



People-centric humanitarian response in conflict

Strategies, insights, and dilemmas

12 to 14 September

Event Agenda



ICRC



OCHA

Background

After years of growth of aid budgets and a matching evolution of the professional standards that come with it, the current pressure on funding, felt by the ICRC and others, sees humanitarian organisations at a crossroads. We find ourselves left with all the commitments made in terms of compliance, system improvement and reporting requirements while also trying to put in practice increasingly nuanced approaches to accountable, inclusive, localised, and sustainable humanitarian response.

With aid workers spending an increasing proportion of their time tied to their desks and working on administrative tasks rather than in proximity to people affected by conflict, have efforts to professionalise the humanitarian sector generated more harm than good when it comes to bringing tangible impact on one hand and operationalising the principles of humanity and impartiality on the other hand?

This, combined with the contextual challenges in conflict zones due to growing access constraints, polarized information landscape as well as security and duty of care concerns, introduces new layers of considerations for humanitarian organisations when it comes to engagement with communities. Faced with hard choices to reorient priorities and activities, how should humanitarian organisation navigate this opportunity to put people affected by conflict and frontline workers in the driving seat to define people-centric humanitarian response?

Navigating information provision in polarized spaces, moving beyond survival towards dignity and the overall well-being of affected communities, assessing data handling practices, exploring participatory approaches to sensitive issues, grappling with the feasibility of a « do no harm » motto in conflict settings to preparing for a new world of climate change driven crises.

These are some of the thematics we hope to explore in this event with practitioners from the sector, academia, think tanks, private sector actors and community-based organisations.

Tuesday, 12 September¹

9:00 – 10:00

Opening session: people, principles and processes?

The opening session will take us back to the origin of the humanitarian ideal, examine its evolution and align it with this event's emphasis on a people-centered approach. We'll scrutinize the need for humanitarian responses that resonate with those affected by conflict and other forms of violence, considering both incremental improvements and the more radical changes required to fulfill this vision. This session will set the tone for the entire event, detailing the mindset and approach that will guide us. Furthermore, we'll interconnect this overarching purpose with the specific focus of individual sessions, delineating recurring themes over three enlightening days. We aim to make this an opportunity to reflect on the vital need to balance empathy and good will with the recognition and management of bias and power, as well as the essential demand for technical expertise in humanitarian response.

Facilitator:

David Loquercio. Head of Accountability to Affected People Unit, ICRC

Before returning to the ICRC in 2018, David held various operational and managerial positions with both the ICRC and Oxfam GB, including Afghanistan, Chad, Zimbabwe, Kuwait, and IL/OT. He also worked as a humanitarian consultant and a senior manager for KPMG, focused on performance improvement for clients in the non-profit sectors. He holds degrees in international relations (Graduate Institute, Geneva), Management and Implementation of Development Projects (IDPM, Manchester), and International Humanitarian Action, (Université Catholique De Louvain).

Speakers:

Martin Schüepp. Director of Operations, ICRC

Since joining the ICRC in 2007, Martin has held various operational and managerial positions in complex conflict environments, notably in Sudan's Darfur region, southern and south-eastern Afghanistan, and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. He coordinated the ICRC's operations in West Africa before overseeing the ICRC's operations in Europe and Central Asia first as Deputy Regional Director and from 2019 to 2022 as its Regional Director. Prior to joining the ICRC, Martin led a UNDP project in Blue Nile State, Sudan. Born and raised in the Swiss Alps, he holds Master's degrees in International Affairs from the Graduate Institute, Geneva, and the Fletcher School at Tufts University, Massachusetts.

Stella Suge. Country Director Kenya, FilmAid International

Stella has a deep understanding of the humanitarian context with strong relationships developed over her career with stakeholders in the humanitarian and development world in responding to Affected Populations in need. She has been with FilmAid for over 18 years, 11 of them as FilmAid Kenya's Country Director. She represents the brand to donors and key stakeholders over and above providing leadership, management, and strategic oversight for the organisation.

¹ All sessions are in GVA time (CEST).

Dr. Tammam Aloudat. President, MSF Netherlands

Tammam is a medical doctor who has worked in multiple humanitarian and global health organisations over the last 20 years. Active on health equity and reform in humanitarianism and global health, he worked with the International Red Cross in Iraq, Tsunami, Haiti, Zimbabwe, and Libya/Tunisia, among others, before being active with MSF in Turkey, Syria, Yemen, Niger, and the Netherlands. He is a prolific writer and lecturer and has recently published various pieces on decolonising humanitarianism and humanitarian aid.

