

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

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SESSION 10

Safety Nets and Springboards: The Evolving Role of Social Assistance

MODERATOR



Omer Bin Zia
Social Sector Specialist
Human and Social Development Sector Office
Sectors Department 3
Asian Development Bank

Omer Bin Zia brings more than 28 years of experience in social sector development, governance, public policy, institutional reform, and international development. He has led and contributed to the design, preparation, and implementation of complex investment and technical assistance operations in social protection, health, human development, and public sector management, with a current focus on health systems strengthening, health workforce development, care economy, aging, and inclusive social development. Prior to joining ADB headquarters, Omer served in senior roles with ADB's Pakistan Resident Mission, the Government of Pakistan, and international development organizations.

He holds an LLM in Law in Development from the University of Warwick.

SPEAKERS and PANELIST



Khalida Bashir
Joint Secretary (Planning & Development)
Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety
Government of Pakistan

Ms. Khalida Bashir is an officer of Secretariat Group from 26th CTP. She has worked in Ministries of Commerce and Climate Change. She has also worked as Chief Instructor at National Institute of Management, Islamabad prior to joining STI. She has done Masters and MPhil in Animal Sciences (Quaid-i-Azam University) and Natural Resource Management (Cranfield University, UK) as well as MBA (Marketing) from

Preston University, Islamabad. At present posted as Director General, Secretariat Training Institute, Islamabad.



Gemito do Carmo Amaral de Jesus
Principal Advisor to the Minister and Vice Minister
Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI)
Government of Timor-Leste

He works as an advisor in the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion - advising to the Minister and Vice Minister as well as General Directors and National Directors when there is a necessity. He is also responsible as a General Coordinator for SANUTRIO Program appointed by the Minister, together with Vice-Minister of MSSI, Country Representative WFP and ADB.

His day to day work as a coordinator for SANUTRIO Program is to help facilitating, coordinating in the process of the implementation of SANUTRIO program, in which INSPIRE is embedded.



Camilla Holmemo
Practice Manager for Social Policy
East Asia and the Pacific
World Bank

Camilla Holmemo leads World Bank's engagement on social policy, social protection and labor in the region. Prior to this, she was the Social Protection and Labor manager for West and Central Africa. She worked for several years as the World Bank's Practice Leader for Human Development in India and Indonesia, where she coordinated and led the World Bank's largest human development work programs on health, education and social protection in the world. She has held leadership positions in strategic, policy and operational work on social protection and human development based in Addis Ababa, Manila, Jakarta, Bangkok and Washington, DC

and worked in a number of countries in Africa and South and East Asia. From 2006 – 2010 she worked for the Asian Development Bank based in the Philippines.

Camilla holds an M.A in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. in Economics and Russian from the University of Oslo, Norway.



Lili Mohiddin
Humanitarian Advisor – Social Protection
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
(FCDO), United Kingdom

Lili Mohiddin is a Humanitarian Adviser in FCDO's Resilience and Social Protection Team, supporting the Better Assistance in Crises programme. Experience includes Ethiopia, where she produced evidence mapping on conflict shock-responsive social protection and supported UNICEF and the Cash Working Group to improve coordination between humanitarian cash and the Productive Safety Net Programme. In Uganda, she worked on coherence across social protection, disaster risk management and climate funding.