



Atlantic Fellows

FOR HEALTH EQUITY  
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



**2023**  
**FELLOWS**



## THE EQUITY INITIATIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Launched in 2016, the Equity Initiative (EI) Fellowship Program, also known as the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity in Southeast Asia (AFHESEA), is an exciting program whose goal is to nurture and facilitate the development of health equity leaders (500+) over the course of 20 years. This unique initiative is linked to global and regional institutions and partners and has access to world-class expertise and knowledge. The Equity Initiative has a long-term vision to advance health equity, but also has committed and sustained support. It is backed by a pooled fund from the **China Medical Board** and **The Atlantic Philanthropies**.

The EI fellowship is a lifelong journey that begins with an inspiring and rigorous Induction Year, followed by a longer-term practice-based commitment to health equity through collective leadership for social change. The Fellowship's goal is to advance Fellows' competency in **leadership** and **health equity**, and to inspire and deepen their commitment to advancing social justice in health.

The EI's induction year combines elements of peer, experiential, and blended online learning in its six modules: **Opening Retreat** – This orientation introduces new Fellows to each other and to the cross-cutting values and learning modules of the program. **Global Learning I and II** – International travel and academic sessions connect Fellows with world-class scholars and inspirational leaders, and expose them to on-the-ground health equity issues.

**Asia Trek** – Immersive learning within the Asian region gives Fellows a local lens for viewing transnational health issues. **Project Accelerator** – Training workshops and open discussion help Fellows refine ideas for their health equity projects and strengthen leadership and management competencies. **Annual Forum** – This event convenes Fellows from all cohorts and inducts newly graduated Fellows into the lifelong community of the Global Atlantic Fellows community.



## THE EQUITY INITIATIVE FELLOWS

We have invited Fellows to join this program on the basis of their demonstrated commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm for leading change for health equity. Fellows are the transformative change agents who will work to reform policies and systems, tackle social determinants, and address health inequities within and beyond the health sector.

The Equity Initiative Fellows are early-to-mid-career professionals from a range of backgrounds, disciplines, and life experiences, who share a passion, determination, and vision to advance social justice in health in Southeast Asia and China. Fellows are dynamic emerging leaders with innovative ideas and the courage, conviction, and capacity to bring lasting improvements to their communities and the world.



**NUR FAJRINI  
MATJALINA**

**BRUNEI**

**Nur Fajrini Matjalina (Faj)** is a scientific officer in the Department of Scientific Services, Ministry of Health in Brunei. In this role, she provides scientific analysis to public health safety and law enforcement agencies and facilitates internships for students within the department. A strong STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) advocate, Faj aspires to ignite a passion for STEM among children, students, and young adults, especially young women, by providing them with better access to learning opportunities. Faj also focuses on the issue of childhood obesity, and she has been working with a group of young leaders from different ministries to develop plans for early education on the benefits of mindful eating and active lifestyles among

children and young adults. The group collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Religious Affairs on a community outreach program and a school outreach program. During her PhD studies, Faj managed a project that led to three patented products. In 2015, she and her colleagues founded Smart Coating Technologies Sdn. Bhd. to commercialize the project's first licensed product. Recently, Faj was awarded the Women of the Future Award Southeast Asia in Science, Digital and Technology category for her groundbreaking patents in coating technologies.



**KANEKA  
KEO**

**CAMBODIA**

**Kaneka Keo** serves as the Inclusion Mekong Regional Water Governance Project – Phase II Manager for Oxfam, whose mission is to end poverty and injustice and support communities to build better lives for themselves. In her role, Kaneka has responsibilities for project management, financial management, human resource/talent management and development, and donor relations and fundraising. She finds meaning in applying her skills and knowledge on gender equality, disability, and social inclusion in the context of natural resource management and agricultural development. Kaneka embraces a feminist leadership approach to address health equity and social justice in the environmental sector. In her project work, she promotes

a feminist model of power sharing to ensure that women, especially indigenous women, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups in the Mekong region, receive equal treatment and care. Currently, she leads the Women Farmer Champion Network initiative aiming to demonstrate women's vital role and tremendous contribution in the Cambodian agriculture sector. Kaneka contributed to the development of a joint statement on women leaders and their journey to environmental justice at the Global South Women's Forum in 2021 and to the Global Political Declaration of Indigenous Women for the Second World Conference on Indigenous Women.