10:00 - 11:15

'Do no harm' and other mantras: do they help or hinder humanitarian action?

The humanitarian sector is going through a crisis of legitimacy brought on by both internal and external factors.

The aid sector has come to the recognition that humanitarian action can have unintended negative consequences, and that aid organisations need to listen to and be accountable to the people in whose name they intervene. At the same time, belated recognition of deep-seated racism, abuse and inequality in the aid system has led to a deep internal soul-searching and a wide range of attempts to redress the balance. Listening to affected communities has been one of those key ways agencies have sought to regain legitimacy and relevance.

There are also external factors affecting the perception of humanitarian aid. A wave of populism is pushing narratives that sow suspicion of 'foreign' organisations. Scapegoating of refugees and marginalised groups is growing, with the framing of some groups as not deserving of aid and rights. These tendencies are fuelling mistrust and division in societies, and further isolating and excluding vulnerable people.

How can humanitarian agencies rebuild trust with communities which are far from united? Are the mantras of 'do no harm' and 'leave no-one behind' useful? Is there a hidden cost to this upbeat portrayal of the aid sector's commitments? Is it even possible to 'do no harm' and are there, in fact, harmful consequences of the way this notion is applied in some aid operations?

What are the limits to 'listening to affected communities' when most aid agencies are unable to provide the top three requests of people everywhere: safety, dignified employment and education for children?

This session will explore some of the tensions the aid sector faces in matching aspirations with field realities, both in relation to the political contexts in which humanitarian action evolves, and internally as aid organisations grapple with accusations of racism, colonialist mindsets and a lack of diversity and inclusion in personnel.

Facilitator:

Marzia Montemurro. Research Director, HERE Geneva

Marzia has worked for the past two decades on humanitarian responses both programmatically and through research and policy analysis. She has worked with UN agencies, INGOs and the INGO network ICVA as their Director of Humanitarian Policy, based in New York. She is currently the Research Director for HERE-Geneva. Her areas of expertise include humanitarian reform, humanitarian financing and forced displacement.

Speakers:

Dr. Fiona Terry. Head of the Centre for Operational Research and Experience (CORE), ICRC

Fiona heads the ICRC's Centre for Operational Research, which was created in the wake of the landmark *Roots of Restraint in War* study of which Dr Terry was co-author. She has three decades of field experience in humanitarian operations and holds a Ph.D. in international relations and political science from the Australian National University. She is the author of *Condemned to Repeat? The Paradox of Humanitarian Action* (Cornell University Press, 2002).

Sandrine Tiller. Humanitarian Access & Networking Coordinator, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

Sandrine joined MSF in 2011 and has worked in various roles, as a Humanitarian Representative to the UK Government; Strategic Adviser to the Moscow office; and as an analyst on the humanitarian aid system and the challenges posed by mis and disinformation. Her field experience has been in Venezuela, Eritrea, Tanzania, IL/OT, Lebanon and most recently, Ukraine.

Wendy Cue. Senior Coordinator, Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment, OCHA

Wendy joined OCHA's Inter-Agency Services Branch in January 2018. Previously, she was Head of OCHA's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. She has more than 20 years of international and UN experience in humanitarian affairs, human rights, and sustainable development. Her previous assignments include as Head of the OCHA Office in Nepal, Chief of the Emergency Preparedness Section, Coordinator for the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium, Chief of the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, Field Manager for the Pandemic Influenza Contingency, and Team Leader for human rights investigations in Rwanda and Haiti. She has led UN emergency teams to coordinate initial response to the tsunami in Sri Lanka, floods in Pakistan, volcano eruption in Cabo Verde, and hurricane in Haiti.

11:30 – 13:00

The measure of dignity

In the realm of humanitarian response, how do we evaluate the true costs and benefits of community participation? The session, "The Measure of Dignity" will delve into the interplay between the tangible costs of engaging with communities and the intangible values of dignity, agency, and long-term sustainability. Informed by the ICRC's mandate to protect lives and dignity, the session will explore whether funding truly represents value and if dignity is at times undervalued or overlooked. How do we budget for dignified processes, and what are the costs of not engaging with people, particularly in conflict zones? This session will discuss strategies and best practices for maximizing the value of community participation, opening a multifaceted discussion on striking a balance between ethical imperatives and practical considerations in humanitarian work.

Facilitator:

Indu Nepal. Deputy Head of Accountability to Affected People Unit, ICRC

Before joining the AAP Unit at the ICRC, Indu previously held protection and community engagement roles in the organisation. Prior to joining the ICRC, she worked in management and Advisory positions on community engagement, participatory media production, humanitarian communication and media development for various

organisations based in Asia. She graduated from the LSE, UK, with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Columbia University, USA, with a Master's in Journalism.

