



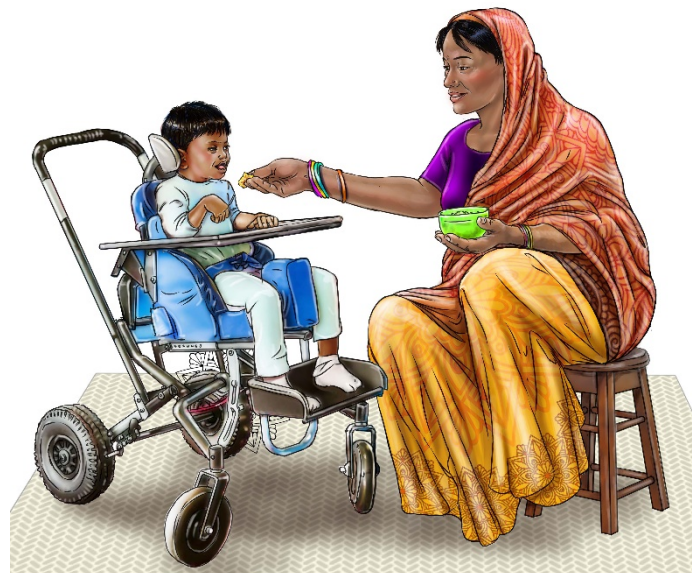
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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Virtual Convening on Improving Nutrition among Children with Feeding Difficulties and Children with Disabilities

Participant Guide

April 26-27, 2023 from 8:00-11:30 am EDT on Zoom



AGENDA

Day I (April 26): Scene Setting

Time (EDT / UTC)	Session Name	Speaker(s)
8:00-8:15 am (EDT) / 12:00-12:15 pm (UTC)	Formal Welcome	Katherine Guernsey, USAID Grainne Moloney, UNICEF
8:15-8:30 am (EDT) / 12:15-12:30 pm (UTC)	Convening Introduction & Overview Objectives of the convening and introduction to the social model of disability and other relevant frameworks to guide discussions	Lori Baxter, USAID Advancing Nutrition Consultant
8:30-9:00 am (EDT) / 12:30-1:00 pm (UTC)	Keynote Presentation - “Setting the Stage” Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and overview of promoting disability-inclusive health systems	Vivían Fernández de Torrijos, Expert Commissioner to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Hannah Kuper, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
9:00-9:30 am (EDT) / 1:00-1:30 pm (UTC)	Plenary Presentation - “Strengthening Services for Children with Feeding Difficulties and Children with Disabilities” USAID Advancing Nutrition scoping review findings UNICEF’s early intervention approach	Alyssa Klein and Malia Uyehara, USAID Advancing Nutrition Raoul Bermejo, UNICEF
9:30-9:45 am (EDT) / 1:30-1:45 pm (UTC)	Break	
9:45-10:25 am (EDT) / 1:45-2:25 pm (UTC)	Breakout Sessions - “Identifying and Supporting Children with Feeding Difficulties and Disabilities”	Channy Check, RTI Emily Vargas-Barón, RISE Institute Editch Gicheha, Rice University and NEST 360

	<p>Small group discussions to share experiences about available resources and strategies</p> <p>Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early detection • Early intervention • Identifying feeding difficulties • Managing and supporting feeding difficulties • Addressing and treating malnutrition • Promoting disability inclusion 	<p>Catherine Watson Genna, International Lactation Consultant Association</p> <p>Kate Miller, SPOON</p> <p>Irene Calvo, World Health Organization</p> <p>Angelique Kester, Liliane Fonds</p> <p>Erin Boyd, USAID</p>
<p><i>10:25-11:10 am (EDT) / 2:25-3:10 pm (UTC)</i></p>	<p>Storytelling Panel - “Nutrition & Disability in Action”</p> <p>Examples of programs and approaches that support children with feeding difficulties and children with disabilities</p>	<p>Moderator: Cat Kirk, USAID</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Elizabeth Mubukwanu, Catholic Medical Mission Board Zambia</p> <p>Juan Cobeñas, International Disability Association</p> <p>Vrushali Kulkarni and Payal Shah, Ummeed Child Development Center</p>
<p><i>11:10-11:20 am (EDT) / 3:10-3:20 pm (UTC)</i></p>	<p>Day 1 Wrap-Up</p>	<p>Natalia Mufel, UNICEF</p>

