



**ASIA-PACIFIC**  
**SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2023**  
Social Protection in a Changing World

The logo features a stylized umbrella with a blue and orange canopy. Underneath the umbrella are several human figures in various colors (blue, orange, green) representing different groups of people, including one with a wheelchair and one with a shopping cart.

26–28 September • ADB headquarters, Manila, Philippines

## Session 4C: Effective Social Protection Responses in Conflict-Affected and Other Fragile Situations

### Opening



#### **Shantanu Mitra**

Director's Advisor (United Kingdom), Board of Directors  
ADB

Shantanu Mitra is Director's Adviser and the UK's representative on the ADB Board of Directors. He has over 25 years' experience working on international development, including leadership, economic advisory and climate change roles with the UK's Department For International Development in London, China, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Thailand. Prior to this he worked as a researcher at the World Institute of Development Economics, UN University, and as an economist in the UK government Department of Health working on health service reform. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the London School of Economics.

## Moderator



### **Rachel Slater**

Independent Consultant  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom

Rachel Slater is a Co-Research Director of the Better Assistance in Crises Research Programme (<https://www.ids.ac.uk/programme-and-centre/better-assistance-in-crises-basic-research/>) and Professor of International Development at the University of Wolverhampton. Rachel has delivered research on social protection in numerous conflict-affected countries across Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. Rachel holds a PhD from the University of Manchester, UK.

## Panelists



### **Jawad Aslam**

Chief of Social Policy  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Afghanistan

Jawad Aslam, a Pakistani national, has been an international development and humanitarian practitioner since 2002. Currently, he is leading the UNICEF social policy team and programme in Afghanistan. He has previously managed diverse teams and programs as Deputy Representative in Albania, social and economic policy portfolio for UNICEF in Myanmar, Jordan and Eastern Caribbean Area Office. Further, Jawad has extensive work experience with UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, and Pakistani national nongovernment organizations.

Jawad holds a Master's degree in Social Policy and Development from London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE) in the United Kingdom.



### **Lyca Therese Sarenas**

Chief of Staff, Ministry of Social Services and Development,  
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao,  
Philippines

Lyca currently serves as the Chief of Staff of MSSD-BARMM, the lead agency in the Bangsamoro Government that has been implementing several landmark social protection programs in the country. Prior to her post in MSSD, Lyca has been working in the development sector for almost thirty-years. She has extensive experience in programme management, including the development, planning, and implementation of large-scale programs in fragile or conflict-affected communities. Lyca completed her studies at UP Diliman.



### **Samir Wanmali**

Deputy Regional Director, Asia Pacific (Operations), World  
Food Program (WFP)

Samir Wanmali brings over 20 years of service with WFP in the program and operations functions. Samir has served in several WFP country and regional offices including being the Darfur Coordinator in Sudan, the Regional Head of Programme in RBB, the Deputy Country Director in Ethiopia, and, most recently, the Deputy Director of the Programme Division in WFP HQ. Samir holds a B.A in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and M.A. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University.



### **Isvary Sivalingam**

Southeast Asia Lead  
Better than Cash Alliance

Isvary is Southeast Asia Lead at the UN-based [Better than Cash Alliance](#), where she manages advocacy and design and implementation of technical assistance initiatives with Governments, companies and international organizations to enable [responsible](#) digitization of payments in the ASEAN region. Over the last 15 years, she has helped to shape economic and development policy with a focus on digital financial inclusion, through her roles in the Singapore Government, in private sector consulting and at the United Nations. She holds a dual-degree Masters in Public Policy and Affairs from Sciences Po Paris and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore.



**Tristan Burnett**

Chief of Mission in the Philippines  
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Tristan Burnett is the newly appointed Chief of Mission in the Philippines. Prior to this post, she was the Deputy Director of the Department of Operations and Emergencies at IOM Headquarters which coordinates IOM's humanitarian response to conflict and natural disasters, and its movement and resettlement operations. Previously, Tristan served as the head of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division responsible for sudden onset and protracted crises, overseeing the institutional units on shelter; camp coordination and camp management; displacement tracking; protection; water, sanitation and hygiene; and preparedness for natural hazards and conflict-derived and complex emergencies. Tristan graduated from Willamette University College of Law with a Juris Doctor and from Boston University with a BA in International Relations.