



## Session 5B: Connecting Evidence and Policy: The Role of Monitoring and Evaluation in Social Protection

### Moderator



#### **Nassreena Baddiri**

Evaluation Specialist  
Independent Evaluation Department (IED)  
ADB

Nassreena Baddiri is an Evaluation Specialist at the Independent Evaluation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She has more than 16 years of experience working in various government departments in the Philippines, in the academe, and in policy and research organizations. Previously, Nassreena was Country Director of Innovations for Poverty Action, an international research and policy organization where she was chief manager of its diverse portfolio of rigorous evaluations in social protection, education, and financial inclusion. Nassreena holds a Doctorate degree in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines and a Master's degree in Development Studies from the University of Manchester.

### Panelists



#### **Noam Angrist**

Senior Fellow, Oxford University and Founder, Youth Impact

Noam Angrist is the Academic Director of the [What Works Hub for Global Education](#) at the University of Oxford and is a co-founder of [Youth Impact](#), one of the largest NGOs dedicated to scaling-up health and education programs backed by randomized trial evidence. In addition to scaling proven programs with governments, Youth Impact conducts regular,

rapid A/B tests to optimize cost-effectiveness of programs on the path to scale. Angrist has published in leading academic journals including *Nature*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, and the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Angrist has consulted for the World Bank Chief Economist, developed key components of the World Bank Human Capital Index education pillar, and co-led academic research underpinning the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel's flagship reports. Angrist holds a PhD from the University of Oxford.



**Tara Marwah**

Policy and Project Development Manager  
Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

Tara Marwah is a Policy and Project Development Manager with IPA Philippines, promoting evidence-informed policy and engaging with external stakeholders to grow new partnerships. Tara also worked as a Senior Policy Associate at J-PAL, where she developed the environment, energy, and climate change sector for J-PAL's Europe office. Before that, Tara lived in Rwanda where she worked as a Project Manager embedded in a Rwandan Government agency that spearheads public infrastructure development throughout the country and as a consultant for the German Development Bank (KfW). Her first work experience was in the Secretary General's office of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Tara holds a master's degree in international trade, finance, and development from the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics and speaks fluent German.



**David Abbott**

Manager, Data Analysis and Dissemination (retired)  
Statistics for Development Division  
Secretariat for Pacific Community (SPC)

David Abbott is a development economist with over 40 years of experience in economic policy research and analysis, with an emphasis on poverty, social protection, and inclusive economic growth in Pacific countries. He was team leader of the Pacific Regional MDG & Poverty Reduction team at the UNDP Pacific Centre for five years, and has recently spent five years as the Manager for Data Analysis and Dissemination in the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community. As an independent consultant, he has assisted in the data collection and compilation of the ADB's Social Protection Indicator for the Pacific and has written extensively on Pacific poverty, hardship, vulnerability and social protection, and the macroeconomic and inclusive development challenges facing the Pacific region. David has a Master's Degree in Financial Economics from SOAS

University of London and has been a Fellow of the Association of International Accountants.



**Andrea Rossi**

Regional Adviser  
Social Policy and Economic Analysis  
East Asia and Pacific, UNICEF

Andrea Rossi is the Regional Advisor on Social Policy and Economic Analysis for East Asia and Pacific, leading the UNICEF regional work on Social Protection, as well as on Public Finance and Child Poverty Research. He is an economist with a particular focus on development and applied research. He is the former Director of the Harvard Measurement and Human Rights Programme at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.