Day 2 (April 27): Bringing Nutrition and Disability Together

Time (EDT / UTC)	Session Name	Speaker(s)
8:00-8:15 am (EDT) / 12:00-12:15 pm (UTC)	Welcome & Day 2 Overview	Gopal Mitra, UNICEF Kellie Stewart, USAID
8:15-9:00 am (EDT) 12:15-1:00 pm (UTC)	Panel Discussion - “Evidence & Tracking” Inclusion of children with disabilities in research and routine information systems	Moderator: Shona McDonald, ShonaQuipSE Panelists: Kaloyan Kamenov, World Health Organization Daniella Akellot, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services for People with Disability in Uganda (CoRSU) Rehabilitation Hospital in Uganda Glenn David, Philippines Ministry of Health
9:00-9:45 am (EDT) 1:00-1:45 pm (UTC)	Breakout Sessions - “Learnings & Next Steps” Small group discussions on what we have learned and suggested priority actions to take forward following the convening Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early detection • Early intervention • Identifying feeding difficulties • Managing and supporting feeding difficulties • Addressing and treating malnutrition • Promoting disability inclusion 	Fatmata Sesay, UNICEF Carolyn Moore, SPOON Kate Miller, SPOON Christine Kirungi, Uganda National Association of Cerebral Palsy Grace Funnell, UNICEF Maria Marelli, Humanity and Inclusion Joao Vembane, Save the Children, Mozambique
9:45-10:00 am (EDT) /	Break	

<i>1:45-2:00 pm (UTC)</i>		
<i>10:00-10:45 am (EDT) / 2:00-2:45 pm (UTC)</i>	<p>Panel Discussion - “Bridging the Gap and Breaking Down Silos”</p> <p>Fora, opportunities, and needs for ongoing coordination across sectors</p>	<p>Moderator: Linda Shaker Barbari, UNICEF</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>David Mwisige, Rwanda Ministry of Health</p> <p>Barbara Goedde, ATscale</p> <p>Juan Pablo Peña-Rosas, World Health Organization</p> <p>Filippo Dibari, World Food Programme</p>
<i>10:45-11:05 am (EDT) / 2:45-3:05 pm (UTC)</i>	Next Steps	Convening steering committee members
<i>11:05-11:15 am (EDT) 3:05-3:15 pm (UTC)</i>	Closing	Rory Nefdt, UNICEF Rebecca Levy, USAID

Meet Our Speakers, Moderators, and Facilitators!

Alyssa Klein (Member of the Event Organization Steering Committee)



Alyssa Klein is a technical advisor on the USAID Advancing Nutrition project, supporting the Food Systems, Health Systems, and Early Childhood Development teams. She provides technical and operational support that strengthens evidence and capacity to improve multi-sectoral programming for nutrition outcomes. She was previously the project director of the USAID Ethiopia Studying Animal Food Markets in Rural Areas (SAFIRA) project, and a technical specialist on the USAID Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) project. Alyssa received her Masters Degree from The Fletcher School, Tufts University in May 2011 with a focus on humanitarian assistance and community nutrition. She holds a BA in International Development from American University.

Angelique Kester



Angelique Kester is an occupational therapist and rehabilitation and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)/Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) advisor for the Liliane Foundation and Enablement in The Netherlands. Her work focuses on disability inclusive development for children, youth, and their families. The core strategy focuses on empowering children through their development and an enabling environment that spans from home to community. The approach used is CBR/CBID, lobby and advocacy, and capacity development by local partner organizations and stakeholders in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. She holds a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from the Amsterdam University of Applied Science.

Barbara Goedde



Barbara Goedde is the strategy & coordination advisor at ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology (AT). ATscale is a cross-sector partnership with a mission to transform people's lives through AT. Before joining ATscale in 2019, Barbara was the Policy Advisor at the Global Commission on Drug Policy, working for a group of 24 political leaders, cultural figures, and globally influential personalities including 12 former Heads of States and four Nobel laureates. Previously she worked at the Kofi Annan Foundation, providing expert input for former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and high-level partners on drug policy, and truth, justice, and reconciliation issues. She started her international career with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in crisis prevention and recovery.

Barbara studied in Germany and Chile and holds a Masters in Political Science, Modern History, and Intercultural Communications.

Carolyn Moore



Carolyn Moore, MPH, is the policy and advocacy advisor for SPOON, a global nonprofit working to improve nutrition and feeding practices for children with disabilities, children living without family care, and children at risk of family separation. Carolyn collaborates with coalitions, stakeholders, and local partners to promote policies, practices, and investments related to inclusive nutrition, early child development, and family care. Her work focuses on promoting inclusive nutrition in global policies; partnering with local civil society to promote inclusive policies and strategies in our partner countries; and generating and using evidence on the nutrition and feeding needs of children with disabilities and children without family care. Her professional background is in maternal and child health, health communication, public-private partnerships, and global health advocacy. Carolyn represents SPOON on multiple coalitions, including serving on the Executive Committee for the Thrive Coalition.

Cat Kirk (Member of the Event Organization Steering Committee)



Catherine (“Cat”) Kirk is a technical advisor with USAID’s Center for Children in Adversity where she oversees implementation of the U.S. Government Strategy: Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity’s objective to build strong beginnings through the promotion of cross-sectoral action to improve early childhood development outcomes. Prior to this, Cat was a senior early childhood development advisor with Save the Children and the Early Childhood Development team lead for USAID Advancing Nutrition. Cat has previously worked with Partners In Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the World Bank, UNICEF, and other organizations on the design, implementation, and evaluation of health and child development programs. Cat holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan.