**MANILA  
PRAK**

**CAMBODIA**

**Manila Prak** is the Team Lead of the Healthcare Accreditation and Regulation, USAID Enhancing Quality of Healthcare Activities through FHI 360. In Cambodia, FHI 360's health programs address prevention, treatment and care related to HIV, sexually transmitted infections, substance use, tuberculosis, malaria, and other health needs. Manila's key responsibilities focus on healthcare accreditation, in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH); the system of licensing for private health facilities, also in partnership with MOH; and providing support to the five Health Professional Councils in Cambodia as they develop standards and scope of practice for nurses, midwives, physicians, dentists, and pharmacists. Manila's fields of expertise

are healthcare accreditation and nursing leadership. She is passionate about healthcare accreditation, as she sees this as a means to improve healthcare services across healthcare facilities in both the public and private sectors. She has been involved in the development of Cambodia Hospital Accreditation Standard. She also had a leading role in establishing the Cambodian Association of Nurses, oversaw the association's work for 10 years, and served as its president from 2019 to 2022. In 2020, Manila was recognized as one of the 100 outstanding women nurse and midwife leaders by Women in Global Health.



**YIWEI  
CHEN**

**CHINA**

**Yiwei Chen (Echo)** is the founder of Wonder Sir, a nonprofit platform designed to improve understanding of rare diseases among the public and medical professionals in China. Echo trained as a biologist, earning her PhD from the University of Heidelberg in 2013, and she worked as an R&D scientist to develop innovative gene therapies for rare diseases. Due to the rarity of each individual disease and scattered populations, patients face numerous difficulties in accessing diagnosis and treatment, and they often are affected by discrimination and social marginalization. Given these barriers, Echo decided to use her deepened understanding of rare diseases to raise public awareness and medical knowledge of rare diseases. In

2016, she founded Wonder Sir to empower rare disease communities through scientific communication, skills training, raising public awareness, and connecting patient communities with various service providers. Under her leadership, Wonder Sir has served approximately 100 patient communities with rare diseases across China. In 2021 Echo organized a pro bono course in popular science and genetic counseling, called "Wonder under the Rainbow," to eliminate barriers between patient communities and future medical professionals. She also serves as a member of several professional associations and academic communities related to rare diseases.



**TIANWEI  
LONG**

**CHINA**

**Tianwei Long** brings his background as a former tech scout as well as a caregiver to his role as Chief Innovation Officer at Illness Challenge Foundation- the largest patient umbrella foundation in China, with a focus on rare diseases. Tianwei manages innovation activities within patient communities and with partners such as researchers, entrepreneurs and pharmaceutical companies, with the goal of promoting patient-driven innovations that will respond to their unmet needs. Tianwei sees his mission as transforming the role of patients from passive research subjects into more active roles as innovators and bringing a new mindset to physicians, researchers, pharmaceutical professionals, and others engaged in healthcare. He thinks this

approach can be especially powerful in the rare disease community, where the lack of available treatments often drives patients and caregivers to innovate for themselves. Through the Inno4Rare co-creation process that Illness Challenge Foundation launched in 2021, patient communities and start-up communities have identified 14 unmet needs shared among different rare diseases and initiated more than 10 pilot projects. Tianwei draws inspiration for strengthening the voices of patients and their family caregivers from his father's experience of receiving two liver transplants and his mother's role as his primary caregiver.



**WANG  
LI**  
CHINA

**Wang Li** is the Program Development Manager for the Inclusion Factory, a social enterprise that hires people with intellectual disabilities and promotes the inclusive employment of them. In her role, she works on family support projects, job coach training sessions, and disability awareness workshops. She promotes an inclusion advisory module, which encourages corporations to directly employ people with intellectual disabilities and provides them with the conceptual and technical support to do so. She also provides a number of global supply chain companies in China with suggestions for inclusive employment. Li's greatest passion is for the well-being of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Having a

family member with an intellectual disability has given her a better understanding of equality and diversity, of how to respect others and be respected, and of what constitutes a better life. Working a documentary project in 2014 was an awakening for her, as she met compelling activists for disability rights who changed her perception of disability and opened her eyes to the potential of inclusive employment. As a non-disabled person with disability experience, she now finds that her most important contribution is to play the role of interpreter and facilitate interaction between the disability and non-disability communities.



