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Social Protection Policies in South Asia

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Biographies
In alphabetical order:

Sarath A.K. Abayawardana, Director, National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka

Sohail Abbasi, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Pakistan
Mr. Abbasi has over eight years of experience of working in public, private, not for profit and development sector. His core area of work had been social protection initiatives, especially social protection in emergencies and social safety nets. In addition, he had worked on large scale post disaster infrastructure rehabilitation projects, such as, design and construction of hospitals, schools/colleges/universities, roads and social welfare complexes. Mr. Abbasi’s interest had been in development of protection systems (social protection and welfare) including social protection strategy formulation, capacity building, program design and monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, as Child Protection Specialist, he has been part of design and implementation of initiatives, such as, promotion of restorative justice for juveniles and conditional cash transfers for out of school children. Mr. Abbasi holds a Master of Business Administration (Pakistan) and a Master of Public Administration (California).

Amena Safi Afzali, Minister, Ministry of Work, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Government of Afghanistan
Ms. Afzali is the Minister of Work, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled of Afghanistan. She is the founder of the Islamic Movement of Afghani Women, an organization promoting women’s rights, particularly in education and political activism. She was appointed Commissioner for the Human Rights Commission in 2002 and in 2004 she became the Minister of Youth Affairs. She actively participated in drafting the Afghani constitution, ensuring the protection of women’s rights. She achieved to have women sitting at the country’s National Assembly. Ms. Afzali holds a degree from the Kabul University.

Javeed Alam, Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research
Prof. Alam has been the Chairman of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) since 2008. He is also the Chairman of the Expert Group on Minorities of the State of Kerala. Prof Alam is a retired professor of the Centre for European Studies of the English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad. He was the Head of the Department of Political Science of Himachal Pradesh University for over 26 years. His research activity is dedicated to democracy, nationalism, secularism and Marxism and its Indian interpretations. He holds an MA from Osmania University and a PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University.
Mariya Ali, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Family, Republic of Maldives

Before joining the Ministry of Health and Family as Deputy Minister, Ms. Ali worked as a social worker in London from 2001 to 2002. She was a consultant for UNICEF in Male’ from 2006 to 2007. Ms. Ali holds a Master’s Degree in International Child Welfare for the University of East Anglia, Norwich and a PhD in Human Rights from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies of the University of London.

Pilar Álvarez-Laso, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Ms. Álvarez-Laso’s career between 1980 and 1985 includes both social sciences and media responsibilities, as well as research in the social sciences. From 1985 to 1990, she was Editorial Coordinator, Anchor and Reporter at the Instituto Mexicano de Televisión. From 1986 to 1987, she was also a Professor at the Universidad Intercontinental, Mexico. From 1994 to 1997, Ms Álvarez-Laso was Television Programming Director at the Instituto Latinoamericano de la Comunicacion Educativa (ILCE). She was also Director of Information for the Electoral Federal Institute (IFE) in the first independent, citizen-organized elections in Mexico. Between 1998 and 2007, Ms. Álvarez-Laso was the Special Programmes Director and Communications Editor for ILCE, as well as News Editor in commercial Mexican television and radio networks. Her most recent position was that of Coordinator for Radio and Television at ILCE, broadcasting for the Mexican Ministry of Education and other public institutions. She was also Honorary Senior Adviser for the Science Consulting Council at the Presidency of the Republic of Mexico. Over the course of her career, Ms Álvarez-Laso has launched the first educational television satellite channel in Mexico, promoted initiatives for people with special needs and immigrants, and promoted educational programmes on democracy. Ms Álvarez-Laso holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications from the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico and a Master’s Degree in Foreign Affairs from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma, Mexico. She also obtained a Diploma in Advanced Studies (D.E.A.) in Contemporary International Migrations from the Universidad Comillas, Madrid and registered her PhD project in the Analysis and Evaluation in Political and Social Processes Programme at the Universidad Carlos III, Madrid. She is a published author on immigration, politics, democracy, media and communication.

Champika Amerasinghe, Director General, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Sri Lanka

Nisha Arunatilake, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

Dr. Arunatilake has over 15 years research experience in conducting research in various dimensions of development, especially in areas of education, health, labour, employment and social protection. She has been the principal investigator on over 10 studies. She has
collaborated with various development partners and has several peer-reviewed journal articles to her credit. She has served in national level committees on labour, employment, human resource development, and health sector reform, human rights and tobacco and alcohol policy formulation. At present she is serving in the National Advisory Committee on Manpower Planning, of the Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower Planning. She has a Ph.D. in economics from Duke University.

Krishna Hari Baskota, Secretary (Revenue), Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal

Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sri Lanka, and Resident Representative of UNDP in Sri Lanka
A national of Canada, Mr. Buhne started his career with the United Nations as a Junior Professional Officer with UNDP in Colombo in 1984. Subsequently he has served in Sudan, Bhutan, Pakistan and Malaysia – where he served as acting UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative during 2007 and 2008. His most recent assignment was in Bulgaria where he led the largest programme for UNDP in Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States Region with more 70 partnership projects at a value of US $150 million. During his term, the UN Team, played an important role in supporting Bulgaria to obtain membership in the European Union. During those years, the UN agencies spearheaded human development initiatives in Bulgaria in a diverse range of areas, including employment generation, local government, good governance, environmental protection and information technology. From 1999 to 2003, Mr. Buhne led the UN team in Belarus. He facilitated the development of a new joint approach to deal with the continuing human consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster, by working together with the UN country teams in Russia and Ukraine, the Office of UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, and the respective governments. He helped develop a range of new projects to preserve and sustainably develop Belarus’ environment, and was the leader of efforts to support Belarus to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Mr. Buhne holds a Master’s Degree in International Affairs from Carleton University, Ottawa.

