



## CAN A "MOUSE" TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF THE YOUNGEST, UPROOTED CHILDREN?

ICT, FORCIBLY DISPLACED FAMILIES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS

**Moderator: Charlotte Jenner** – UNHCR Communications and Reporting Officer

**Speakers:**

- >> **Danielle De La Fuente** - Founder and Executive Director of Amal Alliance  
*"Education Disrupted: Reimagining Learning during the Pandemic"*
- >> **Niels Peter Rygaard** - Co-founder and CEO Fairstart Foundation and APA 2020 Award for International Humanitarian Work  
*"How can governments and NGOs cooperate to improve the mental health and education of abandoned children?"*
- >> **Isabel Cristina Granada Garcés** - Senior Sector Specialist, Migration Initiative - Inter-American Development Bank  
*"Piloting Digital Solutions for Migrant Children in Colombia, Perú and Brazil"*
- >> **Aaron Meyerson** - Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Broadband, New York City Mayor's Office of the Chief Technology Officer  
*"The NYC Internet Master Plan and Bridging the Digital Divide"*

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## Moderator Bio:

- **Charlotte Jenner** is Communications Officer for the Humanitarian Education Accelerator (HEA) programme, working in UNHCR's Education Section. She began working with UNHCR in 2015 and has extensive experience of communicating on education within refugee contexts as well as on bringing innovative humanitarian education solutions to scale. Prior to joining UNHCR, Charlotte has worked as a communications specialist, writer and researcher for UN agencies, research institutes, media organizations and the private sector.

## Speaker Bios:

- **Danielle De La Fuente** has vast experience in peacebuilding and diplomatic efforts stemming from her work at the US Department of Defense and multiple Embassies. Her passion for achieving sustainable development, led her to form the Amal Alliance, an international NGO that provides displaced children and disenfranchised youth worldwide with social development programs that help cope with the invisible scars of trauma, and the learning fundamentals that guarantee them future opportunities to succeed. At the onset of the pandemic, Amal Alliance's quick response reached 160,000 beneficiaries, supporting the wellbeing of caregivers and their children through practical activities and coping mechanisms. This led to winning UNHCR's Humanitarian Education Accelerator (HEA) COVID 19 Challenge, designing an education in emergencies prototype focusing on social emotional learning to help bridge the learning gap exasperated by the crisis.
- **Niels Peter Rygaard** is a Danish-American child psychologist and CEO at the Fairstart Foundation. His Foundation unites child researchers, NGOs and government agencies worldwide, and have educated 500 partner staff in advanced online classrooms who trained the caregivers of 40.000 children. After receiving the 2020 American Psychologist Association Award for International Humanitarian Work for Underserved Populations, Niels serves as a member of the Psychology Coalition United Nations (PCUN) group for migrant and refugee children.
- **Isabel Cristina Granada Garcés** is a Senior Sector Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Migration Unit where she leads the preparation of multisector programs promoting inclusive interventions in the Latin American and the Caribbean region. She also coordinates initiatives that articulate private participation and promote fast prototyping of inclusive solutions as part of IDB loan programs. Passionate about development in the region and convinced of the power of collectivity, before joining the Migration Unit Isabel worked at the Infrastructure Department where she designed, executed, and oversaw transport infrastructure projects all throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. She also coordinated initiatives like the Transport Gender LAB a network of Latin American committed to mainstream gender equality and Infradinámica, a crowdsourcing tool to remotely supervise large infrastructure projects. Isabel has a track record as a civil servant, working at the National Department of Planning in Colombia, she also worked in private the companies ARUP and IBM. Isabel is a Civil Engineer, MSc. in Transport economies and Business Management Imperial College London.
- **Aaron Meyerson** serves as the Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Broadband, in the New York City Mayor's Office of the CTO, leading the implementation of the Mayor's Internet Master Plan, Digital Inclusion initiatives and Queensbridge Connect. Previously, Meyerson worked as the Senior Director of Business Operations at WiredScore, the global broadband infrastructure rating organization. In addition to managing the telecom engineering team at WiredScore, he established partnerships with the Cities of Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, and London, UK. Prior to his tenure at WiredScore, Aaron served as Assistant Vice President at the NYC Economic Development Corporation helping lead the Strategic Planning department in creating broadband related policies and programs. Aaron also served on Mayor Bloomberg's Special Initiative for Resiliency and Rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy. He holds a Masters in Urban Planning from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship.