



Innovations for Resilience Convening

Speaker Biographies

Hila Cohen

International Business Development Lead - Innovation Accelerator | World Food Programme

International Business Development Lead at the World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator which was launched in August 2015 in Munich, Germany and which supports innovations globally. The Innovation Accelerator's aim is to accelerate disruptive innovations to reach a world without hunger. The accelerator supports entrepreneurs and startups working towards ending hunger applying a human-centered design and a lean startup approach.

Hila joined the WFP Innovation Accelerator when it launched and previously she worked on global IT projects in WFP for 3.5 years. Beforehand, she worked for 4 years as a hi-tech corporate lawyer in a leading firm in Tel Aviv. She holds an MBA from the SDA Bocconi School of Management (Italy) and a Bachelors in Law from the University of Haifa (Israel). She has an avid interest in the latest developments and trends in the technology realm.

Greg Collins

USAID Resilience Coordinator and Director, Center for Resilience | US Agency for International Development

Greg Collins is the Director of the USAID Center for Resilience, and serves as the Agency's Resilience Coordinator. Collins is a recognized global thought leader on resilience and has played a lead role in developing and operationalizing a strategic vision for resilience at USAID. Collins was based in Kenya during the 2011 drought emergency there and helped lead the development of USAID's Horn of Africa resilience strategy in 2012. He also helped lead the development of USAID's Sahel resilience strategy in 2012-13. He continues to provide strategic guidance and technical support on resilience to missions in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, including the Agency flagship resilience portfolios in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Nepal.

Prior to coming to USAID in 2010, Collins worked for more than a decade as a strategy and technical advisor on food security, monitoring and evaluation, and vulnerability assessment and analysis to various UN agencies (FAO, WFP, UNICEF) and NGOs in east and southern Africa and the Middle East. Collins holds an MPH from Tulane University with a specialization in food security and monitoring and evaluation, and a PhD in Economic Sociology from the University of California Davis where his research explored Somalia's telecommunications industry as an instance of development (and resilience) "without state."

Sophie Evans

Programme Director, Capital, Science & Policy Practice | Willis Towers Watson

Sophie is the Programme Director for the Capital, Science and Policy Practice at Willis Towers Watson, a leading global advisory, broking and solutions company. The Practice confronts the large scale challenges of risk and seeks innovative uses of risk management and insurance-related mechanisms to build resilient economies and societies around the world to support sustainable growth. Sophie is also the Co-Chair of the Insurance and Humanitarian System Working Group for the Insurance Development Forum, a public/private partnership led by the insurance industry and supported by international organisations including the World Bank and United Nations. Previously, she was Senior Programme Coordinator for the Planning from the Future Project, and worked at the Humanitarian Futures Programme both based at King's College London. Sophie studied for her Master's degree at King's College London in 2012 and is continuing her studies to obtain her LLM.



Tarah Friend

***Humanitarian Research and Innovation Manager* | UK Department of International Development**

Tarah Friend is Humanitarian Research and Innovation Manager at the UK Department of International Development (DFID), which she joined in 2010. She has over 15 years' experience in international development, having worked across a variety of sectors including public health, natural resource management, child protection and community development. Tarah leads on a number of DFID's investments in humanitarian research, including the Building Resilience thematic evaluation, and the recently completed Humanitarian Evidence Programme. She is currently taking on the leadership of the humanitarian innovation programme portfolio in DFID, which includes the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF), the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation, and the Humanitarian Education Accelerator with UNICEF and UNHCR. Tarah holds a Masters in Development Management and a Professional Diploma in logistics and administration of humanitarian aid and development from the Institut Bioforce (France).

Mark Gordon

***Chief of Asset Creation and Livelihoods Unit* | World Food Programme**

Mark Gordon is an international development and humanitarian response professional with over 20 years of experience with Local and International Non-governmental Organisations and the United Nations in Africa, South-East Asia, Central Europe and Central America. Mark holds an MSc from the University of Manchester's Institute for Development Policy and Management. Since 2002 Mark has worked for the World Food Programme in the areas of emergency assessment and programme design; in the past 5 years Mark has served as a Senior Programme and Policy Adviser for the United Nation's World Food Programme in Somalia and South Sudan. Mark is currently the Chief of the World Food Programme's Asset Creation and Livelihoods Unit (OSZPR).

Nick Haan

***Vice President of Impact* | Singularity University**

Nick is currently Vice President of Impact and on the Faculty at Singularity University. His introduction to global perspectives began as a science teacher in a remote Kenyan village with the Peace Corps. This experience led to more than 20 years of living and working internationally, mainly in East and Southern Africa (including living four years in villages without running water or electricity, which gives him a unique perspective on social challenges).

