

2022 FELLOW BIOS

Say Sivutha **Cambodia**

Sivutha is a social health protection specialist at the General Secretariat for the National Social Protection Council in Cambodia. In this role, his primary duty is to push forward the “Moving Toward UHC in Cambodia” reform agenda. With the goal of generating robust, insightful, and contextual policy options for social health protection, he conducts policy research and develops UHC-related policy documents and content to support the reform process. He also liaises with stakeholders in the field both to harness their resources for UHC reform and to advocate for the reform agenda. Ensuring that poor and vulnerable populations can access sufficient, and affordable, quality health services without financial hardship is a complex process, he finds, and his work on helping to develop the UHC concept, drafting the UHC roadmap, advancing smaller work packages under the roadmap, conducting research activities to shed light on each package, stakeholder advocacy, and numerous other steps are integral to the success of the reform agenda. Sivutha expects that the Equity Initiative will give him a better understanding of health equity frameworks, values, and actions, which will be valuable to him as he begins drafting a roadmap for achieving UHC in Cambodia.



Sreypeov Tun **Cambodia**

Sreypeov is the head of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Puthisastra where she leads a team to provide quality nursing education at the associate and bachelor degree levels. Originally trained as a clinical nurse, she currently is involved in revising the national curriculum for nursing, particularly updating the content of courses on human pathology and nursing skills. She also works with a private company to educate stakeholders about proper nutrition for different age groups. In her earlier work with an international organization, Sreypeov managed an “Electronic Medical Library” project, which developed a database and trained users to find information to improve their clinical practices. The library continues to operate, through a public hospital, and new generations of doctors, nurses, and students continue to benefit from its resources. She is deeply interested in promoting women’s health and care for the elderly, and she also wants to increase global warming awareness among health care workers. Sreypeov hopes her EI fellowship will help her clarify a path toward her goal of establishing a retirement center to take care of chronic patients and the elderly whose children have migrated to other countries, as well as strengthen her leadership skills.



Dong Dong
China

Dong is an assistant professor in the Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care, Faculty of Medicine, Hong Kong. She also is the principal investigator of the Rare Disease Real-World Data Lab at the Shenzhen Research Institute. In 2014, Dong launched a long-term ethnographic study on patients and their families affected by rare diseases in mainland China. Her work has shown that these patients frequently lack equitable access to diagnosis, treatment, social care, and other opportunities. Dong believes that data can help policy makers and the public grasp the scale of such problems, so in 2016 she initiated the General Social Survey of Patients with Rare Diseases in China (GSSPRD). The GSSPRD has been conducted three times, and it will eventually become an open database that allows researchers and the public to explore the burden of diseases and other health care problems faced by rare disease patients in China. Dong also is interested in migrant health issues, and she currently leads three major research projects on primary health care for South Asian migrants in Hong Kong. She is eager to collaborate with patient communities, scholars, and all stakeholders to raise the profiles of rare diseases in Asia.



Haibin Zhou
China

Haibin is the founder and executive director of Easy Inclusion, a diversity and disability inclusion consultancy, and secretary general of the ILO Global Business and Disability Network China Chapter. He brings to these roles a passion for creating equal access to employment, promoting vocational rehabilitation, and empowering public systems for persons with disabilities (PWDs). In 2007, when Haibin was a student at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing Center, he visited several of Heifer's projects in Sichuan province. Seeing how Heifer integrated respect for human dignity into its poverty alleviation work was a turning point for him, and he decided to join the cause of supporting human dignity, especially for marginalized people. Today much of his work involves applying the human rights standards in Chinese businesses. Haibin's most recent initiative was the "Ten Cities Initiative," a skills development campaign for students with disabilities through a collaboration with government, enterprises, universities, and social organizations. He also coordinated pilot projects to incorporate supported employment for PWDs into the five-year national disability development plans. Through the Equity Initiative, Haibin expects to access additional sources of information on health equity and social inclusiveness and broaden his network, in ways that will strengthen his work on behalf of PWDs.



