



World Health
Organization

Launch of the GIS Centre for Health

Speakers

9 May 2022



SCAN ME

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Patricia Amira, Global Broadcaster as moderator

Co-Chair, Global Board; Co-Chair UK Board; Chair Africa Board

Patricia has carved a stellar and conscientious career path in media both in her home city, Nairobi and abroad. Strong cross-cultural influences colour her unconventional approach and imaginative creativity in both her work and her life. Skills and experience imperative to television and radio broadcasting and a desire to contribute to global issues, have lent themselves comfortably in developing Patricia's moderating portfolio. Over the past 9 years, she has served on a number of high-level plenaries, public and private sector panels and community dialogue, on issues as varied as leadership, women and health/family planning, agricultural value chains and ecological conservation through to how creatives are shaping Africa's future.

A few of her esteemed partnerships include the WHO, UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), World Organization for Animal Health- OIE, UN Women, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA-ACP/EU), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at Women Deliver 2013, African Population Health Research Centre (APHRC), The Wellcome Trust, Department for International Development, UK (now the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - FCDO, UK), African Leadership Network, Oxford Africa Network (University of Oxford) and African Academy of Sciences - Grand Challenges Africa.

These experiences, steeped in learning and cultivating networks have acted as further inspiration for Patricia. She is driven to engage in efforts that employ a more rounded view to modern day concerns on the African continent, and is developing avenues in which this creative vision can be effectively utilized in more readily accessible media storytelling. Lending her voice in support and action with a number of initiatives both locally and internationally, Patricia is also the current Board Co-Chair with Equality Now, a unique organization that uses the law for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls globally. Patricia is also honored to be a Signatory and Individual Champion of the Girl Effect's, "The Girl Declaration".



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Dr Samira Asma, Assistant Director-General

Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact, WHO

Dr Samira Asma, from the United States of America, is the Assistant Director-General for Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact where she leads the organization's efforts to establish the results framework for accountability and using timely, reliable and actionable data to drive progress towards the Triple Billion targets and health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr Asma brings more than 25 years of experience in building country capacity and meaningful partnerships that lead public health programmes and policies to catalyze substantial and measurable long-term impact. Dr Asma re-joined WHO in 2018 as the Director for Health Metrics and Measurement and led an organization-wide and multi-partner engagement to develop the 13th General Programme of Work (GPW 13), the WHO results framework and the SDG Global Action Plan with UN partners.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency to strengthen the country's health information systems. By aligning with countries and partners, Dr Asma is working to ensure every country has a robust data and health information system, to make health data accessible, and to use data to improve health. These efforts are essential to realizing Dr Tedros' vision of transforming WHO into a modern, data-driven organization.

Before joining WHO, Dr Asma served in leadership positions at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for over two decades. By building successful collaborations, she established global programmes on tobacco control, non-communicable diseases, environmental health, and injuries. Dr Asma is recognized for leading the establishment of a reliable, sustained surveillance system for tobacco control in 180 countries, using innovative technologies to monitor health, generating epidemiologic and economic evidence for policy interventions, and launching a global initiative to reduce heart attacks and strokes - all through global networks and partnerships.

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**Dr Soumya Swaminathan,** Chief Scientist

WHO

Dr Soumya Swaminathan was appointed WHO's first Chief Scientist in March 2019. A paediatrician from India and a globally recognized researcher on tuberculosis and HIV, she brings with her 30 years of experience in clinical care and research and has worked throughout her career to translate research into impactful programmes. Dr Swaminathan was Secretary to the Government of India for Health Research and Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research from 2015 to 2017. In that position, she focused on bringing science and evidence into health policy making, building research capacity in Indian medical schools and forging south-south partnerships in health sciences. From 2009 to 2011, she also served as Coordinator of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases in Geneva.

She received her academic training in India, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, and has published more than 350 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. She is an elected Foreign Fellow of the US National Academy of Medicine and a Fellow of all three science academies in India. The Science division's role is to ensure that WHO stays ahead of the curve and leverages advances in science and technology for public health and clinical care, as well as ensuring that the norms, standards and guidelines produced by WHO are scientifically excellent, relevant and timely. Her vision is to ensure that WHO is at the cutting edge of science and is able to translate new knowledge into meaningful impact on population health worldwide.

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Dr Nikhil Seth, Executive Director

UNITAR

On 8 June 2015, **Mr. Nikhil Seth** was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as UN Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Before assuming the post of the UNITAR Executive Director, Nikhil Seth was the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. In this role he served as head of the Rio+20 secretariat and of the secretariat for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, spearheading the preparations for these conferences in Rio, Brazil, and Apia, Samoa. He was also closely engaged in coordinating and advancing their follow-up.

Mr. Seth's Division was also responsible for supporting the intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda, which was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in September 2015.

