

Speaker's Biographies



Caroline Abu-Sada

Médecins Sans Frontières

Holder of a Political science and International Relations PhD, C. Abu-Sada has held several positions in the field, noticeably in the Middle-East, for Oxfam GB, the UNFAO and MSF Switzerland.

Since 2010, she represents MSF at the Steering Committee of the Centre for Studies and Research on Humanitarian Action in Geneva, a Centre led by both the Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva, and coordinates the Research Unit of MSF.

She is the author of "ONG palestiniennes et construction étatique, L'expérience de Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) dans les Territoires occupés palestiniens, 1983-2005", IFPO, 2007, "Perception de MSF et de l'action humanitaire, Ed. Antipodes, Lausanne, Suisse, 2011", "Le développement, une affaire d'ONG? Associations, Etats et Bailleurs dans le monde arabe, Karthala-IREMAM-IFPO, Paris, 2011" as well as several articles, reports and chapters on humanitarian action, NGOs and the Middle-East.

Jonathan Benthall

University College London

Jonathan Benthall is an honorary research fellow in the Department of Anthropology, University College London. His recent publications include "The Charitable Crescent: Politics of Aid in the Muslim World" (with Jérôme Bellion-Jourdan, new paperback edition, 2009), "Disasters, Relief and the Media" (new edition, 2010), "Returning to Religion: Why a Secular Age is Haunted by Faith" (2008), and review articles for "The Times Literary Supplement". He has been engaged since 2005 as an adviser to the Islamic Charities Project (formerly Montreux Initiative), sponsored by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; also by a number of legal teams on issues relating to Islamic charities. He was previously Director of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Founder Editor of Anthropology Today, and Chair of the International NGO Training and Research Centre, Oxford (INTRAC).

Jean-Marc Biquet

Médecins Sans Frontières

Jean-Marc Biquet is presently researcher at the Reflection unit on Humanitarian Stakes and Practices of the Swiss section of Médecins Sans Frontières. Active since 17 years in humanitarian action, he holds a Master in political science. Author of numerous articles on the relationship between military and humanitarian actors, he is the co-author of the book "Militaires-humanitaires. A chacun son rôle" Complexe Ed. Brussels 2001

Andrew Collodel

HelpAge International

Andrew Collodel is working for HelpAge International as the Emergency Programme Coordinator (Livelihoods). He has more than twenty years of experience in international development working mostly in Africa and is specialized in livelihoods and Humanitarian response.

During the civil war in Mozambique and in the post war recovery period he has lived and worked there for ten years in rural areas. He has built two Corn Soya Blend food factories that produced fortified foods for school lunch programs in Mozambique and Angola. Andrew Collodel has first-hand experience of the burden African women bear in sustaining their families and building sustainable livelihoods in remote rural locations.

Petra Dannecker

University of Vienna

Petra Dannecker is Head of the newly founded Institute of Development Studies at the University of Vienna. She is working on issues related to development sociology, development politics, globalization and migration processes, gender studies, transnationalism, and gender and migration.

Petra Dannecker did her PhD in Sociology (Bielefeld University) on the subject of female garment workers in Bangladesh. Until 2007 she was Assistant Professor and Lecturer in the Faculty of Sociology at the Bielefeld University and became afterwards Senior Research Fellow at the German Development Institute in Bonn. There she was responsible for coordinating research and knowledge transfer between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and scientific communities focusing on development research in Germany. From October 2008 she was Visiting Professor for Global Studies and Development Sociology in the Department of Sociology at the University of Vienna

Antonio Donini

Tufts Uni & Feinsein Inst., Professor

Antonio Donini is a Senior Researcher at the Feinsein International Center at Tufts University, where he works on issues relating to humanitarianism and the future of humanitarian action. From 2002 to 2004 he was a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. He has worked for 26 years in the United Nations in research, evaluation, and humanitarian capacities. His last post was as Director of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (1999-2002). Before going to Afghanistan he was chief of the Lessons Learned Unit at OCHA, where he managed a program of independent studies on the effectiveness of relief efforts in complex emergencies. He has published widely on evaluation, humanitarian, and UN reform issues. In 2004 he co-edited the volume *Nation-Building Unraveled? Aid, Peace, and Justice in Afghanistan* (Kumarian Press). Since then he has published several articles exploring the implications of the crises in Afghanistan and Iraq for the future of humanitarian action as well as on humanitarianism and globalization. He has coordinated the Humanitarian Agenda 2015 research project which analysed local perceptions of humanitarian action in 13 crisis countries and in 2008 he authored the final HA 2015 report, *The State of the Humanitarian Enterprise* (see fic.tufts.edu). He is currently finalizing an edited volume on the politicization and manipulation of humanitarian action.

