

**23rd International AIDS Conference
6 – 10 July 2020**

Available UNICEF Spokespersons

Dr. Chewe Luo

Chief of HIV/AIDS Section and Associate Director, Programme Division, UNICEF HQ New York



Dr. Chewe Luo leads the UNICEF HIV and AIDS programme and provides the vision and direction for UNICEF’s global position in children and AIDS. Before assuming this role in 2016, for several years, Dr Luo served with UNICEF in various technical capacities to support children, women, and HIV and AIDS across multiple countries and regions and at headquarters in New York. Dr. Luo is a pediatrician and AIDS specialist, with more than 20 years of experience in children and HIV/AIDS as a clinician and researcher at the University Teaching Hospital in Zambia, National Health Service in the UK and UNICEF. She received her Medical Degree and post graduate specialist training in Paediatrics from University of Zambia, School of Medicine and a masters in Tropical Child Health and a PhD from Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in UK. Dr Luo is also a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, Scotland.

National of Zambia | Languages: English

Dr. Shaffiq Essajee – Deputy Chief, HIV/AIDS, UNICEF HQ New York



Dr. Shaffiq Essajee is the Deputy Chief of UNICEF’s global HIV/AIDS programmes. He is a clinician, scientist and public health specialist who has been caring for children with HIV in New York and his native Kenya for over 20 years. He previously served as a Medical Officer for the World Health Organization in Geneva, specialising in the prevention and treatment of children with HIV and before that as Senior Medical Advisor to the Clinton Health Access Initiative, where he led the organization’s innovative paediatric treatment programme. Dr. Essajee is a graduate of the Oxford University Medical School and holds a Master of Arts in Oriental Studies from Cambridge University. He trained in Paediatrics at the University of California in San Francisco and has an honorary faculty appointment at New York University in the Department of Paediatric Infectious Disease.

National of Kenya | Languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese

Dr. Dorothy Mbori-Ngacha, Senior HIV Specialist, UNICEF HQ New York



Dr Dorothy Mbori-Ngacha is the Senior HIV Specialist on Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission and Paediatric HIV for UNICEF’s global HIV/AIDS programmes. She is a medical epidemiologist specializing in paediatrics, infectious disease and child health. She has extensive experience in academia, the public sector, the NGO community and international organizations. In her current role, Dr. Mbori-Ngacha focuses on global targets for EMTCT and universal treatment coverage for women, children and adolescents living with HIV; and on inter-agency collaboration within the UN and with other partners. She holds a Medical Degree and a Masters of Medicine in Paediatrics from the University of Nairobi School of Medicine, and a Master’s in Public Health (Epidemiology) from the University of Washington, Seattle. She sits on several national and international advisory committees related to her expertise in Paediatric HIV and PMTCT.

National of Kenya | Languages: English

Ms. Damilola Walker, Senior HIV/AIDS Adviser, UNICEF HQ New York



Ms Damilola (“Lola”) Walker is the Senior Adolescent and HIV Specialist in UNICEF New York. She has over 15 years of experience working on HIV, adolescent health, community health, and immunization programmes. Before joining UNICEF, she was a Senior HIV/AIDS Advisor in the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS in Washington DC. Prior to this she was a Senior Technical Officer in the Technical Leadership Development unit of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, supporting over 14 countries in East, West, and Southern Africa with strategy and programming to deliver comprehensive care and support programs to children and adolescents affected by and living with HIV. She has a Masters’ Degree in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

National of Nigeria | Languages: English

Dr. Nande Putta, HIV and TB Specialist, UNICEF HQ New York



Nande Putta is a public health physician who received her medical degree from the University of Zambia; her public health & epidemiology degree as a Fogarty Fellow at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), USA; and her training in Business Analytics at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University (NYU STERN), USA. She works with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) based in New York at the headquarters office as Programme Specialist Child Survival, working across Health and HIV sectors, to strengthen systems, integration and innovation for child survival. Her prior professional roles have included leadership positions in her home country Zambia, both in the Ministry of Health and in the Non-Governmental Sector. She has also worked across multiple countries and regions of UNICEF's programmes providing strategic advisory and technical support for PMTCT, Paediatric HIV as well as Maternal, Newborn and Child Health programmes.

