

THE  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE  
GENEVA

GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
CENTRE



# What Can We Learn? Ebola Then and Now...

Organised by the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

**Biographies of Speakers**

**13 May 2019  
Maison de la paix  
The Graduate Institute, Geneva**

LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE





## MODERATOR

### MICHAELA TOLD

**Executive Director, Global Health Centre, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**



Michaela Told is currently Executive Director of the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. Prior to moving into academia, she worked for more than 10 years with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at local, regional and international levels in all continents, most recently heading the Principles and Values Department of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva. She was also involved in negotiations and policy-making within the statutory bodies of the RCRC Movement. Earlier in her career, she worked with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Division of Development Cooperation and later served as Secretary General of an international women's human rights NGO based in Geneva. In her current position as Executive Director of the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute, she is responsible for the successful implementation of all activities of the Centre, and she leads and sets the strategic orientation of the Centre, together with the Centre's Director. In her research and teaching, she focuses on global health diplomacy, national global health strategies and health governance, among others. She directs a number of executive courses in global health diplomacy worldwide. She holds a MSW (School of Social Work, Vienna), a MCom (Development Economics, University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna), and a MA in Development Studies (Women & Development, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague), as well as a PhD (School of Law and Social Sciences, University of East London, UK). You can follow her on twitter @michaelatold\_GH.

## SPEAKERS

### MICHAEL RYAN

**Executive Director, Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization**



Michael Ryan has been at the forefront of managing acute risks to global health for nearly 25 years. He served as Assistant Director-General for Emergency Preparedness and Response in WHO's Health Emergencies Programme from 2017 to 2019. Dr. Ryan first joined WHO in 1996, with the newly established unit to respond to emerging and epidemic disease threats. He has worked in conflict affected countries and led many responses to high impact epidemics. He is a founding member of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), which has aided the response to hundreds of disease outbreaks around the world. He served as Coordinator of Epidemic Response (2000-2003), Operational Coordinator of WHO's response to the SARS outbreak (2003), and as WHO's Director of Global Alert and Response (2005-2011). He was a Senior Advisor on Polio Eradication for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative from 2013 to 2017, deploying to countries in the Middle East. He completed medical training at the National University of Ireland, Galway, a Master's in Public Health at University College Dublin, and specialist training in communicable disease control at the Health Protection Agency in London and the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training.

## **EMANUELE CAPOBIANCO**

**Director, Health & Care, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**



Emanuele Capobianco is Director of the Health and Care Department at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. He leads a global team of health and WaSH experts to support 14 million volunteers in 190 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to build resilient communities, respond to natural disasters, and care for vulnerable individuals. Emanuele brings to IFRC 20 years of experience in policy development and implementation of health programmes in low and middle-income countries with specific expertise in fragile settings, partnerships, maternal/child health and communicable diseases. He most recently served as Deputy Executive Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health at the World Health Organization, coordinating the Partnership's network of 850 organizations in support to the 2016-2030 Global Strategy for Children's, Women's and Adolescents' Health. In his previous position as Senior Policy Advisor with the Global Fund, Emanuele coordinated the development of the 2017-2022 Global Fund Strategy and the first Global Fund policy on fragile settings. Over the past 20 years Emanuele has worked with the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO at country, regional and headquarters levels. Emanuele managed the programmes on communicable diseases, mother and child health, nutrition, and drug use prevention, treatment and care in Afghanistan, India, Mozambique and Somalia. He has also supported emergency response to cholera outbreaks and floods, and has worked to strengthen health systems through community-based programmes and cross-sectoral approaches. Emanuele has a Medical Degree from Italy, a Master in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and an Erasmus Mundus' Master in International Humanitarian Action. Emanuele is fluent in Italian, English and Portuguese.

## **SUSANNAH MAYHEW**

**Professor, Department for Global Health and Development, LSHTM; Principal Investigator, Ebola Gbalo research project**



Susannah Mayhew is Professor of Health Policy, Systems and Reproductive Health in the department of Global Health and Development at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She was head of department from 2015-2018 and for three years before that headed the Anthropology, Policy and Politics Group in the same department. Her research specialisations are in policy analysis, policy implementation, governance and accountability research; health systems and systems integration research; and reproductive health and rights. She has led multi-partner research projects in numerous countries across sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia. At present she works primarily in West and East Africa and travels regularly to Ghana, the country of her birth. She has held in excess of £17 million in research funding over the past 20 years. She is currently principal investigator for Ebola Gbalo, a research study investigating the different levels of response (international, national, district and sub-district) to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, and the implications of this response for health systems strengthening and for strengthening connections with "local" responders. The study is funded by the UK's Medical Research Council.

## **ESTHER MOKUWA**

**Researcher, Njala University; Researcher, Wageningen University & Research**



Esther Mokuwa is a Sierra Leonean social science researcher. She holds a Master's degree in engineering management from the University of Greenwich in UK, and worked for some years as a field coordinator for international research projects in agrarian development and rural health systems, based at Njala University. She did field work at the height of the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone on behalf of the International Ebola Response Anthropology Platform to help national and international responders to understand community reactions to the epidemic.

Ms. Mokuwa has also managed several socio-economic field survey exercises for Njala University commissioned and funded by FAO, and has authored or co-authored several papers on rural conflict and community responses to Ebola. She is just about to finish her PhD in Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Her thematic focus is on cultural variables (kinship, marriage exchanges, gift giving and sacrifice) to see how these affect economic development and market integration in rural Sierra Leone.