Achin Chakraborty, Professor of Economics, Institute of Development Studies – Kolkata
Prof. Chakraborti is Professor of Economics at the Institute of Development Studies – Kolkata (IDSK). He is engaged in teaching and research in the areas of welfare economics including poverty and inequality measurement, and human development. Before joining IDSK he had been an Associate Professor at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram, between 1996 and 2004. Prof. Chakraborty received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Riverside. He was awarded the dissertation fellowship for 1994-95 by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, USA. He carried out a number of research projects both at CDS and at IDSK, which include Economic Analysis of Coastal and Marine Resources Management and Poverty
Reduction (IUCN and ADB), Poverty Impact Assessment of SAL to Kerala (ADB), An Evaluation Study on Advocacy of Safe Motherhood under Community Health Care Monitoring Initiative (Government of West Bengal, UNICEF), Allocation and Utilization of Resources for Social Sector Programmes in Purulia District (UNICEF).

W. Yamuna Chitranganie, Secretary, Ministry of Social Services, Government of Sri Lanka
Ms. Chitranganie is presently the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Services of Sri Lanka. She is a Special Grade Officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service. Ms. Chitranganie joined the Administrative Service in 1980. She worked at the Department of Social Services as an Assistant Director and was promoted to Director. She then became Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Social Services. She was the first Director of the National Secretariat for Elders. Ms. Chitranganie is the Chairperson of the National Institute of Social Development and the Chairperson of the National Council for Elders.

S.S. Colombage, Department of Social Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka

Denys Correll, Executive Director, International Council on Social Welfare
Mr. Correll has been Executive Director of the International Council on Social Welfare since August 2002, which was first based in London and now in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Previously he has held association management positions including National Executive Director of Council on the Ageing, Australia’s influential organisation of older people and National Executive Director of Australia’s peak organisation for providers of disability services. Earlier in his career, Denys worked for five years in the public service, noted the experience and returned to association management. He is a Fellow of the Australian Society of Association Executives. He has been a board member and chair of a very successful insurance company specialising in insurance for older Australians. He has held voluntary positions on the boards of The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Australia, Australian Society of Association Executives, European Society of Association Executives, Rehabilitation International and the International Federation on Ageing.

Richard Danziger, Chief Mission, IOM Sri Lanka
Richard Danziger was appointed as Chief of Mission, IOM Sri Lanka in 2010. Prior to this he was Head of the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Counter Trafficking Division based in Geneva since 2004. His work entailed developing IOM’s overall policy on combating trafficking in persons, and advising the Organization’s Member States on their own anti-trafficking strategies. He was also responsible for administering IOM’s global database on victims of trafficking, and the Global Assistance Fund which provides for protection and assistance to victims around the world. Mr. Danziger has also held the positions of IOM’s Regional Representative for West and Central Asia, Chief of
Mission in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Pakistan, and was assigned as a Senior Technical Advisor to the Palestinian Authority in 2000. Mr. Danziger was IOM’s original focal point for the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. He was a founding member of the Steering Committee of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGFIT) and is currently Chair of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Illicit Trade.

**Kirby S. de Lanerolle, Advisor to Minster, Ministry of Social Services, Government of Sri Lanka**

**Carel de Rooy, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh**
Mr. de Rooy of Ducth nationality has been Representative to UNICEF Bangladesh since July 2008. He joined UNICEF in 1984 as Chief Water Supply Officer in Nigeria. He was Regional Planning Officer in the West and Central Africa Regional Office from 1993 until 1998 and Area Representative for Colombia and Venezuela from 1998 to 2001. Before joining UNICEF, he worked in Brazil as Technician for Multitron S.A. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Geology from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and in 1981 he received his Masters Degree in Hydrogeology and Hydrology from the Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences, Enschede, The Netherlands.

**Amala de Silva, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Colombo**
Prof. Amala de Silva graduated from the Department of Economics, University of Colombo in 1985 and has Masters (1988) and DPhil (1992) degrees from the University of Sussex, UK. She joined the University of Colombo as an Assistant Lecturer in 1986 and is currently a Professor in the Department of Economics. She teaches Public Finance, Macroeconomics and Gender Economics at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and undertakes teaching and supervision involving economics in courses conducted by the PGIM as well. Her research is mainly in the field of Health Economics, mostly involving costing, financing and poverty. In 1999-2000 she was a Global Health Leadership fellow at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva where she worked on responsiveness indicators for the World Health Report 2000.

**Indralal De Silva, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo**

**S. Mahendra Dev, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research**
Prof. Dev is currently Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai. He was Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices of the Government of India. He was Director, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad for 9 years during 1999 to 2008. He received his PhD from the Delhi School of Economics and his Post-doctoral
research at the Economic Growth Centre, Yale University and was faculty member at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai for 11 years. He was Senior Fellow at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation during 1996-97 and Visiting Professor at the University of Bonn in 1999. He has written extensively on agricultural development, poverty and public policy, food security, employment guarantee schemes, social security, farm and non-farm employment. He has been a consultant and adviser to several international organizations, such as UNDP, World Bank, International Food Policy Research Institute, ILO, FAO, and ESCAP. He also conducted collaborative projects with IFPRI on food security and poverty. He has been a member of several government committees including the Prime Minister’s Task Force on Employment and Rangarajan Commission on Financial Inclusion. He was member of several working groups for 9th, 10th and 11th Five Year Plans.

Diya Dutta, Research Analyst, South Asia Regional Office, UN Women
Ms. Dutta has been involved in research both academically and professionally since 2003. In 2005, she was awarded the Commonwealth Scholarship to read for the MPhil degree in Development Studies at University of Oxford. Her MPhil thesis was based on how the elderly in India negotiate new forms of vulnerabilities in the post economic liberalization era. She has a graduate degree in Sociology from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, New Delhi. Diya has recently completed work on gender relations in marriage with the School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and is expecting her first academic publication this year. At UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), she is Research Analyst in the Gender Responsive Governance programme for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Prior to joining UN Women, South Asia Regional Office she was with the National Council of Applied Economic Research as a Consultant on the project on decentralization and rural governance.

