



26–28 September • ADB headquarters, Manila, Philippines

Closing Session – A Reflection on Translating Global Priorities into Regional Realities

Part 1: Summary



Juan Gonzalo Jaramillo, Social Protection Programme Policy Officer, World Food Programme (WFP)

Juan Gonzalo Jaramillo Mejia holds the distinguished position of Lead Technical Advisor on Nutrition-Sensitive and Inclusive Social Protection at the United Nations WFP Headquarters in Rome. Within WFP, he also serves as the Global Knowledge and Learning Manager in Social Protection, and since 2021, he chairs the Inter-Agency Working Group and Coalition on Social Protection and Food Systems Transformation. As a social and public policy specialist, his academic pursuits in Economics, Political Science, and International Development encompass academic degrees from esteemed institutions, including the London School of Economics and Harvard University.

Juan Gonzalo's primary objective has been to broaden the scope of social protection to encompass marginalized and disadvantaged populations, with a particular emphasis on refining strategies for social and food assistance to promote social inclusion and maximize positive outcomes in human capital and local economic development. Prior to his tenure at WFP, he contributed his expertise to various organizations, including the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Grameen Bank, the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), where he engaged in a diverse array of topics, ranging from the preservation of genetic crop diversity to enhancing micro-finance accessibility and advocating for gender-inclusive agro-rural development policies.



Karin Schelzig, Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, ADB

Karin Schelzig manages a team of education, health, and social protection specialists working to reduce poverty and boost human capital and social inclusion in 23 developing member countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. A social protection specialist with more than 25 years of experience, Karin has led the design and implementation of social assistance policies and programs in Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, the People's Republic of China, and the Philippines, among others. Karin holds a Ph.D. in Development Studies from the London School of Economics.



Amir Jilani, Social Sector Specialist, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, ADB

Amir H. Jilani is a social sector economist with extensive experience working on the design, development and evaluation of social protection, human development, and women's empowerment projects. Mr. Jilani leads social policy dialogue with governments in Asia and the Pacific as well as the preparation and implementation of ADB loan and technical assistance projects designed to address poverty and vulnerability, particularly in the context of climate change. His research and operational experience has focused on social assistance and cash transfers, economic inclusion (graduation) programs, basic education, and the use of digital technology solutions to improve public service delivery. Amir holds undergraduate degrees in Economics and Finance from the Australian National University and a Master of Public Policy, specializing in applied microeconomics and international development, from Georgetown University.

Part 2: Panel Discussion

Moderator



Ayako Inagaki, Senior Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, ADB

Ayako Inagaki leads the Human and Social Development Sector Office in conceptualizing and delivering financial and technical assistance operations, and knowledge services in education, health and social development to ADB's developing member countries, and in ensuring ADB's technical leadership in the sector. Previously, she has led the planning, implementation, and supervision of ADB's lending and non-lending sector operations in Southeast and South Asian countries.

Ayako has over 30 years of experience in the sector and has recently focused on emerging and cross-cutting issues affecting human and social development, that include among others, post-COVID19 pandemic recovery, digital transformation, climate change and climate change actions.

Panelists



Ms. Vilma Cabrera

Undersecretary for National Household Targeting System and Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Philippines

She is an expert in Social Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. She is known to be at the forefront of large-scale humanitarian disaster response and recovery and rehabilitation programs for the internally displaced persons after natural disasters and armed-conflict situations in the country, leading the DSWD. She also played a key role in the formulation of the National Disaster Response Plans for Hydro-meteorological Hazards and for Earthquake and tsunamis and its eventual adoption by the Philippine Government.

With her extensive background, she has been engaged as a senior consultant/ specialist by national and international organizations such as the United Nations, The World Bank and CORAM International, among many others.

She earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of the Philippines and her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern Philippines and she is a Career Executive Service Officer Rank II.



Mr. Dharmvir Jha, Director, Department of Rural Development, India

I am an Indian Statistical service (ISS) officer , having experience of Government and Governance of about 22 years. I have experience in the area of Defence , Energy (coal) , Statistics & Programme Implementation, Rural Sector(Rural Employment) etc.



Veremo Muria
Director
Social Welfare, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection
Fiji Islands

Started with the Ministry way back in 2013, and for two years now, pursuing his Master's Degree in Western Sydney University of Australia. Currently the Director Social Protection based in Suva, Fiji



Fatino Utumapu
Office Manager
Nuanua o le Alofa (NOLA), Samoa

Fatino Utumapu is currently one of disability leaders from across the Pacific who assists in the regional implementation of the Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities through the Pacific Disability Forum. Their team is now responsible for providing in country disability inclusive training to government ministries, nongovernment organizations, the private sector and other groups. As the office manager for NOLA, the national advocacy organization for persons with disabilities in Samoa, Fatino has led advocacy work to support the establishment of the Wheelchair Users Association of Samoa and the Samoa Association of the Deaf.

Part 3: Closing Remarks



Ayako Inagaki, Senior Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, ADB

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