Alistair Dutton

Caritas Internationalis

Alistair Dutton is the Humanitarian Director for Caritas Internationalis, the global network of 165 national Caritas members. A chartered engineer, Alistair has studied Physics, and Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Alistair has worked in the humanitarian sector for fifteen years, during which he has led several major responses and worked in over thirty countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Prior to working for Caritas Internationalis, Alistair was responsible for Christian Aid's humanitarian programmes in Africa, and was the Senior Humanitarian Officer for CAFOD (Caritas England and Wales) before that. Alistair entered the sector as a Jesuit when, working for the Jesuit Refugee Service, he was seconded to Caritas Nepal.

Dedicated to serving those who suffer as a result of disasters, Alistair is committed to enabling local people and institutions to decide and control their futures, to placing local capacity at the heart of humanitarian responses, and to making the humanitarian system truly accountable to the people it serves.

Walter Feichtinger

Austria National Defence Academy

Walter Feichtinger is Brigadier General at the Austrian Armed Forces and Director of Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management at the Austrian National Defence Academy. Besides his military career he studied political science and journalism at the University of Vienna and completed a PhD program. Walter Feichtinger is a Member of the Science Commission of the Austrian Ministry of Defense, of the Board of the European Forum Alpbach, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, as well as a founding member of the International Society of Military Sciences. He is an expert in Austrian, European and International security policy, in the analysis of armed conflicts and the strategic impacts and international crisis and conflict management.

Alois Hirschmugl

Austrian Armed Forces

Alois Hirschmugl, Humanitarian Affairs Advisor to the Austrian Chief of Defence Staff, is a Brigadier General with the Austrian Armed Forces. He has over 30 years of military experience and special expertise in the field of international military legal advisory, verification of arms control agreements, civil-military coordination and cooperation, civil

emergency planning and security policy. Since 2006 he also is officiated as external legal expert for the International Criminal Court in Den Haag. He began his humanitarian engagement working for the Austrian Red Cross and Youth Red Cross for 10 years on a voluntary basis. 1986 he was company commander with the Peace Keeping Forces in Cyprus. Mr. Hirschmugl is a member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team – UNDAC since 1999 and a Civil Protection expert for the European Commission. Besides his Peace Keeping mission to Cyprus (1986), he has participated in numerous missions with the United Nations and the European Commission – including Floods in Mozambique (2000 – 2x), Bangladesh (2004) and Pakistan 2010, Earthquakes in Algeria (2003), Iran (2004) and Indonesia (2006), Tsunami in Southeast Asia (2005), an Explosion of an ammunition depot in Albania (2008) and an explosion with impact to the nearby Vasilikos power plant in Cyprus (2011). He is also trainer and lecturer at different universities, UN, EU, NATO, NGOs as well as an independent consultant for disaster management advice and training (www.dmat.at). He is involved in several EU – Civil Protection projects, like EUTAC, EURETS, EURAMET and GEO-PICTURES. Mr. Hirschmugl holds a Master and Doctorate degree in law. He published a handbook on legal aspects of peace support operations, humanitarian and disaster management operations. Between 2007 and 2010 he was a Foundation Board Member of the Global Humanitarian Forum under the presidency of the former UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi A. Annan and as the only active military involved, mainly engaged in “Civil Military Cooperation.