Speakers:

Charlotte Lancaster. Senior Protection and Accountability Adviser, WFP

Before joining the WFP Myanmar Country Office as the Senior Protection and Accountability Adviser, Charlotte was the Deputy to the Chief of Programme and Field Support in the headquarter Emergency and Transition Unit. In this role, she brought together experience in people-centred programme design and adaptation (at agency and collective levels) to translate WFP's protection and accountability normative principles into operational practice.

Tom Wein. Director, Dignity Initiative, IDinsight

Tom has 13 years' experience leading research in the Global South. He has given evidence to the UK Parliament. His book, *The Dignity Imperative* will be published in early 2024. He previously worked with Raising Voices and the Busara Centre for Behavioural Economics. Tom holds a Master's degree in Communication for Development from Malmö University in Sweden, and an undergraduate degree in War Studies from King's College, London.

Ralph Wehbe. Head of Operational support for the Detention Unit, ICRC

Since he joined the ICRC in 2003, Ralph has been posted in different contexts such as Iraq, Indonesia, Tunisia, The Balkans, Washington D.C, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kuwait regional delegation, Oman, Paris and lastly Yemen. In these contexts, Ralph assumed different responsibilities, including in Protection and Management. Before joining Headquarters, Ralph's last assignment was in Yemen, as deputy head of delegation. Ralph studied and practiced Law in Lebanon since 1997.

Farah Al-Ali. Health Promotion Unit Manager, Syrian Arab Red Crescent

Farah is a pharmacist who graduated from Damascus University in 2009. She started working with SARC in 2015 in the Health Promotion Unit. Her unit works to raise awareness about the water related diseases and how to empower community members to prevent themselves from the diseases due to factors like lack of drinking water and health services. The unit also carries capacity-building sessions of the SARC teams through workshops and other activities.

14:00 – 15:30

Nothing about us without us: disability inclusion in conflict

In armed conflict, persons with disabilities are disproportionately impacted, often marginalized, and neglected in humanitarian efforts. Though international humanitarian and human rights law recognizes the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, many still face barriers that prevent full participation in humanitarian action that include physical, attitudinal, communication, institutional, and environmental factors. As the humanitarian sector increasingly acknowledges the necessity to move away from viewing people with disabilities as passive beneficiaries and empower them as agents of change and partners in humanitarian action, this session will discuss what redefining our approach to disability inclusion means in conflicts and stir conversation around key challenges and opportunities, including how to ensure interventions are inclusive, build strong accountability measures and challenge systemic biases inherited from the medical to disability.

Facilitator:

Michael Mwendwa. Disability Inclusion Adviser within the AAP unit, ICRC

Michael is based in Geneva. His role is to oversee the implementation of the organisation's Strategy on Disability inclusion, Vision 2030 on disability. ICRC's Vision 2030 on Disability is a ten-year cross-organisational strategy on disability inclusion that aims to transform the way the ICRC addresses disability inclusion across the organisation and its operations. Michael has over 20 years of experience in disability inclusion in both development and humanitarian programs.

Speakers:

Nogning Armelle Aimerique. Board Chair of CUAPWD. Founder Community Creative Centre for Women and Girls with Disabilities (COCCWOGID)

Nogning is a Cameroonian Advocate and Trainer of inclusion, with a focus on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR). She is also an advocate against GBV and other forms of discrimination. She has helped to improve access to education, employment, and healthcare for persons with disabilities. Nogning is 2nd vice President of Network of Women with Disabilities. She has worked with a variety of organisations to promote inclusion and resilience among persons with disabilities.

Yuliia Sachuk. Head of Fight for Right

Yuliia, Ukrainian disability rights advocate and human rights defender, head of Fight for Right, a women disabilities-led organisation. An emergency response mechanism launched by Yulia in 2022 in response to the Russian invasion saved the lives of thousands of Ukrainians with disabilities. She is passionate about empowering girls and women with disabilities to participate in decision-making processes. She is on the list of BBC 100 Women 2022 and an Obama Leader Europe 2022, Recipient of the National Human Rights Award 2020, and a Candidate from Ukraine to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2020. As an Open Society Foundation Fellow, she studies International Disability Law and Policy at the University of Galway, Ireland.

Dalal M. Altaji. Head of Continuing Education, University College of Ability Development, Palestine Red Crescent Society.