Benny Prawira **Indonesia**

Benny is a psychological researcher, global mental health advocate, and mindfulness and compassion trainer. He currently serves as South East Asia Regional Lead in the Global Mental Health Peer Network. He founded *Into The Light Indonesia* (Yayasan Insan Teman Langit), a youth based suicide prevention community in 2013. He also is involved in several international collaborative research and programs aimed at reducing suicide stigma and building community members' capacity for suicide prevention. Benny started his suicide prevention work as he found very little information about suicide prevention in Bahasa Indonesia, and



he also was disturbed about the way Indonesian online news outlets sensationalized and stigmatized suicide news. Those experiences motivated him to work with allies and the National Press Council on developing Indonesian suicide news reporting guideline, which was published in 2019. Benny is particularly interested in meeting the needs of marginalized groups, who tend to have higher rates of suicide and self-harm ideation, yet often lack access to mental health services. He hopes the Equity Initiative will help him find ways to develop compassionate mental health care within Indonesia's health system so that it will become more accessible and inclusive to marginalized groups.

Egi Abdul Wahid **Indonesia**

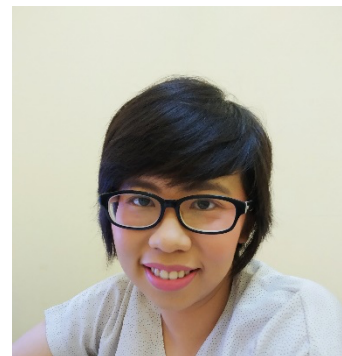
Egi is the program director of the Centre for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives (CISDI) – a local NGO focusing on sustainable development issues, especially health system strengthening and health policy advocacy. He is responsible for the quality of a broad range of efforts related to improving human resources for health, community involvement, policy and budget support, data accountability and good governance. Egi's passion for providing quality health services, especially to vulnerable groups and in remote areas, caught fire seven years ago, when he was working as a community health nurse in a remote area. The huge gap between



the quality of health facilities in urban versus rural areas became immediately tangible to him, prompting him to pursue a master's degree in primary health care and then put his energy into the field of strengthening primary health services. Now, at CISDI, he manages the Pencerah Nusantara Initiative; this "healthy archipelago" program provides benefits to more than 500 health centers and reaches more than 10 million people throughout the country. Egi hopes that exchanging ideas and experiences with EI Fellows from other countries will help him better understand equity issues and learn about innovative ways to reduce inequities in health services.

Putri Widi Saraswati
Indonesia

Putri is a public health professional and medical doctor from Indonesia, who has worked for more than seven years on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equity in clinical settings and with civil society. She recently received a master's degree in public health from a university in the Netherlands and is currently doing research and projects on health system strengthening and health financing in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). She also is co-authoring a study about COVID-19 vaccination safety for vulnerable populations, leading a youth ambassador program, and serving as a scientific committee member of an Indonesian professional organization



focusing on adolescent health. Putri brings keen interests in intersectional feminism and social justice in health to her work as a health professional. She primarily focuses on marginalized populations, which she sees as the focus of her broader mission of realizing health for everyone – across different intersecting determinants of health and identities globally, regionally, and nationally. She is active in using social media to educate and advocate for gender and health equity. Through the Equity Initiative, Putri looks forward to engaging with Southeast Asian professionals and finding new opportunities to collaborate on global health equity.

Rosadalima Dee Panda
Indonesia

Rosadalima (Rosa) is a change-seeker who develops community-driven programs for WASH in Southeast Asia (WISE) to strengthen the voices and power of communities and build solidarity across borders to create change. In this role, she leads and initiates the implementation and development of projects related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), education and ecotourism. She leads and manages the team and in handwashing education in schools and sanitary education for teenagers program. She is a member of an organization that supports young farmers, serves as a volunteer for a local foundation, and develops a platform for ecotourism and



environmental awareness in her area. Rosa changed the direction of her career when she left her position with a private company in Jakarta to earn a master's degree in environmental engineering and then returned to her hometown of Nagekeo, East Nusa Tenggara in 2018. Adjusting to life in her hometown after years in Jakarta initially was challenging, but she has found satisfaction in joining forces with others who want to develop a community and serve the young people who live there. Rosa hopes the Equity Initiative will enrich her experience in health equity and open new opportunities for collaboration in community development.

