

## VIRTUAL MEMBERS CIRCLE ALUMNI WHO'S WHO?



**Andrew Carmona**  
*Technical Director*  
*MSI / Tetra Tech*  
*Washington DC, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ajcarmona/>

Andrew is an international development practitioner specializing in monitoring and evaluation of foreign aid projects. Originally from LA, he has lived in DC on and off since 2008. When not nerding out about data and statistics, you can find him watching or playing soccer and baseball, meandering through nature, or reading sci-fi.

**Current work:** I work for a consulting firm that primarily carries out monitoring and evaluation of international development projects funded by the US government.



**Anna Greenstone**  
*Sr. Instructional Design Specialist & Deputy Team Lead*  
*EnCompass LLC*  
*Bladensburg, MD, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/anna-greenstone-b67ab241/>

Anna has been with USAID since the fall of 2021, and is grateful for the opportunity to develop and facilitate courses in both technical sectors and those with DEIA or inclusion focuses. Anna has more than 15 years of experience in education including time as a classroom teacher, and as deputy program director with a national literacy nonprofit. Anna just joined the board of a small Tanzanian education organization, Jifundishe, and is proficient in Swahili. She holds a BA in Anthropology and Africana Studies from the University of Pittsburgh and an MEd in International Educational Development, from The University of Pennsylvania.

**Current work:** I develop courses for staff who work in the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, the disaster relief lead bureau within USAID. I facilitate courses and

webinars on topics ranging from leadership skills to conflict management and operational stress mitigation.



**Anya Metzger**

*Senior Development Officer*

*CAMFED International*

*London, UK*

Cohort: London Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/anya-metzer-b973b6102/>

Anya is a Senior Development Officer at CAMFED International, an organization supporting girls' education and young women's leadership across sub-Saharan Africa. She has worked in the international NGO sector for six years with a particular focus on gender transformative programming. Anya holds a BA in English from Oxford University and MA in the Humanities from the University of Chicago. Beyond work, she enjoys cooking, reading, museums and murder mysteries.

**Current work:** I am managing several grants focused on improving educational access and quality, and child protection processes, in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with a particular focus on improving opportunities for girls and disabled learners. I am CAMFED International's Malawi Country Lead, providing particular technical support to the Malawi team.



**Ari Cooper**

*MPH Student and Fellow*

*The George Washington University*

*Washington DC, USA*

Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/aricooper/>

Ari is a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Intern with USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Strategy and Program Office (LAC/SPO) and a first-year Master of Public Health student at The George Washington University, with a concentration in Humanitarian Health. Most recently, Ari spent over two years supporting MEL contracts and evaluations for EnCompass LLC and IBTCI across Iraq, Yemen, Nigeria, and Central and South America. After completing his Bachelor's degree in Law, Societies, and Justice from the University of Washington in Seattle, he joined the Peace Corps as a Community and Organizational Development Volunteer in Albania.

**Current work:** I am the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Intern at USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Strategy and Programs Office. I'm also a first year Master of Public Health Student & Coverdell Fellow at Milken Institute School of

Public Health at the George Washington University, in the Department of Global Health.



**Aissata Himmelfarb**  
*Senior Manager*  
*Palladium International*  
*Lilongwe, Malawi*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/aricooper/>

Aissata is currently a Senior Manager on the USAID-funded Malawi Agricultural Diversification and Growth Poles programs, where she structures and oversees partnerships with private sector anchor firms, smallholder organizations, cooperatives, civil society, and MSMEs to support sustainable, resilient, and inclusive wealth generation, and mobilize rural-based private sector investments in Malawi.

Aissata has experience leading winning proposal development, capturing efforts for donor funded programs, and serving as gender/social inclusion focal point in economic growth, finance, youth, and workforce development proposals and projects. Her international experience includes work in Liberia, Cameroon, Haiti, Indonesia, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, and Malawi.

**Current work:** I structure and oversee partnerships with private sector anchor firms, smallholder organizations, cooperatives, and civil society to support sustainable, resilient, and inclusive wealth generation, and mobilize rural-based private sector investments in Malawi.