Prior to joining Singularity University, Nick served as Senior Economist/Global Program Manager with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization where he oversaw a food security project operating in over 30 countries. He is the creator of an international standard for classifying the severity of food insecurity and disasters—called the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Nick is also involved with several start-ups, including as strategic advisor to a mobile app company called eMobilis. He has a keen interest in the crowdsourcing movement and is on the regional board of directors for crowdfunder.com. He has been a visiting professor at University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and was awarded a NASA Research Fellowship. Originally from California, Nick has a PhD in Geography, a Master's in International Development, a Master's in Geographic Information Systems & Remote Sensing from Clark University, and a Bachelor's in Genetics from U.C. Berkeley.

Jesper Hornberg

***Head of Innovation and Incubator* | Global Resilience Partnership**

Jesper has over 20 years of experience in business and development in emerging economies as an entrepreneur, investor, senior advisor, and bilateral donor. As part of this work Jesper has been exposed extensively to technologies such as PAYG, market development challenges, distribution, and market segmentation. Jesper sits on the board of several businesses in Africa including an investment company, and a



retail distribution company organising the large and diversified informal trade market for basic foods in Kenya into a manageable retail sector.

Annamarie Isler

Head of Global Foundations, Private Sector Partnerships Division | World Food Programme

Annamarie Isler is the Head of Global Foundation partnership and initiative building within the World Food Programme (WFP). She has particular interest in Public-Private sector partnerships and their crucial contribution towards achieving Agenda 2030. Her partnership focus areas include innovative financing mechanisms, public health, climate change, nutrition and food systems.

Within WFP she has held several field positions in various countries in Africa and Asia. She also worked in HQ as a programme policy advisor in various technical areas including nutrition and HIV/AIDS. Prior to WFP she worked for the Canadian Government defining indicators to measure progress towards natural resource management as part of the national roundtable on the environment and economy.

Annamarie has a Master's degree in Environmental Studies with IDRC with a focus on ecosystem approaches to human health policy and law, and a Bachelor's degree in International Development. Annmarie also completed an Executive education at Columbia University Business School.

Joel Kaiser

International Projects Manager | WeRobotics

Joel Kaiser is a PMI certified project manager and emergency response specialist with advanced studies in complex humanitarian emergencies. After fifteen years leading humanitarian and disaster response teams across nearly a dozen countries, Joel has shifted his focus to developing the use of UAVs in support of humanitarian aid and disaster risk management. Though born and raised in Canada, he now lives in Switzerland and can speak English, French and Spanish.

Nathaniel Matthews

Program Director | Global Resilience Partnership

Nathaniel Matthews is Program Director of the Global Resilience Partnership, where he leads the technical element of GRP's offering, providing oversight and leadership of the programmatic features. Nate has field experience in over 30 countries, has authored over 40 publications and two books on sustainable development issues and regularly gives senior level international talks. He holds a PhD in Geography and is a Senior Visiting Fellow at King's College London, a Visiting Fellow at the University of East Anglia Water Security Centre and a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society.

Zlatan Milišić

Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division | World Food Programme

Zlatan Milišić is a Deputy Director of World Food Programme's Policy and Programme Division and the Chief of its Direct Implementation Programmes Service, where he leads policy and strategy development, programme guidance and operational support for food security in emergencies, protracted crisis and transitions, and livelihoods, resilience and asset creation activities, represents WFP in events, meetings and groups on policy and operational matters, and contributes to the development of strategies and initiatives for strengthening new approaches and partnerships. Zlatan also holds the position of WFP's Global Steering Committee member at the One Billion Coalition for Resilience Building initiative. Zlatan has been with WFP for the past 23 years, mainly in field-based and emergency-related leadership functions, including those of Deputy Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa in Cairo, and Country Director or Emergency Coordinator for Mali, Libya, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Somalia and Burundi. He also worked in South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, his home country, affected by war at the time, where he helped design, implement and monitor various humanitarian activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Prior to that, Zlatan was a Lawyer at a Legal Firm in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Born in Yugoslavia and a national of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zlatan holds University Degree in Laws (BA), from the University of Sarajevo and a Masters Degree (MA) in International Politics and Security Studies from the Bradford University in the UK.

Neal Myrick

Director of Social Impact; Director | Tableau Software; Tableau Foundation

Neal Myrick is Director of Social Impact at Tableau Software, where he leads the company's efforts in employee service and giving, community impact, and grant making. Within his role, he manages Tableau Foundation.

Neal worked for two software companies, Aldus Corp. (acquired by Adobe) and Visio Corp. (acquired by Microsoft), before becoming managing director of technology at Casey Family Programs, a national foundation focused on foster care. Neal then became executive director of Groundwire and CEO of Groundwire Consulting, where he helped environmental organizations increase their capacity to engage constituents. Neal is an active angel investor with Element 8. He has served on nonprofit boards, provides *pro bono* strategic consulting to nonprofits, and currently focuses his volunteer time on ethical data, diversity and social equity issues.