Marina Faetanini, Program Specialist, Social and Human Sciences Sector and Regional Coordinator, UNESCO Forum of Ministers in charge of Social Development from South Asia, UNESCO New Delhi
Ms. Faetanini the Program Specialist for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO New Delhi and the Regional Coordinator of the UNESCO Forum of Ministers in charge of Social Development from South Asia, which was launched in 2006. She has organized both the current Forum and the previous one, which was held in New Delhi in 2008, and several research meetings on different dimensions of Social Development. Ms. Faetanini is currently developing, within the framework of MOST (Management of Social Transformations) Program, a new set of activities focusing on capacity building of city professionals, and development and dissemination of good practices on social integration in urban settings. This entails the publication, with UN-HABITAT, of a Toolkit Historic Districts for All – India: A Social and Human Approach for Sustainable Revitalisation; the development of a policy paper and advocacy tool on the Right to the City in India – Responsibilities, Rights and
Citizenships; as well as the organisation of workshops and social policy dialogues on inclusive urban policies. Additional activities range from advocacy for UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sports to popularization of philosophy through the celebration of World Philosophy Days. Before taking up her current position in 2007, Ms. Faetanini worked at UNESCO Headquarters from 2003 to 2006 with the Foresight Section and with the Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section. Prior to joining UNESCO in 2003, Marina Faetanini worked as an environmental activist with the WWF on climate change related issues (2000 – 2003) and as a diplomat from the Republic of San Marino in the Council of Europe and the United Nations in New York (1992 – 2003). She holds a degree in Lettres et Sciences Humaines (Humanities) from the Ecole Normale Superieure of Saint-Cloud, France and a D.E.A (equivalent to M.A.) in Romance Studies from the University of La Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris.

Sirimali Fernando, Chairperson, National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka

Diarietou Gaye, Country Director for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, World Bank

Ms. Gaye, a Senegalese national, joined the Bank in January 1996 as a Country Economist, after serving 10 years in the Ministry of Finance in Senegal. She has since held various positions, including Country Manager for Benin and Togo for the Bank from 2002-06, and Senior Desk Economist at the IMF. Most recently, she has been on secondment to the African Development Bank as the AfDB’s Regional Director for Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and Seychelles. Ms. Gaye has had extensive operational experience in different institutions working on development and policy change. She also received the Good Manager Award from the Staff Association in 2005.

Cecilie Golden, Programme Specialist, Management of Social Transformations Programme, UNESCO

Ms. Golden is Programme Specialist for the Management of Social Transformations Programme of UNESCO. She graduated as Cand.Jur from the University of Oslo. During her legal studies she also took obtained diplomas from King’s College, United Kingdom, the Hague Academy of International Law and the United Nations Graduate School, Geneva. She took her Master of International Policy in California on a Fulbright Scholarship. Ms. Golden has been with UNESCO since 1997, first as Associate Expert financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before being appointed Programme Specialist with the Organization. Her main functions consist of being co-ordinator for the Regional Fora of Ministers of Social Development and to contribute to UN meetings and co-operation within social development and social impacts of climate change. In addition to this she is Liaison Officer to the International Social Science Council (ISSC).
Ramani Gunatilaka, Independent Consultant, Sri Lanka

Ramani Gunatilaka has been working as a development economist in Sri Lanka since graduating from the Universities of London and Oxford in 1992-93. Her research has concentrated on poverty alleviation, rural development, microfinance and labour market issues in Sri Lanka, and more recently, on the determinants of subjective well-being in rural and urban China. In 2006 she received her PhD in Applied Econometrics from Monash University, Australia, for her thesis on income distribution in Sri Lanka after economic liberalization. She is an Adjunct Research Fellow of the Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University, and has published several articles in internationally refereed journals. She has worked as an independent consultant for many international organisations such as the ADB, GTZ, ILO, Sida, UNDP and the World Bank.

Surustha Gunasekara, World Bank, Sri Lanka

Bindra Hada, Secretary, National Planning Commission of Nepal

Syed Hashemi, BRAC Development Institute

S.T. Hettige, Professor of Sociology and Chair, Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre, University of Colombo

Reza Hossaini, Representative, UNICEF Sri Lanka

Mr. Hossaini was appointed UNICEF Representative in Sri Lanka in 2010. He had previously worked in the same role in Turkey and Uzbekistan. Mr. Hossaini began his career with UNICEF in 1989 as Programme Coordinator in Iran. He served in South Sudan and Somalia before joining the World Health Organisation (WHO) as Polio Coordinator in the East Asia Region (1998-2002). In 2002, Mr. Hossaini returned to UNICEF as Senior Programme Coordinator in Afghanistan. He obtained his degree in Industrial Pharmacy from the College of Pharmacy of the Delhi University and a Postgraduate Degree in Hospital Management.

Rizwanul Islam, Former Special Adviser on Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction, Employment Sector, ILO

Dr. Islam is former Special Adviser on Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction in the Employment Sector of ILO. His previous positions include Director, Economic and Labour Market Analysis, and other directorial positions at ILO. He has been Visiting Research Scholar at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka and is Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. Dr. Islam did his PhD in Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science under the supervision of Professor (Nobel Laureate) Amartya Sen. Dr. Islam specializes in development economics with a particular focus on employment, poverty and income
distribution, and has published a number of journal articles and books in this field. The topics of Dr. Islam’s current research include (i) the challenge of jobless growth, employment intensity of economic growth and poverty reduction, and (ii) the impact of shocks like food price inflation and economic downturns on employment, poverty, and food security.

Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India and Member, Nationa Advisory Council, Government of India

Dr. Narendra Jadhav, an Indian national is a leading educationist, eminent economist and policy maker, well-known social scientist and best-selling author. Dr. Narendra Jadhav is currently serving as a Member, Planning Commission (in the rank and status of Union Minister of State). He took over this responsibility on June 16, 2009 and was sworn in by the Prime Minister on July 27, 2009. Planning Commission is India’s apex policy-oriented Think Tank chaired by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia as the Deputy Chairman. As Member, Planning Commission, Dr. Jadhav’s sectoral responsibilities include Education, Labour-Employment-Skill Development, Sports & Youth Affairs, and Social Justice and Empowerment. In addition, Dr. Jadhav looks after the States of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and Goa, besides the Union Territories of Diu-Daman and Dadra-Nagar Haveli. Dr. Narendra Jadhav has also been appointed as a Member, National Advisory Council (NAC), chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, with effect from May 31, 2010. Dr. Jadhav holds a PhD in Economics from Indian University, and MA in Economics and a BSc in Statistics from Bombay University.

D.M. Jayaratne, Prime Minister, Government of Sri Lanka

Mr. Jayaratne attended Gampola Zahira College and Gandhi Vidyalaya, Kandy. He studied Communism at Peradeniya University. He was one of the pioneers of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. In 1965 he was elected President of Kandy District Village Council Association from which position he was elevated to the Presidency of All Island Village Councils Federation. He took to parliamentary politics in 1970 having contested and elected MP for Gampola Constituency in which position he continued till 1977. From 1989 to 1994 he served in Parliament as an opposition member. At the General Elections held in 1994 he was appointed Minister of Land, Agriculture and Forestry. He was also Minister of Agriculture, Food and Cooperatives in 2000, Minister of Posts and Telecommunication in 2003, Minister of Posts and Telecommunication, and Upcountry Development in 2004, Minister of Posts and Telecommunication, and Rural Economic Development in 2005 and Minister of Plantation Industries from 2007 to 2010. He was appointed as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka in 2010. He also holds the Cabinet Portfolio of Buddhasana and Religious Affairs.

Ramanie Jayathilake, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

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K.N. Jehangir, Former Director and Consultant, Indian Council of Social Science Research
Dr. Jehangir completed his post-graduate studies and PhD from the University of Calcutta. He has worked in the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in New Delhi. He then joined the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. He retired as Director and reappointed as consultant of the ICSSR’s International Collaboration Programme. Dr. Jehangir has worked on gender, Indian minorities and election studies.

K.P. Kannan, Professor and Former Director, Centre for Development Studies – Thiruvananthapuram
Prof. Kannan is Professor and Former Director of the Centre for Development Studies. He was full-time Member of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector from 2005 to 2009. He was also an Expert Member in the Technical Secretariat of the World Commission on Social Dimension of Globalisation constituted by ILO in 2002 and 2003. He served as a Member of the Expert Group on Human Resource Development for Asia and Pacific constituted by UN/ESCAP between 1997 and 1999. From 1995 until 1997, he was Professor of Development Studies and Research Director at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute in Phnom Penh and helped establish a research division for the study of Cambodia’s development issues. Prof. Kannan holds a Master in Economics from the University of Bombay and a PhD in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies of the University of The Hague. His areas of specialization are Human Development and Labour Studies.

Sherin R. Khan, Senior Specialist on Child Labour, Decent Work Team for South Asia, ILO
Ms. Khan was appointed in 2007 as Senior Specialist on the ILO Decent Work Team (DWT) for South Asia. Focusing on child labour, policy, standards and technical cooperation programmes, she provides advisory services to ILO constituents and staff, promotes ratification and implementation of ILO child labour conventions, supports staff development, training, evaluations, and knowledge initiatives, and fosters partnerships with a wide range of players. In 2010, she completed a brief tenure as Officer-in-Charge of the ILO Country Office for Sri Lanka and Maldives. Ms. Sherin joined the ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) team in Geneva in 1998. She headed its inter-regional Programme Support Unit and served as Senior Programme and Operations Officer for its Asia-Pacific programme, and various projects in Africa and the Americas. Her previous ILO field-based experience in Asia (1986-1998) encompassed publications and information networks under an Asia-Pacific project and development programming in Pakistan. In 1994, as the first IPEC National Programme Manager in the country, she mobilized resources, promoted broad-based partnerships that included the UN and the private sector, and designed and tested innovative strategies that were subsequently applied by IPEC in other regions. Ms. Khan served at the US Department of
Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (2000-02) as Senior International Relations Officer and Coordinator for its global technical assistance child labour programme. She holds a Master's Degree in Communication from the University of Illinois in Springfield and another Master's Degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Peshawar.

Quomaran Nessa Khanam, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh
Ms. Khanam was appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Social Services in 2009. She has been working for the Government of Bangladesh since the beginning of her career. She holds a Diploma in Development Administration and Management from IDPM, Manchester and an MA in Economics from Victoria University, Manchester.

Saba Gul Khattak, Member, Social Sector, Planning Commission of Pakistan
Dr. Khattak is a human rights activist and provides regular policy advice on women, governance and refugee issues to the government. Prior to joining Planning Commission she was the Executive Director of SDPI. She has undertaken research in areas like: Gender and Security, Trafficking of Children in Pakistan, Forms of Child Labour in Pakistan, Education and Child Labourers, Food Security for Refugees, Rehabilitation of Refugee Affected Areas in the NWFP and Balochistan, the Effects of Structural adjustment Policies on Women in Pakistan and Violence against Women. Dr. Khattak holds a PhD in Political Science.

Carol Le Duc, Team Leader, EU Technical Cooperation for Social Protection, Afghanistan
Ms. Le Duc is graduated from London (Psychology), and Oxford (Social Anthropology), and has spent over two decades working continuously in Afghanistan in public and private agencies, from policy to project level, and with extensive travel to many regions of the country. Her key areas of expertise have been on marginalised groups, including women in particular as well as children and the disabled. Since 2007 she has actively supported Afghanistan's introduction of its first Social Protection Strategy, having made significant contributions to a support programme by the European Union under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled. The Programme aims to strengthen the Ministry's coordination of national social protection policy and intervention strategies, and leadership of a public - private partnership for social protection support to extremely vulnerable groups.

Donglin Li, Country Director, ILO Sri Lanka and the Maldives
Mr. Li was appointed Country Director of the ILO Country Office for Sri Lanka and the Maldives in 2011. He was previously Country Director of the ILO Office for Pakistan and has worked in Pakistan for six and half
years. Mr. Li is a Chinese national. Mr Li holds a BSc in Chemical Engineering and Equipment from East China University for Science and Technology and an MBA from Heriot-Watt University, UK. Prior to joining the ILO in 2002, he was Director General of the International Cooperation Department in China’s Ministry of Labour and Social Security. In August 2010, the Government of Pakistan has conferred upon him the highest Presidential Award in recognition of his excellent services to the People of Pakistan.

**Elizabeth Longworth, Deputy Assistant Director-General, Social and Human Sciences Sector and Director, Division of Social Sciences Research and Policy, UNESCO**

Ms. Longworth is the Deputy Assistant Director-General of Social and Human Sciences Sector and Director of the Division of Social Sciences Research and Policy of UNESCO. She joined UNESCO in 2003 as Director of the Information Society Division in the Communication and Information Sector. She was the Executive Director of the Office of the Director-General from 2006 until 2009. Prior to her career in UNESCO, Ms. Longworth entered the legal profession in New Zealand in 1979. She was awarded a Master of Laws (LLM) in 1985 by York University, Canada. She ran an international specialist legal and consultancy practice based in New Zealand for over ten years, starting in 1991. During this period, she was at the forefront of developing new policy areas arising out of the global societal and ethical implications of new and transformative technologies, new forms of interaction (including dispute resolution), and the regulatory and policy frameworks governing access to and use information. She is a published author and researcher in these fields. In 2001, Ms. Longworth’s career focused on the issues of social and economic development, becoming a Sector at the then national economic development agency, Industry New Zealand. Her responsibilities involved working with a diverse range of stakeholders to develop and implement national strategies and policies that could promote growth and development. This included making links to global policies and then working on their adaptation to benefit the local environment.

**Darshini Mahadevia, Professor, Faculty of Planning and Public Policy and Member Secretary, Centre for Urban Equity, CEPT University**

Prof. Mahadevia joined CEPT University in 1994. She holds a Master’s Degree in Urban and regional Planning from the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and a PhD from the Centre for Studies in Regional Development of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. She was Visiting Scholar at Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, of the University of California, Los Angeles, Visiting Scholar at the School of Urban Planning, McGill University, Visiting Fellow at Tsinghua University in Beijing and Visiting Fellow and Faculty at Tianjin University of Business and Economics in Tianjin. Prof. Mahadevia is also associated as Visiting Faculty with the Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad and on the boards of four NGOs in India working on pro-poor and pro-women development issues in urban and rural areas. She is active in many
national and international research projects. Prof. Mahadevia is a published author on urban development, urban poverty, human and gender development issues.

Samandar Mahmodi, Deputy Director, Bromand Research Educational and Development Organization
Mr. Mahmodi has extensive experience in the field of research, monitoring and evaluation. Since 2007, he has worked in different USAID projects in the positions of Senior Research Monitoring and Evaluation Associate and Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. He worked with one of the Local Capacity Building Provision Institute, and served as a chief trainer in the fields of management, leadership, teambuilding, research, statistical analysis, monitoring and evaluation. Mr Samandar Mahmodi has also attended several professional trainings, such as the Monitoring and Evaluation Training in Bangkok, Statistical Analysis Training from USAID, and many others in Afghanistan provided by International organizations, such as the Technical Briefing Seminar (TBS) in WHO Headquarters in Geneva. In 2009, he funded the Bromand Research Educational and Development Organization (BREDO). Along with partners and donors, BREDO has provided trainings to staff of Ministry and Directorate of Women Affairs, conducted a campaign in two provinces of Afghanistan for fighting corruption, implemented a project through community elders to eliminate violence against women, and another project, supported by USAID to promote family planning products.

Naushin Mahmood, Professor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
Dr. Mahmood is a demographer with wide ranging experience of over 30 years in operational and formative research on demographic and social development related issues in Pakistan. She is Visiting Professor and Former Joint Director at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). She obtained her Master’s Degree in Population Sciences from Harvard School of Public Health, Boston and her PhD in Sociology from University of Michigan. She has extensive experience of research in social development issues of Pakistan and has a number of publications to her credit in national and international journals. Her specialized areas of research are demography, human resource development, gender issues, reproductive health/MCH and policy analysis, with expertise in survey research methods and data analysis. She has worked in close collaboration with the government institutions and provided short term technical assistance to international organization on Social Development, Poverty Reduction Strategy, Maternal and Neonatal Health, and Gender Issues.

Firdosi Rustom Mehta, WHO Representative to Sri Lanka
Dr. Mehta has over 30 years of public health experience and has worked in several countries and regions of the world. He served for 11 years in the Indian Navy Defence Services as a doctor and a public health specialist and later he served in the Ministry of Health, Sultanate
of Oman in various capacities for 10 years, the last being Director of Surveillance and Disease Control at central level in Muscat, Oman. Dr Mehta then joined the WHO under the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office and worked in Somalia from 1998 – 2002, where he was responsible for supporting the control of TB and all other communicable diseases in a complex emergency situation. Dr. Mehta moved from Somalia to Indonesia in mid 2002 in the function of Country Advisor Tuberculosis Control Programme. He served in Indonesia for 7 years from 2002 to March 2009. Dr Mehta then moved to Sri Lanka in April 2009 as the WHO Representative and has been functioning in that capacity since then.