**GIGIH REZKI  
SEPTIANTO**  
INDONESIA

**Gigih Rezki Septianto** is the co-founder and executive director of WeCare.id, an Indonesia-based crowdfunding platform that aims to close gaps in healthcare financing through collective philanthropic actions. WeCare.id enables patients and medical communities, including hospitals and other organizations, to fundraise and seek donors for their priority medical needs. Gaining access to adequate healthcare is a primary goal of WeCare.id as Indonesians living in underprivileged areas often need to self-fund the cost of getting to places with medical facilities capable of treating their conditions. Gigih's goal of improving access to care first took root as a child, when his parents opened a small village medical

clinic. Witnessing patients seeking treatment and alleviation from pain made him understand the importance of access to care and ultimately motivated him to design a platform to facilitate access. When COVID-19 struck, Gigih and his colleagues adjusted WeCare.id's operations to coordinate contributions, operate warehouses, and distribute personal protective equity to more than 3,000 healthcare providers across the country. In addition to his work with WeCare.id, Gigih is an active member of Global Shapers Community, a youth network under World Economic Forum, and he nurtures a small community that provides mental health support for entrepreneurs called @foundingwell.



**YUSTINA YUDHA  
NITA**  
INDONESIA

**Yustina Yudha Nita (Nita)** works for USAID Momentum Country and Global Leadership as a maternal, newborn and child health specialist for Cluster Timor – East Nusa Tenggara. The main goal of the program is to improve maternal and newborn health in targeted areas of Indonesia by enhancing capacity to deliver maternal, newborn, and child health services; strengthening community engagement; improving data quality; and other means. Nita's main task is to provide health technical standards and health guidance related to the main intervention of the project. She also continues to practice as a medical doctor, gaining deeper insights into the health issues of community members and public health concerns of her region. Working as a

contract doctor in a remote area of NTT Province was a turning point in Nita's career, as it highlighted for her that women and children in remote communities often lack access to quality health services. This prompted her to develop expertise in health system strengthening, with a particular focus on health financing and health workforce management. She has helped raise awareness and promote action through her support for the working group that developed to Road Map and Acton Plan for Stunting and Maternal – Newborn Death Reduction in NTT.



**I MADE  
WIKANDANA**  
INDONESIA

**I Made Wikandana (Wikan)** is Disability Inclusion Officer for UNICEF Indonesia, who works to ensure that disability inclusion practices and approaches are implemented where UNICEF works in Indonesia. In this role, he supports different sections of UNICEF to exchange knowledge, collaborate with representative of organizations of person with disabilities (OPDs), and ensure its programming areas and operational framework are always disability inclusive. Currently, he is involved in a project to generate evidence on the situation of children with disabilities in Indonesia. Four years after going blind at age 13, Wikan read an article about a blind person who was able to travel the world despite his blindness and study in top universities

around the world. That experience awakened a dream in him to see the world, and ultimately led to his passion for working in the field of international disability development. Wikan sees great potential in assistive technology to transform the lives of persons with disabilities and create more inclusive environments, and his goal is to ensure that such technology be made accessible and affordable. He brings to this mission his skills in working with grassroots organizations, his curiosity to learn, and his genuine knowledge and experience striving for disability inclusion.



**AGHNI  
ROCHMAWATI**  
INDONESIA

**Aghnia Dima Rochmawati (Dima)** is an in Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) Specialist at East Ventures Pte. Ltd., a venture capital firm, where she is responsible for sustainability reporting and the integration of ESG into the operation and strategy of the firm. Prior to joining East Ventures, Dima had six years of experience at the United Nations, most recently as the Gender and Climate Finance Officer at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Indonesia, where she worked together with government on several issues such as climate finance, gender mainstreaming, blue economy, circular economy, and impact investment. She conducted research and contributed inputs to many publications on gender equality, gender

responsive climate finance, adolescent's sexual reproductive health, and health related quality of life of youth. Dima graduated from Faculty of Public Health Universitas Indonesia and is passionate about advocating for health equity and social justice, especially in climate crisis. Dima believes that climate change and public health issues are interconnected, and she launched a new initiative in December 2022, called Indonesia Climate and Health Association, to bring together a network of professionals working at the intersection of climate change and public health.