Anan Bouapha
Laos

Anan is the founder and president of Proud To Be Us Laos, which is among the first civil society organizations in Laos promoting equal rights for the LGBTQI community. Anan oversees the overall operation of the organization, and coordinates its relations with government, international development, and civil society partners. He leads Proud To Be Us Laos' advocacy efforts, which focus on three priority areas: fair and equal provision of sexual health care services, removing stigma and discrimination against LGBTQI in educational institutions, and ensuring equal employment opportunities. Anan is passionate about the social inclusion of marginalized populations, and he believes that a nation will not be able to reach its development goals unless people from all walks of life are included. Prior to forming Proud To Be Us Laos in 2012, he worked as an AIDS activist, calling on national stakeholders and international organizations to view the LGBTQI community as an important resources in the collective fight against HIV/AIDS. He was instrumental in organizing the first pride event in Laos in 2012. Anan expects that the viewpoints of other EI Fellows will give him a broader understanding of equity issues and will generate a synergy they can direct toward innovative solutions.



Chandavieng Phimmavong
Lao PDR

Chandavieng (Meenoy) is a member of the academic staff at the Faculty of Public Health, University of Health Science. Meenoy draws on her experience working on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH) to prepare the curriculum and course work for subjects related to adolescent SRH, HIV/AIDS, family planning, and gender equality. She also serves as a research team member for public health projects related to health and gender inequality. When Meenoy worked as an outreach worker and trainer for the Vientiane Youth Center (2010-2020), she found that young people often lacked access to accurate information about sexuality, and there are few teachers trained to educate adolescents about SRH. She promoted SRH to young people in Vientiane and some provinces through mobile and outdoor activities at schools, factories, and public spaces. She also trained more than 500 young people to be peer educators and peer volunteers capable of promoting accuracy in SRH education, providing basic counseling, and referring young people with SRH concerns to youth-friendly health services. As an EI Fellow, Meenoy expects to gain a deeper understanding of health justice and to find ways to link her work at local and national levels to regional efforts.



Andrew Laitha
Myanmar

Andrew is a research analyst at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), an organization that offers research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. In this role, Andrew assists with the development and implementation of quantitative surveys and the organization and analysis of data. He currently is assessing agricultural exports, value chains, and shocks, including the impacts of political unrest, COVID-19, and policy changes, under the Feed the Future Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity, funded by USAID. He previously served as a consultant to the International Labour Organization, working on the Responsible Supply Chains in Asia program. Hailing from the most remote and poorest part of Chin State, Andrew cares about improving the income, health, and livelihoods of poor and marginalized subsistence/smallholder farmers in Myanmar. He is passionate about analyzing all issues surrounding these vulnerable groups and formulating actionable policy solutions. As a research analyst, he is interested in investigating poverty and inequality, sustainable economic growth and development, women's empowerment, labor economics, and applied econometrics. Through the Equity Initiative, Andrew hopes to gain knowledge from other Fellows and experts on how social issues are resolved in other parts of the world.



Eaint Thiri Thu
Myanmar

Thiri is a freelance researcher and documentary producer whose work focuses on conflict and human rights. She also works as a fixer, a profession that draws on her expertise as a journalist, tour guide, interpreter and serves as a bridge between different cultures, languages, and people. She has worked as a freelancer for international organizations and media outlets for ten years, reporting on political, social, economic and conflict issues of Myanmar, and she has produced two award-winning current affairs documentaries. She also has conducted field research and helped with reports and advocacy for human rights organizations. In December 2019, she took over the operation of a small bar and restaurant in Yangon, which features ethnic foods from Northern Shan State, Chin State and Kachin State and creates income generation opportunities for people in conflict-affected areas. Thiri's vision is that the venue will serve a hub for journalists, activists, and artists; an environment where people can eat healthy foods; and a business that respects the rights of employees and integrates equity concepts into the workplace. Thiri hopes to engage with Fellows from a wide range of disciplines so that she can further develop her ideas for upgrading food quality and health equity.