Catherine Watson Genna



Catherine Watson Genna, BS, IBCLC, has assisted breastfeeding families in New York City as a lactation consultant since 1992. She participates in a research collaborative with Columbia University and Tel Aviv University Departments of Biomedical Engineering, studying biomechanics of the lactating nipple and aspects of sucking and swallowing in breastfeeding infants. Physiological Reports published their preliminary findings in 2021. She enjoys integrating the science of lactation and infant feeding with observation of mother/infant behavior to develop novel clinical strategies. She is the author of

Selecting and Using Breastfeeding Tools: Improving Care and Outcomes (Praeclarus Press 2016) and Supporting Sucking Skills in Breastfeeding Infants (Jones and Bartlett Publishers 2008, 2013, 2017, 2023), numerous professional journal articles, and chapters in the Core Curriculum and Breastfeeding and Human Lactation. Catherine served as associate editor of the United States Lactation Consultant Association's official journal Clinical Lactation for its first seven years. She still serves as a La Leche League leader.

Channy Check



Channy Check is a disability and social inclusion specialist for the USAID Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) activity in Cambodia. He is responsible for providing technical skills and capacity building to IECD partners and stakeholders, which include government officers, local authorities, and NGOs working in Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear Province. Prior to this he worked as the deputy director of the Disability Rights Unit of the Disability Action Council Secretariat General for the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation. He has been involved as a member of the National Committee to support and consult the Royal Government of Cambodia for developing the National Disability Strategic Plan 2018-2023 and the Policy of Inclusive Education for the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports. He is part of the Cambodian Developmental Milestone Assessment Tool (cDMAT) Core Group. He provides technical support for developing the cDMAT and strengthening capacity of local authorities and community workers to use the community-based version of this tool.

Christine Kirungi (Member of the Technical Advisory Group for Feeding Difficulties and Disabilities for USAID Advancing Nutrition)



Christine Kirungi, a trained disability inclusion facilitator, has been working in disability inclusion for over ten years. Living with cerebral palsy herself, her goal has been to promote the realization of the rights of underrepresented persons with disabilities, especially those with cerebral palsy, and to ensure their full inclusion in society. Prior to joining the Uganda National Association of Cerebral Palsy, Christine worked with National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) as a youth leader in charge of implementing a project aimed at empowerment and the sensitization of people with cerebral palsy, their families, and other stakeholders in Kampala and its suburbs. She holds a bachelor's degree in Community Based Rehabilitation from Kyambogo University.

Daniela Briñón (Member of the Technical Advisory Group for Feeding Difficulties and Disabilities for USAID Advancing Nutrition)



Daniela Briñón founded Zona de Sentidos, an online store of toys and assistive products to support children with developmental challenges, and Zona de Comunidad, an online platform for parents and family members of children with disabilities to share experiences and information for an increasingly diverse society. Inspired by her daughter Sofía, Daniela's mission has always been to promote educational play, school inclusion, and the comprehensive development of children at home, at school, and with therapists.

Daniella Akellot



Daniella Akellot is a public health expert, research scientist, and consultant, strives to improve the health of people globally. Daniella earned her Master of Public Health from Oxford Brookes University, England, UK, and acquired a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Laboratory Technology from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. She is an author and co-author of various publications about cervical cancer, disability research, and orthopedic medicine. She authored a book titled "Locked Out: Where are the Ethnic Minority Women?" and is co-editor of a children's book titled "It's My Turn to Play," based on disability inclusion in sports.

David Mwesigye



David Mwesigye is a nutrition specialist in the Rwanda Ministry of Health. His main role is to coordinate efforts to fight all forms of malnutrition with an emphasis on reducing stunting in children under five. Before this, he was a nutrition officer for a USAID-supported Inclusive Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (INECD) activity, which supported the provision of integrated nurturing care services to households with pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under five years. Before joining INECD, he was a district nutrition and gender officer for a USAID-supported food security initiative, where he supported the most vulnerable households to mitigate food and nutrition insecurity through the promotion of nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions. He is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health at Mount Kenya University, Kigali, building on his Bachelor's degree in Human

Nutrition and Dietetics obtained from the University of Rwanda, College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Edith Gicheha



Edith Gicheha is a neonatal nurse from Nairobi, Kenya, currently with Newborn Essential Solutions and Technologies (NEST360) as the clinical training director. She has six years of experience in maternal and newborn care as a midwife and another six years teaching and supervising over 150 neonatal nursing students at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) – School of Nursing. As clinical training director, she supports Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Ghana in developing and sustaining a vibrant education ecosystem to improve the quality of care given to small and sick newborns. She works with countries to develop, refine, and implement training and mentorship programs for all clinical staff (nurses, clinical officers, medical officers, pediatricians, neonatologists) in the secondary level (WHO Level 2) newborn units using refined methods. Edith holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) from the University of Nairobi. She also has advanced diplomas in Implementation Science, Program Management, and Reproductive Health & Rights, and is completing her Master of Public Health from the University of Nairobi in maternal and newborn health.