Dalal works as Head of Continuing Education and lecture as well as an advocate for training and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

15:30 – 17:00

Images of crisis: Ethics and responsibility in humanitarian communication

Photography, video and other imagery are tools that humanitarian organisations use to bring attention to the experiences of people affected by conflict. Yet, how is this content gathered, edited, shared, and stored? Who decides what is published and for how long? Decades of publishing choices have created stereotypical images of conflict affected regions in the minds of global audiences. Publishing someone's images for millions of viewers to see and archived forever is not without consequences. In this session, we will explore whether we need to fundamentally shift the way we work to centre dignity and informed choice in this landscape, and if so, what that transformation might look like.

Facilitator:

Kathryn Cook-Pellegrin. Head of Content, ICRC

Kathryn studied journalism and photography before beginning her professional career as a photographer with the Associated Press in Panama. She worked for a variety of international media including the New York Times, TIME, and The New Yorker. In 2015, Kathryn joined the ICRC as photo editor, applying her experience to help the organisation hone a distinct eye and voice when covering critical humanitarian issues. Currently, she leads the audio-visual production team and co-leads a project on how the organisation communicates about people affected by conflict from an ethical and inclusion standpoint.

Speakers:

Tanya Habjouqa. Visual Journalist and Educator, NOOR Images

Tanya is an award-winning visual journalist, artist, and educator with a track record of narrative innovation and a reputation for creating dynamic creative work grounded in ethical practice and collaboration. Trained in anthropology and journalism, with an MA in Global Media and emphasis on Middle Eastern politics, her work focuses on gender, representations of otherness, dispossession, resettlement, and human rights. With close to 20 years of experience, Habjouqa has become a leading voice in the advancement of new documentary practices that seek to reframe news and politics through a more nuanced, culturally literate lens.

Jess Crombie. Senior Lecturer in Communication Ethics & Humanitarian Consultant, University of the Arts London / Jess Crombie Consultancy

Jess is a researcher and scholar working as a Senior Lecturer at UAL, and as a consultant for some of the leading organisations in the humanitarian sector. In both contexts Jess utilizes almost two decades as a senior leader in the charity sector to explore the ethical complexities in documentary storytelling. Her research focus investigates the potential for power shifts in both story gathering and telling by seeking out the opinions and ideas of the people in the pictures and stories, a process that she has coined 'contributor centred storytelling practice'.

Natasha Kimani. Head of Partnerships and Research, Africa No Filter

Natasha is the Head of Partnerships and Research at Africa No Filter. Her work entails leading fundraising and resource mobilization and research within the organisation and managing relationships with funders and all external partners. A lawyer by profession, Natasha has extensive experience in public policy, constitution implementation, devolution, and governance in East Africa. Natasha is also a Chatham House Fellow and a Mandela Washington Fellow.

Tomas Ayuso. Writer and Documentary Photographer

Tomas is a Honduran writer and documentary photojournalist. His work focuses on Latin American conflict as it relates to the drug war, forced displacement, and urban dispossession. Tomas seeks to bind the disparate threads of communities into the interlinked story of the Western Hemisphere. He won the James Foley Award for Conflict Journalism in 2019, and was the Global Chair for North America for 2023's iteration of the World Press Photo contest. Currently, Ayuso is a National Geographic Explorer focusing on the many nascent diasporas of the Americas.

Wednesday, 13 September

10:00 - 11:15

Will the humanitarian sector survive climate change?

Climate change, a threat multiplier, exacerbates tensions in conflict areas, placing intense strain on humanitarian aid and further complicating people-centred response. This session aims to deepen participants' understanding of the intersection between climate change and humanitarian crises for a more informed and effective response. To do so, it will explore the immediate impact of climate change on humanitarian response in those contexts, scrutinizing current strategies, and questioning their longer-term sufficiency in regions like Somalia and Syria. It will discuss the ethical challenges of climate-resilient, people-centred approaches in conflict settings, and the need to bridge the humanitarian-development divide. The session will conclude with a forward-looking examination of the necessary radical changes to integrate climate change adaptation into conflict response, considering its impact on humanitarian principles and response models.

Facilitator:

Anastasia Isyuk. Operations Manager for Climate and Environment, ICRC.

Anastasia oversees consolidating ICRC's approach to climate adaptation and its integration in field operations. She has worked in Asia, Middle East and former Soviet Union leading communication teams and supporting operational and crisis management in the ICRC. Anastasia holds an MA in European Integration and is working toward a MSc degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development from the University of London.

Speakers:

Dr. Simphiwe Laura Stewart. Technical Adviser Climate and Conflict, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Simphiwe is an experienced researcher and policy development practitioner working at the intersection of climate and conflict, economic justice, and social policy in Sub Saharan Africa. She holds a PhD in Geography and the Environment from the University of Oxford.