**Barbara Goldoftas**  
*Resilience and Climate Adaptation Adviser & Fellow*  
*USAID*  
*Washington DC, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

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Barbara is a Resilience and Climate Adaptation Adviser at USAID and a Science & Technology Policy Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She brings to climate work a range of experiences with environmental health, public health, and international development as well as an early career practicing and teaching science writing. She is the author of *The Green Tiger: The Costs of Ecological Decline in the Philippines*.

**Current work:** I am working at USAID on climate adaptation through a science and technology policy fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



**Bari Rabin**

*Independent Consultant*

*Chicago, Illinois, USA*

Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/barirabin/>

Bari is most passionate about work that involves people at its center--connecting stakeholders for relationship building and learning, convening, facilitating, and creating the space for voices to be heard through consultation and dialogue.

She has over twenty years supporting international development entities to become learning organizations, including introduction of Knowledge Management at World Bank and integration of collaborating, learning, and adapting (CLA) at USAID and with its partners since 2015. Bari has created instructional design using principles of adult learning and modern workplace learning for in-person training and remote knowledge sharing activities. She is a dynamic group facilitator, focused on giving all participants a voice. Skilled with consultation of local stakeholders and building trust among partners for collaboration and to cultivate communities of practice for peer learning.

Bari is passionate about Latin America with experience across regions, including Mexico, Central and South America, Laos PDR, Thailand, Cambodia, Republic of Georgia, Uganda, Ghana, Sudan, and Ethiopia.

**Current work:** My most recent work has involved teaching others USAID's approach to adaptive management, which they call collaborating, learning, and adapting. This involves using evidence to determine if we need to make tweaks in our programming for a better outcome.



**Benjamin Kasdan**

*Acting PEPFAR country Coordinator/Deputy Coordinator  
USAID*

*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/benjamin-n-kasdan-86658941/>

Benjamin is currently the Acting Country Coordinator for PEPFAR-Ethiopia. He joined PEPFAR/Ethiopia from USAID/Washington's Office of HIV & AIDS where he served as a budget/expenditure and SI advisor supporting Botswana, DRC, Mozambique,

Tanzania, and Vietnam. In addition to his PEPFAR duties, he led USAID/Tanzania's M&E portfolio as part of a detail on their Global Vax programming team.

Before working at USAID, Ben worked with International Planned Parenthood Federation on their sexual and reproductive health in crisis and post-crisis settings project in Bangkok, Thailand. He previously worked at Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT), in the capacity building program for maternal and newborn healthcare.

Ben received a BA from George Washington University in International Relations and his MPH in Global Health with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

**Current work:** I coordinate the HIV/AIDS response in Ethiopia, implemented by USAID & CDC.



**Deetza Elf**  
*Communications Manager*  
*Women for Women International*  
*London, UK*  
Cohort: London Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/deetza-elf-668406129/>

Deetza is Communications Manager at Women for Women International – UK, a global non profit supporting women survivors of war and conflict in 14 conflict-affected countries. Previously, she worked for Tzedek, an OLAM partner organisation. Deetza has also been a JDC Entwine JSC Fellow, through which she spent a year in Rwanda working at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, funded by the Pears Foundation. In her spare time, Deetza enjoys swimming, reading and spending time with friends and family.

**Current work:** I am the Communications Manager at Women for Women International in London, UK.



**Emma Bassin**  
*Project Manager*  
*MSI*  
*Washington DC, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/emma-bassin/>

Emma is a bilingual global health program management professional with 5+ years of experience supporting international health interventions. She has experience in

expenditure tracking, country coordination, donor compliance, and cross-cultural communication. Emma's work in public health includes family planning and reproductive health, global health security, tuberculosis, COVID-19, and infectious disease.

**Current work:** In my role at the USAID-funded Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance project, I connect country teams based in several Sub-Saharan countries with technical advisors at headquarters, and I support the submission of project deliverables and adherence to activity implementation schedules.



**Galit Cohen**  
*Director*  
*Ripples for Change*  
*East London, South Africa*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/galit-cohen-b760782/>

Galit Cohen has over 20 years of experience as a professional in the international development and humanitarian aid arena. In the past eight years she has been the Director of Ripples for Change, an organization working in the rural areas in the Eastern Cape province in South Africa, working in food security, mental health for youth, early childhood development services and entrepreneurship.