Barbara Jackson

Care

Barbara Jackson is the Humanitarian Director for CARE International based in Geneva, Switzerland. Ms. Jackson is a humanitarian professional with over twenty-five years experience working in developing countries in Asia, Africa and the Americas. She has served as a Country Director for CARE in Honduras, Bolivia and Mozambique, as well as Assistant Country Director and Senior Sector Coordinator in Guatemala, Bangladesh, Uganda and Ethiopia, all countries subject to natural disasters and in some cases, conflict. Ms. Jackson is responsible for upholding CARE International’s Humanitarian Mandate of responding to humanitarian emergencies an essential part of CARE’s work to fight poverty and injustice, recognizing that emergencies are a cause and effect of both. She is a firm believer that it is every individual’s right to receive the best support and help in a time of crisis that can possibly be offered and that CARE, along with other agencies, must ensure effective, quality and timely humanitarian response. Ms. Jackson is married and has an eighteen year old son attending New York University.

Bruno Jochum

Médecins Sans Frontières

Bruno Jochum was appointed as General Director of Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland (MSF) in June 2011. Since 2006, he was the Director of Operations for MSF’s Operational Centre in Geneva, in charge of the operational policy and overseeing programmes in 21 countries.

Bruno started working in medical humanitarian relief in 1993 in the Horn of Africa (Sudan, Somalia) and Great Lakes. In 1994, he led several exploratory missions in Rwanda and Burundi and became head of mission in Goma (Congo DRC) during the influx of Rwandan refugees and cholera epidemic. After five years working for a local government in France in charge of economic and social affairs, he was in 2001 based for 2 years in Tehran as head of mission for MSF programmes in Iran and West Afghanistan. In 2003, he was appointed Programme Manager in Geneva for a group of countries including Somalia, Sudan, Myanmar and Central America, steering the strategic planning and support for medical projects in conflict areas as well as in regions affected by epidemics or endemics such as HIV, TB and sleeping sickness. Bruno studied at the Institutes for Political Studies of Strasbourg and Paris. He also holds Masters’ degrees in international relations and in international law from the Universities of the Sorbonne in Paris and Nancy.

Rainer Lang

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Rainer Lang is 56 years old. He studied German, history and politics. After his studies he was for two years teaching German literature and politics at King’s College in London.

He has been working in the field of humanitarian aid, mainly as communicator, in Germany and Switzerland for the last 20 years. He started with a protestant magazine and continued with daily newspapers and the protestant news agency in the southwest of Germany.

In May 2008 he started to work with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. The protestant organisation was founded in 1954 to deliver humanitarian aid. The organisation is specialised to work in areas of armed conflicts. Other central aspects are disaster preparedness and climate change.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and the sister organisation „Brot für die Welt“, which is working in the field of development, are members of the ACT Alliance, a global network of churches and church based organisations working in the field of humanitarian aid and development work. From 2000 to 2003 he worked as ACT communications officer in Geneva. At that time ACT international was the coordinating body for the humanitarian activities of the global network. Already at that time he was involved in a lot of emergencies worldwide from natural disasters to armed conflicts.

Sabine Kampmüller

Médecins Sans Frontières

Sabine Kampmüller is the Head of the Vienna Evaluation Unit, which aims to contribute to learning and accountability in MSF through good quality evaluations. In her capacity she has managed and conducted different types of evaluations and learning exercises (<http://evaluation.msf.at>).

She has worked for MSF since 1996 as a nurse and project manager in various programs in Kenya (urban health), Sudan (nomadic health care in conflict, emergency mass vaccination, impact study), Uganda (emergency response to displacement), Nagorno-Karabakh (health promotion). Between 2001 and 2005 she was Director of the Human Resource Department in Vienna.

She holds a Masters degree in International Health (MIH), a Diploma in Pediatric Nursing and is a lecturer for Public Health and Qualitative Research.

Karin Kneissl

Author and Lecturer

Since she quitted the Austrian Foreign Service in autumn 1998 Karin Kneissl who holds a Ph.D in international law has been working as a freelance researcher and lecturer. The focus of her teaching and publishing encompasses the Middle East, energy issues and international law. She is member of the research faculty of the Vienna campus of Webster University. Furthermore, she regularly lectures at the Université Saint Joseph in Beirut, at the European Business School in Hessen/Germany, at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt/Austria as well as the National Defence College. From 1995 to 2003 she taught Humanitarian Law, History of Diplomacy and other courses at Vienna University, Institute of Political Sciences. Since 2000 she teaches at Vienna Diplomatic Academy. Ever since 2002 she contributes comments for the Austrian radio and TV broadcaster ORF, whenever political developments in the Middle and the events in the energy market require it. Her articles are widely published in German, English and French quarterlies and monthlies. For details see below