Suhair Zakkout. Public Relations Officer, ICRC Syria

Suhair boasts three decades of experience in humanitarian field, with 19 years at the ICRC, primarily in Gaza. Currently, she serves as the ICRC's spokesperson in Syria, specializing in communication, crisis communication, and people-centred storytelling. She is a strong believer in the power of human stories as catalysts for positive change. Her work includes communication projects highlighting the impact of climate change on conflict-affected individuals, underscoring its multifaceted risks.

Adnan Khan. Youth Adviser, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Adnan, a major in Disaster Management, specializes in Climate Change. He currently leads a program at Pakistan Red Crescent, mobilizing youth and volunteers to achieve SDGs. A Climate Reality Leader, he advises RCRC Climate Centre and formerly advised Pakistan's parliament on climate advocacy and policy. As part of YOUNGO's (UNFCCC) "Climate Change induced loss and Damages" working group, Adnan was a youth delegate at COP26 and co-authored the "Global Youth Statement." He also represented RCRC movement as a youth delegate in IFRC's COP27 delegation. Notably, he pioneered Pakistan's inaugural WhatNow initiative within the RCRC movement.

Bruno Jochum. Director and founder, the Climate Action Accelerator

Bruno has been involved in emergency medical humanitarian action for 20 years, having worked all over the world, from Iran to Rwanda to South Africa. After several years in the field with Médecins du Monde as well as with Médecins sans Frontières, he became the Director General of Médecins sans Frontières in Geneva (OCG). Before launching the initiative, he was a Global Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, where the Accelerator was incubated. His awareness of the human impacts of climate change and his taste for challenge led him to launch this new non-profit initiative, which aims to make a difference by operationalising climate action and provoking a domino effect among organisations in society.

11:30 – 13:00

Protection work with and for communities affected by conflict

“People affected by conflict and violence are best placed to understand their situation and the risks they face and are the first to take action to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.” This is the underlying premise for humanitarian actors aiming to work with affected people to support them in addressing the protection risks they face. The complex, hostile environments created by conflict and violence present multiple challenges to these efforts, particularly for external actors. Access to communities and ability to have a dialogue in safe environments are constantly challenged. Diversity within a community can be both a strength and a challenge, as community members themselves may perpetuate patterns of threats. This session will explore some of the realities and complexities of working with conflict- and violence-affected people to reduce the protection risks they face.

Facilitator:

Sarah Grey. Community-Based Protection Adviser, ICRC

Sarah is the ICRC’s adviser on community-based protection. Based in Geneva, she supports the institution to develop its approach to supporting people affected by conflict and violence to address the complex protection risks they face and provides guidance and accompaniment to operational teams. Her passion for working with and for people caught up in conflict and crisis grew out of her studies of the languages, anthropology, politics, and history of the Middle East and her humanitarian protection work over the past decade in Africa and the Middle East.

Speakers:

Zuleyka Piniella. Global Coordinator, Prevention of Sexual Violence Programme, ICRC

Zuleyka supports ICRC Delegations and Red Cross/ Red Crescent National Societies in strengthening their capacity to plan, monitor and measure changes in behaviour that align with the experiences and expectations of people affected by conflict and violence.

Social Pedagogue, Researcher, with studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology and Protection in Humanitarian Action, Zuleyka has been committed for almost two decades to learning from experience and with/from the affected populations. Whenever she has a life outside of work, look for her at sea, surfing or sailing.

Erin Weir. Director of Protection, InterAction

Erin has over 17 years’ experience advancing humanitarian policy and advocacy, and operationalizing strategies to improve protection outcomes for civilians in conflict-affected countries in Africa and the Middle East. She holds a B.A. (Hon.) in Political Studies, with a minor in Development Studies from Queen’s University (Canada), and an MSc in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland, U.K.).

Abdullah Ahmed Al Asri. Safeguarding Officer, Building Foundation For Development

Abdullah Ahmed is a Yemeni humanitarian worker who has experience of more than six years in non-profit sector. In the last five years, he has joined BFD as a MEAL officer. Now, he is the Safeguarding Officer and the focal point for the CHS alliance and responsible for improving accountability to the affected population by applying and integrating the CHS in BFD's programs and policies.

Wafa Ali. Programme Manager, Nonviolent Peaceforce

Wafa is a humanitarian practitioner with experience in the field of protection since 2012, including with ICRC, OCHA and different UN entities. Currently with NP, she is covering parts of Ninewa governorate that was occupied by Daesh between 2014 and 2017. Working with the community to respond to protection needs, interrupting cycles of violence, and enhance social cohesion and contribute to durable peace. With a lot of emphasis on decoloniality, Wafa enjoys bringing a critical perspective to the humanitarian sector and engaging in discussions on how to further decolonize it.