**SOULIYA CHANNAVONG**

LAO PDR

**Souliya Channavong** (Pao) is a Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunization Officer at the World Health Organization Laos Country Office. In this role, she coordinates with the Laos Ministry of Health on the immunization program for both COVID-19 and routine vaccines. She also is responsible for monitoring the Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) surveillance, investigation, and causality assessment, as well as strengthening and capacity building for healthcare workers regarding the AEFI surveillance system. At the start of the country's COVID-19 vaccination campaign, she initiated and managed a team of 20+ volunteers to support the Ministry of Health in organizing mass vaccination sites. She also led 40+

university students on a house-to-house vaccination project in rural areas of Laos. Pao believes that primary healthcare is a human right and that vaccination is a crucial part of disease prevention. This motivates her efforts to provide essential health services to populations that are hard to reach, often due to ethnic disparities or limited infrastructure. She has developed creative means to educate communities about health, such as using Hmong community influencers in a video to overcome vaccination hesitancy. She also enjoys creating graphics, content, and video to empower young people.



**GUNENTHIRA RAO SUBBARAO**

MALAYSIA

**Gunenthira Rao Subbarao** (Gunen) is a specialist in public health medicine, currently working as a Senior Principal Assistant Director in the Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health (MOH), Malaysia. At the MOH, his main roles include planning, monitoring, and evaluating various programs under the Medical Development Division. Gunen has experience in policy and implementation work related to communicable and non-communicable diseases, and he has engaged with various ministerial agencies and non-governmental organizations on numerous public health programs. A turning point in Gunen's life was when he was given an opportunity to do research on marginalized groups as part of his PhD program. For his doctoral thesis, he

conducted a mixed-method study on factors contributing to depression among incarcerated people. Inmates held in prisons or detention centers are disproportionately affected by communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health problems, substance abuse, and many other issues. They also tend to receive inadequate healthcare before, during, and after incarceration, which further exacerbates their disadvantages. Gunen is passionate about advocating for policies that can improve the health equity of this vulnerable group, and he has facilitated an intervention model that includes various mental health interventions, religious programs, social events, health activities, harm reduction strategies.



**MADIYARASI VENGIDASAN**

MALAYSIA

**Madiyarasi Vengidasan** (Mady) is a dentist working in the public sector with Malaysia's Ministry of Health. Mady also is the founder of Dental Relief Malaysia, an organization that provides free dental services to refugee, marginalized, underserved, and undocumented communities, and the co-Founder of Little Happiness Project, a social enterprise that sells bamboo toothbrushes to raise funds for her outreach missions. Her passion is to provide oral health services to underserved populations, and she enjoys delivering services in a mobile setting and creating a strong connection between health professionals and community residents. Mady was twice selected for Mycorps Missions, a humanitarian initiative of the

Ministry of Youth and Sports, and was served on missions in Cambodia and Lebanon. During a water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) mission in Cambodia, she noticed the oral healthcare among villagers was neglected. That inspired her to gather a group of young dentists to conduct small-scale service missions targeting local communities in Malaysia. Since then, she has conducted 12 outreach missions locally and internationally. In the future, she hopes to open a full-fledged charity dental clinic that will provide accessible, high-quality treatment at a subsidized rate to refugees, low-skilled migrant workers, and other underserved communities.



**NADIRAH BINTI BABJI**

MALAYSIA

**Nadirah Binti Babji** currently is a postgraduate student in gender studies at the University of Malaya. Her research interests are in healthcare preparedness in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and the gender bias in healthcare. She is passionate about community health, sexual and reproductive health, and disaster response. Trained as a doctor, Nadirah has been involved in responding to disaster and humanitarian crises throughout the world. She has worked with major international nongovernmental organizations, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UNHCR, and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPFF). Nadirah's interest in women's health deepened during

her time as a senior humanitarian program officer at IPFF, where she worked on provision of Minimum Initial Service Packages (MISP) to disaster-affected communities. She also is interested in examining the impact of climate-related emergencies on sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health, and raising awareness of how the rate of GBV increases during disasters. She has led disaster response operations in Serbia (migration crises) and Indonesia (Typhoon Seroja operation); co-facilitated capacity building in community-based health and first aid and epidemic preparedness in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan; and developed capacity for the Malaysian Red Crescent Society on sexual and gender-based violence.