During his career with the United Nations since 1993, Mr. Seth has served as Special Assistant and Chief of Office to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (Sept 1993 - Jun 2001), Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch in the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (Jun 2001 - Jan 2003), as Secretary of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Second Committee of the General Assembly (Feb 2003 - Aug 2006), and as Director of the DESA Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (Aug 2006 - Aug 2011), where he guided the ECOSOC's work in implementing several new key mandates, including its Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum.

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Dr Peter Singer, Special Advisor to the Director-General

WHO

Before joining WHO as Special Advisor to the Director General, Dr Peter Singer from Canada co-founded two innovative, results driven, social impact organizations. From 2008-2018 Singer was Chief Executive Officer of Grand Challenges Canada. From 1996-2006 he was Sun Life Financial Chair and Director of the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics. He was also Professor of Medicine at University of Toronto and Senior Scientist at University Health Network.

In 2007, Dr Singer received the Michael Smith Prize as Canada's Health Researcher of the Year in Population Health and Health Services. In 2011, Singer was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada for his contributions to health research and bioethics, and for his dedication to improving the health of people in developing countries. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (where he was also Foreign Secretary), the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, and The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS).

As a researcher, Dr Singer published over 300 articles, received over \$50 million in research grants, and mentored hundreds of students. He studied internal medicine at University of Toronto, medical ethics at University of Chicago, public health at Yale University, and management at Harvard Business School.

He served his community as Board Chair of Branksome Hall, an internationally minded school for girls.

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Ravi Shankar, GIS lead, WHO GIS Centre for Health

Department of Data and Analytics, WHO

Ravi Shankar is the GIS lead for the WHO GIS Centre for Health in the Data, Analytics, and Impact for Delivery unit of the World Health Organization after serving for many years as the GIS Technical Office at the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Previously, he was involved in the Ebola response where he played a key role in the creation of a Global Mapping platform for WHO to portray the situational update of the outbreak.

Before joining WHO, as a GIS Analyst in UNOSAT, he was involved in Emergency Response mapping, situational awareness, capacity building & training.

He also designed a Master's level Course on GIS for the Disaster Management Degree Programme at Copenhagen University. The Haiti earthquake, the Thailand floods, the Syrian Crisis, and the Libyan War are a few of the projects he worked on during his career.

He started his career as an Architect-Urban Planner involved in supporting the creation of the master plan of Libya and Port Blair.

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**Kebba Touray**, Technical Manager

WHO, AF/RGO/ORD/PEP

Experienced technical manager with a demonstrated history of working in regional and international organizations. Skilled in IT Systems, Geo-spatial Technological Solutions, Microsoft Office Applications, Data Analysis, Research, and Programme Management. Strong Geographic Information Systems (GIS) professional with a Masters focused in Applied Geographic Information Systems from Kingston University London.

For the past two years, as a Technical Manager with WHO, in Brazzaville, Congo, he has managed the AFRO-Polio GIS centre including coordinating / liaising with partners and planning of meetings and major activities and coordinate with countries and track incorporation of mobile applications technology into data collection, analysis and reporting as well as assist with capacity development in the AFRO data management network.

Prior to this he has worked as a Principal Programme Officer/Head of System Management and Planning in Abuja, Nigeria. He managed and coordinated the ECOWAS Early Warning System Architecture (Early Warning Modules and Platforms) including the network of Field Monitors in the 15 ECOWAS Member States. He has also held positions with WHO in Nigeria providing GIS and Mapping services to WHO and partners in support of Nigeria's polio eradication activities and also with ECOWAS Commission providing Geographic Information System (GIS) services to support Early Warning Centre operations of the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department at the ECOWAS Commission headquarters. His career began in 2002 with the Medical Research Council in The Gambia.

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Patricia Najera Hamrick, Geographer, GIS consultant

Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment Unit (PAHO)

Patricia Najera Hamrick is a geographer and GIS consultant working in the Public Health field for several years. She was born in Mexico City in September 1958 and her alma mater is the Autonomous National University (UNAM) where she got a master's degree in Geography and Planning. She lives in Earlysville VA, USA.

She currently works for the GIS-Mapping Team of the Health Emergency Information & Risk Assessment Unit (HIM) of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Health Emergencies Department (PHE); contributing to the COVID-19 geographic surveillance, and to studies on the spatial distribution of epidemic-prone diseases as human yellow fever, human leptospirosis, and human plague. Natural hazard exposure is another area of interest.

She joined PAHO HQ in 2001, working on the project SIGEpi for the malaria control in Central America, and in the production of interactive maps and online atlases as: health-core-data, neglected diseases, H1N1, Cholera, Chikungunya, and Zika.