National of Zambia | Languages: English

Dr. Alex Costa, HIV/AIDS Specialist, UNICEF HQ New York



Dr. Alex Costa is an HIV/AIDS Specialist at UNICEF global HIV/AIDS programmes in NY where he manages projects aimed at accelerating access to HIV testing for infants in sub-Saharan Africa using innovative, multi-disease point-of-care diagnostic technologies. He also leads UNICEF's global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) initiative. Alex has a broad experience in the life sciences and expertise in developing comprehensive public health laboratory systems in Africa and Southeast Asia for detection of AMR as well as diagnosis, preparedness, surveillance, and response to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. Prior to joining UNICEF in 2017, he served as a technical officer at the World

Health Organization in the Asia-Pacific region, where he was the focal point for laboratory diagnostics and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Cambodia and Vietnam. He previously served as the director of the laboratory program for the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Liberia where he supported the establishment of a national laboratory diagnostics program. He holds a PhD in Molecular Biology from Princeton University and post-doctoral studies on infectious diseases at Stanford University.

National of Brazil | Languages: English, Portuguese

Ms. Laurie Gulaid, Regional HIV/AIDS Adviser, Eastern and Southern Africa



Ms Laurie Gulaid has been the Regional HIV/AIDS Adviser for Eastern and Southern Africa since June 2019. Prior to this, Ms. Gulaid was the Senior HIV Specialist on the regional team, providing technical leadership and guidance on the first decade response (PMTCT and paediatric HIV). Ms Gulaid has more than 30 years' experience in public health focused on HIV, TB and maternal and child health programming. Before joining UNICEF, Ms Gulaid worked as a senior-level consultant on HIV and maternal and child health, including for UNICEF, other UN agencies and the US government, for 15 years. Ms Gulaid has worked as an

M&E specialist with USAID in Ghana, as deputy director clinical services for TB control in New York City and on polio eradication in Nigeria and India. She holds a master's degree in Public Health from the University of California at Los Angeles.

National of USA | Languages: English

Dr. Landry Tsague Dongmo, Regional HIV/AIDS Adviser, Western and Central Africa



Dr. Landry Tsague Dongmo has been the Regional HIV/AIDS Adviser for UNICEF West and Central Africa region since 2016, having previously served there as Senior HIV/AIDS Specialist. Prior to joining the regional office, he was Chief HIV/AIDS for UNICEF in Rwanda and Zambia. Dr. Tsague worked in the Ministry of Health in Cameroon as coordinator for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS and served as Clinical Director for the Columbia University HIV program in Rwanda. A medical doctor trained in Cameroon, he holds a PhD in Public Health from the University of Western Cape in South Africa and a MSC Public Health from the Rollins School of Public health at Emory University, USA. Dr Tsague has received a number

of recognitions and awards throughout his career. He is a Member of the International AIDS Society, and co-managing editor of the Pan African Medical Journal. He has authored and co-authored 16 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.

National of Cameroon | Languages: French, English

Ms Shirley Mark Prabhu, Regional HIV Specialist, East Asia and the Pacific



Ms Shirley Mark Prabhu has been a Regional HIV/AIDS Specialist (Adolescents and HIV and PMTCT) in UNICEF's East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office since 2014. Prior to this, she served as the focal point on Strategic Information, Data/Digital content and Knowledge Management on HIV/AIDS with the same office. Ms Prabhu has more than 18 years of experience in HIV/AIDS, health and social development, women, children, adolescents and young people. Before joining UNICEF, she worked with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on a multi-country programme related to young people, HIV and substance use. She is a member of the UN Asia-Pacific interagency task team on young key populations and the Regional Validation Secretariat on Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV. Ms Prabhu holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences from the Bharathidasan University, India.

National of India | Languages: English

Ms Alejandra Trossero, Regional Specialist, Adolescents and HIV, Latin America and the Caribbean



Ms Alejandra Trossero has been the Regional Adolescent and HIV Specialist in the UNICEF Regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean since 2016. She has 20 years of experience working on HIV, gender and sexual and reproductive health. Before joining UNICEF, she was the Policy Specialist on HIV, Health and Development at UNDP's Regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to this she was Director of Programmes at the International Planned Parenthood Federation Regional Office for East and South East Asia and Oceania in Kuala Lumpur, and Senior HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health Officer at IPPF headquarters in London. Ms Trossero also worked for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance as Programme Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean and as a Prevention Adviser. She has a degree in Psychology and a M.Sc. in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