14:00 – 15:30

People in conflict as data subjects and the role of humanitarians

Humanitarian organisations collect and use personal data of people affected by conflict for multiple purposes. As digitalization reshapes humanitarian landscapes, introducing a multi-layered approach to consent---consent to collect, consent to store, consent to use and process, consent to share with third parties--becomes crucial. Safeguarding the personal data of individuals is an essential aspect of protecting people's lives, dignity and physical and mental well-being. What should accountable humanitarian organisations do when in spite of best efforts, there is an incident of data breach or unauthorised use of personal data? How can we ensure people affected by conflict are not passive "data subjects" but informed stakeholders? This session will explore the strategies humanitarian organisation use to navigate these challenges, discuss shortcomings and explore what they can learn from other sectors to ensure they can act as a trusted manager of sensitive information.

Facilitator:

Dr. Jacqueline Stein-Kaempfe. Data Protection Officer, UNICEF

Jacqueline Stein-Kaempfe is an international lawyer specialised and certified in data protection (IAPP, CIPP/E, CIPM, CIP/T) with a strong focus on new technologies and human rights, building on 18 years of experience in private and public sector. Before becoming UNICEF's data protection officer one year ago, she worked in the UN World Food Programme being exposed to most recurrent data protection issues in the humanitarian and development field and practiced as dispute resolution and finance lawyer in an international law firm in Germany.

Speakers:

Nazli Sannier. Protection of Family Links Adviser, ICRC

Holding a degree in law, Nazli worked at the French Red Cross for 5 years before joining the ICRC in 2014. She started as a Protection of Family Links (PFL) delegate in DRC and occupied further protection positions in Afghanistan, DRC, China, Myanmar, and Ukraine. As a member of the RFL Pool of Specialists, Nazli was deployed in DRC and Armenia. She was part of the sub-crisis team on the CTA Data breach at HQ. Nazli is now a protection of family links Adviser at ICRC HQ and in charge of the data protection file, the separated and children for the PFL unit.

Precious Ozemoya. International Development Expert

Precious is an International Development Expert with the mission of making the world a better place than she met it. She is a ONE Campaign United Kingdom Youth Ambassador. Precious is a Safe Sister Fellow, Civic Hive Fellow and Young African Leaders Initiative Fellow. She is a recipient of the following awards: the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Award, the Most Influential Leaders Award by She Leaps University, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Merit Award, Ogun State, Nigeria and the Eippy Award for Co-authoring the International Best Selling Book – How big can you dream.

Binty Mansaray. Digital Security Safety Auditor, Safe Sister Internews

Binty trained in digital security safety and data journalisms. She earned a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Agricultural Communication and Media at Njala University, Sierra Leone. She is an expert in video and magazine creation and a professional farmer.

Giulio Coppi. Senior Humanitarian Officer, Access Now

Giulio has around 15 years in the humanitarian sector supporting NGOs, INGOs, ICRC, and the UN. He has experience in the management of humanitarian response, innovation, digital transformation, business and human rights. Now, he is mostly covering the intersection between humanitarian law and principles, human rights, and technology.

15:30 – 17:00

Information as aid AND as a vector for harm

While accepting that transparency and communication are core pillars of people-centered programming, humanitarian organisations struggle to respond meaningfully to the information needs of affected people. The proliferation of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, including those coming from armed actors, poses additional challenges. For people affected by conflict and the humanitarian organisations working in conflict settings, the information ecosystem presents a different but specific set of challenges.

Bringing together practitioners from civil society, humanitarian organisation and technology platforms, this session will explore how different actors can play a role in helping civilians in armed conflict navigate the information environment. Key questions will be: what are the potential risks and challenges to different actors engaging in sharing “useful”/ “verified” information? How can various actors collaborate meaningfully to detect, assess, and respond to misinformation, disinformation and hate speech? And what are the possibilities, and potential risks, of collaboration amongst and between the various actors.

Facilitator:

Mark Silverman. Representative, Bay Area of California, ICRC

Mark is the ICRC's representative in Silicon Valley. He contributes to the institution's digital transformation strategy – specifically on the impact of digital technologies on people in situations of armed conflict – by developing and stewarding relationships and partnerships with business, academic and government/diplomatic entities. Previously, Mark served as Deputy Head of the ICRC's Delegation in Myanmar (2016-2018) and Deputy Head of the ICRC's Regional Delegation for the United States and Canada (2013-2016). Before starting with the ICRC in 2007, Mark served in the offices of U.S. Senators John and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island (1996-2006).