Ms. Kneissl studied law and Arabic at Vienna University, she was a stipend at the Hebrew University Jerusalem, did a diploma in comparative European law at the University of Urbino/Italy and was Fulbright scholar at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris. From 1990 to 1998 she served in the Austrian Foreign Service, where she held positions in the office of the Legal Advisor, the cabinet of the minister and the Political Section. Her assignments abroad comprise Paris, Madrid and Geneva.

Karin Kneissl is Vice-President of the Austrian Society for Politico-Military Studies, STRATEG; she was on the scientific board of the European Forum Alpbach, is an elected municipal counselor of her community Seibersdorf and holds various positions in non-profit organizations.

Publication list:

Given the high demand a second and revised edition of the book „The Energy Poker“ has been launched in Munich in late August 2008. The author tackles, inter alia, the repercussions of the current financial market crisis on the price of oil and natural gas. Her publications range from books on the Middle East (The Cycle of Violence, 2007) to diplomacy (The invention of diplomacy, 2009).

Her articles on the energy-market have been published in peer-reviewed journals, notably in India, Poland and France. For details, please consult her website: www.kkneissl.com

Her studies on Middle Eastern related topics have been published by the National Defence College. Since 2002 Ms. Kneissl has been contributing to the ÖMZ, Austrian Military Review.

Rainer Lucht

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Rainer Lucht is the Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser of Diakonie Emergency Aid / Germany (Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe) where he has served for over 16 years. He holds a Masters in Political Science and completed a PhD in Cultural Anthropology. His responsibilities in this post touch on issues such as the question of ethical quality in humanitarian aid and the relation between humanitarian aid, politics and the military. One of his major focus is on international security

policy, military interventions, civil-military relations and the positioning of humanitarian Aid in the major conflicts since the nineties. He represents DEA in NGO networks and in relations to public donors and governments on both the German and the European level. He has evaluated and advised on humanitarian aid programs carried out by DEA. Previously, he worked for over 10 years in various development projects in Central America and India.

Johanna Mang

Light for the World

Currently, Johanna Mang is Head of Programmes, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Austria, an organization committed to saving eyesight, improving the quality of life and advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in underprivileged regions of the world. In response to recent major humanitarian crisis, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is engaged in Pakistan, Haiti, and East Africa/Ethiopia.

Before joining LIGHT FOR THE WORLD beginning of 2010, Johanna was Head of Unit 'NGO Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid' of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) since 2004. She also worked for many years for Austrian and international NGOs specialized in development cooperation and environmental protection; among those are World Wide Fund for Nature and CARE Österreich. She holds two master's degrees, one in 'Urban and Regional Planning' (University of Technology, Vienna 1986) and the other in 'Resource Policy' (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, 1990). Johanna was born in Vienna in 1962

Margit Maximilian

ORF

Margit M. Maximilian was born in December 1958 in Vienna
Since 1995 she is working as a Current-affairs-editor for ORF-TV, "Zeit im Bild", specializing in African affairs. She made TV-reports and coverage for newscast and TV-magazines from many conflict areas, e.g. Ethiopian/Eritrean war, Sudan/Darfur, Liberia, DR-Congo, Chad, South Africa/Zimbabwe ...
Last mission was the hunger crises in the Horn of Africa.
Margit Maximilian is founding- and board-member of the Austrian branch of "Reporters without borders".

Robert Moosbrugger

Caritas

Robert Moosbrugger is a development practitioner with 8 years experience in international development and humanitarian relief projects. He has worked for various organisations in Nicaragua, Egypt, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Haiti and Pakistan.

Robert holds an MSc in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), an MSc in IT, Management and Organisational Change from Lancaster University, and a Magister's degree from Innsbruck University in International Economics and Business Studies. Currently Robert works for Caritas Austria in Pakistan as Country Representative for flood relief projects.