**SI THU HTIN AUNG**

MYANMAR

**Si Thu Htin Aung** (Si thu) works as a program coordinator for Swissaid Myanmar, managing a small grant fund. The primary focus of the program is to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations in the upland areas of Myanmar to deliver effective services to vulnerable communities. Sithu is passionate about helping vulnerable populations achieve health equity and his commitment follows two tracks: meeting the practical needs of vulnerable groups and building local capacity to strategically prepare for and respond to crises. His earlier experience working on drug policy dialogues gave him an appreciation for building ground-level understanding of health issues, taking a bottom-up approach to policy development,

and the importance of social justice in policy formulation. Through his work at Swissaid Myanmar, Si thu was able to collaborate with civil society organizations and local groups to deliver timely and effective support during the peak of COVID-19. He helped coordinate the roles of various stakeholders, such as donors and community partners, and contributed communications and management skills to these efforts. Si thu also serves as a volunteer lecturer at Myanmar Institute of Theology, Yangon, sharing experiences and teaching students about community development, and has written articles for policy journals.



**EI MON ZAW**

**MYANMAR**

**Ei Mon Zaw** is a medical doctor and public health specialist serving as the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Project Manager at the Suwannimit Foundation (SNF) in Mae Sot, Thailand. SNF is a local Thai foundation that works with its partners to deliver essential services to marginalized communities living along the Thailand-Myanmar border. Ei Mon's primary responsibilities at SNF include overall management of three SRHR projects, supervision of team members, monitoring and evaluation of projects, reporting, coordination with different stakeholders, and facilitating the overall growth and development of SNF. In her work, Ei Mon has witnessed inequity in healthcare services, including

in SRHR services for migrant and internally displaced populations. She has been involved in SNF's development of a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that can be used both in school and out of school in border areas of Myanmar-Thailand and in ethnic-controlled areas of Karen State in Myanmar. She successfully initiated a new SRHR and Gender-Based Violence project in Nansang township, Southern Shan State, Myanmar. Ei Mon also aims to raise awareness of SRHR among adolescents and youths, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and values that will empower them to realize their own rights and improve their personal and professional development.



**WAI LWIN**

**MYANMAR**

**Wai Lwin** is a health adviser at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the British Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar. In this role, he helps deliver the vision of the UK's International Development Strategy and FCDO's ambition for global health and provides policy, technical, and operational advice to ensure effective delivery of health programs for vulnerable people. He is particularly engaged in with UK health institutions that are helping to address health workforce challenges and health, education and protection needs of the displaced population in Myanmar. He also supports regional programs focusing on drug-resistant malaria and global health security. Throughout his career, Wai has been committed to

translating equity and key social principles into development programs. He is especially passionate about advocating for mothers and children to receive essential healthcare, particularly in terms of vaccinating children and making contraception accessible to women and girls. He initiated a community system to help pregnant women safely deliver their babies by working with midwives, villagers, authorities, and other stakeholders to identify and overcome barriers to quality delivery care. This experience gave him an appreciation for the roles and influence of key community actors, and how strategic engagement with them can lead to sustainable solutions.



**NAW MAY LYAR SOE**

**MYANMAR**

**Naw May Lyar Soe** (Maylyar) is the Assistant Manager of Fundraising and Grants for the Mae Tao Clinic, an internationally renowned community-based organization that provides and advocates for an equitable and essential health system, education, and protection for vulnerable and displaced people living along the Thailand-Myanmar border area and in eastern Myanmar. In this role, Maylyar identifies grant opportunities from a wide range of donors including international government agencies, INGOs, private foundations, individuals; manages donor relations; and strengthen monitoring and reporting systems. She also supports the critical work of the community-based organizations and ethnic health organizations that

partner with Mae Tao Clinic to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations. Maylyar's mother was an ethnic health worker, and her example inspired Maylyar's goals of improving access to health services for people in remote villages and empowering community members to participate in higher-level planning and policy-making processes. She also is passionate about helping youth develop and realize their personal, career, and leadership goals. Earlier in her career, she served for eight months as a mentor to aspiring youth living in a refugee camp along the Thai-Myanmar border, through the IRC-Wedu Mentorship Programme for Resilience and Self-Reliance.