National of Argentina | Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese

Dr. Nina Ferencic – Regional Adviser, HIV/AIDS, Europe and Central Asia Region



Dr. Nina Ferencic is the Senior Adviser on HIV/AIDS and on Adolescent Health, Development and Participation at the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. She has over 30 years of experience working on HIV/AIDS and on influencing policies and programmes designed to improve equity, resilience, and health outcomes among marginalized, socially excluded populations, including women and children. Prior to joining UNICEF, she held senior positions with the World Health Organization and with UNAIDS. Dr. Ferencic holds a degree in Sociology from the City University of New York, and a Master's and a Ph.D. in Communication, Arts & Sciences from the Annenberg School of Communications, University of Pennsylvania, USA.

National of: Croatia | Languages: English, French, Spanish, Croatian

Dr. Ruslan Malyuta, Regional HIV/AIDS Specialist, Europe and Central Asia Region



Dr. Ruslan Malyuta, who is based in Almaty, Kazakhstan, has been Regional specialist on HIV/AIDS for the Europe and Central Asia region since 2007. He has over 20 years' experience in working primarily on PMCT and adolescent AIDS. At UNICEF, his work has focussed on prevention and care of HIV infection in infants, adolescents and women, as well as on broader issues of adolescent health. Prior to joining UNICEF, Dr. Malyuta worked as Senior HIV/AIDS adviser at the John Snow Research and Training Institute in Boston; on PMTCT programmes for WHO; and with various organizations in Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Since 2004 he has also been a coordinator for the European Collaborative Study on HIV-infected women and their children in Eastern Europe (Institute of Child Health, London). Dr. Malyuta is a medical doctor specializing in paediatrics, and is a graduate of the Odessa Medical University, Ukraine.

National of Ukraine | Languages: Ukrainian, Russian, English

Mr. Chibwe Lwamba, Statistics Specialist, HIV/AIDS, UNICEF HQ New York

Mr Chibwe Lwamba is a Statistics Specialist in the Division of Data, Research and Policy specialising on data for HIV/AIDS. He has 20 years of experience working on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, survey design and implementation, and HIV programme design and management. He also has experience in generating and analysing HIV and AIDS estimates and projections, and working with data from DHS, MICS, PHIA/AIS, Census, ANC Sentinel Surveillance, key populations size estimation and HIV Routine data. Prior to joining UNICEF, he worked for UNAIDS as Strategic Information Adviser in Swaziland, Lesotho and Sierra Leone. He was also Senior HIV/AIDS Adviser for USAID/Zambia; and Head of Population and Demography and Census Manager at the Central Statistics Office of Zambia.

He holds a Masters' Degree in Demography from the Australian National University.

National of Zambia | **Languages: English**

Dr. Lazeena Muna-McQuay, Advocacy and Partnerships Specialist, HIV/AIDS, UNICEF HQ New York

Dr. Lazeena Muna-McQuay is the Advocacy and Partnerships Specialist for UNICEF's global HIV/AIDS programmes. Dr. Muna-McQuay is a public health policy and development specialist with more than 25 years of work experience with UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, the World Bank, and other international agencies. Her work encompasses policy advocacy, mobilization, communication, strategic program planning and implementation, knowledge management, and capacity strengthening in the areas of HIV prevention, treatment, and care. She is a tireless advocate for the promotion and protection of the rights, dignity, voice, and inclusion of young people and key populations in the global development agenda. Dr. Muna-McQuay's

broader technical assistance experience spans the geographic footprint of a region extending from Afghanistan to the Pacific Islands. Muna received her doctoral degree in Public Health and Policy in 2003 from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, U.K. as a Ford Foundation fellow.

National of Bangladesh | **Languages: English**

For more information, or to arrange interviews please contact:

Ms. Lazeena Muna-McQuay, Ph.D.

Email: lmunamcquay@unicef.org

About UNICEF

Across more than 190 countries and territories, UNICEF works for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone. The survival of girls and boys, especially the most marginalized and those living in countries where there is a humanitarian crisis, depends on high-impact health interventions, adequate nutrition for them and their mothers, and protection from HIV. Ending AIDS as a global public health threat has been at the centre of UNICEF's work for more than two decades and is essential to improving children's ability to survive and thrive. Learn more at <https://www.unicef.org/hiv>. Follow us on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#).