Naw Pue Pue Mhote

Myanmar

Naw (Tee Tar) is the deputy director of the Burma Medical Association (BMA), and she also serves as a coordinator for a network of partner organizations called the Health Information System Working Group. In this role, she is responsible for all program and office activities and for taking strategic decisions regarding programs, development partnerships, and future directions. She has led efforts to develop an evidence-based health information platform for ethnic and community-based health organizations, drawing on data from all partner population surveys on health and human rights abuses. The ultimate goal for her project is to set up an information lab that will support evidence-based decision making and raise awareness in the international community about health and human rights abuses in minority ethnic settings. Tee Tar views access to health care as a fundamental human right, and she is committed to improving the health status of vulnerable communities in neglected areas through data gathering, research, raising awareness at local and international levels, and advocacy. She hopes she can use the new knowledge and broader skills she develops through the Equity Initiative to set up a research hub for groups that facilitate ethnic minority health in Myanmar.



Tun Nay-Lin

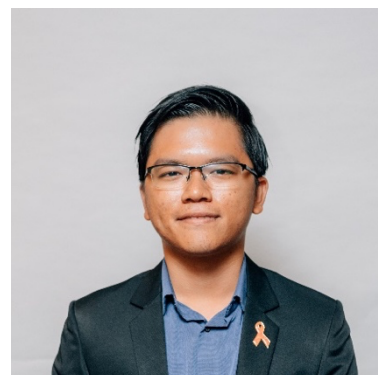
Myanmar

Nay-Lin, a medical doctor by training, works as a program manager for a local organization that focuses on social cohesion and pluralism among diverse communities. In this role, he manages programs that help vulnerable communities in remote, hard-to-reach, and conflict-affected areas of Myanmar access health services and provide financial assistance to injured civilians who need emergency referrals to private hospitals. Having seen how unequal economic development translates into inequity in health services, Nay-Lin has a strong commitment to working toward formulating a sustainable health system in Myanmar and developing policies that will reduce the out-of-pocket health expenditures. Nay-Lin experienced a turning point in his career in 2017 when he went to the northern Rakhine areas. Witnessing people's suffering and discrimination firsthand compelled him to initiate mobile health clinics and speak out about health care challenges in the media. On a voluntary basis, he is coordinating international donations and grants to field medical teams in Sagaing, Magway, Kachin, Karen, and Kayah regions. Nay-Lin was invited to speak to diplomats at the G20 meeting in Rome in 2021 about developments in Myanmar. In joining the Equity Initiative, he hopes to explore global perspectives and local actions that can lead to health equity solutions.



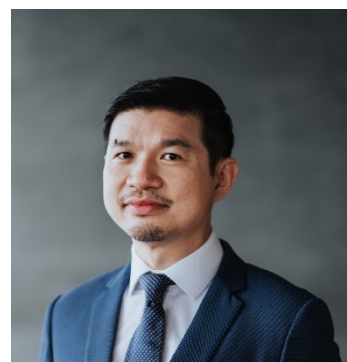
Collins Santhanasamy
Malaysia

Collins is a medical doctor who is training to become a disaster specialist through the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Program organized by the University of Oviedo (Spain), Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), and University of Nicosia (Cyprus). In 2013, when he was a medical student in Bangladesh, Collins founded the MExchange – a pilot project that works to build community resilience and empower vulnerable communities through health care and education in the Chittagong and Cox Bazar regions. Since then, the MExchange has helped nearly 4,000 patients gain access to primary health care services, built schools, and worked with grassroots communities in the development of sustainable solutions. Collins is particularly interested in community-led initiatives and developing localized and sustainable solutions. He also is an innovator: in 2019 he was part of a five-person team that conceptualized the idea for an ultra-low cost bCPAP device that could be used for neonatal asphyxia. Collins currently is working on a project that aims to reduce risk and better prepare local communities across Malaysia and the ASEAN region to respond to disasters. Collins sees his EI fellowship as an opportunity to develop new skills in the field of community empowerment and to network with like-minded professionals on sustainable solutions.



