

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2021

UNITED NATIONS-COORDINATED
SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED
BY DISASTER AND CONFLICT



European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

FEATURED PANELISTS

H.E. Mr. Stephan Schönemann

Under-Secretary for Development Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark



Stephan Schönemann joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1997. Since then, he has held several positions within the areas of private sector development, transatlantic relations, human rights and Denmark's engagement in Afghanistan. He is former Danish Ambassador to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and returned to the ministry as director for Humanitarian action, migration and civil society. In 2019, he became Under-Secretary for Development Policy. Stephan Schönemann holds an MSc in Economics from the University of Copenhagen.

Dr. Natalia Kanem

**United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**



Dr. Natalia Kanem is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Appointed by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in 2017, Dr. Kanem has more than 30 years of strategic leadership experience in the fields of preventive medicine, public and reproductive health, social justice and philanthropy. She started her research career with the Johns Hopkins and Columbia University schools of medicine and public health. Dr. Kanem joined the United Nations in 2014 as UNFPA Country Representative in the United Republic of Tanzania. In 2016, she was named Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director in charge of programmes. Previously, she served as founding president of ELMA Philanthropies, Inc., and as senior associate of the Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies.

At the Ford Foundation from 1992 to 2004, she funded pioneering work on women's reproductive health and human rights, serving first in West Africa and eventually as Deputy Vice-President for peace and social justice programmes in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and North America. She holds a medical degree from Columbia University in New York, and a Master's degree in Public Health with specializations in epidemiology and preventive

medicine from the University of Washington in Seattle. She is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard College in history and science.

In 2019, Dr. Kanem presided over the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, which marked the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. Dr. Kanem is recognized for her powerful advocacy for the rights and choices of women and girls and as a key influencer and thought leader in the formulation of global policy on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Sustainable Development Goals era and has been listed on the Gender Equality Top 100. A member of the United Nations Senior Management Group, a high-level body chaired by the Secretary-General, she is also a member of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; the United Nations Secretariat Management Performance Board; the H6 Partnership for global health; and the UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations, which she has chaired. She is also a Governor of the United Nations System Staff College and a member of the Honorary Advisory Council of the Dag Hammarskjöld Fund for Journalists.

Dr. Kanem advocates for the rights of women and girls on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, an international forum for humanitarian partners, and as co-chair of the Reference Group of Family Planning 2020-2030, a global partnership for investing in rights-based family planning. She has made leadership contributions to the Secretary-General's organizational transformation initiatives towards reform of the United Nations development system, including co-chairing the Strategic Financing Group of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and as a member of the High-Level Steering Groups on Gender, Youth, the System-wide Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the global response to COVID-19. Dr. Kanem is the fifth Executive Director of UNFPA since the Fund became operational in 1969.

Ms. Paraskevi Michou
Director-General
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)



Since 16 January 2020, Ms. Michou is the Director-General of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission. Between March 2018 and January 2020, Ms. Michou was the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission. She joined the European Commission in 1995 and has worked in several Commission departments. Between November 2015 and February 2018 she held the position of the Deputy Secretary-General in charge of coordinating the Commission's work on migration and security as well as steering a number of other policy areas, such as the Digital Single Market,

Transport and Mobility and Institutional and Administrative Policies within the Commission. Between October 2014 and October 2015, she was the Acting Director-General in the Commission's Justice and Consumers department where she was also the Director for Civil Justice. Before that she headed various units in the Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology, Ms. Michou also worked in the Directorates-General for Enterprise and for the Internal Market.

Ms. Sofía Sprechmann Sineiro
Secretary-General, CARE International



A leader in international development and a long-serving champion of gender equality, Sofia has been working for over 25 years with CARE. She spearheaded CARE's first program strategy and was integral to placing women and gender equality at the very heart of CARE's worldwide work. Sofia, originally from Uruguay, lives today in Quito, Ecuador. First joining CARE in 1994, Sofia has served in several positions, providing support to programs in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. As Program Director at the CARE International Secretariat, Sprechmann Sineiro has for the last eight years been responsible for leading the implementation of our program strategy worldwide, making a significant contribution to fighting poverty and inequality, and towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. With extensive experience in program design and implementation; impact measurement and evaluation; and advocacy, Sofia remains dedicated to transforming power relations inside and outside of the organization. Her unshakable commitment to women and girls is drawn from many years of working alongside some of the worlds most marginalised communities; from domestic workers, women working in the garment sector and victims of gender-based violence. Prior to working in international development, Sofía was a Sociologist in the field of public opinion polls and audience research. She holds a B.A. in Sociology from the Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay and an MSc in Epidemiology from the University of London/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Ms. Veronica Ngum Ndi
Founder and CEO, Community Association for Vulnerable Persons, Cameroon



Veronica Ngum Ndi a woman with disability from the North West Region Cameroon. She is English Speaking, CEO/Founder of Community Association for Vulnerable Persons (CAVP) and is very passionate in advocacy and promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities for empowerment, inclusion, leadership and decision making at all levels of the community. CAVP is focus on the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and teenage and single mothers who face stigma and discrimination due to their status. She is also the lead founder of the Cameroon Humanitarian Women Network (CAMHWONET). An association that brings local women led organizations together for networking, empowerment and opportunities for development. Presently Veronica lives in the North West Region of Cameroon in the context of humanitarian crisis that has been since October 2016 and is working to build resilience for women/girls with disabilities who have been affected by the war and teenage girls who have become mothers due to the interruption of schools since 2016.

Ms. Hala Abdelkhaleq
Activist in the rights of persons with disabilities



Ms. Hala Abdelkhaleq is an activist in the rights of persons with disabilities (PWD) who has been raising community awareness about the cause of persons with disabilities and the importance of integrating them in the community for 4 years. She is also an Activist in social relief work and providing assistance to low-income people, Entrepreneur working on my startup which aims to find assistants who are willing to serve PWDs in many activities, Youth member of the Jordanian National Coalition for Youth, Security and Peace 2250, One of the Co-founders of the Cumestair Initiative, which aims to integrate persons with disabilities into society through volunteering. Hala Abdelkhaleq has also worked for al-Hussein Association, Jordan Center for Training and inclusion. As a speaker, Hala Abdelkhaleq performed workshops to break the barriers and stereotypes faced by persons with disabilities in the community, and also supports PWDs and their caregivers. Hala Abdelkhaleq was honored by Dr. Talal Abu Ghazala for the positive impact in community and holds a bachelor's degree in management information systems from the University of Jordan.
