul Tandon (CEO of Opportunity International) said that while they've shifted from calling people they work with clients instead of beneficiaries, they also have lots of lessons to learn. Atul's organization has gone from centralized to decentralized and back and forth a couple of times. In the current wave of decentralization, they realized their role was the release of local capital to the poor rather than the direct provision of capital. That has paid off in a shift from their philanthropic capital being multiplied five times to ten times – double the effectiveness. He said that in addition to that, having local banks manage the loans freed his team to provide more programmatic services like skill-building, capacity-building, financial literacy training, business training, education, etc. “The impact of moving to a locally-driven model is that we now have more money going to serve the poor and we are able to offer more services,” said Atul. He also talked about the mindset shift from taking orders to actually creating solutions – both in the context of local leadership and the relationship between donors and organizations.

“ *The impact of moving to a locally-driven model is that we now have more money going to serve the poor and we are able to offer more services.* ”

- Atul Tandon, Opportunity International

## Plenary Keynote

In the next plenary keynote, Igor Belokrinitsky (Principal, Strategy& United States, PwC) talked about meeting tomorrow's challenges for making the new normal, the better normal. The session started with a brief video about what's needed to achieve the SDGs. The video ended with "The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified challenges in development, but it has also ignited new ways of working, new ideas, and new possibilities. The opportunity for making the new normal be a better normal is real, and it is time to redefine the ambition for development."



Igor Belokrinitsky

*“ The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified challenges in development, but it has also ignited new ways of working, new ideas, and new possibilities. ”*

- Quote from PwC video

Igor started his talk by sharing that 180,000 more people per year die of malaria than we originally thought. He wondered about how the original estimate was so far off and how this continues to happen when we've invested so much in this issue. He said that we need to make better decisions and that we have the tools and knowledge to do so.

He framed his talk around seven developments that make him optimistic about our ability to make better decisions going forward:

1. Our ability to create a digital twin or synthetic population to test decisions
2. Our ability to set smarter goals, to compare and evaluate different programs
3. Our ability to create more useful scenarios about how the future might transpire
4. Better understanding of our cognitive biases so we can create higher quality forecasts and plan better
5. Our increasing ability to communicate information, particularly data in a visual manner that makes an impact and drives change
6. Our relationship with our mentors that could help drive our decisions
7. An actual evolution in how we facilitate decision making conversations so we can get to consensus faster

Igor said that in healthcare, we've evolved from talking about social determinants of health to social determinants of life - helping people achieve their full potential.

"I think with all of those things in mind, you'll be really well positioned to make higher quality decisions, smarter decisions, faster decisions, more equitable decisions. I hope you enjoy the rest of the program and come away more equipped, more armed to make better choices for your organization and for the world," said Igor.

## Roundtable Discussions / Ask an Expert



Parvathy Ramanathan

### INDIA'S PHILANTHROPY AND CORPORATE FUNDING LANDSCAPE

Changes in India's social sector impact 18% of the world's population. Since 2014, companies in India have been mandated to allocate CSR budget amounts towards social impact spend. What social impact initiatives have Indian companies invested in and where? In parallel, a robust domestic philanthropy ecosystem has also evolved in the country – who are some key Indian foundations and how do they work, especially in the context of COVID-19? In this session, participants attempted to demystify the Indian corporate and domestic foundation funding landscape and share insights from this ecosystem.

*Discussion Lead:* Parvathy Ramanathan (Regional Head – Americas at Sattva Consulting)



Mike Shanley

### USAID FUNDING BEST PRACTICES

Mike Shanley has been helping new partners to enter the USAID market for nearly a decade. He led a discussion on best practices for starting and growing your work with USAID. Participants discussed changes under the Biden Administration, the New Partnerships Initiative, and USAID's direction under Administrator Samantha Power.

*Discussion Lead:* Mike Shanley (Founder and CEO of AidKonekt Data)



David Ehrlichman



Marty Kooistra



Lisa Zook

## CREATING NETWORKS FOR IMPACT

Impact networks provide a transformational way of working together across the typical boundaries that often hold us back. They offer a collaborative infrastructure for a more equitable, interdependent world. As a powerful and flexible organizing system that can span regions, organizations, and silos of all kinds, impact networks underlie some of the most impressive and large-scale efforts to create change across the globe. Participants discussed how to cultivate resilient networks for impact in this session with David Ehrlichman, author of *Impact Networks* and coordinator of the Converge network.

*Discussion Lead:* David Ehrlichman (Author of *Impact Networks*). David was joined by Marty Kooistra (Partner at Sapwood Advisors and Global Washington Board Member).

## CONTINUOUS INCLUSION OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK WITH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

How well do we listen to local communities to deliver improved services? How can we continuously improve from listening, even when there are barriers like low-literacy and no Internet? Amplio shared what it has learned from supporting partners to do this in 13 countries over the last 13 years.