Gunther Müller

Profil

Gunther Müller is a reporter at the foreign desk of Austria's leading political magazine „profil“. Before joining „profil“ in 2007 he worked in the politics department of the online newspaper derstandard.at and for the monthly magazine „Datum.“ He published several articles in „Die Zeit“, „Der Standard“ and „Salzburger Nachrichten“. Müller has a university degree in interpreting and translating for Italian and English.

John Nduna

Act Alliance

Zambian-born John Nduna, a relief and development worker with experience at international and field levels in Switzerland and Africa, joined the Geneva-based Coordinating Office of Action by Churches Together (ACT) International as its director on April 1, 2006.

Mr. Nduna previously headed up the ecumenical organisation, Church Ecumenical Action in Sudan (CEAS), which

operates out of Nairobi. In joining ACT—a global alliance of churches and related agencies responding to humanitarian emergencies—Mr. Nduna brought with him two decades’ experience in the field of humanitarian work and working in particular with refugees in various sectors such as small business development, self-help and repatriation programs. Mr. Nduna believes that as an ecumenical body, one of ACT’s strengths is that its 128-strong membership is well placed to respond to humanitarian crises, at a local level through churches and church councils and related agencies, as well as at a global level.

Mr. Nduna, an Anglican, was born in the Monze district in the Southern region of Zambia, and grew up in Kitwe and Lusaka in Zambia and has worked in Africa for some 20 years, with five years spent in Geneva, Switzerland, as the ACT International appeals officer for Africa.

He graduated from the University of Zambia with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in economics, which led to an early career in banking. His degree was later supplemented by an international qualification in small business management from the International Institute of Small Business Management in Hyderabad, India. But a desire to “make a difference” saw him take up several appointments within the field of humanitarian assistance and development, with a focus on refugees in Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania. Mr. Nduna worked for, amongst others, the Lutheran World Federation/Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service, as its emergency project coordinator of its Burundi Refugee Program in Tanzania. Of special concern to him is the continued “lack of meaningful response to some of the world’s worst humanitarian situations around the world, such as the ‘forgotten emergencies’ of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Sudan.” Mr. Nduna manages a staff of 14. Mr. Nduna is married to Sydia Nduna, who is a consultant with the World Council of Churches, working in the field of uprooted peoples in Africa. They have three children: Chimuka, Busiku and John (Jr.).

Nicole Peter

World Vision

Nicole Peter is currently based in Mozambique providing support to WV Mozambique in issues related to organizational effectiveness. Prior to that Nicole held the position of Operations Director for the World Vision Haiti Earthquake Response, overseeing the implementation of all sector activities. Nicole joined the Haiti Response from Darfur, Northern Sudan, where she worked for World Vision as a Senior Program Officer overseeing all major in South Darfur State. Prior to that she worked for World Vision’s Latin America & Caribbean Regional Office in Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs where she provided strategic support to 14 countries of the Region. Her roles outside of World Vision include work with the UN International Labour Organisation and IPEC in Costa Rica, and the Red Cross in the United States. Her humanitarian career began with internships in UNFPA in Costa Rica and UNDP in Geneva. Nicole holds a Master of Social Anthropology and Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Social Anthropology from the University of Paul-Valery, Montpellier III, and is proficient in English, Spanish, French and German languages.

Ulrike von Pilar

Humanitarian Aid Consultant

After a doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Tübingen and working for many years as lecturer for Mathematics in Germany, Belgium and Hongkong, Ulrike von Pilar joined UNHCR in Hongkong in 1988 as Education Coordinator for the boat people camps.

In 1991, she started work with Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) in Brussels and in 1993 cofounded the German section of MSF and became MSF’s Founding President.

From 1997 till 2005, she served as Executive Director of MSF in Germany.

After coordinating a one-year movement wide reflection process on the challenges for MSF International, she has worked for two years as Head of Mission in Malawi in an HIV/Aids project.

She is currently working as independent consultant for the policy and practice of humanitarian action.

Christoph Prantner

Der Standard

Christoph Prantner is Foreign Affairs editor of the Austrian newspaper “Der Standard”.

Petra Ramsauer

Author

Petra Ramsauer has been working as a Journalist for almost 25 years following her graduation from her political science degree, majoring in International relations, Islam/Terror and the Middle East. In Paris, she completed a course in International Reporting at the Fondation Journalistes en Europe.

