



PRINCE MAHIDOL  
AWARD CONFERENCE

2017



ADDRESSING THE HEALTH OF  
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS  
FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

# PL0

## PLENARY 0

Social Inclusion:

What Does It Mean for Health Policy  
and Practice?

## BACKGROUND

The idea of social inclusion has catapulted center stage on the global development policy agenda.

It is exemplified by “Leave No One Behind” agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). While tremendous advances have been made in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), many countries have not reached the goals and there is heightened concern about inequality and the fact that some groups systematically fall behind in progress along a number of indicators. There is also growing concern about the distribution of the benefits of globalization and its effects on social exclusion. Tackling social exclusion goes beyond elimination of poverty and takes on challenge of improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of people, disadvantaged on the basis of their identity, to take part in society. Among the most common identities resulting in exclusion are gender, race, caste, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability and mental health status, including addictions. Social exclusion based on such group attributes can lead to lower social standing, often accompanied by lower outcomes in terms of income, human capital, employment and voice, in both national and local decision making. Social inclusion matters for health, in terms of ensuring inclusive achievement of SDG3, and also in terms of health being instrumental for equal opportunity and inclusive achievement of other SDGs.

## OBJECTIVES

This session introduces the concept of social inclusion, its importance in human and social development, and in health and UHC. It will also put into context the three themes of the conference – who, where, and why are excluded from health and UHC; political economy of global and national decision making to tackle exclusion; and, what policies and interventions can be deployed to tackle exclusion in health and UHC.



MODERATOR

## Maitreyi DAS

Lead Social Development Specialist,  
The World Bank

USA

Maitreyi Bordia Das is the World Bank's Global Lead for Social Inclusion. Based in Washington DC, she works on issues of inequality and exclusion and on the design and implementation of social policy and programs.

Among other publications, Dr. Das is also the lead author of the 2013 report, "Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity" and most recently of "Scaling the Heights: Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh". She started her career as a lecturer in St Stephen's College, University of Delhi, has been a MacArthur Fellow at the Harvard Center of Population and Development Studies and worked as advisor to the United Nations Development Program. She has a PhD in Sociology (Demography) from the University of Maryland.

Before joining the World Bank, Dr. Das was in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## Gro Harlem BRUNDTLAND

Deputy Chair of the Elders Foundation  
Former First Woman Prime Minister of Norway  
Former Director General of the World Health Organization 1998-2003

Norway

Gro Harlem Brundtland is a founding member of The Elders and has served as Deputy Chair since 2013. A medical doctor by training, she was Norway's first woman Prime Minister, serving a total of ten years as head of government between 1981 and 1996. She chaired the World Commission on Environment and Development – known as the Brundtland Commission – which articulated the principle of sustainable development for the first time at a global level. She was Director-General of the World Health Organization from 1998 to 2003, UN Special Envoy for Climate Change from 2007 to 2010 and, from 2011 to 2012, was a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Sustainability Panel.



PANELISTS

## Timothy EVANS

Senior Director for Health  
Nutrition and Population, The World Bank

USA

Tim Evans is the Senior Director of Health, Nutrition and Population at the World Bank Group.

From 2010 to 2013, Tim was Dean of the James P. Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Senior Advisor to the BRAC Health Program. From 2003 to 2010, he was Assistant Director General at the World Health Organization (WHO). Prior to this, he served as Director of the Health Equity Theme at the Rockefeller Foundation. Earlier in his career he was an attending physician of internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and was Assistant Professor in International Health Economics at the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a board member of a number of international health alliances.

Tim has been at the forefront of advancing global health equity and strengthening health systems delivery for more than 20 years. At WHO, he led the Commission on Social Determinants of Health and oversaw the production of the annual World Health Report. He has been a co-founder of many partnerships including the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) as well as efforts to increase access to HIV treatment for mothers and innovative approaches to training community-based midwives in Bangladesh.

Tim received his Medical Degree from McMaster University in Canada and was a Research and internal Medicine Resident at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He earned a D.Phil. in Agricultural Economics from University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.



PANELISTS

## Takao TODA

Vice President for Human Security and Global Health  
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Japan

As the Vice President for Human Security and Global Health, Dr. Toda promotes strategic planning and implementation of JICA's operations.

Dr. Toda received Ph.D at the Graduate School of International Development in Nagoya University in 2009, master's degree at the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences in the University of Tokyo in 2001, and LL.B at the Faculty of Law in Kyoto University in 1984. For more than three decades, he has been playing various key roles of strategizing and implementing Japan's ODA, such as Group Director on Peace Building, Group Director on Human Security, Senior Fellow of JICA Research Center, Chief Representative of Bangladesh Office, Director General of Human Development Department.

He has a wide range of knowledge and experience especially on the operationalization process of Human Security, which has been the core concept of Japan's diplomatic policy of international cooperation.



## PANELISTS

## Abheena AHER

National Programme Manager  
Global Action for Trans Equality

India

Abhina Aher transgender woman (identified as hijra person) worked as Programme Manager with India HIV/AIDS Alliance on sexual minority programme from over five years such as Pehchan (in hindi means acknowledgement, identity) which is single largest country grant HIV programme with MSM transgender hijra community in 17 Indian states and Wajood (in hindi means pride) with 6000 transgender women and Hijras in five states to increase sexual health and reduce gender based violence since 2010. She has been engage in the transgender and HIV advocacy since last two decade in India and at the Global level.

Since last three years, she has been serving as 'Chair' of Asia Pacific Transgender Network. She is also an executive member of the International Reference Group on Transgender women and HIV (IRGT). She is one of the starring committee member of International Trans Fund (ITF). Recently she served as community taskforce committee member of High Level Meeting (HLM).

As an artist she started first ever transgender dancing group called 'Dancing Queens' in India to sensitize the key stakeholders on gender, sexuality and raise crucial funding for HIV positive trans people in India. She has been instrumental in initiating various initiatives pertaining to the community empowerment, work closely on advocacy issues and been integral part of the National AIDS Control Programme planning over a decade. Her core strength areas are advocacy, capacity building, research, programme, strategy development and proposal writing.



Moderator | Speakers | Panelists

Abhina is one of the leading transgender activist of India and been instrumental in trans movement empowerment and addressing core issues around family support with help of her mother. In her carrier she has worked with organizations such as The Humsafar Trust (Mumbai), Family Health International (FHI), Johns Hopkins University Centre for Communication Programme (CCP) and India HIV/AIDS Alliance. Professionally. Abhina is master In NGO management and social entrepreneurship and software programmer.





PANELISTS

Margareta MATACHE

Instructor  
FXB Center for Health & Human Rights  
Harvard University

USA

Dr. Margareta Matache is a Romani rights activist and scholar from Romania. In 2012 she was awarded a Hauser research fellowship at the Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, where currently she works as an instructor.

Margareta is the Director of the Roma Program at Harvard. The program focuses on innovative research strategies and critical analysis of conventional scholarly production regarding Roma; it also employs participatory action research and support for Romani and non-Romani young scholars to conduct ethical, culturally sensitive and participatory research.

Margareta is the co-editor of *Realizing Roma Rights* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017). Her work has also appeared in journals such as the *Human Rights Quarterly* or the *European Review*.