Speakers:

Asia Kambal. Project Manager, Internews

Asia works in the field of community engagement and accountability to support humanitarians in addressing rumors, community feedback, and information needs of people affected by the conflict in Sudan. She was a Project Manager for Internews' COVID-19 Rooted in Trust project, working with various humanitarian and public health responders, as well as the media to help address rumors and misconceptions about the pandemic, COVID-19 vaccine, and other health issues. She has also worked in humanitarian communications with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Shahla Naimi. Deputy Global Head of Human Rights. Google

Prior to Google, Shahla worked for international development and humanitarian assistance organizations including the United Nations, CARE International, and the Aga Khan Development Network across 16 countries, primarily Afghanistan, Somalia, Mali, Egypt and India. During this time, she led on-the-ground research programs and helped develop and analyze countrywide development initiatives, particularly those impacting refugees and internally displaced individuals. At Google, prior to her current role, she led economic development and skilling teams focused on bridging the digital divide. Shahla is a graduate of Yale University and the Graduate Institute in Geneva.

Indu Nepal. Deputy Head of Accountability to Affected People Unit, ICRC

Before joining the AAP Unit at the ICRC, Indu previously held Protection and community engagement roles in the organisation. Prior to joining the ICRC, she worked in management and Advisory positions on community engagement, participatory media production, humanitarian communication and media development for various organisations based in Asia. She graduated from the LSE, UK, with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Columbia University, USA, with a Master's in Journalism.

Thursday, 14 September

9:00 – 10:30

Well-being: towards a more meaningful response in conflict settings?

Humanitarian action is typically defined around saving lives and alleviating suffering. This locates the humanitarian technical expertise at the centre of the equation, giving primacy to technical service delivery that in effect reduces crisis-affected people's physical and material needs. This obscures the broader lived experience of the humanitarian crisis. This session will explore how aiming beyond these survival objectives, to impact at the level of affected people's sense of well-being can create more space for 'people-centered' action in which the agency and expertise of crisis-affected people is more systematically drawn upon to find more meaningful solutions to the challenges they face, impacting on well-being in the process. We will also explore how impact at this experiential level is being measured.

Facilitator:

Dr. Catherine Huser. Inclusive Programming Adviser, AAP Unit. ICRC

Cathy is currently advising ICRC teams on how to make their responses more inclusive and 'people-centric'. This work is informed by more than 20 years of experience within the humanitarian sector and PhD research on conflict and the lived experience of violence in those contexts within which the global promise of protection fails to deliver.

Speakers:

Oliver Lough. Senior Research Fellow, ODI

Oliver is a Senior Research Fellow at the Humanitarian Policy Group. With a background in needs assessment and monitoring and evaluation (M&E), his research interests are focused on internal displacement, humanitarian accountability, communicating with crisis-affected populations, and evidence-based decision-making processes in emergencies. Previously, he conducted research, monitoring and analysis of humanitarian responses to crises in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Tamar Gabay. PMEAL Adviser (Independent consultant), British Red Cross

Tamar is a humanitarian and international development professional with experience in project planning, project management, MEAL and research. She has worked in country, regional and HQ offices of INGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement across Asia, Africa and Europe. She is inspired by working with communities and influencing positive change by implementing inclusive and accountable programmes, ensuring those affected by decisions can meaningfully participate in their making. To this end, she is exploring different bottom-up approaches for project planning, implementation and evaluation, such as the wellbeing project she will discuss during the conference.

Clara Setiawan. Institutional CVA Lead, ICRC

Clara has been working on the CVA file since 2013 and deployed in operational and advocacy roles in many small to large-scale operations for the Movement (Canadian Red Cross, IFRC, and now ICRC). Her current role focuses on the transversal use of CVA for other multidisciplinary and sectoral objectives while contributing where she can in the evolution of CVA and its reformation in the humanitarian sector.

George Aguze. Executive Director/ Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS) Specialist. Refugee Community for Resilience and Development (RECORD)

George has a bachelor's degree in Community Psychology and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology. He has studied and worked extensively with the Community-Based Psychosocial Support approach in humanitarian responses and is an active member of the East Africa CBPS Community of Practice. Working with varied crisis-affected communities, particularly refugees in Uganda, he has been developing different ways of supporting people to draw upon their talents and passions to make positive social contributions within difficult circumstances. He established RECORD as a national NGO to support this. He has been a panelist for various Refugee Conferences and Debates.

