



LSHTM Panel Event - Working with UN and other international organisations

Mon, 4 March 2024, 17.30-19.00

Panellist Biographies

Candela Iglesias Chiesa, MPH, PhD

Candela is a global health specialist and the Founder and Director of [Alanda, solutions for a Healthier World](#), a purpose-driven organization supporting partners worldwide to improve their health projects and save lives through better use of evidence and strengthened leadership and project management.

Candela has worked with the Pandemic Fund, the Red Cross, WHO-PAHO, UNICEF, University of Oxford-ISARIC, Resolve to Save Lives and others, working in projects in Africa and Latin America. She sits on the advisory board of Women in Global Health Norway and the Government board for the Mexican National Institute of Oncology. She holds an MSc in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She has a biomedical background having done her PhD research and Master's in Microbiology-Virology at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, France.

Candela is a mentor of young public health professionals and together with the Alanda team has developed the highly praised course "Thrive. How to build a meaningful career in global and public health." She is a speaker on global and public health topics as well as on career development topics in public and global health. Candela has lived and worked in many countries and today splits her time between Mexico City and Oslo, Norway.

Fatma Shakarchi

Fatma is a medical doctor and Chevening Alumna, with clinical, policy, and research experience with both conflict-affected states and high-income settings. Based with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) headquarters, in Geneva, Fatma facilitated the health activities to people affected by conflict globally. She also serves as the Middle East North Africa Youth Advisor to the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, representing over 280 million youth in the region.

Her previous roles included serving as a medical doctor on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic in Baghdad. Her work has been presented at high-level events with organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the European Space Agency (ESA).

Fatma holds an MSc in Public Health for Eye Care from LSHTM, a Medical Degree with Distinction from the

University of Baghdad, and a Diploma in Public Policy and Leadership from the American University of Sharjah.
Links- www.linkedin.com/in/fatmashakarchi"

Genevieve Tam

Genevieve Tam (she/her) is a Canadian obstetrician gynecologist and has spent the last 15 years working in global women's health with various NGOs around the world, including Doctors Without Borders. Her clinical practice experience, together with her public health degree at LSHTM and global health experiences culminated in her co-founding Vitala Global, a tech non-profit, in 2020 with her friend and colleague Dr. Roopan Gill. Through their combined medical, humanitarian and development experiences, they wanted to address the gaps in stigmatized sexual and reproductive health care they witnessed in the field. They saw the potential for localized, community-led, and user-centered digital SRH solutions to support people living in challenging contexts. Genevieve is the Chief Operating Officer for Vitala and is grateful for the opportunity to co-lead Vitala with an amazing passionate, multidisciplinary, and global team that shares Vitala's mission to revolutionize sexual and reproductive self-care through co-designed, holistic, and localized digital solutions that meet women and girls where they are, empowering them to be agents of change.

Aya Contigo is Vitala's flagship app and chat platform that accompanies people through their abortion and contraception journeys. It was co-designed and launched in Venezuela in 2022 to address the high rates of unsafe abortions due to the protracted humanitarian crisis and restrictive abortion laws. Through consultations with over 50 US reproductive health and rights stakeholders and strategic partnerships with key abortion orgs, Vitala was able to apply their learnings from Aya Contigo's success in Venezuela to bring the app platform to the US at the end of 2023 to support the Latina/x community who are disproportionately affected by the abortion bans.

Dr. Svetlana Ancker

Dr. Svetlana Ancker has over 15 years of experience in international health and HIV/AIDS programmes development and management; and an academic background in demography, public health and policy, and HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. After graduating from LSHTM with a PhD degree in 2014, she worked at CARE International and since 2016 she has been working as a Programme Health Specialist at UNICEF UK.

Svetlana holds master's degrees from the London School of Economics and Georgetown University and a Ph.D. in Public Health and Policy from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Svetlana's academic work has been published widely in various academic journals and books.