Elizabeth Mfunu Mubukwanu



Elizabeth Mubukwanu manages the Kusamala Project, a child protection project at Access to Health Zambia dba Catholic Medical Mission Board. She has over 15 years of working experience in child protection. She has previously worked for the Government of Zambia, the Human Rights Commission, World Vision International, Southern African AIDS Trust, Save the Children International, and Catholic Medical Mission Board in Zambia. Elizabeth specializes in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of child protection programs. In recent years, her work has focused on providing child protection technical advice at the national, provincial, district, and community levels in Zambia. She holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Zambia and a Master of Arts in Rural Development from Rhodes University, South Africa.

Emily Vargas-Barón



Emily Vargas-Barón directs the RISE Institute, a global authority in national-level early childhood policy planning, research, training, and monitoring and evaluation. She advises countries and international agencies regarding national systems and services for early childhood intervention (ECI) and early childhood development (ECD). Previously, she was the deputy assistant administrator of USAID for Education and Telecommunications. Emily founded and directed for 15 years a large ECI and ECD organization for low-income ethnic minority families in Central Texas that serves thousands of families each year. In addition, she was an educational planner and researcher for the Ford Foundation in Latin America and for UNESCO in several world regions. Emily holds a PhD in cognitive and cultural anthropology and educational planning from Stanford University. She has been a professor at four universities and she has authored many books, chapters, and peer-reviewed articles on ECI, ECD, and educational development.

Erin Boyd



Erin Boyd is a Senior Nutrition Advisor in USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance at USAID. She has twenty years of experience in humanitarian nutrition programming. Erin provides technical expertise to humanitarian nutrition responses and supports operational research related to improving the quality and scale of wasting treatment. Erin served as an emergency nutrition specialist and nutrition cluster coordinator with UNICEF for humanitarian responses in Darfur, Haiti, and Pakistan. She also managed emergency nutrition response programs for UNICEF and worked with NGOs implementing community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programs in Ethiopia and Sudan. Erin was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal. She holds a PhD in Food and Nutrition Policy and Programs from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, where she has been a lecturer for the past ten years.

Fatmata Sesay



Fatmata Fatima Sesay is a nutrition specialist, infant feeding with UNICEF HQ in New York. She manages the Infant Feeding portfolio and contributes to UNICEF's global leadership in Early Childhood Nutrition. She has over 15 years of experience in Maternal, Infant, and Young Child and Micronutrient Nutrition in both development and humanitarian settings. Fatmata holds an MSc in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a BSc, and an MSc in Nutrition and Dietetics from Njala University, Sierra Leone.

Filippo Dibari



Dr. Filippo Dibari is the regional senior nutrition advisor at the World Food Program of the United Nations Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific – based in Bangkok. Filippo is Italian by nationality and a Food Engineer (Msc) by foundational training. Given his passion for fighting malnutrition in all its forms, Filippo made a mid-career change and obtained a master’s degree in Public Health Nutrition (MSc) and a PhD in nutritional operational research (PhD). His doctorate work consisted of designing and clinically trialling WFP and UNICEF specialized nutritious foods to prevent or treat malnutrition. Sri Lanka hosted part of his study in an urban slum of Colombo. MSF, Concern World Wide, World Vision, and Save the Children have all contributed to his professional experience, in more than 15 countries across three continents.

Glenn David



Glenn David is a registered nurse and a licensed professional teacher working in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) as an account management specialist. His current work involves the development of special and catastrophic benefits called the Z Benefits as a member of the Product Team for Special Benefits under the Benefits Development and Research Department – Health Finance Policy Sector. He holds a Master of Arts in Nursing majoring in Administration and Management from the Philippine Christian University – Manila. He finished his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Jude College - Manila and earned his Certificate of Professional Education from the University of the East – Manila. Currently, Mr. David is taking up his Doctorate Degree in Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Management at Universidad De Dagupan – Pangasinan.

Gopal Mitra



Gopal Mitra is the global lead on disability and development in Programme Group. He provides strategic and technical leadership to deliver on UNICEF’s global commitments on disability inclusion across the organization. Prior to this, Gopal was a senior social affairs officer in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) where he led the Disability Inclusion Team. Gopal joined UNICEF’s Disability Section in 2012, and for seven years he led the work in the areas of disability policy, disability inclusive humanitarian action, accessibility, and assistive technology. He supported UNICEF Country Offices to mainstream disability inclusion in development and humanitarian contexts. He co-chaired the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team which

developed the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. Gopal has held various posts at the international NGO Leonard Cheshire Disability at headquarters and in the South Asia region. Gopal started his professional career in the Indian Army where, as a major, he was involved in crisis and post disaster response. Following an injury from an explosion, he became blind in 2000. Gopal holds an MA in Social Work, specializing in Social Work Administration, from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India, as well as an MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics (LSE) in the UK.