**SABRINA LAYA GACAD**

**PHILIPPINES**

**Sabrina Laya Gacad** (Inna) is the founder and director of Lunas Collective, a feminist, volunteer-powered helpline and care space for people who experience gender-based violence, or discomfort and distress related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health. Lunas Collective also offers sexuality education that encourages people to seek help when necessary, and to build healthy relationships with themselves and those they love. Inna also is an assistant professor and the current chair of the Department of Women and Development Studies of the College of Social Work and Community Development at the University of the Philippines. In her research and work with Lunas Collective, Inna is exploring the many ways that health

and social welfare services can be improved to offer empathy and care as the first response to the personal experience of systemic inequality, and then help people take steps towards their idea of safety, well-being, and meaningful lives. Earlier in her career, she was a staffer in the House of Representatives during the years leading to the passage of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012. That experience, as well as her research on teen pregnancy, inspired her to focus on issues of gender, sexuality, and development.



**CHRISTIAN JAMES NAZARETH**

**PHILIPPINES**

**Christian James Nazareth** (James) is an island doctor in Siargao Islands in the Philippines. A general practitioner of medicine with a master's degree in public management for health systems and development, he works with various organisations for health systems design and innovations for geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities. Recently, he worked as one of the lead doctors in piloting of a Cuban health service delivery system in different island communities in southern Philippines. From 2016-2018, Doc James, as what his patients fondly call him, was a Doctor-to-the-Barrios under the Philippines' Department of Health. During those years, he was the lone doctor in a small island community, an experience

that exposed him to the deep realities of health inequity and transformed his way of practising medicine and public health. Coming from this experience, he came up with the Barangay Health Worker Academy, a project recognized as one of the national winners for Social Innovation in Health Initiative in 2021. James led the design of a comprehensive training program and manual for community health workers in marginalised communities. Since then, the manual has been translated into three languages and the program has trained more than 3,000 community health workers in over 50 municipalities in the Philippines.



**FARIDA MANGCAAN**  
PHILIPPINES

**Farida Mangcaan** (Fardz) is head of office for the Community and Family Services International (CFSI) in Iligan, located in the northern Mindanao area of the Philippines. She is a social worker committed to social justice, peace, and development, with interests focusing on humanitarian action, mental health and psychosocial support, nutrition and food security. Farida's primary responsibilities are leading CFSI's field operations in northern Mindanao; serving as focal point on issues related to child protection, preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, and emergency response. She leads field-level implementation of the Marawi COVID Recovery Project enable 4,000 households to recover from the early

economic and psychosocial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through collective efforts to prevent and respond to infection, improve the quality of life, strengthen relations between people, and promote greater prospects for peace. Farida also lectures and leads seminars on a wide range of topics, including social work practice, disaster risk and reduction, and gender-based violence. She provides free consultancy services and support to humanitarian workers and social work practitioners, and students and she is a member of the Philippine Association of Social Workers. In March 2021, she received an award from Marawi City Local Government for Outstanding Juana of Marawi.



**ALBERTO TEODORO MALVAR**  
PHILIPPINES

**Alberto Teodoro Malvar** (TJ) is the lead coordinator of the Dr. Rosita G. Leong Primary Health Care Hub (RGL Hub) and a faculty member at the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health. The RGL Hub aims to make healthcare more accessible for all through a strengthened primary health care approach. TJ and his colleagues are working on a more robust training program for the hub's Barangay Health Workers, who are considered the frontliners of the Philippine health care system. They also are exploring the use of telemedicine as a tool to improve access to primary care doctors and specialists, especially in remote areas. Five years ago, TJ moved to Barangay Calawis, an upland community in the foothills of the Sierra Madre

mountains, with the intention of uplifting the health status of the Calawis community. TJ serves as a community doctor in Calawis and as a barangay councilor, in charge of the committee on health. In 2021, he received a grant to put up his own medical clinic, serving Calawis and neighboring communities. In addition to his health-related work, TJ is an advocate for environmental protection, and he founded Forest Bathing MNL, an organization that encourages people to experience nature.