Mukasa Moses Bwesige. Inter-Regional MHPSS Officer for East and Southern Africa Regions. Jesuit refugee services

Mukasa is an experienced MHPSS practitioner and researcher with a focus on community-based approaches to mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in humanitarian settings, particularly with populations affected by conflict and forced displacement. For 10 yrs. he has worked with Academic, National, and international organisations within the sub-Saharan region in countries such as Uganda, South Sudan, DRC, Zimbabwe, Kenya and at UNHCR HQ. His experience includes expert knowledge on Community based psychosocial support programming, implementation, assessments, and evaluations, Suicide prevention and response and with special interest in the MHPSS-Gender nexus using the intersectional lens. Mukasa is currently pursuing a Joint PhD at Makerere University Uganda and Ghents University Belgium.

10:30 – 12:00

Navigating the spirit and letter of people centric

As part of our closing session, we'll reflect on the integration of a people-centred approach within humanitarian work in conflict settings. This path is challenged by the need to reconcile not only needs, resources, and mandate but also history, power, and bureaucracy. This session will discuss approaches to making people-centred practice more natural and systematic, including considerations related to culture, systems, and incentives. Our call to action emphasizes the options that aid workers, humanitarian agencies, and donors have to implement these changes, and what may be needed to foster a true partnership with affected people. This session unifies our conference's themes and aims to provoke actionable insights for a more effective, humanitarian response.

Facilitator:

Rachel Maher. AAP Adviser for UNOCHA and the IASC Secretariat

Rachel is the AAP Adviser for OCHA and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in Geneva. She has extensive experience as an advocate, project manager and trainer in humanitarian emergencies and development projects in Australia, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Greece. She has developed and implemented initiatives in community engagement, access to information and advocacy with a focus on rights, migration, and conflict. She has worked in health risk communications, humanitarian information and media development for WHO, the CDAC Network, ICRC, IOM, UNOCHA, UNHCR, Internews Network and BBC Media Action and with human rights journalists in West Africa, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Speakers:

Dr. Jennifer Doherty. Research Fellow, ALNAP

Jennifer has over 15 years' experience in humanitarian and development research and practice. At ALNAP, she has led research on accountability, frontline learning, and lessons from previous responses. She is an author of the 5th edition of the State of the Humanitarian System Report and is currently leading the research for the 6th edition. Previously, Jennifer gained practical experience of humanitarian response in South Asia and accountability programming in Africa. Her PhD from George Washington University explored stability in ethnically-divided contexts.

Haiko Magtrayo. Accountability to Affected People Delegate, ICRC

Haiko is from Mindanao, Philippines, and has worked in both development programmes and emergency humanitarian responses. He is a community engagement and accountability practitioner who continues to learn how to meaningfully integrate crisis-affected people's ideas, energy, and imagination into humanitarian programming.

Gloria Soma Modong Morris. Executive Director, Titi Foundation South Sudan

Gloria is a south Sudanese activist for women and children. She is a steering committee member for the national NGO Forum and the localisation steering committee as well as an Advisory board member of the South Sudan humanitarian fund (SSHF). Gloria is currently the co-chair of the IASC localisation task force, a board member for CHS Alliance and to the Humanitarian Aid and Disaster management programming board at the World Humanitarian Forum. She is also part of the international executive committee of the UAI, and a member to the IASC RG5. Gloria has over 7 years of experience in both humanitarian, innovation and development work and a vast experience in program management, coordination, administration, financial management, Gender analysis. She holds a MBA from NIBM India and a bachelor's degree in banking and finance from the University of Dar es salaam.

Subhiya Mastonshoeva. Evaluation Officer, ICRC

Subhiya has been working with the ICRC as an Evaluation Officer at HQ since September 2022. Her previous experience includes evaluation, research and programming on human rights, gender, intersectionality, and peacebuilding. Subhiya has a Master in Global Affairs with a specialization in International Peace Studies and Master of Advanced Studies in Transitional Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law.

Gemma Connell. Chief of the Assessment, Planning and Monitoring Branch, OCHA

Gemma has over 17 years of experience in humanitarian action, women's rights and human rights, both in headquarters and in the field. Since joining OCHA in 2011, Gemma has played a key role in major crises, including the response to complex emergencies in South Sudan and Mozambique, sudden-onset climate emergencies (such as Tropical Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique), disease outbreaks (Ebola, cholera and COVID-19), slow-onset disasters (including the unprecedented drought in the Horn of Africa from 2020-2023), and the desert locust upsurge (2019-2021). She has also supported strategic humanitarian reform processes. Prior to joining OCHA, Gemma worked with the UN agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza.