

Hybrid Event

Chemonics, Washington D.C.

December 12th, 2024

8 A.M. - 1 P.M. EST

Nothing Without Us: Disability Inclusion Summit

Speaker Information

Speakers listed in alphabetical order

Aimee Reeves, MEL Specialist, EnCompass LLC



Aimee Reeves has over a decade conducting MEL for USAID and FCDO projects in the agriculture and education sectors. Since 2016, Aimee has collaborated with OPDs and local experts to ensure that reading assessments and MEL systems are inclusive of learners with disabilities, and she recently conducted a validation study of the [Washington Group/UNICEF's Child Functioning Module-Teacher Version](#) in Nepal. She is currently a Senior MEL Specialist on the [USAID Data Ecosystems for Development in Education \(DECODE\)](#) project, which supports USAID's Center for Education in strengthening the access, use, and amplification of locally-led, inclusive, and universally designed data and evidence.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Inclusion*

Anna Slother, President, Chemonics



Anna Slother oversees Chemonics' USG Operations, a portfolio devoted to the company's U.S. Government-funded development projects. This portfolio has more than 5,000 employees around the globe and more than 100 projects in 96 countries across 15 technical sectors in global development, including USAID's largest-ever contract the Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project. Anna joined Chemonics in 1998 and the leadership team in 2011. Before becoming President, she served as Executive Vice President overseeing a diverse portfolio of more than \$575 million in USAID-funded programs and serving on Chemonics' Board of Directors. Previously she led Chemonics' Supply Chain Solutions Division, Human Resources Division, and Central and Eastern Europe Region as Senior Vice President.

Session/s: *Opening Remarks*

Anne Hayes, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Inclusive Development Partners



Anne Hayes is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Inclusive Development Partners (IDP). She has more than 30 years of technical expertise focusing on disability-inclusive development and inclusive education. Previously, she worked as several NGOs, bilateral and multilateral organizations including serving as the Director of Collaborative Initiatives at the World Bank's Global Partnership on Disability and Development (GPDD), and as a Disability and Gender Specialist at USAID. Anne holds a Master's degree in International

Education with an emphasis in comparative inclusive education policies from the George Washington University and is the proud mother of two children, one of whom has a disability.

Session/s: *Panel Discussion (Moderator); Breakout Session: Budgeting and Planning for Inclusion*

Audrey C. Cooper, Associate Professor & Program Director, International Development MA, and Graduate Certificate in DiDRR & Emergency Planning, Gallaudet University



Audrey is a linguistic and public anthropologist by training, with a concentration on race, gender, and social justice (PhD, 2011 American University). Her research examines relationships between signed languages, sociopolitical formation and change, and deaf people's social change movements. From 2012-14, Cooper was a technical consultant and trainer for the World Bank-sponsored *Intergenerational Deaf Education Outreach—Vietnam*. Cooper also conducts research with deaf communities on Disability-inclusive

Disaster Risk Reduction, including 2019 NEH supported multi-sited ethnographic research with deaf community organizers in Việt Nam co-authored research on university student disaster awareness and preparation), and US Geological Survey-supported research on earthquake early warning and deaf communities Cooper also led the development of a new interdisciplinary graduate certificate and undergraduate minor at Gallaudet University that launched in Summer 2022; which is the first and only program of its kind to train professionals in Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Climate Change and the Environment*

Binta Badjie, Gallaudet World Deaf Leadership Scholar & International Development MA Student, Gallaudet University & Gambian Deaf Women's Society



Binta is a Disability Rights Activist, Co-Founder of The Gambian Deaf Women's Society, and Senior Partner of Tulkuya Signs Restaurant, The Gambia's first all-deaf woman-staffed social enterprise. With a B.A. degree in Human Resources and Labor Management (American International University West Africa), Binta is also a consultant focusing on workplace diversity and inclusion, dedicated to Gender Equality, empowering Deaf women and promoting social equity. She advocates for accessible education and inclusion in all aspects of life, and in ICT. In 2018, Binta represented The Gambia at the ECOWAS ICT-Accessibility Policy Validation Workshop for the International Telecommunications Union on behalf of the Gambia Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. Binta is an alumna of the Mandela Washington Fellowship and former President of the Gambia Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In 2023, she received the "She Awards" Activist of the Year for Sexual Gender Based Violence Frontliners and The "Woman Boss" Pioneer Woman Boss Award for Social Entrepreneurship. Currently, Badjie is a World Deaf Leadership Scholar pursuing a Master's degree in International Development at Gallaudet University and completing an internship with Water for People.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Climate Change and the Environment; Closing Remarks*

Habtamu Buli, Disability Inclusion Expert, Independent Consultant



Habtamu Buli is an international development and disability inclusion professional and special needs education expert. Buli received his B.A. and M.A. in Special Needs Education from Addis Ababa University, and a second M.A. degree from Gallaudet University in International Development. Buli developed a passion for international development while attending Addis Ababa University. He co-founded the Association of Students with Physical Disabilities, and Deaf Students Association in the University and led as President and Public Relations Coordinator. Buli also played a significant role in launching the Ethiopian Sign language B.A. program at the University. Buli is a former Director of the Ethiopian National Association of the Deaf, Co-founder of the Ethiopian Deaf community in the U.S. and formerly served as Disability Inclusion Technical Officer at Family Health International (FHI360).

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Inclusive Staffing and Engagement; Breakout Session: Food Security and Healthy Communities*

Isabel Hodge, Executive Director, United States International Council on Disabilities



Isabel Hodge is a distinguished leader and advocate in the international disability rights movement. As Executive Director of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD), she manages an over-year global networking and consulting hub with relationships with organizations of persons with disabilities in countries around the world. Isabel's training and advocacy work involves striving for the US' ratification of, and promoting and assisting countries with their implementation of, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Isabel is a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and a US Marine Corps veteran. Prior to joining USICD, Isabel was a Senior Analyst for the US Department of Defense Office of Special Needs. Isabel currently serves as the Secretary of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) Board of Directors, as the Vice President of DPI North America and the Caribbean, and on the Board of Directors for Wheelchairs for Kids International. Isabel is a person with a disability, has a 32-year-old son with autism, and a spouse who is a disabled US veteran.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Accessible Activities and Reasonable Accommodations; Breakout Session: Humanitarian Response and Recovery*

Ivan Plis, Senior Specialist Writer-Editor, Chemonics



Ivan Plis is a senior specialist writer-editor at Chemonics International. He has spent a decade writing and editing for clients in government, journalism, publishing, and business. He also co-founded ChemABLE, Chemonics' employee resource group for disability inclusion. He now serves as ChemABLE's officer for professional development.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Accessible Activities and Reasonable Accommodations*

Kate Brolley, Senior Program Manager, Chemonics



Kate is currently a Senior Manager within Chemonics' East and Southern Africa region supporting large-scale early grade education programming. She has previously supported disability inclusive education programming for a variety of donors, in partnership with local organizations of persons with disabilities, in countries including Malawi, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and the Philippines.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Inclusive Procurements and Subcontracts*

Katherine Guernsey, Agency Disability Rights Coordinator, USAID



Katherine serves as USAID's Disability Rights Coordinator, advising on disability inclusion in programs and policies and managing the Agency's Disability Program Fund. A public international lawyer specializing in human rights, she focuses on disability-inclusive development and diplomacy. Katherine contributed to negotiating the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and has authored publications on international disability law and policy. From 2010–2017, she was Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, Judith Heumann. She holds an LL.M. from The George Washington University and a J.D. and B.S. from Ohio Northern University.

Session/s: *Keynote Address*

Leia Isanhart, Senior Technical Advisor, Disability Inclusion, Catholic Relief Services



Leia Isanhart is Catholic Relief Services' Senior Technical Advisor for Disability Inclusion. She creates global and country-specific strategies and tools to promote inclusive programming that spans 60+ projects in more than 30 countries. In addition to advising CRS' humanitarian and development work, Leia is developing a workplace inclusion program with CRS' DEI team. She has worked for CRS for 19 years in technical advisory, program management, and representation roles. Leia holds a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Inclusive Economic Growth and Livelihoods*

Luc Lusumba, Country Director, Congo Handicap



Luc Kapele Lusumba is an international advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. With 23 years of experience, he has been deeply involved in self-advocacy and promoting disability inclusion in laws, policies, and humanitarian action. His work has engaged organizations such as the United Nations, USAID, and FCDO. Luc is married and a proud father of three children.

Session/s: *Panel Discussion*

Marcie Roth, Executive Director/CEO, World Institute on Disability



Marcie Roth is Executive Director and CEO of the [World Institute on Disability](#), advancing the rights of 1.3 billion people with disabilities worldwide. She brings over four decades of leadership in global initiatives on equity, accessibility and inclusion focusing on sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, climate justice and community resilience for governments, corporations, health systems, and the United Nations. Appointed by President Obama to the U.S Department of Homeland Security 2009 – 2017, she established and directed the FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination. While at FEMA, Marcie represented the U.S. government as a global expert on disability inclusive disaster risk reduction, and still serves as a leader on implementation of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Named by Forbes Magazine to their inaugural [Fifty Over 50 Impact List](#), Marcie chairs the US Department of Health and Human Services [National Advisory Committee on Individuals with Disabilities and Disasters](#), serves on the [InterAction Board of Directors](#) and represents global civil society on the [United Nations Early Warnings for All Advisory Panel](#)

Session/s: *Panel Discussion; Breakout Session: OPD Engagement and Localization*

Meredith Applegate, Global Senior Programs Advisor, The International Foundation for Electoral Systems



Meredith Applegate is a Global Senior Programs Advisor at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), where she plays a strategic role in enhancing global programming efforts. Applegate was most recently IFES' country director for Guyana, where she led USAID's youth program. She has spent 12 years of her career based around the world working on democracy, governance, and elections. Long term assignments include Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Burma,

and Indonesia. Applegate also worked on short to mid-term assignments for UN Women in Sierra Leone, UNDP in Moldova, and IFES in Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Nepal, Fiji, and Timor-Leste.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Inclusive Governance and Democracy*