To effectively distribute limited resources in the nonprofit sector and leave a meaningful impact, Galit encourages partnering with government departments, private sector, traditional leaders and like-minded nonprofit organizations.

Galit has a first degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Public Health, specializing in Management of Emergencies and Disasters. This led her to join and head emergency missions to Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010, Philippines after Typhoon Hayan in 2014, Oklahoma City after a Tornado in 2014 and in South Sudan for nine months in 2014-15.

**Current work:** Creating social and economic change in rural communities in South Africa.



**Gina Volynsky**  
*Strategic Planning and*  
*Business Development Advisor*  
*Washington DC, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gina-volynsky-a22a12/>

Gina has over 25 years of experience in international development, including 14 years of living and working in emerging economies. She has dedicated much of her career to collaborating with the private sector to address development challenges, which included heading a team working for USAID on private-sector engagement, and designing and managing multi-country programs for the UNDP that created the infrastructure to partner with multinationals. While at the World Bank she served as country manager for MIGA, and she set up and managed business development divisions for Crown Agents and CARANA.

Most recently, Gina led the State University of New York's Center for International Development, where, in addition to overseeing and growing a large portfolio of programs, she co-created the International Development Concentration and designed and taught graduate courses. Gina has an MBA and a bachelor's degree in economics, and is fluent in Russian.

**Current work:** I focus on developing programs with private sector partners that advance development goals while contributing to their bottom line goals.



**Goldie Shturman**  
*Managing director*  
*US Development Finance Corporation*  
*Potomac, Maryland*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/goldieshturman/>

Goldie is a successful alternative investment and private equity professional with 15+ years of experience. She has a proven track record investing and consulting in emerging markets with a specific focus in Latin America and the Caribbean Region, with deep and broad insights on the Region's investment and political environments.

Goldie has managed different teams across the entire life-cycle of direct private equity and fund of funds transactions, in sectors including financial institutions, housing, food & beverage, energy efficiency and education, and has served as member of several private equity funds' Advisory Boards and Investment Committees.

She has an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, with majors in Finance and Management; an MA in Political Science from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and a BA in International Relations from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM).

**Current work:** I lead the Latin America Investment Funds team for the DFC.



**Guy Shrayer**  
*Emergency Consultant*  
*JDC-GRID*  
*Accra, Ghana*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/guy-shrayer/>

Guy has over seven years of experience in projects and disaster operation management in the humanitarian and nonprofit sector. He specializes in crisis management and has worked and managed projects in various harsh circumstances, in as many as five countries located across four continents. He managed emergency recovery operations during earthquakes, deadly snowstorms, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, conflict, and post-conflict refugee settings.

Guy is an emergency response consultant for NGOs and is an active research member at the London Institute of Peace Research (LIRP). He is also a consultant for the Institution of disaster mental health (IDMH) at the State University of New York in New Paltz where he is teaching an academic course for the Trauma and Disaster Mental Health Certificate program through the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz.

He has a Bachelor's degree in Economy and Psychology, and a Master's degree in International Development and Conflict Resolution within the framework of the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace. His master's research thesis was on Secondary Traumatic Stress Among Aid Workers, Self-Care, and Coping Mechanisms.

**Current work:** Most recently, I was working as Head of Mission in a Caribbean island following a volcanic eruption. I led a team that provided psychosocial support and WASH for evacuated populations.



**Hadar Rottenberg**  
*Chief Technology Officer*  
*GoodDollar*  
*Tzuba, Israel*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hadarrottenberg/>

Hadar started as a developer as a kid and since then has been the CTO of multiple internet startups. Today he is a member of Kibbutz Tzuba, which is still a cooperative community, and is married with 4 kids. His main interest is exploring the synergy between revolutionary ideas and technology, and he takes his inspiration from Judaism and Socialism. Hadar has a Bachelor of Science from Ben-Gurion University.

**Current work:** I develop a digital currency that implements the idea of Universal Basic Income and I've helped distribute over \$0.5M worth of GoodDollars to hundreds of thousands of users, mostly in emerging markets.



