



THE MOVEMENT FOR COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

LEARNING WORKING GROUP SESSION
HARNESSING THE POWER OF GENDER EQUALITY: LESSONS LEARNED & OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION
Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 10-11:30 AM EDT
The Hunger Project, Washington DC

Join the event virtually via this link <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/147081005>

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Access Code: 147-081-005

Objective: To learn about lessons from programs and opportunities for action to advance gender equality

10:00 am Introduction

Sia Nowrojee, LWG co-chair, 3D Program for Girls and Women

10:15 am Opportunities for Action: Beijing+25 and Lessons Learned from the 3D Program

Geeta Rao Gupta, United Nations Foundation and 3D Program for Girls and Women

10:30 am Lessons from the Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS) Program

Hemlata Verma, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) Asia

10:45 am Update on the Girls Leadership, Engagement, Agency and Development (LEAD) Act

Mary Kate Costello, The Hunger Project

11:00 am Q&A and discussion

Matt Lineal, LWG co-chair, Nuru International

11:25 am Close out and announcements

John Coonrod, MCLD and The Hunger Project

SPEAKER BIOS



Geeta Rao Gupta, PhD is a Senior Fellow at the United Nations Foundation and Founder and Executive Director of the 3D Program for Girls and Women. She is a member of the WHO Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for health emergencies, serves on the Board of Merck for Mothers, chairs the Advisory Board of WomenLift Health, a new initiative to promote women’s leadership in global health, and was a lead author for the Lancet Series on Gender Equality, Norms and Health. In 2017 she was a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University and served as co-Chair of the Gender-Based Violence Task Force of the World Bank. Geeta was Deputy Executive Director at UNICEF (2011-16) and a senior fellow at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2010-2011). Prior to that, for over a decade, she was the president of the International Centre for Research on Women, which is dedicated to using research to shape international development policies and programs to empower women and girls. Under her leadership, ICRW catalyzed policy and programmatic change for women and children around the globe. Geeta has served on several boards, such as the Global Partnership for Education, GAVI, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the MAC AIDS Fund. She has been

the recipient of numerous awards, including Harvard University’s 2006 Anne Roe Award and the 2007 Washington Business Journal’s “Women Who Mean Business” Award. Geeta earned a PhD in Social Psychology from Bangalore University and an MPhil and MA from the University of Delhi.



Hemlata Verma is a Technical Specialist II in Gender, Violence and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights at the International Center for Research on Women Asia, where she handles operations research, program evaluation and has grounding in gender analysis and capacity building. She has designed research and interventions as part of an evaluation of pilot models tested by ICRW with adolescents on primary prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against women and girls, as well as on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Hemlata leads the PAnKH (Promoting Adolescents’ Engagement, Knowledge and Health) program in Rajasthan –

Safe Spaces for Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescent Girls, community-based operations research aimed delaying age at marriage and improving sexual and reproductive health for married and unmarried adolescent girls. She also works on the Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS) program aimed at promoting gender equality and primary prevention of GBV, by engaging adolescents in critical thinking and self-reflection. Hemlata has worked with a wide range of partners, including the MacArthur Foundation, United Purpose, Oak Foundation, and the Institute of Fiscal Studies London and Pradan. She believes in the power of the social movements and has worked with people’s movements centered on the rights of indigenous communities regarding land and natural resources in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. She also has experience in labor rights with trade unions in Mumbai, civil liberty rights in Jammu and Kashmir and the women’s movement in Himachal Pradesh.



Mary Kate Costello joined The Hunger Project family as a Policy Analyst in August 2014. Previously, she was a Fellow for the Alliance for International Youth Development – in partnership with InterAction – and the Executive Program Director for Youth Futures International in Ghana. As Senior Policy Analyst, Mary Kate is responsible for The Hunger Project’s global advocacy, namely multilateral diplomacy with the UN and World Bank and participation in various civil society coalitions. This includes scaling up the Movement for Community-led Development, prioritizing women-centered programming, proving sustainable impact from partnerships with local government, and influencing policy environments that enable youth engagement and integrated development approaches. Mary Kate is co-chair of the Alliance to End Hunger’s International Working Group and is co-leading the

design and investment strategies for The Hunger Project’s Youth Engagement Strategy. Mary Kate holds a BA in Political Science and minors in Eastern European Studies and “Faith, Peace and Justice” from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. She also studied Third World politics and ethics in government at the University of Cape Town and is currently a candidate for her MA in International Relations at the School of International Studies at the American University in Washington, DC.