Mohammed A. Loutfy, Ph.D., Capacity Building and Advocacy Director, G3ict



Mohammed Ali Loutfy, Ph.D., CPACC, is an international development professional specializing in the inclusion of persons with disabilities across a wide range of developmental programming. Mohammed has been the Representative of Disabled People's International (DPI) at the United Nations, where he co-chairs the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mohammed served as Executive Director of the Arab Forum

for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, where he leads the forum's strategic planning and partnership building initiatives in addition to its organizational development and policy programming.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Digital Technologies and Innovation Solutions*

Priscilla Rodriguez, Associate Director for Advocacy and Women's Rights Initiative, Disability Rights International



Priscilla Rodriguez (LLM) is Associate Director for Advocacy in DRI's Washington DC office. Prior to this position, she was Director of DRI's Mexico and Central America regional office (2016-2017) and Director of the Women's Rights Initiative for the Americas (2012-2017).

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Humanitarian Response and Recovery*

**Rachel Chaikof, Senior Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Specialist,
Chemonics**



Born deaf and progressively losing her vision due to Usher Syndrome, Rachel Chaikof began her international development career in the Peace Corps in 2014 in Cameroon, where she provided health education to Cameroonians with disabilities and received recognition from the U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon. Since joining Chemonics International in 2017, she has supported global health and economic growth projects in Africa and Middle East, and now is the Senior Specialist for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Practice. She has served as the co-chair of Chemonics' internal Disability Inclusion Working Group and co-chair of the external CORE Group's Disability-Inclusive Technical Advisory Group. She holds a B.A. from Savannah College of Art and Design, M.A. from University College London, and Participatory Gender-Audit Facilitator certification from the International Labour Organization.

Session/s: *Panel Discussion; Breakout Session: Inclusive Procurements and Subcontracts*

**Rosanne Rushing, DrPH, MPH, Senior Global Health Learning Specialist,
EnCompass LLC**



Rosanne Rushing, a seasoned professional with over 25 years of health expertise, serves as the Senior Global Health Learning Specialist at EnCompass, LLC on the Global Health Training, Advisory, and Support Contract (GHTASC) with USAID's Bureau for Global Health. Rosanne designed and facilitates a Global Health & Disabilities course series in USAID University, showcasing her unwavering commitment to advancing inclusion and equity in global health and is also a Global Health Disability Champion. Previously, Rosanne was the Inclusive Health Policy Lead with Humanity and Inclusion and the Public Health Program Director/Associate Professor and COVID 19 Public Health & Safety Team Lead at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. She is currently on the advisory committee for the National Advisory Committee on Individuals with Disabilities and Disasters (NACIDD). Rosanne earned her Doctorate of Public Health with the Health Policy Unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, her MPH in Global Health at Loma Linda University and her Bachelor's degree in Communicative Disorders at San Francisco State University.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Food Security and Healthy Communities*

Shauna Caria, Senior Advisor and Global Practice Lead, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Chemonics



Shauna Caria is the global practice lead for Chemonics' Gender Equality and Social Inclusion practice. With over 10 years of international development experience in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia, South Africa, and Eastern Europe, Shauna is an expert on disability inclusion, women's empowerment, mainstreaming gender and social inclusion, combatting gender-based violence, gender and inclusion in conflict, and youth engagement. Prior to joining Chemonics, she led program

development at the YWCA, a non-profit that aims to eliminate racism and empower women. She also served in the U.S. Peace Corps in the Philippines teaching remedial education to young deaf adults. As a child of a deaf adult, her first language is American Sign Language. Shauna holds an M.A. in International Relations and Economics with a specialization in Conflict Management from Johns Hopkins and a B.A. from the University of Washington in International Human Rights and Law.

Session/s: *Welcome*

Stuart Chauluka, Universal Access Specialist, Malawi Union of the Blind, Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi



Stuart Chauluka, a visually impaired professional, holds a Master's Degree in Arts and Community Development. He is currently employed by the Malawi Union of the Blind (MUB) and supports the USAID-NextGen Early Grade Reading Activity as an embedded staff member in the role of Universal Access Specialist. Stuart has over 16 years of experience with MUB, where he has served as the Youth and Inclusive Education Officer, focusing on promoting inclusion and accessibility. Prior to his tenure at MUB, he worked as a Field Officer with SOS Children's Village of Malawi for three years.

Session/s: *Panel Discussion*

Valerie Karr, President, Inclusive Development Partners (IDP)



Dr. Valerie Karr is an expert in inclusive development, education, human rights, youth, and disability advocacy, with extensive international experience. Her work champions the “No One Left Behind” movement, integral to the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring marginalized populations are central to the development agenda. Dr. Karr leads research on disability inclusion, including a USAID-funded multi-country study on inclusive education in Cambodia, Malawi, and Nepal. As President of Inclusive

Development Partners and Associate Professor at UMass Boston, she develops disability-inclusive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems and supervises transdisciplinary research teams. Her publications and courses emphasize innovative, rights-based approaches to fostering equity and systemic social change.

Session/s: *Breakout Session: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Inclusion*

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