Swee Kheng Khor
Malaysia

Swee Kheng (SK) is an associate fellow of Chatham House, a senior visiting fellow at UN University, and the founder/CEO of Angsana Health. He is a medical doctor specializing in health policy and global health and focusing on the political economy of health, human capital for health, and the organization of healthcare services. He founded Angsana to deliver integrated and value-based solutions in primary and preventive healthcare. Health justice is the theme that defines SK's career. In a 16-year career covering more than 90 countries, he has worked in public hospitals, served refugees, conducted emergency relief missions, led health care anti-corruption efforts, and advocated for health justice and health systems strengthening. With experience in the public, corporate and civil society sectors, he builds coalitions to achieve common objectives, such as the Malaysian Health Coalition, with 52 member societies devoted to public health and health systems strengthening. At the start of COVID-19, the Coalition mobilized a team of 200 volunteers to fill an "information vacuum," creating ten public health messages in 29 languages. SK looks forward to being part of the EI's network and believes its interdisciplinary approach to health equity will be valuable as he develops his own ideas for health services.



Jose Augustus G. Villano
Philippines

Augustus (Agah) is a planning officer and the acting head of the Policy and Planning Unit of the Commission on Population and Development – the lead agency promoting the Philippine Population Management Program to 72 local government units in Region IX. Agah is concerned about the health disparities that women from ethnic tribes experience. In his policy work, he advocates for grassroots projects that benefit women from indigenous communities. He is interested in conducting sociological studies to grasp the needs of marginalized communities. An observational study in Zamboanga City inspired him to develop a peer-to-peer program to support men towards responsible parenthood and family planning. He developed an initiative to help nomadic Sama Badjau women improve their health-seeking behavior, practice family planning, and strengthen their capacity in income-generating enterprises. He is currently working on institutionalizing the Dumalinao Municipality Teen Hub: a convergence venue for youth to access information and services to reduce teen pregnancies and other risky behaviors. He also mentors the implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education curriculum and Adolescent Reproductive Health convergence in Dipolog City. Through the Equity Initiative, Agah hopes to strengthen his leadership skills, better understand the social determinants of health, and expand his professional network.



Maria Shairra A. Pacia Bello
Philippines

Shairra is the co-founder and Behavioral Insights and Innovation Head at AHA! Behavioral Design — an agency that uses applied behavioral science to embed culture-changing behaviors in diverse communities. She manages a portfolio of behavioral nudge projects in the areas of public health, financial inclusion, and active citizenship. In 2020, she worked with the Department of Health (DOH) on a program to increase the practice of wellness behaviors among COVID-19 healthcare professionals. This program is earmarked to be part of DOH's strategic policy plan as the first mental health program for public hospitals. Through her previous roles in community development, Shairra noticed how marketing campaigns and education drives did not always lead to positive behavior change as seen through repeated patterns of knowledge-action gaps. This led her to research on the science behind behavioral change. Her long-term vision is to build up the capacity of leaders to use Behavioral Design to incite healthier and more productive behaviors that will enable Filipinos to live happier lives. Through the EI fellowship, Shairra looks forward to being part of a co-learning environment and to learn best practices for systems change, which she can utilize to develop the Philippines' first Public Health Behavioral Change Lab.



Noel L. Bernardo
Philippines

Noel started his career as a Doctor-to-the-Barrios, delivering care to underserved communities in geographically-isolated areas of the Philippines. Together with his team in Batanes, he advocated for the establishment of an interlocal service delivery network, initiated drafting of investment plans for health, encouraged adaptation of technology in health processes, and promoted risk reduction and disaster resilience. Noel also was the incident commander of Inter-Sectoral COVID-19 Task Force, whose policies helped to minimize the effect of the pandemic. In 2021, Noel joined the Philippine Red Cross, where he lead the clinical services of the organization. He also managed various COVID-19 response programs such as the national vaccination program and community-based isolation facilities. Moreover, he is the Director of the Philippine Red Cross COVID-19 Emergency Field Hospital, the biggest tent hospital complex in the country dedicated to COVID-19 treatment. To date, he continues to serve as a humanitarian physician, public health consultant, and pandemic response lead for various public agencies, private groups, and non-government organizations. Through his EI fellowship experience, he hopes to become better equipped with the knowledge, skills, and network to promote healthy, resilient, and sustainable communities where everyone's health is prioritized and protected – before, during, and after disasters.



Yves Miel H. Zuniga
Philippines

Yves is the co-founder and deputy director for policy and partnership at MentalHealthPH, a youth-led social advocacy organization that uses social media and digital technology to promote mental health in the Philippines. Yves has spearheaded the organization's online and on-the-ground campaigns, which have motivated other Filipinos to organize MentalHealthPH in their own cities and regions, and he represents the organization in policy discussions and dialogues with the Department of Health, World Health Organization, and other key stakeholders. He is committed to leveraging the power of information to change the inequitable mental health service landscape in the Philippines. Yves' background is in health systems, health policy, and health technologies. Previously, as a senior health program officer with the Department of Health – Health Technology Assessment Unit, he co-led assessments on different health technologies, including COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. He also co-authored the new implementing guidelines on health technology assessment, which aim to better inform policy, coverage, and funding allocation on health technologies. Yves believes that his Equity Initiative experience will help him grow in his role as a thought leader in public health, especially in terms of policy and advocacy for equity.



Chan Chi Ling
Singapore

Chi Ling holds a dual appointment as deputy director at Open Government Products and Singapore's Ministry of Health. She is responsible for setting up an experimental sandbox for health tech, and she also drives reviews of technology policies to create new space for modernizing health tech infrastructure. She is involved in building new systems for medical social workers, and digitizing referral workflows for clinicians to support policy shifts toward improving population health. Her overall goal is to build products that bring joy to users, empower patients to take greater ownership of their health, and free up clinicians' time to deliver better patient-centered care. Chi Ling applied her health tech expertise to meet new demands during the COVID-19 pandemic. She and her team developed Singapore's COVID-19 Management Backbone, a central data depository and exchange gateway that allowed test and vaccination data to flow seamlessly across government and citizen-facing applications. She initiated and launched the Singapore Healthcare Corps to train and deploy nurses, swabbers, and support care staff critical health care roles amidst a manpower crunch. Through the Equity Initiative fellowship, Chi Ling hopes to expand her field of vision and deepen her understanding of health and societal challenges regionally and globally.



Clive Tan
Singapore

A physician and public health specialist by training, Clive is the director for integrated care planning in Singapore's National Healthcare Group. He brings deep expertise in data analytics to this position, which he uses to facilitate system-level improvements and transform the delivery of care serving close to two million people. He and his team are taking steps to plan for and operationalize health care and service delivery in ways that will better reach underserved populations and respond more effectively to those who have poor health and complex health needs. Clive previously served as a medical officer in the Singapore military for 16 years in various operational, leadership, and planning roles. During his military service he developed more than 10 data dashboards to analyze a range of health issues. He also is a founding member of the Precision Public Health Asia Society, where he currently leads a team on developing a white paper on "Responsible Data Sharing in Health and Healthcare". He serves as an adjunct assistant professor with various public health schools and programs in Singapore. Clive looks forward to sharing in the Equity Initiative's infectious positive energy and being part of a group committed to moving health equity issues forward.