**SUEBPONG CHAROENMECHAIKUL**  
THAILAND

**Suebpong Charoenmechaikul** (Loeng) is an Executive Director at BridgeAsia, a strategy execution and capability-building firm, and a Founding Board Member at Aetria, a health systems design and data platform technology social enterprise. His work with these two companies reflects his belief that accessible and affordable health and well-being is a basic human right. BridgeAsia works with organizations, including hospitals, to adopt new technologies and transform their operations. Working with top teaching hospitals has helped Suebpong realize that much more can be done to help make the health and well-being ecosystem more equitable, accessible, and affordable through the adoption of new perspectives, strategies, people

motivation and engagement, and technologies. That recognition helped inspire the creation of Aetria, under the joint stewardship of Ashoka Fellow, with the goal of transforming health and well-being systems using data-informed solution platforms. Suebpong and his colleagues recognize that doctor consultations, medical procedures, and medicine represent only partial solutions to health challenges. That has prompted him to start exploring on some of the social determinants of health – a livable wage, safe and affordable housing, education, and preventive primary healthcare – and to seek like-minded partners to assist in systems design that will lead to positive health and well-being outcomes.



**ADISORN JUNTRASOOK**  
THAILAND

**Adisorn Juntrasook** (Aun) is an educator, researcher, writer, and advocate for social change, who serves as Dean of the Faculty of Learning Sciences and Education, Thammasat University. The Faculty of Learning Sciences and Education is the youngest faculty at Thammasat University, and it aims to change society for the better and make a difference through education. Adisorn's fields of expertise include education, leadership, transformation, and creative arts, and over the course of his career, he has worked on projects relating to health equity, social inclusion, and social justice in Thai society. Adisorn is especially passionate about the health and well-being of LGBTQI+ students and young people. While serving as Vice

President for Student Affairs at Thammasat University, he proposed a new, university-wide policy of zero tolerance for discrimination against individuals based on their gender or sexuality; he also set up a university committee to promote a safe environment for students of gender and sexual diversity. At a national level, he led a survey on economic exclusion and discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals funded by the World Bank and a study focusing on the needs for supporting service of the LGBTQI+ population and health service providers, funded by Thailand Health Promotion Foundation.



**PATIPAT SUSUMPAO**  
THAILAND

**Patipat Susumpao** (Keng) is a social entrepreneur, open data activist and public health practitioner and he currently serves as Managing Director of Opendream - a social enterprise that brings the public back to public health and enables problem-solving through digital technology. Keng is passionate about human-machine augmentation in personal health decision making, gamification in education, open-source software development, and participatory digital disease detection. He enjoys solving complex problems by bridging different specializations, drawing in different perspectives, and making effective use of technology. He also sees a role for non-medical professionals in responding to public health problems. Opendream has

pioneered participatory disease detection in Thailand and, during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, it developed Sabaideebot, a chatbot for COVID-19's participatory surveillance. The company is currently focusing on building an AI-driven health threat detection and management system for city governments in Thailand. The participatory disease surveillance system that Keng co-designed and developed was recognized by the 2020 MIT Solve competition and by the 2021 Trinity Challenge for its efforts in turning farmers into disease detectives. Keng and his colleagues developed investigative games to promote awareness on corruption among Thai teenagers. His team's anti-corruption education game received ASEAN ICT Awards in 2017.



**ANOND KULTHANMANUSORN**  
THAILAND

**Anond Kulthanmanusorn** is a medical doctor and public health specialist with four years of experience working in district hospitals in a rural province of Thailand. He recently graduated with a master's degree in public health from King's College London where he worked on issues of inequities of healthcare utilization in Thailand. Currently, he is a researcher in health policy and systems at the International Health Policy Program, a research institute under the Ministry of Public Health. Anond's work focuses on primary health care (PHC) in urban settings, universal health coverage (UHC), health equity, access to health service, and homeless healthcare. In this position, he advocates for evidence-based health policies that incorporate multiple perspectives, including those of

policy-makers, healthcare providers, users, and others. His most recent project, "Evaluation on a PHC network policy in UHC scheme," focused on strengthening PHC services for a low socioeconomic group. During the pandemic, he was a member of the core team of a health professional volunteer group named "CoCare." This platform provided free teleconsultation for COVID-19 patients who were unable to access care and offered COVID testing for migrant workers. Through CoCare's efforts, 450 health professionals conducted around 75,000 consultations and 25,000 COVID tests during nine months of operation.



