Speakers and moderator Bios

Session: Climate Change and UNHCR Strategic Framework for Climate Action

Date 25 June 2021, 14:30-16:00 BKK Time

Moderator	
  Katja Rytkonen, Policy Officer, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific	Based in Bangkok, **Katja Rytkonen** is Policy Officer with UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and the regional focal point for climate action. With UNHCR, she has held various positions in field operations and HQ working on protection, policy, CCCM and coordination. Previously she worked mainly on international affairs and human rights with governmental and intergovernmental organizations such as European Union and Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
Speakers	
  Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action to UNHCR High Commissioner	**Andrew Harper** is the Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. He is responsible for providing strategic guidance, oversight and expertise to shape UNHCR's response to the climate emergency. Prior to his current tasks, he was the Director of the Division of Programme Support & Management (DPSM), where he oversaw programme policy, planning and management, as well as technical support to field operations. Andrew has led the Innovation Service in UNHCR and was responsible for leading and coordinating the international response to the Syrian Crisis in Jordan. Some of the main achievements included responding to, at the time, the largest refugee crisis in the world, the establishment of the Zaatari and Azraq refugee camps, introducing biometric registration and linking that to the world's largest biometric based refugee cash assistance programme. Andrew also served as the Head of Desk for UNHCR, covering the Iraq Situation, as well as the Emergency Focal Point for the Middle East and North Africa region for the Libyan Crisis. He has previously worked notably for the Australian Embassy in Turkey and UNOCHA, and in various field locations with

	UNHCR, including Central and Southeast Asia, the Western Balkans, Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine.
	Khalil Karimi, DRC area program Manager and the protection cluster co-lead for western region, graduated from law and political sciences faculty of Herat University in 2011. He started his career as the project manager for a child protection program with a local NGO and then joined the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) as a Protection Officer in 2015. In 2020 he was promoted to the area program manager and co-lead for the protection cluster in western region.
Nishanie Jayamaha, Learning and Programme Coordinator, ICVA	**Nishanie Jayamaha** is ICVA's Learning and Programme Coordinator and she leads ICVA's work on learning, climate and environment action, civil society space and protection. She has over 20 years of experience of working with the United Nations, Government institutions, the NGO and private sectors in conflict, natural and complex emergency contexts at country and HQ levels.
David Badal Gomes, Program Manager and EES Advisor, TearFund	**David Badal Gomes** This is David Badal Gomes, serving for Tearfund as Program Manager and EES Advisor for the country program. In my professional life, I worked with CBM International, World Vision Bangladesh and Caritas Bangladesh and some other consulting firms. My area of expertise is program management both development and humanitarian response. Environment, economic development and climate change is my passion to learn and integrate in the program.
James Rana Baidaya, Asia Regional Disaster Management & Capacity Strengthening Coordinator	**James Rana Baidaya** This is James Rana Baidaya, working with Tearfund as Asia Regional Disaster Management & Capacity Strengthening Coordinator. And also covering the Rohingya Response Manager role in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh. Previously worked with World Vision Korea & Bangladesh offices, Winrock International, Korean International Cooperation Agency & some local organizations in Bangladesh. Experienced in Disaster Contingency Planning, Preparedness and Emergency response works.