Grace Funnell



Grace Funnell, MPH— Is a programme specialist at UNICEF HQ in New York, where she supports the agency’s strategic goals on wasting and leads the global coordination and implementation of simplified approaches to optimize the treatment of wasting. Grace also co-chairs the Global Simplified Approaches Working Group. Prior to joining UNICEF in January 2020, Grace served as Action Against Hunger USA’s acting technical director where she oversaw the execution of the organization’s technical strategy, led a team of subject matter experts, and managed a portfolio of complex projects, including research and pilot studies focused on treating and preventing wasting. In her more than a decade of experience, Ms. Funnell has designed, researched, and implemented a variety of nutrition, health, and food security programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Prior to working with UNICEF,

she provided technical expertise, leadership, and support to Catholic Relief Services, UNICEF Liberia, Mercy Corps, the World Food Program, and World Vision.

Grainne Moloney



Grainne Moloney is a senior advisor in Early Childhood Nutrition at UNICEF HQ in New York, leading the prevention of all forms of malnutrition and early detection and treatment of wasting in children under 5. For over 20 years, she has worked in the UNICEF East and Southern Africa regional office, served as the chief of nutrition with UNICEF Kenya and as the Chief Technical Advisor for FSNAU (FAO) Somalia, and a number of INGO across sub-Saharan Africa and central Asia. An Irish national, she holds an MSc in Public Health Nutrition from the LSHTM and a BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from Trinity College Dublin.

Hannah Kuper



Hannah Kuper is the co-director of the International Centre for Evidence in Disability at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and co-founder of the Missing Billion Initiative. She is an epidemiologist by training, and her main research focus is on health and healthcare access of people with disabilities in low and middle-income countries. She is a National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) global research professor.

Irene Calvo



Irene Calvo is a technical officer in the Access to Assistive Technology team at WHO, Geneva. She supports strengthening of assistive technology service delivery models within national health system, personnel capacity building, and data collection on access to assistive technology. Irene is a qualified speech and language therapist specialized in feeding and swallowing disorders. She has experience working in clinical rehabilitation settings, research and academia, and holds a Master's in International Healthcare and Global Health.

João Vembane



João Vembane, MBA, is the senior disability inclusion technical specialist at Save the Children International in Mozambique. In 2006, he joined Humanity and Inclusion (HI) as a program HIV/AIDS coordinator and became a disability inclusion advocate. He began developing and implementing disability advocacy projects and participating in the creation of the Africa Campaign on Disability and HIV and AIDS and several continent-wide advocacy projects. He carries 20 years of experience in advocacy, conceptualization, implementation, and management of projects with local and international NGOs in Africa, including Care International, HI, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), and N'weti - Health Communications (N'weti). Throughout his experience, João worked on projects related to public health, education, and natural resource industries, where he advocates for community development, equitable policies, civic engagement, and rural economic stimulation. He has his MBA in Public Health Management and is currently a candidate of MPhil on Disability Rights in Africa, University of Pretoria. He is a blessed father to Yasmin, a beautiful baby girl.

Juan Cobeñas



Juan Cobeñas of La Plata, Argentina has been a fellow of the International Disability Alliance since 2022. He is a member of the Reference Group for the Inclusion of Disability in Humanitarian Action (DRG) and secretary of the Azul Association and OPD in La Plata. He was also a Youth Action Lab Scholar 2021 – 2022 and is now a CIVICUS member. He was invited by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to participate as a panelist for two days of the General Debate, speaking on the right to education of persons with disabilities (2015) and on the right to independent living in the community (2016). He is a trainer of personal assistants for persons with disabilities. He is specifically focused on Alternative and Augmentative Communication and has trained for the adaptation of communication to plain language and easy-to-read. He holds a Bachelor's

Degree in Literature and Spanish from the Faculty of Humanities and Education, National University of La Plata (UNLP), where he is currently pursuing his Masters Degree in Linguistics.

Juan Pablo Peña-Rosas



Juan Pablo (“JP”) Peña-Rosas (he/him/his) serves as head of Global Health Initiatives (Cross-Cutting) in the Office of the Director in the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, where he works on practice and science-informed global guidelines and has supported their implementation since 2008. He also leads normative work on the integrated management of children and adolescents with obesity. He has led the planning and development of more than 60 evidence-informed guidelines at WHO working across departments and programmes in the global, regional, and country level, including infant feeding in areas of Zika virus transmission. He is a native Venezuelan medical epidemiologist, scientist, and diplomat who received his Medical Degree from Universidad Central de Venezuela and a MSc in Public Health Nutrition from University of Puerto Rico. He holds a PhD in Epidemiology and Human Nutrition from Cornell

University. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his multiple achievements in public health nutrition and the use of evidence synthesis to inform policy making.