Bill Nicol, Head, Poverty Reduction and Growth Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Armoogum Parsuramen, Director and UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka

Mr. Parsuramen took up his assignment as the Director of the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, and UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka in 2009. He holds a B.A. Honours degree in Administration from the University of Mauritius. He started his career in the field of education as a secondary-school teacher, when he was also active in community service, first as an elected Village Councilor, and then as Chairman of his District Council. Between 1982 and 1995, Mr. Parsuramen was a Member of Parliament in Mauritius for four consecutive terms, during which he served as Minister of Education, Arts and Culture (1983-1991), and Minister of Education and Science (1991-1995). He was Chairman of the General Council of Ministers of Culture of the Organization of African Unity (1986-1989), and Chairman of the Caucus of African Ministers of Education and the Association for the Development of African Education (ADEA) in 1991-1995. Between 1983 and 1995, he was also Chairman of the Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO, and subsequently became the elected representative of the Republic of Mauritius on UNESCO’s Executive Board (1995-1996). In 1996, Mr. Parsuramen joined the World Bank, as an Education Policy Adviser and Coordinator of the education component of the Bank’s United Nations Special Initiative for Africa (UNSIA). Joining the UNESCO Secretariat in July 1998, he was appointed Director of the Division for the Renovation of Secondary and Vocational Education in the Education Sector. In 2000, Mr. Parsuramen was appointed to the position of Director of the Regional Bureau for Education in Africa. In 2004, he was appointed Secretary of UNESCO Executive Board. Concurrently and from March 2008 to September 2009, he was entrusted with the expanded responsibility of Director of the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies, serving both as Secretary of UNESCO Executive Board and Secretary of the General Conference.
Felix Perera, Minister, Ministry of Social Services, Government of Sri Lanka

Mr. Perera was elected a Member of Western Provincial Council from Gampaha District in 1988 and Member of Parliament in 1994. From 1999 to 2000 he was Deputy Minister of Power and Energy. In 2004, Mr. Perera became the Minister of Transport. He was the Minister of Railways, and the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in 2005. Mr. Perera was appointed as the Minister of Social Services in 2010. He studied at De La Salle College in Mutwal and Christ King College in Tudella.

Jehan Perera, Executive Director, National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

Mr. Perera is the Executive Director of the National Peace Council (NPC) of Sri Lanka which was established to facilitate a people's movement for peace, justice and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. NPC's work is primarily in the area of mobilisation, awareness creation and advocacy in line with its mission. Prior to joining NPC he headed the Sarvodaya Movement's legal aid services. He is also a member of several other non governmental organisations, including the People's Action for Free and Fair Elections. In addition, he has served on two government advisory bodies. He is also a political columnist for the Island (English language), Thulava (Sinhala language) and Thinakkural (Tamil Language) newspapers. He is also the recipient of peace awards, most recently the Sakai Peace Contribution Award from Japan. He had his higher education at Harvard University in the United States.

Vijoy Prakash, Principal Secretary, Department of Planning and Development, Government of Bihar

Mr. Prakash is Principal Secretary at the Department of Planning and Development of Government of Bihar. He has wide experience of working at senior positions in government in the area of Rural Development, Human Resources Development and Social Welfare. Earlier he was also Chairman cum Managing Director, Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation and Chairman, Bihar Sponge Iron Ltd. He is widely known for developing an innovative system of holistic education known as ‘Creative Learning’, especially useful for empowerment of underprivileged. He has authored several books for the development of concentration, memory, imagination, visualization, and emotional management.

Rohan Prithviraj Perera, Secretary General, Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sri Lanka (FCA), he has been in senior managerial positions in multinational corporations, such as Unilever in Sri Lanka and Pang Industries S.A. in France, and has had a long service career with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (UNESCO), serving both in its Headquarters in Paris and in the Sub-Regional Office in New Delhi, India. On behalf of UNESCO, he was closely involved in the capacity building of the Jaffna Library, the nomination of the
Central Highlands of Sri Lanka as World Heritage and in the initiation and popularization of UNESCO’s Learning the Way of Peace – A Teachers Guides to Peace Education. He has written and published articles on culture, heritage and peace-building. He presently serves as the Secretary General of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, and is also President of the National Association for Canoeing and Kayaking in Sri Lanka (NACKSL) and an Executive Board Member of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) in Sri Lanka. He is an active participant in the UNESCO Executive Board, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Ahmad Farid Raaid, Senior Advisor to Minister on Public Relations and Communications, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Islamic Government of Afghanistan

Mr. Raaid was appointed Senior Advisor to Minister on Public Relations and Communications in 2010. He was previously Media and Public Relations Director, and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Health from 2008 to 2010, Executive Director of Public Awareness Coordination Association in 2008, Program Medical Coordinator of Medecins du Monde in 2007, Project Support Coordinator of the Laghman Radio Stations Project from 2006 to 2007, Program Manager of the Novice Journalism Training Program in 2006 and National Project Coordinator of the Novice Journalism Program in 2005, Project Manager of the Internews Training Project from 2004 to 2005 and Publishing Director of the Internews Training Project from 2003 to 2004.

Md. Moshiur Rahman, Director General (Additional Secretary), Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh

Mr. Rahman started his career in the Government of Bangladesh in the 1980s. He had also been associated with the United Nations in Asia and Africa. Mr. Rahman holds a Master’s Degree in Accounting from Rajshahi University, Bangladesh and an MBA from Eastern University, Bangladesh.

Shehan Ratnavale, UNESCO Consultant and Focal Point for UNDAF and Programmes

Mr. Ratnavale has spent much of his early career in the banking and corporate sector. In April 2005 he was appointed Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Singapore concurrently accredited to Brunei Darussalam. As High Commissioner he was engaged in the diverse involvements that the role entailed including areas such: the Asia-Middle East Dialogue, The Shangri-La Dialogue, the IMF-World Bank Conference, tsunami reconstruction, investment and trade promotion, cultural exchanges and tourism promotion. Amongst the progressive initiatives undertaken during his three and a half years in Singapore was: an annual networking event to benefit Sri Lanka's up and coming software/BPO industry; an ambassadorial tour visit to Sri Lanka for Singapore based ambassadors and dignitaries and the setting up of a forum of expatriate Sri Lankan scientists in Singapore. Mr Ratnavale was contracted by
UNESCO as a Consultant and Focal Point for the UNDAF and Programmes in Sri Lanka in March 2010, and also functions as an observer member of the UN country team.