**GUTERIANO SOARES NEVES**  
TIMOR LESTE

**Guteriano Soares Neves (Gute)** is the coordinator of the research and analytic team of PROSIVU, a program funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, implemented by DT Global to support the Government of Timor-Leste on inclusive economic growth, public finance, and public administration. In this role, he conducts research and analysis on economic development policy; coordinates the research that underpins the priorities of the PROSIVU workstreams; and engages with government and civil society to disseminate research findings and promote dialogue. He also is an independent policy analyst who regularly writes and comments on Timor-Leste's economic development policy and a lecturer at Joao Saldanha University,

teaching economic development and public finance. Much of Gute's work over the past 15 years has focused on how Timor-Leste's existing economic structure, which relies excessively on petroleum revenues, affects the country's long-term fiscal sustainability, resource distribution across different groups, equity, political economy landscape and social and economic justice. He is passionate and an advocate for just, sustainable, and inclusive economic development model, through economic diversification and development outcomes can be shared equitably among different groups of society. He believes marginalized groups should be given the means to participate in development policymaking and contribute to better outcomes.



**MARCELO AMARAL MALI**  
TIMOR LESTE

**Marcelo Amaral Mali (Chelo)** is a medical doctor and the Deputy-Secretary of the technical advisory group for Saúde na Família. Saúde na Família is an integrated model for the provision of primary healthcare in Timor-Leste with a particular focus on the family unit, through regular home visits and continuing care; its design incorporates principles of universality, equality, equity, continuity, completeness, and confidentiality. Chelo's role encompasses research to support the program's strategic plan, advising on health policies, developing best operational practices, and ensuring the necessary technical support. A medical doctor, Chelo is passionate about improving primary healthcare services in ways that center the needs of the family. He

joined the Ministry of Health in 2014 and was placed in a rural community for a year to provide clinical assistance. This experience was a decisive point in his career and helped him better understand the needs of local communities, their lack of access of health information and services, and appropriate interventions. He was subsequently promoted to serve as Regional Coordinator for Saúde na Família (2015-2018) and then as National Coordinator (2018-2019). These roles have strengthened his commitment to engaging community members in identifying barriers to health services, addressing neglected problems, and developing solutions.



**MAI QUANG ANH**  
VIET NAM

**Mai Quang Anh** is the director of WeCare Social Enterprise, a community-based organization that promotes health equity and social justice for vulnerable populations. Quang Anh collaborates with community leaders, community-based organizations, social enterprises, governmental agencies, and other organizations to disseminate effective healthcare models and reduce stigma and discrimination at healthcare facilities. He and his colleagues have collaborated with the Center for Training and Research on Substance Abuse and HIV (CREATA-H) at Hanoi Medical University on research and projects related to addiction, mental health, and HIV, including the PrEP prevention program to support high-risk populations such as MSM, sex workers, and

transgender women. Quang Anh's deep passion is promoting health equity for vulnerable people in LGBTQI communities, especially supporting people affected by HIV. He has acted on this passion in a variety of ways: implementing research findings related to HIV prevention and intervention; leading an outreach and communication team to recruit participants for research, intervention, and treatment programs; and working with a multidisciplinary team to provide counseling services on sexual and mental health to underserved populations. He also has collaborated on campaigns and talk shows to raise awareness about sexual health, mental health, sexual diversity, and PrEP medication for young people.



**LE HOANG PHONG**  
VIET NAM

**Le Hoang Phong** is the founder and chief executive officer of YOURE Organization, which helps disadvantaged Vietnamese students learn English and other skills that will improve their prospects for the future. He also is a care leaver advocate with 30 years of lived experience with SOS Children's Villages Vietnam. Care leavers are adults who spent time in care as children, and they may carry trauma from their past, struggle with their identity, or face discrimination. Phong himself grew up in the care of an SOS Children's Village, after both his parents died when he was an infant. In 2020, Phong served himself as one of organizers of the in the 1st Care Leavers Convention (virtual), which hosted 2,300 participants from more

than 80 countries. In 2021, on behalf of eight care leaver groups from around the world, Phong submitted the first Care Leavers Declaration to UNHCR, Committee On The Rights Of The Child, for a day of general discussion on "Children's Rights and Alternative Care" during the 88th session of the Committee at the United Nations Office in Geneva. Phong received his bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of Education in Ho Chi Minh City.