Before PAHO she held various positions in the research area of the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico (1986 to 1998), and the Mexican Institute of Transportation (1998 to 1999), where she worked in studies focused on the identification of geographic factors that mediate the accessibility to public health services.

She has over nine years of teaching experience in Geography. She is the leading author of the textbook "Geografia 2" (Geography of Mexico for secondary schools) published by the FCE 1999-2006. She is co-author and author in thirty-one peer review publications.

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**John Kipterer**, Technical Officer

AF/RGO/ORD/PEP, WHO

John Kipterer is currently GIS Specialist working WHO AFRO GIS Centre with 5 years' experience working in public health. He has over 14 years' experience working in the domain of GIS and Remote sensing working with WHO, UNHCR, RCMRD, WVI and the government of Kenya. He holds an MSc in Geospatial Information Systems and Remote Sensing from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, a post graduate degree in Satellite Meteorology and Global Climate from Obafemi Awolowo University; Ile Ife Nigeria, and bachelor's degree in Geomatics Engineering from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology with professional trainings and in GIS, with ESRI Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Land degradation assessment from Rhodes, University; Grahamstown (South Africa), Multi-Hazard risk Assessment form University of Twente, ITC (Netherlands) and disaster management for humanitarian Assistance from Makerere University (Uganda).

KIPTERER has contributed immensely in GIS capacity development, innovative solution and applications and in public health while working at WHO/AFRO. His major contribution in the remote sensing applications in Eastern Africa were in drought early warning systems in the ministry of special programmes in Kenya, Land and Forest degradation modelling, Hazard mapping and crop suitability modelling and Mapping in east Africa.

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Godwin Akpan, Technical Officer

AF/RGO/ORD/PEP, WHO

Godwin Akpan is a precision public health solution expert with specialties in using data, Digital Health and GIS to solve Precision Public Health Problems; elucidate Diseases Surveillance and Immunization gap analyses; predict diseases outbreaks and guide programme responses.

Dr Akpan has over eighteen years of experience in delivering cutting-edge technology solutions to support Diseases surveillance, outbreak responses, immunization assessments, and other international healthcare needs. Dr Akpan was a Zonal Data/ICT Manager for the United Nations for 11 years and currently works as a Technical Officer in Data Management for the World Health Organization AFRO (African Regional Office).

Dr Akpan has a Masters in Public Health and Information Technology as well as a PhD in Information Technology with a focus on utilizing IT for digital health and public health interventions.

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Jon Carver, Consultant, WHO GIS Centre for Health

Department of Data and Analytics, WHO

Jon Carver has over thirty years of experience in humanitarian organizations conceptualizing and implementing response operations, relief and recovery programmes, and readiness projects at technical, management and advisory levels in complex and challenging environments. He is currently a consultant for the WHO GIS Centre for Health. He has a strong interest and experience in the inter-relationships between ‘relief’ and ‘development’.

Mr. Carver was the Representative of an NGO in Geneva where he built partnerships and was the liaison with UN, NGO, and Government partners. Previously Mr. Carver was an NGO Country Director for Afghanistan guiding and strengthening a team of national and international information management professionals to provide high quality information management and geographic information systems (GIS) to humanitarian partners responding to the complex humanitarian and development challenge.

Mr. Carver has worked in emergency management for WHO, the British Red Cross, the IFRC, the World Food Programme and NGOs. He has worked in the Sudan, Central and South America, Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Thai-Cambodian border and in many emergency operations worldwide. He has an MSc in Development and Emergency Practices.

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Dr Rachel Snow, Branch Chief of Population and Development

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Rachel Snow, DSc, is Branch Chief of Population and Development in the Technical Division of UNFPA, based in New York, leading the Fund's work on strengthening national population data systems and the greater use of demographic intelligence in development. Dr Snow received her doctorate in Population Sciences from the Harvard School of Public Health and has had a distinguished academic research career at Harvard University, the University of Heidelberg (Germany), and the University of Michigan before joining UNFPA.

For more than 25 years, she has conducted research on the burden of reproductive health in poor countries; contraceptive clinical trials; health system capacity and quality, particularly in areas of reproductive health. She has contributed to improving population data and research capacity in the global south throughout her career.

Her global health and population research started in China, proceeded to South Asian countries of India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, and for the past 20 years have concentrated on countries of Africa.

Dr Snow has served on numerous expert committees for foundations, civil society and the UN, was a founding editor of the African Journal of Reproductive Health, and the lead author of the UNFPA 20-year review of the ICPD beyond 2014.