Kaloyan Kamenov



Kaloyan Kamenov, PhD, is a health professional with over 10 years of experience in public health, epidemiology, health research, and program development. Kaloyan is currently a technical officer for Disability at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, where he is responsible for developing normative documents and supporting Member States in capacity building on disability inclusion in the health sector. He coordinated the development of the WHO Global Report on health equity for persons with disabilities. Prior to this, Kaloyan was supporting the Sensory Functions, Disability, and Rehabilitation Unit at WHO in the implementation of the Make Listening Safe initiative to prevent hearing loss due to unsafe recreational listening practices. Before joining WHO, Kaloyan was working as a mental health researcher at the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain. He has a PhD in Psychology from the Autonomous University of Madrid, and a Research

Masters in Clinical and Developmental Psychopathology from Vrije Universitat Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Kate Miller



Kate Miller, MS, CCC-SLP, CLC, is the feeding & disability specialist with SPOON, a global nonprofit working to improve nutrition and feeding practices for children with disabilities, children living without family care, and children at risk of family separation. Kate is a speech-language pathologist and certified lactation consultant. In her role at SPOON, she designs, implements, and evaluates training, tools, and interventions around feeding and disability. She provides technical expertise and collaborates with local partners and stakeholders in the implementation of SPOON's programs. Kate supports the development and implementation of SPOON's Health app called *Count Me In*, which facilitates nutrition and feeding care for children who are highly vulnerable to malnutrition. Her professional background includes specializing in pediatric feeding and swallowing; providing assessment and intervention for

infants and children in healthcare settings; lecturing and providing clinical education for graduate students; and training a variety of healthcare professionals.

Katherine Guernsey



Katherine "Kathy" Guernsey is the disability rights coordinator for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she is responsible for advising the Agency on disability inclusion at both the program and policy levels, and manages the Agency's Disability Program Fund. Katherine is a public international lawyer who has dedicated her career to the field of human rights, with an emphasis on disability inclusive development and diplomacy. Much of her work has focused on enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to formulate and implement disability inclusive policies and practices effectively. She was extensively involved in negotiation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), working alongside both governmental and non-

governmental delegations. From 2010-2017, she served as senior policy advisor to the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, Judith Heumann, at the U.S. Department of State, promoting disability inclusive diplomacy as a priority in U.S. foreign policy. Katherine received her Master of Laws in international and comparative law from The George Washington University Law School, and her Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees from Ohio Northern University.

Katie Beck



Katie Beck is a technical advisor for USAID Advancing Nutrition where works on a range of capacity strengthening activities, including training, learning, and mentoring programs and interventions to strengthen nutrition and early childhood development integration into health systems. Prior to joining USAID Advancing Nutrition, she lived in Rwanda for five years working for Partners In Health where she led the nutrition program team in the design of capacity strengthening activities to improve the quality of programs to detect and manage acute malnutrition in infants and children and support the Ministry of Health to integrate nutrition across multisectoral platforms. Katie is also a Registered Dietitian and has worked in different clinical settings.

Kellie Stewart



Kellie Stewart is the chief of the Nutrition and Environmental Health Division at USAID. Kellie has been with USAID for over 20 years, serving both in Washington and the field. She has led efforts on a broad range of development and emergency response programs, including multi-sectoral nutrition, health system reform, maternal and child health, vector control, human immunodeficiency virus, family planning, and reproductive health.

Kristen Cashin



Kristen Cashin is the director of the Nutrition and Health Systems and Early Childhood Development teams at USAID Advancing Nutrition. The teams' portfolios focus on strengthening the integration of nutrition and nurturing care into health services and systems and include work at community, facility, national, and global levels. Prior to joining USAID Advancing Nutrition, Kristen oversaw teams that developed international guidance and tools and provided technical assistance to governments and local agencies at the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project. She has extensive experience providing technical leadership in maternal, adolescent, and child health and nutrition; food security; community-based and multi-sectoral program design; and nutrition governance.

Linda Shaker Berbari (Member of the Event Organization Steering Committee)



Linda Shaker Berbari is a nutrition specialist at UNICEF HQ in New York leading the Complementary Feeding agenda as part of Early Childhood Nutrition. Linda has more than 18 years of experience in public health and community nutrition within the Middle East and beyond. Previously, she served as a consultant with the Emergency Nutrition Network as the facilitator of the Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group and led on the production of different pieces, including guidance and material related to early child nutrition. She has worked with several agencies and academic institutions throughout the years and in different contexts; engaged in community nutrition program planning, development, monitoring and evaluation and policy, strategy development, and research. She earned her PhD from the University of Dundee – Scotland with a focus on Public Health Nutrition Policy and Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies. She has a Masters Degree in Nutrition and a Bachelor’s degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the American University of Beirut.