Ian O'Donnell

Team Leader, One Billion Coalition for Resilience (1BC) | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ian is Team Leader for the One Billion Coalition for Resilience. 1BC is a multi-stakeholder partnership to engage at least one person in every family, business, and community to take action to increase their resilience. Previously, Ian managed research and knowledge management at the Global Disaster Preparedness Center, hosted by the American Red Cross and the IFRC. There Ian designed and led a USAID-funded project supporting the development of city solutions for community resilience in response to climate change and coastal risk in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. He has also worked in disaster risk management with the Asian Development Bank, the ProVention Consortium, and in earlier roles with the American Red Cross in local chapter, national and international roles. An urban planner by training, he worked early in his career at NeXT software and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali.

Monika Primožič

Policy and Programme Officer, Assets Creation and Livelihoods Unit | World Food Programme

Monika joined WFP in 2014 and is currently a Policy and Programme Officer in the Asset Creation and Livelihoods Unit at WFP Headquarters in Rome. Her primary focus is on monitoring and evaluation of WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programmes across 52 countries - one of the WFP's flagship initiatives aimed at addressing the most food-insecure people's immediate food needs with cash, food or voucher transfers and improving their long-term food security and resilience. Monika has a particular interest in building community resilience against shocks and stressors with the goal of achieving Agenda 2030. In addition, she is a WFP Operation Group Member at the One Billion Coalition for Resilience Building initiative.

A national of Slovenia, Monika has previously worked in Ljubljana (Slovenia), Khartoum (Sudan) and Dubai (UAE). She holds a University Degree in Education (BA) from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia and Master of Science (MSc) in Applied Psychology from University of Liverpool in the UK.

Elena Quiroga

Sustainable Innovation Expert | Telefonica

Industrial Engineer by Antonio de Nebrija University and Master in Environmental Science by Imperial College London. Elena started her career at Telefonica in 2008; she came back to the company in 2016 to join the Sustainable Innovation Unit where she is involved in sustainable development projects. Elena has previously worked as a Project Officer on the FP7 funded project RESTOR-Hydro under the European Small Hydropower



Association in Brussels and in the publication of the World Small Hydro Development Report 2013 at the International Center for Small Hydropower in Hangzhou under the auspices of the United Nations for Industrial Development Organization.

Dr. Srinivasa Rao Gattineni

Asia Insurance Coordinator | Syngenta Foundation

Dr. Srinivasa is currently working as Asia Insurance Coordinator at Syngenta Foundation for weather and climate risk management programs in India and South-East Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia). He is coming with over 18 years of experience in the fields of Agricultural Meteorology, Remote Sensing and Weather Index Insurance market development. He holds masters and doctoral degrees in Agricultural Meteorology and International Diploma in General Insurance. During his previous assignment, he was instrumental in creating all India private network of AWS, for the first time in the country, which helped weather insurance market rapid expansion to serve millions of small and marginal farmers. Dr. Srinivasa is also worked as AgroMet Expert for development of “Varsha Bhima” an Index Insurance Program for the first time in India in the year 2003-04. Recently he completed UNDP assignment on development of “Parametric Insurance for crops and Pastoralists and insurance market development” in The Republic of Sudan. His interests lie on development of innovative ICT tools to address technical challenges in index insurance and dissemination of farm centric and location specific crop and weather information to farmers to manage their risks better.

Kyla Reid

Head of Mobile for Development | GSMA

As Head of the Digital Identity Programme, Kyla is responsible for working with mobile operators, governments and NGOs to identify the opportunities, barriers, and value of mobile as a scalable and trusted platform for enabling digital identity. Kyla has been with the GSMA since 2012 and has played a key role in the inception and leadership of new programmes within Mobile for Development, including Mobile Health and Disaster Response. Most recently Kyla led the industry-wide Humanitarian Connectivity Charter, now with over 60 mobile operator signatories, UN and NGO endorsement and a footprint in over 50 countries. In her work at the GSMA, Kyla engages with a wide range of stakeholders from both the private and development sectors, identifying opportunities to create shared value and sustainable social impact using mobile technology. Kyla has conducted field research across East Africa and has worked for a variety of NGOs and policy institutes focused on complex emergencies, HIV/AIDS and socio-economic development. Kyla holds a MSc. in Development Management from the London School of Economics and earned a BAH in Development Studies from Dalhousie University in Canada.

Gazbia Sorour

Innovation for Development | United Nations Development Programme

Gazbia Sorour has four years of experience in facilitating social innovation processes and co-designing solutions with the aim of driving positive change and empowering underprivileged communities in Egypt, the Arab Region and Africa. She is the co-founder of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Innovation for Development Lab in Egypt and she facilitated over ten (10) social innovation camps using Stanford’s design thinking process, in Egypt and globally. Gazbia is the acting Deputy Head for the “Community Engagement and Youth Empowerment” committee for Terous Foundation and she is also leading other UNDP innovation initiatives including Games for Social Change, Behavioral Insights and Crowdfunding. Gazbia participated as a facilitator and speaker in over 20 innovation conferences worldwide including the UN High Level Political Forum, the Games for Change Festival and the Global Design Thinking Week at the Hasso-Plattner Institute d.school in Potsdam.