Rhiannon Jarratt

Rhiannon has been working as a Midwife Educator for Seed Global Health, in Lusaka, Zambia. The role focuses on health systems strengthening, by emphasizing quality training and education for midwifery students and the midwifery workforce. Prior to this, Rhiannon was working as Specialist Midwife in Maternal Medicine for North Central London, caring for pregnant women with complex medical conditions. During her career as a midwife, she has completed an MSc in Global Public Health at Queen Mary University, and the Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing at LSHTM.

Ruth Zwizwai

Ruth Zwizwai is a Field Epidemiologist and eHealth Implementer Specialist with (MSF OCA) Medecins sans Frontieres, Operation Centre Amsterdam since 2018 including working as the Emergency Team Epidemiologist, who has worked in different humanitarian settings with MSF across Ethiopia, DR Congo, Haiti, Somalia, and South Sudan. Currently working with the ehealth team she brings her experience in responding to outbreaks, setting up surveillance systems, conducting surveys as well as conducting exploratory assessments focusing on electronic health tools for data management and analysis. Prior to this Ruth worked within UK public Health England focused

on National Hepatitis B surveillance. Previously, this work in Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak focused on increasing decentralised laboratory testing capacity through GeneXpert at government facilities level and conducting a proof-of-concept study on automated reporting systems across Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia. Ruth also worked with the Mentor Initiative who focused on vector control in Emergency Humanitarian settings as an Operational Researcher, resulting in a toolkit for integrated vector management in humanitarian emergencies. Ruth Studied at LSHTM within the CID (Control of Infectious Disease cohort of 2013 - 2014 after her undergraduate in Medical Biochemistry from University of Surrey.

Natalie Moyen

I graduated as a veterinarian in 2007 and after having worked in practice, and in a R&D petfood centre for 5 years I went travelling ... and discovered epidemiology during one of my internships in Cambodia and Madagascar. I loved it as I could at last put my mathematical and biological skills into practice in real-world situations. I therefore decided to do an MSc in veterinary epidemiology at the LSHTM and RVC, it was a fantastic year! I followed on by a PhD in veterinary epidemiology looking at how poultry trading networks and practices in Bangladesh trade avian influenza. This experience gave me the skills I had identified I needed to apply to the jobs I was interested in. As I finished my PhD, I walked into international development where I stayed for 3 years and have now been working for 2 years at the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Lizna Makhani

Lizna Makhani is a Senior Manager within the Development Finance team at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. In her current role, Lizna manages the engagement with the World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Pandemic Fund. Previously at Gavi, Lizna has also with the COVAX Facility on country engagement and revising Gavi's co-financing and transition policies. Prior to Gavi, Lizna was a consultant at ThinkWell focusing on private sector engagement and innovative finance, as well as a senior consultant with Deloitte focusing on financial services clients. Lizna began her career with the US Department of Health and Human Services focusing on outreach and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Lizna holds a MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing jointly from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a BSc in Neuroscience from Trinity University in Texas.

Jenny Renju

Jenny is a public health practitioner and researcher with a Masters in Public Health and a PhD in implementation science, in which she explored the factors that facilitated and prohibited the successful 10-fold scale up of a complex adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) intervention in Tanzania, where she lived and worked for over 20 years. For the last 2.5 years she has been working with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria as a Public Health and M&E specialist. In this role she is part of the teams who supports the Ministry of Health in both Botswana and Namibia and the Ministry of Finance in Lesotho and different civil society organizations and other development partners (including different UN agencies) to ensure the Global fund investments achieve their maximum impact against HIV, TB and Malaria as well as supporting health systems strengthening and pandemic preparedness. In her academic positions Jenny has been and, remains involved in building capacity in research and public health across the East African region, including the development and implementation of an MSc in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College and the new MSc in Sexual and Reproductive Health for practitioners in LMIC. Jenny has international research experience across much of sub-Saharan Africa in the field of HIV/AIDS, sexual and social behaviour, family planning, reproductive health including menstrual health, with a strong focus on the link between research and policy formulation and implementation. Whilst currently based in Geneva, (and enjoying the mountains and lake!) her heart remains in the foothills of Kilimanjaro, where she plans to return one day!