Lori Baxter (Member of the Event Organization Steering Committee)



Lori Baxter is a pediatric physical therapist, public health professional, and technical advisor with over 13 years of experience spanning various continents and contexts. She works as an early childhood and disability inclusion consultant with a variety of clients, including USAID Advancing Nutrition (JSI), Save the Children, and Humanity & Inclusion. Through her consultancies, Lori has supported the development of USAID’s Feeding & Disability Resource Bank, developed a disability-inclusive IYCF resource package for the IYCF-E Hub, and integrated disability inclusion into several of Save the Children’s health and nutrition technical guidance documents. Lori’s previous roles include Mekong Integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD) advisor with Save the Children and Health and rehabilitation technical coordinator with Humanity & Inclusion-Laos, and rehabilitation director with a community-based NGO in rural Belize. She holds dual Doctor of Physical Therapy and Master of Public Health degrees from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Malia Uyehara (Member of the Event Organization Steering Committee)



Malia Uyehara is a project officer for the USAID Advancing Nutrition project, supporting the Nutrition & Health Systems and Early Childhood Development teams. She has five years of experience working in international development, serving as a secondary English education specialist with the Peace Corps in Albania prior to joining USAID Advancing Nutrition. Currently, she focuses her efforts on supporting breastfeeding and breastfeeding counseling, improving adolescent nutrition, improving the nutrition of children with feeding difficulties and disabilities, and integrating nurturing care for early childhood development into the health sector.

Maria Marelli



Maria Marelli is an international specialist in Rehabilitation, Health Systems Strengthening, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) targeted to children at risk of developmental delays and disability, and their families. She has worked in the ECD and disability sector in high and low-income countries for over 10 years, supporting community-based rehabilitation (CBR) practices, pediatric centers, new-born care and rehabilitation services in general and specialized hospitals. She currently works as ECD global specialist with Humanity & Inclusion (HI), focusing on supporting a global Inclusive ECD Framework in development and humanitarian settings. Prior to this post Maria worked around three continents for different international non-governmental organizations, where she undertook lecturing, research, project management, and technical advisory roles on the topics of Global Health, Disability Inclusion, and ECD. She holds a Bachelor in Physiotherapy and a European

Master of Science Degree in Adapted Physical Activity (Disability Inclusion).

Mishelle Rudzinski (Member of the Technical Advisory Group for Feeding Difficulties and Disabilities for USAID Advancing Nutrition)



Mishelle Rudzinski is the co-founder and executive director of SPOON, an INGO based in Portland, Oregon, USA that addresses the high rates of malnutrition for children with disabilities. Mishelle started her career as a pediatric speech-language pathologist specializing in the communication and feeding of children with complex disabilities. After learning that nutrition programs and resources often excluded children with disabilities, Mishelle co-founded SPOON in 2007. She has been the executive director since 2016. Mishelle guides the SPOON team, board, and partners around the globe to reduce malnutrition for children with disabilities through training and tools, including SPOON's app, *Count Me In*. SPOON's programs, resources, and policy work have impacted hundreds of thousands of children in more than 20 countries, ensuring that children with disabilities have access to high-quality

feeding practices and inclusive nutrition programs.

Natalia Mufel (Member of the Event Organization Steering Committee)



Natalia Mufel is a programme specialist for Children with Disabilities at UNICEF, providing technical support for the planning, coordination, and implementation of cross-sectoral disability inclusive programs and thematic interventions with the focus on implementation of the UNICEF Disability Inclusion Policy and Strategy 2022-2030. Natalia has several years of experience and publications in early childhood development (ECD) and disability starting as a university lecturer and psychologist and later as an ECD/education specialist with UNICEF in Belarus, Cambodia, Myanmar, India,

and Bhutan where she was responsible for work on ECD and on multilingual and inclusive education. She supported the development of the first National Disability Policy and Implementation Plan in Bhutan and the establishment of an Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme. She holds a diploma with honors in Psychology from European Humanities University; completed PhD studies at Belarusian State University, Maastricht University, Institute of Business Science, University of Pretoria; and completed training in psychotherapy, PTSD, and crisis interventions.

Payal Shah



Payal Shah is a Pediatric Occupational Therapist with 18 years of experience working with children. At present, she is the lead occupational therapist at Ummeed Child Development Center. She is certified in neurodevelopmental treatment (NDT) and has taken many courses on the treatment of children with developmental disorders. She is very passionate about her work and strongly believes in family-centered care. As a lead therapist, she loves working with other therapists at Ummeed and guiding them in various clinical projects.

Dr. Raoul Bermejo



Dr. Raoul Bermejo, is a medical doctor with extensive experience on health policy and financing, health systems research, and programming for maternal and child health. He works with the Health Programme Team at UNICEF HQ where he leads new programme areas on Childhood NCDs, Child Injury Prevention and Disability Inclusion in the Health System. Outside work, he enjoys gardening, farming, cooking, swimming, diving and reading on history. He is also enthusiastic about ancient healing traditions, and cultural and biodiversity conservation.

Rebecca Levy



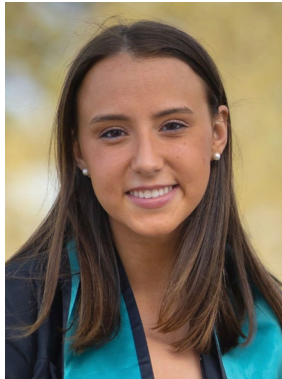
Rebecca Levy is the U.S. Government special advisor on Children in Adversity, as well as the acting director of the Inclusive Development Hub within USAID's Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI). As special advisor, she leads implementation of the U.S. Government Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity Strategy, focused particularly on promoting early childhood development, ensuring nurturing and protective family care for all children, and preventing violence against children. Rebecca has served in numerous roles at USAID, including as a presidential management fellow, the special assistant to the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean Assistant Administrator, advisor to the USAID Administrator, Director of USAID/Cote d'Ivoire's Economic Growth Office and USAID's liaison to the African Development Bank. Prior to USAID, she worked on gender equality and women's empowerment with CARE in Mali, and on child protection issues for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Ghana. Rebecca received a B.A. in political science from Haverford College and an M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Rory Nefdt



Rory Nefdt is the senior advisor health and leads the Child, Community Health, and NCDs unit at UNICEF HQ. His team helps to coordinate and support UNICEF's work to improve integrated Primary Health Care (PHC) at community level to improve health outcomes for children and adolescents equitably, based on a multi-sector life course approach. Operationalizing PHC at community level is a top priority, as is the management of the main childhood killer diseases of pneumonia, diarrhoea, and malaria. His teams' work includes the prevention of childhood NCDs, disability inclusion in health systems, developmental delays and disabilities, nurturing care and ECD, and the prevention of road traffic injuries and drowning. Rory has over 20 years' experience working on implementation of health programs across LMICs, including in emergencies, with in-depth work in Zambia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. A citizen of Zambia, he holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge, with three years post-doctoral research work on malaria at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Rosie Eldridge (Member of the Event Organization Steering Committee)



Rosie Eldridge serves as project coordinator for USAID Advancing Nutrition on the Nutrition and Health Systems and Early Childhood Development teams. In 2022, she graduated from the University of Virginia, where she studied at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. She pursued a double major in Public Policy & Leadership and Global Development Studies. She is passionate about advancing global health equity, human rights, international development, and humanitarian aid.

Shona McDonald (Member of the Technical Advisory Group for Feeding Difficulties and Disabilities for USAID Advancing Nutrition)



Shona McDonald is the founder of ShonaquipSE, Africa's only ISO 13485 certified wheelchair manufacturer and South Africa's first Hybrid Social Enterprise. The inspiration for her life's work and the company's origin came from her daughter, Shelly, who was born with cerebral palsy. It was then that her family experienced firsthand how difficult it was to find appropriate assistive devices. Together with the Biomedical Engineering Department at the University of Cape Town, she designed the first South African pediatric posture support wheelchair in 1984. Since then, she has worked to ensure that, through appropriate assistive devices, knowledge to make informed choices, and agency to action them, a family of a child with a disability will never experience their child as less valued.

Tafadzwa Maseva (Member of the Technical Advisory Group for Feeding Difficulties and Disabilities for USAID Advancing Nutrition)



Tafadzwa Maseva is the deputy director of the Disability, HIV and AIDS Trust (DHAT) in Zimbabwe. He holds a Master's Degree in Development Studies, Bachelor in Psychology, and certificates in Monitoring and Evaluation and Counseling. He has nearly 10 years of experience working with children with disabilities and addressing nutritional needs, including with Leonard Cheshire, the Zimbabwe Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, and the Disability, HIV and AIDS Trust. Tafadzwa is married, the father of two beautiful daughters, and is visually impaired.

Vivian Fernández de Torrijos



Vivian Fernández de Torrijos has over 18 years of experience as an advocate for the inclusion and human rights of persons with disabilities and their families. Since 2021, she has served as expert commissioner to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and vice president of the Working Group for Women and Girls with Disabilities. In 2015, she founded Best Buddies Panama and continues to serve as the president. She holds several notable achievements, including giving a keynote address on “Inclusion Architects” for TEDxPanamaCity, being appointed Special Envoy for Human Rights and the Dignity of Persons with Disabilities by UNICEF, working with the Panama Ministry of Health to promote the Certificate of Disability, promoting Panama’s National Disability Secretariat, implementing the “Dignified Schools” program and the Program of Inclusive Education in Diversity in Panama, and creating Inclusion Panama, National Family Network, among many others. During her time as First Lady of Panama, she worked to make the country’s public institutions, policies, and social programs more inclusive. Vivian’s eldest daughter, Daniella, was born with complications from prematurity that resulted in slow development, leading Vivian to commit herself to improving the circumstances that children with disabilities and their families face every day.

Vrushali Kulkarni



Vrushali Kulkarni is a lead occupational therapist at the Ummeed Child Development Center. Her work encompasses clinical practice, research, and training. She is a firm believer that every child, regardless of their abilities or needs, can hope and has the right to pursue their dreams. Vrushali is particularly passionate about coaching pediatric occupational therapists. She has made significant contributions towards the development and execution of numerous clinical services and training programs aimed at supporting children with developmental disabilities.



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