



## Session 6D: Child-Sensitive Social Protection

### Moderator



#### **Maya Fachrani Faisal**

Chief of Social Policy

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Manila

Maya Fachrani Faisal manages the portfolio of child poverty, social protection, public finance, and local governance for children as well as child rights and business for the UNICEF Philippines country office. She has over 20 years experience in international development work , as well as operational emergency cash transfers in the Caribbean and working in protracted crises in Western Africa.

### Panelists



#### **Monoara Eshrat**

Programme Director, Mother and Child Benefit Programme  
Department of Women Affairs, Bangladesh

Monoara Eshrat is a dedicated public servant and advocate for women's and children's welfare in Bangladesh. With a distinguished career spanning several years, she currently serves as the Program Director of the Mother and Child Benefits Program and holds the position of Joint Secretary within the Department of Women Affairs under the Government of Bangladesh. Earlier, she served with several Ministries/divisions of Bangladesh to promote and ensure children's rights. She led the child trafficking program while she was Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

As Program Director of the Mother and Child Benefits Program and Joint Secretary within the Department of Women Affairs, she continues to be an inspiration of hope and change, working diligently to create a brighter and more equitable future for women and children in Bangladesh.



**Dil Kumar Tamang**

Programme Director  
Department of NID and Civil Registration,  
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal



**Gemma B. Gabuya**

Director, Department of Social Welfare and Development  
(DSWD), Philippines

Gemma Gabuya, a registered social worker, is an authority in the fields of child and youth protection, drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation, family and community welfare, gender and development, and early childhood care and development.

She dedicated more than three (3) decades of professional work with the Department of Social Welfare and Development where she rose from the ranks. Currently, she is leading the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program as the Director IV and National Program Manager. She was also the Director of Field Office III for four (4) years, Policy Development and Planning Bureau for four (4) years and Social Technology Bureau for three (3) years. Director Gabuya is currently holding the position of Director IV of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Recognizing her expertise and experience on social welfare and development, Gemma was designated as the Alternate Focal to the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), where she represented the DSWD in several ASEAN Meetings and activities to ensure that the Philippine priorities on social welfare and development were shared and considered in the regional action plans and instruments.

She holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the National College of Business and Arts and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from the Divine World University. She was also conferred as the 2nd Placer in the Social Work Licensure Exam in 1985.



**Jessica Owens**

Regional Advisor - Social Policy

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), South Asia

Jessica is the Regional Social Policy Advisor at UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia. In this role she leads the portfolio on social protection, public finance for children, local governance and child poverty. She has over 15 years of experience providing strategic and technical guidance on social policy and programming issues at national and international levels. She has supported the design and implementation of national social protection systems, monitoring and evaluation of social assistance programmes, design of income generation policies for vulnerable populations, and supported the implementation of various government led programmes. More recently, Jessica led FAO's work on Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection and coordinated the ECHO funded ASEAN Shock Responsive Social Protection Project. Jessica also worked with the (former) Ministry of Social Protection of Colombia as Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Labour, supporting the social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups, including the internally displaced. She holds a MSc in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) as well as a BSc in Economics from Boston University.