As a Journalist she has worked for ORF, Kurier, NZZ am Sonntag, Welt am Sonntag, the Israeli Ha'aretz, Die Presse, Profil and the magazine NEWS. Her area of specialization is international crises and war reporting. In the past decade she has reported from the locations of most of the world's biggest conflicts: From the war in Kosovo in 1999, the Intifada in the Palestinian territory, from the war in Afghanistan, Iraq, from Sudan and Chad, about the civil war in Darfur, the protest movement in Iran and in the past months from the revolution in the Arabic countries such as Egypt and Libya.

Recently, Petra Ramsauer has returned from reporting on the situation in Afghanistan, ten years after 9/11. In the past years she has also reported from the tsunami in Asia, the malnutrition from the Horn in Africa, in Malawi, Niger and the motives of the boat people from Mauritius.

A large part of her work has been dedicated to highlighting the issues of women in crisis zones. She has tried to get out of the habit of following the traditional patterns of war reporting, instead trying to orient herself towards classical social-welfare reporting. This can be seen in her priority setting.

During her career, Petra Ramsauer has focused on the use of rape as a weapon in countries of war and has spoken to women who have experienced this horrendous weapon in Kosovo, Darfur, Eastern Congo and Libya. Hence, she wanted to show that the trauma of an entire society after a conflict can only be improved through working determinedly with women. Furthermore, she showed in her work in journalism on poverty and hunger that there is an enormous potential in directly aiding women.

Petra Ramsauer has published two books: In 2007 "Die Klimarevolution" (The Climate Revolution), which discusses Global warming in and international context and in 2009, "So wird Hunger gemacht" (How Hunger happens) about the background of poverty and solution strategies.

Petra Ramsauer is currently working as a Freelance Journalist and Author.

Dieter Reinhardt

University of Duisburg-Essen

Dieter Reinhardt is a political scientist and working as a Ass. Fellow at the Institute for Development and Peace/University Duisburg-Essen. He worked before ten years for the refugee section of the German Red Cross and children rights NGO 'terre des hommes'. His research topics are UN-System and Global Governance, Policy of Humanitarian Aid, Failing States, 'Climate Change and Security'. He has regional expertise for Bangladesh and India.

Recent publications are:

- "Strukturprobleme der internationalen humanitären Hilfe; Labile UN-Strukturen, schwaches Finanzierungssystem, geostrategische Interessen"
- "Green Governance – One Solution for Two Problems? Climate Change and Economic Shocks: Risk Perceptions and Coping Strategies in China, India and Bangladesh"
- "Humanitarian Assistance and Forgotten Crises; UN World Summit and New Financial Mechanisms, INEF Policy Brief 01. Duisburg: Institut für Entwicklung und Frieden"

His homepage address is: <http://inef.uni-due.de/person/dreinhardt/en/>

Khalid Roy

Islamic Relief Worldwide

Khalid Roy works on Governance and Advocacy with Islamic Relief Worldwide at their international office in Birmingham, UK. Khalid qualified in Social Anthropology as well as Environmental Resources and has worked in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe with NGOs such as SCF, VSO, CARE and Islamic Relief. Khalid recently addressed the role of religion and humanitarian work in a polemical article entitled 'All aid has an ideological context' (The Guardian).

Max Santner

Austrian Red Cross

Max Santner is the Head of the International Aid Department of the Austrian Red Cross since 2007. The department works in the fields of development cooperation and disaster relief, its main priorities are primarily in the areas of water

and sanitation, and basic health care.

His professional engagement for development cooperation began 1996, when Mr. Santner started to work as the Asian regional Director for ECOHIMAL in Nepal. There, he was responsible for rural development programs in Nepal.

As a delegate for the Austrian Red Cross, he became 2005 project manager for “Kurier Aid Austria” in Colombo (Sri Lanka) to administer and organize humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts after the tsunami.

Mr. Santner is also chairman of the executive committee of the umbrella organization “Global Responsibility” – Austrian Platform for development and humanitarian aid, which represents currently the interests of 43 member organizations.

Wolfram Schaffar

University of Vienna

Wolfram Schaffar joined the Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna in November 2010 as professor for political science. Since 2002, he has been working in the field of Southeast Asian studies, political science and development studies at the University of Bonn, the University of Hildesheim (Germany) and the National Language Research Institute in Tokyo (Japan). In 2008 he taught as guest lecturer at the master programme ‘International Development Studies’ at Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok). In his research he focuses on social movements, constitutionalism, democratization, and state theory in the Global South, as well as on social policy and the welfare state, with the regional focus on Southeast and East Asia.

Matthias Schmale

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

As the Under Secretary General of Programme Services at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Mr. Schmale is responsible for overseeing the IFRC’s disaster management delivery, health and social services work, and providing support to the 186 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies worldwide.

Prior to becoming Under Secretary General, Mr. Schmale fulfilled a number of leadership roles in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Most recently, he was Under Secretary General for Development at the IFRC. He served as the International Director at the British Red Cross from 2005 to 2009. Previously, he worked for the Movement from 1985 to 1998 in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Sudan and Kenya in field operations, programme management and organizational development.

Other organizations that Mr. Schmale has served include the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and Save the Children Alliance where he was Deputy CEO.

Mr. Schmale holds a PhD from Berlin Free University in development economics with a focus on building sustainable organizations.

Born in Mochudi, Botswana, he is fluent in German and English and also speaks French and Kiswahili.

Samuel Schubert

Webster University

Dr. Samuel R. Schubert is the Head of the International Relations Department at Webster University’s Vienna Campus. A political scientist with a specialization in foreign and security affairs by training, Dr. Schubert has spent his career working in international politics, including serving more than 10 years for multiple United Nations’ organized development and aid programs in regions such as the Middle East, Asia and Africa, much of which was spent in the field, and carried those experiences back to the US in work for think tanks. His most recent works include “Realism, Energy and International Conflict: Why the Struggle for Power is Still the Name of the Game” (August 2011 working paper with Johannes Pollak), “Revisiting the Oil Curse” (Development 49.3), Being Rich in Energy Resources – A Blessing or a Curse, a 2007 Report for European Parliament and “The asymmetric power of terrorism” in Winning the Asymmetric War, Political, Social and Military Responses (New York: Peter Lang). Among other academic and professional activities, Dr. Schubert is co-editor of the forthcoming Webster University Worldwide International Relations Working Paper Series, and works closely with an international community of scholars on the protection of cultural property in times of conflict, striving to overcome the risks associated with the disconnect between traditional international law and politics and the emergence of non-state actors.

Christoph Schweifer

Caritas

Since the beginning of his professional career Christoph Schweifer (b.1964, Eisenstadt) has been intimately involved in the welfare sector. After his graduation at the Social Academy, Vienna in 2005, he became Secretary General for the International Programs sector of Caritas, Austria. Early on in his career, Christoph Schweifer as part of his compulsory community service he worked in the areas of Elderly care and Youth work. In 1987, Christoph Schweifer changed to the Catholic youth group of Burgenland, where he served as diocesan secretary. Three years later he became president of the Catholic youth group, parallel to his work in the social sector. In 1994, Christoph Schweifer became the Director of the Diocese of Eisenstadt, Caritas, and after over ten years in this role he went on to be the Secretary General of International Programs at Caritas Austria.

Christine South

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Christine South has been working with the Red Cross Movement since 1995. She worked first as a programme officer for the British Red Cross, then for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and Kosovo, before finally moving to work with the international Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2000. Since then she has worked in the headquarters in Geneva in both organizational development and capacity building and in disaster management. She has also carried out field missions to Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia, Liberia and most recently Ethiopia. She is currently responsible for Operations Quality Assurance in the Disaster Services Department of the IFRC.

Thomas Starlinger

Austrian Armed Forces

Brigadier-General Mag. Thomas Starlinger was born on 27. January 1963. After graduating from the Military Academy in 1985 he served as Company Commander, InfoOps Officer at Regiment level and as teacher for Political Affairs at the Academy for Non Commissioned Officers.