*Discussion Lead:* Lisa Zook (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Advisor at Amplio)



Kim Rakow Bernier

## NURTURING LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Amidst the recent tidal wave of change and disruption, where do you find foundation for your leadership? What skills, mindsets, and behaviors do you seek? Where do you need support? In this mini-session, Kim Rakow Bernier guided participants through an exercise to clarify their growth goals and set a professional development goal(s) to advance their leadership.

*Discussion Lead:* Kim Rakow Bernier, MPA, ACC (Managing Director of Faculty at the Global Leadership Forum)

## Plenary Conversation: Gender Equality and Democracy

The speakers in this session shared examples and insights to demonstrate what happens when governments fail to protect the rights of women in their societies. “Recent events in Afghanistan, Russia, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Yemen ... the list goes on. These are all political conflicts, but also human rights conflicts that have transformed and morphed into humanitarian crises. These are crises that have put women, girls, gender non-binary people at great risk and left them unprotected by the governments that should protect them,” said moderator Jane Barry (Executive Director of the Linksbridge Foundation).

“The second outlook is around the movements that are fighting for gender equality around the world, as well as the power of civil society to protect the rights of women, particularly when the institutions that are supposed to protect them cannot, and often will not.”

Abby Maxman (President & CEO of Oxfam America) started the conversation talking about how the progress we’ve made is under extreme threat and civil society’s role in the fight for these rights is under attack. She said civil society’s role is essential but its ability is being constrained. “Thanks to COVID, the veil has been lifted on just how unequal our world really is. It’s more mainstream talking about it ... We’ve seen how the virus has laid bare, exacerbating



Jane Barry



Abby Maxman

economic and gender and racial and geographic inequalities, many of which intersect in deeply important ways,” said Abby. She said that across every sphere, the impacts of COVID are exacerbated for women and girls – from health to the economy, security to social protection.

*“ We’ve seen how [COVID] has laid bare, exacerbating economic and gender and racial and geographic inequalities, many of which intersect in deeply important ways.*

- Abby Maxman, Oxfam America

Marina Pisklakova-Parker (Founder and Chair of the Board at the Center for the Prevention of Violence) talked about the global trends and how they’re reflected in country-specific examples. She said that in Russia, as domestic violence grew during the pandemic, state agencies were closed, and women fleeing their homes because of violence were fined for violating the lockdown rules. Marina said, “I found this number from the Equality Institute, that funding for prevention of violence against women in the past five years, is only 0.002% of the global development programs. Let’s think about that. How much actually can be done by activists on the ground with no funding, no protection, and often without even a legislative framework?”



Marina Pisklakova-Parker

*“ Let’s think about that. How much actually can be done by activists on the ground with no funding, no protection, and often without even a legislative framework?*

- Marina Pisklakova-Parker, Center for the Prevention of Violence

Najla Ayoubi (Lawyer and Former Judge from Afghanistan at Every Woman Treaty) shared examples from Afghanistan and said they were providing services for more than 40% of the country because people don't have access to health, education, domestic violence and other services. She talked about the challenges both for those who've had to leave the country and for those within.

Jane ended the panel by asking the speakers to share what gives them hope. Marina said that the events of this week and reconnection with people about the Beijing Conference give her hope and that she hopes the global community will come together to create a new framework to eliminate violence against girls and women around the world. Abby said that she gets hope from the next generation and everybody out there fighting the important fights of our time, for gender justice, economic justice, racial justice, and climate justice. Najla said that the huge resistance to dark ideologies and the rise of good and peaceful ideas gives her hope. To close, Jane said that we can and must end gender-based violence in our lifetime.



Najla Ayoubi

## Closing Keynote: Building a Gender Just World Beyond Crisis



Latanya Mapp Frett

For the closing keynote session, Latanya Mapp Frett (President & CEO of the Global Fund for Women) started with appreciation for this conference. “It’s been quite the opportunity to learn about what to keep, change, and redefine in our work to save and improve lives around the world. And I love that tagline because it’s what I live,” she said.

Latanya said that Global Fund for Women believes that transformational social change comes from movements that are led by those most impacted and marginalized. She also stated that the impact of COVID-19 is not equally felt. “Women, girls, and marginalized people are facing increased gender-based violence, disrupted educational opportunities and severe economic hardships with long-term consequences for their well-being.” Latanya also emphasized that it’s not just COVID – there are interconnected and overlapping crises, so we must have a multidisciplinary approach. She said, “We need a transformative feminist response centered in collective healing, liberation, and radical solidarity with those most impacted around the globe.”

*“ Women, girls, and marginalized people are facing increased gender-based violence, disrupted educational opportunities and severe economic hardships with long-term consequences for their well-being.*

- Latanya Mapp Frett, Global Fund for Women

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Latanya ended her talk with a look at the opportunities that arise from crises and a call for us all to be bold and brave.

“This is the moment to step up. In this time of COVID, and in the midst of so many intersecting crises in the world, including the devastating climate crisis and political unrest in countries around the globe, we can all step up by giving grassroots leaders the funding they need to drive transformative change.”

“ *We need a transformative feminist response centered in collective healing, liberation, and radical solidarity with those most impacted around the globe.*

- Latanya Mapp Frett, Global Fund for Women

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