

Early Childhood Development in Emergencies – What's New?

23 September 2019, 10-11am

Danny Kaye Visitor's Centre, UNICEF House

Speaker Biographies



Muzoon Almellehan

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador

Muzoon Almellehan, 21, is a Syrian refugee and education activist. Muzoon has been campaigning for children's education in emergencies since she was forced to flee Syria in 2013 with her family. Muzoon started her campaign in Jordan, where she was living as a refugee in camps for three years, including 18 months in Za'atari. As part of a UNICEF-supported back-to-school campaign, she first advocated for more girls to go to school in August 2013 and went from tent to tent speaking with parents of children who were at risk of child marriage or early labor. Over the next two and a half years she became synonymous with standing up for the rights of children, particularly girls, to stay in or go back to school.



Michelle Bachelet Jeria

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Before assuming her functions as the seventh High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet was elected President of Chile on two occasions, and was the first female president of Chile. Previously, she served as Health Minister as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister. Ms. Bachelet has chaired the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, a joint ILO and WHO initiative, which sought to promote social policies to stimulate economic growth and social cohesion. In 2011, she was named the first Director of UN Women. She served as Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, an alliance of more than 1000 organizations in 192 countries from the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health communities, and as Co-Chair of the High-Level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child.



Henrietta H. Fore

Executive Director, UNICEF

Henrietta H. Fore has worked to champion economic development, education, health, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in a public service, private sector and non-profit leadership career that spans more than four decades. Ms. Fore has served as the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development; Director of United States Foreign Assistance; Under Secretary of State for Management; and Director of the United States Mint in the U.S. Department of Treasury. Ms. Fore was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Holsman International, and has served on the Boards of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. She has received the Distinguished Service Award and the Alexander Hamilton Award.



John Goodwin

CEO, The LEGO Foundation

John Goodwin joined the LEGO Foundation as CEO in April 2017 to pursue a career where he could combine his business skills with his passion for philanthropy and driving positive social impact. The LEGO Foundation is dedicated to influencing parents, teachers and policy makers to adopt learning through play as the most powerful means for children to acquire the broad suite of skills needed to thrive in today's world – and to provide the evidence and advocacy to support it. Prior to being appointed CEO of the LEGO Foundation, Mr. Goodwin held a position as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the LEGO Group with responsibilities comprising finance, corporate IT, corporate social responsibility, external relations, corporate business services, legal affairs and procurement.



Filippo Grandi

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Elected by the General Assembly for a five year term, Filippo Grandi became the 11th UN High Commissioner for Refugees on 1 January 2016. He leads UNHCR, which operates in 137 countries providing protection and assistance to more than 70 million refugees, returnees, internally displaced people, and stateless persons. Grandi, an Italian national, has been engaged in international cooperation for 35 years and holds degrees in modern history and philosophy, as well as an honorary doctorate from the University of Coventry.



Rt Hon David Miliband

President and CEO, International Rescue Committee

David Miliband oversees the IRC's relief and development operations in over 30 countries, its refugee resettlement and assistance programs throughout the United States and the IRC's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. and other capitals on behalf of the world's most vulnerable people. David has had a distinguished political career in the United Kingdom. From 2007 to 2010, he served as the youngest Foreign Secretary in three decades, driving advancements in human rights and representing the United Kingdom throughout the world. His accomplishments have earned him a reputation, in former President Bill Clinton's words, as "one of the ablest, most creative public servants of our time." In 2016 David was named one of the World's Greatest Leaders by *Fortune Magazine* and in 2018 he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Sherrie Westin

President of Social Impact and Philanthropy, Sesame Workshop

Sherrie Westin leads the Workshop's efforts to serve vulnerable children through mass media and targeted initiatives in the United States and around the world. Working with the International Rescue Committee, Westin led Sesame's efforts to win a historic \$100 million grant from the MacArthur Foundation to fund the largest early childhood intervention in the history of humanitarian response. With an additional \$100 million grant from The Lego Foundation, this initiative has expanded to Bangladesh. She also oversees Sesame Street in Communities, Sesame's comprehensive U.S. initiative designed to give children the tools they need to overcome traumatic experiences. Westin serves on the board of directors of UNICEF USA, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and Communities in Schools. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the U.S. Afghan Women's Council, and the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC) Advisory Board.



Julie Gichuru

Journalist, Entrepreneur and Media Personality

Julie Gichuru is an Independent Director at Acumen Communication Limited and is a Fellow and trustee of the Africa Leadership Initiative EA. Julie's career in the media spans over the past 19 years and has seen her work across the fields of broadcast, print and digital media. Julie has also pioneered an impressive number of Kenyan television shows, including political and current affairs programs; news programs; peace and reconciliation programs; and a celebrated post election peace special. Julie also oversees the production of quality African content such as Africa Leadership Dialogues, the Great Debaters Contest and entertainment series. Having had five children Julie is also passionate about maternal healthcare and is a former ambassador of the AMREF Stand Up for African Mothers campaign, which seeks to train over 15,000 midwives across East Africa. Julie has also been a UNICEF Ambassador for breastfeeding.