After his General Staff Officers Course (1997 – 2000) he was appointed to the Territorial Command in Carinthia and thereafter he served as Chief of Staff & Deputy Brigade Commander of the 7th Infantry Brigade. From 2003 to the end of 2005 he was deployed to Brussels where he was responsible for short to long term Force Development – at first in the EU-Military Staff and thereafter within the European Defence Agency.

Since Jan 2008 he commands the 7th Infantry Brigade, which consists of 6 Battalions and has a strength of approx. 3.700 soldiers.

Brigadier-General Starlinger was engaged in several Overseas Missions in Syria, Iran, Cyprus, Tajikistan and Kosovo. During his command in Kosovo, he tried, together with regional players (IOs, NGOs, local administration), to operationalize the comprehensive approach.

Christina Stummer

Austrian Development Agency

Christina Stummer is development professional and currently Gender Expert for the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). Before joining ADA at the beginning of 2011, Christina was Head of Programme at CARE Österreich after having worked in several other positions in this organization with a focus on gender equality and women empowerment since 2003. Before, Christina has worked in the private sector for an international conference and trainings provider. She holds a master's degrees on Business and Economics (Vienna University of Business and Economics) and has temporarily worked as a researcher at ITAM, Mexico during her studies.

Ton van Zutphen

Director at World Vision International

Ton van Zutphen has been working for over 30 years in both development and humanitarian settings. He has a Masters degree in Geography from the Catholic University Nijmegen in the Netherlands and worked for several international NGOs (including Oxfam and ActionAid) in management positions before joining World Vision International in 1998. In

World Vision he helped to develop the humanitarian preparedness and response strategies. He led several major emergency and conflict programmes in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. He made a contribution to the quality and accountability approach in World Vision's global humanitarian division. He was a co-founder of HAP and has been a Board member of the Sphere project for many years. As the chair he contributed to the successful new edition of the Sphere Handbook 2011. For nearly one year he directed the response to the Haiti earthquake; he is currently working on the concept of Global Capitals for World Vision International with an emphasis on Rome and Vienna.

Andrea Wagner-Hager

Care

Dr. Andrea Wagner-Hager assumed her position as national director of CARE Austria in November 2009. Born in Vienna Dr. Andrea Wagner-Hager started to engage in development cooperation when studying ethnology and African Studies at the University of Vienna. During her studies she made research visits to Israel, Brazil and Ethiopia and has also made several additional qualifications such as international relations and international law, economic journalism, communication, media and PR.

In October 1992 she started as PR-Manager with Karlheinz Böhm's Ethiopian Charity Menschen für Menschen Foundation in Vienna. She soon became co-director in Austria and was their executive director until October 2009. In November 2009 Dr. Andrea Wagner-Hager was appointed the new National Director of CARE Österreich. Since then she is responsible for the areas program, marketing and finance, as well as representation of CARE Österreich in media and politics and oversees the relief and development work.

Apart from being a board member of CARE International, Dr. Wagner-Hager is member of the CI Haiti Emergency Response Advisory Committee (HERAC) and is the head of the newly formed CI Horn of Africa Response Advisory Committee (HoARAC).

Richard Walker

Médecins Sans Frontières

Richard Walker has extensive experience in the management of both development and humanitarian programs in Asia, Africa and the Middle East with many of the international NGOs. For the past 10 years he has worked with MSF and is currently the director of MSF in the Czech Republic.

Gerhard Weinberger

Austrian Foreign Ministry

Gerhard Weinberger is working for the Austrian Foreign Ministry, where he is the Head of the Department for Humanitarian Aid, Food Aid, Relief Fund for International Disasters, Environment and Sustainability Aspects of Development Cooperation.

Andreas Wigger

International Committee of the Red Cross

Andreas Wigger was born in 1956 in Switzerland. He holds a MA in Theology and a MSc in Development Management. Since 1985, he has worked as a Delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He was posted in Israel and the occupied / autonomous Palestinian territories, in Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and has visited prisoners of war, civilian internees and other persons deprived of freedom in most of the countries in the Middle East, North Africa and South East Asia. He has also carried out and supervised Protection activities of civilians, including restoring family links and the search for missing persons in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and South Asia. Since 2008, he is Head of Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division at the ICRC Headquarters in Geneva.