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**Dr Vincent Seaman**, Senior Program Officer

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr Vincent Seaman is an American health scientist, educator, and senior programme officer for the Polio Country Support Team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Before that, Seaman was a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention secondee to the WHO in Nigeria for nearly 3 years, where he provided technical support to the Expanded Program on Immunization and worked on polio eradication efforts. He began his career at CDC as a Presidential Management Fellow in 2006, and continued on as an epidemiologist in the areas of environmental public health and vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition to leading health investigations at various Superfund sites in the U.S., Dr Seaman supported the HIV/AIDS programme in Mozambique in 2009 and was a STOP Polio volunteer in Liberia in 2010.

Dr Seaman completed his MS and PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of California, Davis in 2006, after spending 15 years practising as a licensed pharmacist and 8 years as a public high school science teacher in California.



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Dr Este Geraghty, Chief Medical Officer

Esri

Geraghty is the Chief Medical Officer and Health Solutions Director at Esri where she leads business development for the Health and Human Services sector. Formerly the Deputy Director of the Center for Health Statistics and Informatics with the California Department of Public Health, Dr Geraghty led the state's vital records and public health informatics programmes. There she engaged in statewide initiatives in meaningful use, health information exchange, open data and interoperability.

While serving as an Associate Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine at the University of California at Davis she researched geographic approaches to influencing health policy and advancing community development programmes. A specific area of research focus involved pesticide safety.

In addition to her degrees in Medicine, Medical Informatics and Public Health, Dr Geraghty is also a board-certified public health professional (CPH) and a Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP).

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**Joanna Barczyk**, Senior Specialist

Data Strategic Initiative at the Global Fund

Joanna Barczyk is the Senior Specialist of Special Initiatives Data at the Global Fund in Geneva, Switzerland. Before being promoted to Senior Specialist, she worked as a Public Health and M&E Specialist for the Global Fund. From 2017 to 2018 she served as a Consultant to the Ministry of Health on the Ivory Coast. During that time, she also worked with the WHO HIV Strategic Information Department as a consultant.

Ms Barczyk attended the University of Geneva for a BA and MA in Humanities and Sociology. After that, she earned her MPH in Research in Public health from Universitat Pompeu Fabra. In addition to her degrees, she has completed several certifications in Infectious Disease public health and project management.

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Bodour Alassil, Consultant, WHO GIS Centre for Health

Department of Data and Analytics, WHO

Bodour Alassil is a Project Manager who joined the GIS Centre for Health in October 2021. Previously she worked as a Regional technical Coordinator for vector-borne diseases response in the middle east and worked as a Project Manager in multiple International organizations for Syrian emergency response.

She also worked as Capacity Building Coordinator/trainer for leishmaniasis case management in Syria. She was also involved in managing various health projects, overseeing health data, awareness-raising, stakeholder management, financial and strategic management, stock management, and collaboration with legal authorities and the other stakeholders.

Bodour graduated as a pharmacist and has a Master's degree in Laboratory Diagnosis. She worked as a lecturer for Molecular biology and published three papers. She is also preparing for her PhD in molecular biology of breast cancer.

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Chris Jung, Consultant, WHO GIS Centre for Health

Department of Data and Analytics, WHO

Chris Jung has over 10 years of international experience in disaster risk management, emergency response, and global health. His experience spans practical field work, HQ coordination and desk research, and academic theory (Master of Disaster Management degree from the University of Copenhagen & Lund University). His work often connects disaster risk reduction during recovery, using innovative technology, in project management, coordination, and technical implementation roles.

He has extensive experience working across the world in challenging locations, including Uganda, Rwanda, Liberia, Botswana, Nigeria, Haiti, Indonesia, India, New Orleans, Detroit, and Geneva. He has worked for international organizations (WHO, WFP, World Bank), governments (MSB, Botswana, NASA), NGOs (ACAPS, CartONG), the private sector, and volunteer organizations.

Previously, he had five years of experience as a software consultant focused on Data Warehouse and Business Intelligence solutions, providing pre-big data technology implementations, advisory services, and training programs that enabled organizations to obtain maximum value from their knowledge assets. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Computing and Information Systems from Northwestern University.

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Dr Steve MacFeely, Director, Department of Data and Analytics

Department of Data and Analytics, WHO

Steve MacFeely is the Director of Data and Analytics at the World Health Organization. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Policy Studies at University College Cork in Ireland and the Director of the IASE International Statistical Literacy Program. He is co-chair of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System (CCS-UN), chairs the Advisory Board of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS, and is a member of the statistical advisory panel to the UNDP Human Development Index. He is an elected member of the International Statistics Institute. He was a co-lead on the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere 2020 - 2022, and a lead author of the 2020 System-wide Roadmap for Innovating UN Data and Statistics.

Before joining WHO, Steve was the Head of Statistics and Information at UNCTAD. Before joining the UN, he was the Deputy Director-General at the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in Ireland and Programme Director of the joint CSO - Institute of Public Administration 'Professional Diploma in Official Statistics & Policy Evaluation'.