Lal Ratnaweera, Director (Planning), Ministry of Social Services, Government of Sri Lanka

D. Narasimha Reddy, Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development
Prof. Reddy is currently a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. He retired as Professor of Economics and Dean, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad. His specializations are Political Economy of Development, Labour Economics and Agrarian Studies. He has supervised dissertations of a large number of MPhil and PhD scholars. He has been a member of several academic bodies, and past Conference President of the Indian Society of Labour Economics. He served as a member of some of the expert committees of the State and Central governments.

Andrea Rossi, Regional Advisor for Social and Economic Policy, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
Mr. Rossi is the UNICEF Regional Advisor for Social and Economic Policy in the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia. He was previously the Director of the Measurement and Human Rights Program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. Earlier he worked for ILO and UNICEF in the area of research and evidence based policy. An economist by training with a focus on development and applied research, he has taught courses on Human Rights Policy Analysis at Harvard and in Italy, and on Research Methods with Hidden and Marginal Populations.

Markus Ruck, Senior Social Security Specialist, Decent Work Team for South Asia, ILO India
Before joining the ILO Decent Work Team for South Asia in June 2009 as Senior Social Security Specialist, Mr. Markus Ruck of German nationality served for nearly six years as Senior Social Security Specialist at the ILO Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe. Prior to his assignment in Harare, he worked for eight years at the ILO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe in Budapest, Hungary, as Social Security Specialist. Before joining the ILO Office in Budapest, Mr. Ruck worked for more than three years at the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Bonn as Senior Social Security Specialist.

Ashok Sahu, Senior Advisor, Labour and Employment, Planning Commission, Government of India
Sunil Samaraweera, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Services, Government of Sri Lanka

Mr. Samaraweera was appointed Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services in 2007. He was previously Director and Registrar of the National Secretariat for NGOs and Director of the Children Secretariat from 2001 to 2003, Commissioner of the Department of probation and children Services in 2004 and Senior Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Social Services and Social Welfare from 2003 to 2007. Mr. Samaraweera holds a Bachelor Degree in Management and Economics from the University of Colombo.

Inoka Sandanayake, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka

Asad Sayeed, Director, Collective of Social Science Research

Dr. Asad Sayeed is a Ph.D in Economics from Cambridge University. His is currently Director at the Collective of Social Science Research, a Karachi-based research and consulting organization. He has been the Convener of the Social Protection Sub-Committee of the Panel of Economists constituted by the Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan in 2008. He was also a member of the Task Force on Health Policy Constituted by the Federal Government in May 2008. Dr. Sayeed has worked on different facets of social protection, including cash transfers, employment programs, old age benefits, social health insurance and disaster insurance. He has also authored the zero draft of the National Social Protection Policy for the Government of Pakistan in August 2010. Dr. Sayeed has worked on Social Protection with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO). His other areas of research interest include Political Economy of Growth and Structural Change, Industrial Policy in Developing Countries, Labour Market Dynamics in Developing Countries, Health Economics, Macroeconomic Policy and the Political Economy of Corruption.

Mariyam Shafeeq, Director General, National Social Protection Agency, Ministry of Health and Family, Republic of Maldives

Enamul Hoque Mostofa Shaheed, Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh

Mr. Shaheed was nominated Minister of Social Welfare in 2009. He is a freedom fighter and veteran Awami Leaguer. He completed his graduation from Bindaban College, Hobigonj and LLB from Dhaka University. He was elected six times as Member of Parliament from Chunarughat-Madabppur, Hobigonj in the 1970, 1973, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2008 elections. He was the member of the Standing Committee for Land Ministry in the Fifth National Assembly. He was

**Alakh N. Sharma, Professor and Director, Institute for Human Development**

Prof. Sharma is presently Professor and Director of the Institute for Human Development (IHD) of New Delhi. Earlier he was a Senior Visiting Fellow, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi; Advisor (Research), V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida; Professor, Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations, New Delhi; and a faculty member, A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna for several years. He has made significant contributions to research in areas such as poverty, migration, employment and labour markets. He has authored/edited/co-edited twelve books and published over three dozen research papers in various journals. He is also an editor of the Indian Journal of Labour Economics, the quarterly journal of the Indian Society of Labour Economics and co-editor of the Indian Journal of Human Development, the bi-annual Journal brought out by IHD.

**Ambika Sharma, Research and Partnerships Officer, Regional Office for South Asia and China, International Development Research Centre**

Dr. Sharma is the Research & Partnerships Officer at International Development Research Centre’s Regional Office for South Asia and China in New Delhi. In her current profile she works with the Regional Director’s office on deepening the Centre’s understanding on research issues and gaps across the Centre’s programs active in the region. She also supports the regional partnerships exploration and development efforts. She brings with her an experience of 10+ years in the development sector. She holds a PhD in Ecosystem Planning, Open Universities Australia; MA, Town and Country Planning (specialization in Environmental Planning) from the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and MA, Geography from the Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi. She also has a certificate in establishing web based social business ventures from the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Santa Clara University, USA.


Mr. Shenoy is the National President of the Indian Council of Social Welfare and President of the International Council of Social Welfare for the South Asia Regional Committee. He is also an international consultant on child welfare. He retired in 1992 as Resident Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority of the Ministry of Commerce and is now involved in social service activities.
Ranjit Sinha, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research

Dr. Sinha has been Member Secretary of the Indian Council of Social Science Research since 2009. He was previously associated with ICSSR as Director. Dr. Sinha was awarded a PhD from the University of North Bengal. He held the post of Director of the International Education Consortium, New Delhi during 1980s to early 1990s He was Secretary to the Indian Social Sciences Delegation to Soviet Union and to China (1984 and 1986). He was appointed Executive Member of the Science Council of Asia (SCA), Japan and Vice President of the SCA in 2004. He is Advisor to Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar, Assam. He has worked on a wide range of projects focusing on Election Studies, Crimes, Poverty, Unemployment, Income Distribution and Rural Development.