Ada Chirapaisarnkul
Thailand

Ada is the CEO of TaejaiDotcom, the first and largest civic crowdfunding platform in Thailand with a mission to connect citizen philanthropists with on-the-ground changemakers. Under Ada's leadership, TaejaiDotcom has supported initiatives to make health care and other social services more accessible to the least privileged populations in Thailand, and it has been instrumental in mobilizing resources for populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to her roles at TaejaiDotcom, Ada has worked in various ways to build the social investment sector, shape national and regional



social investment landscapes, and engage new social impact players in Thailand and Asia. She mentors current and future changemakers and shares her expertise with other civil society organizations that aim to support, engage, and educate active citizens or empower less advantaged populations. In 2008 she set up the Thai Young Philanthropist Network (TYPN) as a means to connect people who want to build a social entrepreneurship movement in Thailand; since then, TYPN has engaged about 1,800 active citizens in public and social services and empowered 60 for-impact organizations. Ada looks forward to being part of the Equity Initiative's multidisciplinary network, with Fellows amplifying their impact by working collectively toward shared goals.

Alisa Hasamoh
Thailand

Alisa is a lecturer and the head of the Social Development Department at Prince of Songkla University. As a sociologist, she uses her knowledge to create courses in the development and disasters curriculum. She also works with the Deep South Relief and Reconciliation Foundation, an NGO that promotes physical and mental health in conflict areas of the southern border provinces of Thailand, and is a founder and leader of the Deepsouth Women's Network Association for Disaster Mitigation, an organization that empowers women with the skills to deal with disaster situations. Alisa's work is driven by her belief that people should have equal access to medical care, and that everyone should be equipped with the knowledge and skills to care for themselves and their families when struck by illness or a disaster situation. To advance that goal, she applies her expertise in the causes and consequences of health and illness, investigates the social behaviors of people in remote areas, builds social networks and explores ways to improve health care delivery systems. Alisa hopes to get fresh ideas from other EI Fellows, which will help to strength her health equity work in Thailand, develop university curricula, and initiate social innovation for vulnerable groups.



Bampen Chaiyarak
Thailand

Bampen (Aew) is the research coordinator for the Eco-Culture Study Group, a community-based organization focusing on ecology and health equality in local communities, especially those affected by the environmental, social, and health impacts of mining. As anthropologist, she looks for ways to increase people's participation and social engagement in the process of restoring the health of social-ecological systems. She has helped introduce community-led health assessments and other trust-based practices that aim to ensure the sustainability of ecosystems and build greater equity in decision making. Aew enjoys writing about environmental health and social justice issues, drawing on the research base of others and her own fieldwork. She has written several books and news reports that highlight the history of health injustice in the mining industry in Thailand and the need for social-ecological system health. She also is involved in the Campaign for Public Policy on Mineral Resources, which advocates to protect human rights in the context of natural resources extractive industries in Thailand, and she is a founder of HomDokHung, a community-based organization for the preservation of native rice varieties. Aew hopes her EI fellowship experience will help her learn a variety of cooperative processes to manage environmental and ecological systems recovery.



Ittinat Seeboonruang
Thailand

Ittinat works as a trainer, facilitator, and conference interpreter to foster communication and connection in the development sector. He facilitates collaboration between local professionals and international experts in such areas as climate change, financial literacy, gender, and mental health. He recently served as a national consultant for Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung (DSIK) project in northeast Thailand, a vastly underserved area of the country. The project designed financial tools, trained trainers in financial literacy, and developed strategies to access financial resources. He is a volunteer interpreter for the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand, which he sees as a platform for giving people a chance to make their voices heard on crucial socio-political issues. Ittinat saw how the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the lack of mental health awareness, and he believes that introducing mental health support systems and infrastructure in workplaces throughout Thailand will tangibly improve the well-being of the entire society. That realization has inspired him to pursue an advanced degree in music therapy, with the goal of using music to heal and empower people. Ittinat believes the Equity Initiative will provide him with the knowledge, experience, and platforms that will enable him to work more directly on supportive policies and systems for mental health.



