



Minnesota International NGO Network

2023 MINN Summit

Time Slot	Agenda Item	Location
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration, Networking, Light Breakfast	Atrium
9:00 am - 9:30 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Summit Kick-Off <i>Introduction by MINN President, Ceallaigh Anderson Smart</i> <i>Welcome by Director of Humphrey of School's Master of Development Practice, David Wilsey</i></p>	Auditorium
9:45 am - 10:45 am	Breakout Sessions Round 1	
	<p><u>The Importance of a Federal Grant Compliance Program - Rebeca Field</u> <i>Federal grant noncompliance can be a serious issue that can result anywhere from audit findings to having to return funds. Knowing and understanding the compliance requirements helps maximize the impact of every dollar you receive. In this session, we will discuss ways that you can assess whether your entity is properly meeting its federal grant compliance requirements. We will cover how to identify what compliance requirements are applicable to your grants, what policies and procedures need to be in place, cover some real-life examples, as well as tools and best practices that can be used to ensure proper compliance.</i></p>	Johnson Center 1st floor Room 180
	<p><u>Displaced Ukrainians' Resilience to Russian Disinformation - Mark Skogen</u> <i>Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, IREX (a DC-based NGO) adapted its media literacy training to meet the needs of Ukrainians displaced by war. This session will first test participants with media literacy exercises before diving in to understand this case study, which will touch on the problem and intervention, the theory of change and MEL data, and challenges and lessons learned.</i></p>	Wilkins Room 2nd floor
	<p><u>Grow Your Practice-CEO Secrets to Building Your Network – Paul Hanscom</u>: <i>No one person changes the world alone. It takes a team to make a lasting impact. You need clarity and a network of change-makers who align with your mission. This session explores how to define and communicate your mission with clarity to cultivate a network of collaborators who will expand the impact you make collectively. There's no better venue than MINN to build your network of change-makers. This session includes tips to engage through MINN to build your network like a CEO and foster connections to expand your impact.</i></p>	Auditorium 1st Floor
<p><u>Overcoming Learned Helplessness and Dependency in Communities: A Process for Changing Mindsets – Elaine Tymchak</u>: <i>Often our program efforts struggle to achieve lasting impact because of people's learned helplessness that keeps them trapped in a cycle of dependency. In this interactive session, we will explore a method that encourages mindset shifts, and introduce a well-known business and personal coaching approach used by experts to overcome resistance to change. Together we can identify practical ideas to use in our programs to support our communities' path towards empowerment.</i></p>	Humphrey Commons 1st Floor	

Breakout Sessions Round 2		
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<p><u>How to Successfully manage cultural diversity in an INGOs setting? – Mohamed Idris:</u> <i>This session will share the findings of my recent doctoral dissertation topic "The Experience of Humanitarian Leaders in Managing Cultural Diversity". I'm planning to present it in an interactive session with participants. What makes the study unique is that it captures the experience of international humanitarian leaders in managing cultural diversity with stories and examples from the sector. While cultural diversity management is relevant for everyone as our world is increasingly becoming diverse, however, this topic is particularly more relevant to INGO leaders and staff.</i></p>	Johnson Center 1st floor Room 180
	<p><u>Rebuilding Traditional Food Systems and Resilience in Rural Haiti and Uganda Through Agroecology – Michael Neumann & Harriet Oyera:</u> <i>This session explores the participatory action and learning approach of farmer-led food sovereignty movements in Haiti and Uganda through the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology Food Sovereignty Initiative (FAFSI). Session participants will gain familiarity with FAFSI and how it has positioned farmers to improve local food security, livelihoods and biodiversity, while building resilience to climate change. Key participatory strategies that are used in knowledge-sharing and innovation will be shared as well as a chance to explore opportunities applying these strategies in the field.</i></p>	Wilkins Room 2nd floor
	<p><u>Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro for Bilingual School of Leadership – Jean-Pierre Bongila:</u> <i>This session discusses fundraising sequences for the construction of "Bilingual School of Leadership" (BSL) in the Congo, Africa. At the end of the presentation, participants will be able to: 1) locate the project with its background, its origination, and its local and local beneficiaries, 2) assess the relevance of the project and its impact to both the local and global population, 3) identify and analyze the fundraising strategies utilized to reach the goal of constructing a bilingual school, and 4) contribute their insights to improving both the fundraising methods and the implementation stages of the project</i></p>	Humphrey Commons 1st Floor
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Marketplace & Lunch	Atrium
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<p>Keynote Speaker Presentation <i>Introduction by MINN Board Member, Patrick Plonski</i> Key Note Speaker: Director Carol Spahn of the Peace Corps <i>Q&A Panel Moderated by Erin Doak, Vice President of the Minnesota Returned Peace Corps (RPCV Albania 2013-2016)</i> Panelists: David Wilsey (RPCV Ecuador) & Sarah Novack (RPCV Liberia & Tanzania)</p>	Auditorium

2:45 pm -
3:45 pm

Breakout Sessions Round 3

Empowering Local Stakeholders through Data Management – Brian Jensen: *This session will focus on empowering development stakeholders through the use of data. It will draw on real-world experiences of working with local, national, and international partners to achieve their development goals through data-driven decision-making. Recognizing that knowledge is power, information that generates that knowledge can empower local stakeholders to drive their development journey. The presenter will discuss the process of going from visioning all the way through to implementing and maintaining a system that guides stakeholders towards that vision.*

Johnson Center
1st floor
Room 180

Humanizing immigrant/refugee diasporas and decolonizing “development” through arts and culture – Lolla Nur: *This session is on humanizing immigrant diasporas will showcase how storytelling, arts and cultural engagement are tools to activate and engage our diaspora communities, and reframe narratives about them. Are immigrants and refugees assets or deficits? How does language (ie “diaspora” vs immigrants vs refugees) play a role in perception, and therefore policy, towards communities? While not a DEI talk per se, this inspiring and colorful presentation will explore themes of diversity and inclusion, through the lens of storytelling, art and culture. Gain inspiration, insights on undoing cultural biases, and witness the impact of art on development.*

Wilkins Room
2nd floor

Unlocking Talent: Refugee and Immigrant Inclusion in Minnesota's Labor Market – Hamlima Hamud: *Minnesota's evolving labor landscape is being reshaped by a growing population of highly educated immigrants and refugees. These untapped talents, often underemployed, offer a valuable workforce resource, especially amid critical labor shortages in sectors like healthcare. Join our session with experts from local nonprofits and policy analysts to gain insights into the ongoing efforts in Minnesota, understand the current challenges, and chart a path toward a more equitable workforce in Minnesota.*

Auditorium
1st Floor

Program Impact Evaluation through Qualitative Storytelling – Malak Khalil, Alexandra Wilson, Lakshmi Vemuri: *With the case study of Global Mamas, the presenters will showcase how evaluation can be more impactful with qualitative methods such as storytelling. The team traveled to Ghana for two months to implement this type of evaluation to celebrate Global Mama's operations over the past twenty years. The team utilized a "most significant change" approach so participants can define their own terms of success. The goal is to understand why it is important to have qualitative methods such as storytelling present when conducting these types of impact evaluations. Another goal is to share the results of the evaluation after interviewing 86 participants over the course of two months.*

Humphrey
Commons
1st Floor

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