K. Tudor Silva, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka

Chandrasiri Sooriyarachchi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Services, Government of Sri Lanka

Nisha Srivastava, Professor of Economics, University of Allahabad

Nisha Srivastava teaches Economics at the University of Allahabad, India. She has earlier worked with the UN World Food Programme (WFP), New Delhi, where, as Head of the Vulnerability Analysis, and Monitoring and Evaluation unit she led the WFP team to collaborate with the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in publishing the Report on Food Security for Rural India. Food Security Atlases for various states were prepared jointly by the Institute for Human Development, and the WFP team under her supervision. She was the co-author of the first Human Development Report for Uttar Pradesh. Her research interests include issues of food security, gender, labour and employment, and social protection. She has worked on projects with several national and international organisations including the Planning Commission, UNDP, World Bank, JPIC, ESRC and IDRC among others. Some of her recent publications (with co-authors) include: The Justice of Eating: An Assessment of Inclusion and Exclusion in WFP’s Programmes; Women, Work and Employment Outcomes in Rural India; Integrated Child Development Services: Policy, Design, and Delivery Issues, Contextualising Violence At Macro And Micro Levels: The Multiple Dimensions Of Violence Against Women In Uttar Pradesh, India. She is deeply involved in working with organisations that seek to empower women and marginalised social groups.

Ravi Srivastava, Professor of Economics and Chairman of the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Prof. Srivastava is Professor of Economics and Chairman of the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is a member of the Governing Council of the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR). His research interests focus on labour
migration, human development, rural poverty and decentralization. He was Visiting Fellow and Professor at the University of Oxford, Osaka and Amsterdam. He served as a full-time Member of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector. He was in charge of major research projects sponsored by several international organizations, government agencies and NGOs. Prof. Srivastava received his education from the Delhi School of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

**Ramya Subrahmanian, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF India**

Dr. Subrahmanian is currently working as Social Policy Specialist at UNICEF India. She was formerly Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, where she conducted research and published papers and edited books on issues of gender and development, education, social exclusion and child rights.

**Tshewang Tandin, Director General, Ministry of Education, Royal Government of Bhutan**

Mr. Tandin’s career in education started in 1980s as Principal of several schools in Bhutan. He joined the Ministry of Education in 2001 as Joint Director for School Education and he was promoted Director in 2003. He was appointed Director General of the Ministry of Education in 2009. Mr. Tandin holds Master’s Degree from the University of London and the University of New England, Australia.

**Rukmini Tankha, Consultant, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO New Delhi**

Ms. Tankha is currently working as a Consultant for the Social and Human Sciences of the UNESCO New Delhi office. She has previously been involved in research and communication for the Social Protection in Asia (SPA) network at the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. She holds completed her Master’s Degree in Development Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics from St. Stephen’s College, University of Delhi. Her research interests include livelihoods and social protection, labour, employment and the informal sector, and gender.

**G.V.D. Tilakasiri, Secretary, National Peace Council of Sri Lanka**

Mr. Tilakasiri holds a Degree in Business Studies from the University of Kelaniya, a Honorary Doctorate in Public Administration and Good Governess form South Asian Academy for Good Governess and a Professional Doctorate in Management from the Global University for Lifelong Learning California. Mr. Tilakasiri is the President of the Free Trade Union Development Center and the General Secretary of the
Joint Committee of Democratic Trade Unions. He was General Secretary of the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka. Mr. Tilakasiri is the Convenor of the Sri Lanka Chapter of International Council of Social welfare (ICSW) and the Treasurer of ICSW South Asia Region. He serves as Administrative Officer of the Presidential Secretariat and Political Secretary to the Honorable Minister of National Languages and Social Integration.

Biswa Nath Tiwari, Professor of Economics, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University
Dr. Tiwari is Professor of Economics at the Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University in Nepal. He has PhD in Economics from Rajasthan University and MSc in Environmental and Resource Economics from London University. He is the lead author of Nepal Human Development Report 2009. He has extensive research experience in the fields of human development, poverty and inequality, food insecurity and vulnerability, drinking water and sanitation, and monitoring & evaluation. His current research focuses on poverty and human development in the Asia Pacific Region. Dr. Tiwari has offered professional services to various governmental and non-governmental organizations, donors and UN agencies, and contributed to the preparation of the various editions of Nepal Human Development Report, and Millennium Development Goal Progress Report.

Indra Tudawe, Head, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNICEF Sri Lanka

Choragudi Upendranadh, Asia Regional Coordinator, Just and Democratic Governance, ActionAid
Mr. Upendranath is working as Asia Regional Coordinator for Just and Democratic Governance at ActionAid in Bangalore facilitating promotion of transparancy, accountability and participatory democracy at different levels. He worked earlier, for over 3 years, as Regional Coordinator of SPA programme at the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi. His areas of interest include issues of governance, human development, solidarity movements and sustainability.

Cynthia Veliko, Senior Human Rights Adviser, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sri Lanka

Rohini Wijayaratne, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka

Mohamed Zahid, Founder Member and Technical Advisor, Maldives NGO Federation
Mr. Zahid is the Founder Member and Technical Advisor of the Maldives NGO Federation. He is also the former Vice-President of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives. He had previously worked on UNDP and UNOPS funded projects programs throughout the country. He played
a leading role in the South Asia Poverty Alleviation Program and Atoll Development for Sustainable Livelihoods project. While Mr. Zahid was engaged in social mobilization, he also took part in the formation and advocated the role of civil society organizations. Mr. Zahid has a vast array of practical knowledge on social mobilization and decentralization process in the Maldives and the region.
For further information:

Marina Faetanini  
Programme Specialist  
Social and Human Sciences (SHS)  
UNESCO New Delhi

B -5/29 Safdarjung Enclave  
New Delhi 110 029, INDIA  
Phone: + (91) 11 267 13000  
Fax: + (91) 11 267 13001/ 267 13002  
Email: m.faetanini@unesco.org; newdelhi@unesco.org  
Website: www.unesco.org/newdelhi; www.unesco.org/shs