Le Quang Tram Tinh
Viet Nam

Tinh is the senior program manager of The Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), an international development organization that trains and empowers local eye doctors, nurses, and health workers across 25 countries. Tinh has worked in the vision care sector for nearly 15 years. His current portfolio includes expanding vision care for students with national and provincial stakeholders, working with district hospitals to improve access to vision care services for vulnerable people, including women, disabled people, and ethnic minorities. Before his current post, Tinh provided technical support to a number of Asian countries as FHF's program manager for Asia.



For instance, in Laos, Tinh coordinated with the country team to implement a community eye care project in 10 provinces, and discussed options for a first-time national eye health strategy and training curricula for ophthalmic nurses and ophthalmologists. He is passionate about improving lives for vulnerable people, and dreams of a world in which disadvantaged people can work, study, and enjoy their lives without the burden of blindness. Tinh sees the EI fellowship as an opportunity to learn from experts and peers, and to collaborate on improving the lives of marginalized communities.

Nguyen Hoang Chieu Anh
Viet Nam

Chieu Anh is a psychological counselor and pioneer educator who works with Vietnamese teachers and parents to improve mental health and social connections. She has designed educational programs in social and emotional learning, teacher effectiveness, and positive discipline in everyday parenting, among other topics; crafted lesson plans on mindfulness; and helped strengthen school psychological programs. Chieu Anh was the co-founder of several social enterprise initiatives focusing on building an ecosystem for raising a child and on harmonious relationships between schools and families. She also has been a lecturer and coordinator in the liberal education program of Hoa Sen University. The COVID-19 pandemic made Chieu Anh more aware of the challenges that medical staff face in sustaining their mental health, and that is motivating her to take action to support and improve the mental wellness of these frontline caregivers. She believes the benefits of these actions will extend from individual health care workers to their patients, families, and the health care system as a whole. Chieu Anh believes the Equity Initiative's learning resources and peer support will help her pursue her goal of becoming a leader in expanding mental health services in Viet Nam.



Pham Thi Ngoc Bich
Viet Nam

Bich is the coordinator for the Viet Nam Solid Waste Management Project (VnSWM) of the Federation of the Canadian Municipalities. She coordinates project activities and works with stakeholders to improve provincial solid waste practices. Prior to her role at VnSWM she participated in several solid waste management projects of the European Commission and UN-Habitat in Viet Nam. Her 18 years of experience in this field have built her knowledge of the flow of resources, her ability to assess progress, and her understanding of how cultural behavior influences the city environment. This experience also motivated her to start new projects to change young people's attitudes toward food culture; rural farmers' and gardeners' practices with respect to organic foods production and processing; and change in food security and food and organic waste practices throughout society. Bich also is a strong advocate for green, open public spaces, which she sees as an integral part of a healthy and sustainable communities. She has been involved in creating a "garbage to garden" project in Dong Da District and playgrounds in Hanoi. By joining the EI Fellowship, she hopes to join forces with other Fellows to address environmental equity issues from food culture and waste management perspectives.



Tran Quynh Trang
Viet Nam

Trang is a system strengthening program officer for the Disability Program of the International Center, an organization that has addressed the consequences of war through its service programs in Viet Nam for the past four decades. Her work focuses on improving the capacity of the health sector workforce at national and subnational levels, developing a core competency framework for physical medicine and rehabilitation doctors, and setting up assistive technology and occupational units in hospital settings. Trang has more than 20 years of experience working with disadvantaged groups, especially people with disabilities (PWDs). She has worked with the Medical Committee of Netherlands-Vietnam; the International Labour Organization, where she promoted labor rights and opportunities for PWDs; and with Catholic Relief Services, where she worked on inclusive education for children with disabilities. Trang frequently joins volunteer groups of doctors and technicians to provide medical exams for people living in remote and disadvantaged areas of Viet Nam, and she is one of the founding members of the Occupational Therapists Network in Viet Nam. Through the EI Fellowship, Trang hopes to share experiences and learning with other Fellows on how to create an equal accessibility in all aspects of life.