**Hagit Krakov Cherni**

*Consultant*

*London, UK*

Cohort: London Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hagit-krakow-cherni-02a89316/>

Hagit holds an MA in Community Development Studies and a BA in Psychology and Criminology. Hagit has over a decade of experience in humanitarian aid and community development in over 15 countries, with expertise in forced migration, emergency response management, mental health programs, and community engagement. Hagit has worked with IsraAID for eight years, supporting the establishment of its departments, strategy and mission. Her most recent role was Regional Program Director, focusing on Europe and the Middle East. Hagit's most recent post with IsraAID was managing its emergency operation in response to the refugee crisis in Ukraine, on the border with Moldova.

**Current work:** Hagit works today with the Hebrew University's MA program, Glocal. Hagit established a research team, challenging existing concepts and theories in the international development sector, and launched its first podcast program, interviewing leading local and global professionals in areas of innovation, power dynamics, gender, economic inclusion, policy and more.



**Hannah Gaventa**

*Portfolio Manager*

*Palladium: Make it Possible*

*London, UK*

Cohort: London Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hannah-gaventa-8075a261/>

Hannah has more than 10 years of experience working with international NGOs in emergency contexts, specialising in post disaster resiliency and climate adaptation, with a particular interest in gender and social inclusion.

**Current work:** I work for Palladium on the UK Government Skills for Prosperity Programme, an £80m fund targeting education and skills development to reduce poverty and increase economic growth in nine middle income countries.



**Hila Cohen Mizrav**  
*Operation Consultant*  
*The World Bank*  
*Washington DC, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hila-cohen-mizrav-14342738/>

Hila Cohen Mizrav is an Operational Officer Consultant at the World Bank, working on improving water and urban resilience. She previously worked at Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as a coordinator of the IDB-Israel collaboration: Enhancing Capacity in Water Resources Technologies. Her work experience includes water management, irrigation, and upgrading water utilities in Africa. He has over 10 years of experience in the environmental sector and holds a master's degree in Environmental Policy and International Relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**Current work:** I work in the global department of the World Bank, consulting on how to improve water and urban resilience.



**Jessica Baker**  
*Project Officer*  
*TRIAS Consult*  
*London, UK*  
Cohort: London Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-klara-baker/>

Jess Baker is a recent graduate from the University of Leeds having completed her Degree in Politics and Philosophy. She was the project delivery intern at DAI Global UK during her placement year and has volunteered in Calais, supporting refugee communities in Northern France.

**Current work:** I work in business delivery and project managing on a project evaluation about youth violence in South Sudan.



**Jonathan Arogeti**  
*Humanitarian Planning & Communications Manager*  
*CARE*  
*Atlanta, Georgia, USA*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-arogeti-4828b91a/>

Jonathan works in international humanitarian assistance at CARE USA as the Humanitarian Planning & Communications Manager. In this capacity, he stands in

solidarity with people affected by crises to increase the effectiveness of their responses to emergencies. Before that, Jonathan worked in political campaigns and government service in Washington, DC, and Georgia. A returned Peace Corps volunteer, he served in both Mali and in Comoros.

In his free time, Jonathan co-chairs the Repair the World Atlanta Advisory Board. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia and lives in downtown Atlanta.

**Current work:** I support communications and information management functions for CARE's humanitarian programming and planning initiatives for more effective response. I also am CARE's Caribbean Humanitarian Response lead.



**Karin Villarroel**

*Consultant at the IDB Cities Network  
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)  
Washington DC, USA  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23*

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/karin-villarroel-94207424/>

Karin is an architect and urban planner with more than 7 years of experience in community participation, urban planning, urban design, transport and sustainable development.

She currently works as a consultant for the IDB Cities Network. Previously, Karin worked as head of the Urban Planning Section at Lo Barnechea Municipality in Chile, leading urban planning and design projects, throughout development, implementation, and completion. She also developed a policy project in partnership with LSE Cities and Transport for London to align the future expansion of road pricing across Greater London with London's net-zero 2030 goal focusing on climate justice and equity distribution.

Karin hold a Master in Public Policy (MPP) from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), a Master in Real Estate Development and Investment from ESE Business School, Universidad de Los Andes in Chile, a Master in Urban Project and a BA in Architecture from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC).

**Current work:** At the IDB Cities Network, Housing and Urban Development Division (CSD/HUD) I provide operational and technical support and expertise in urban development to design knowledge projects, generate dialogue opportunities between cities, and promote knowledge transfer, capacity building, and dissemination activities.



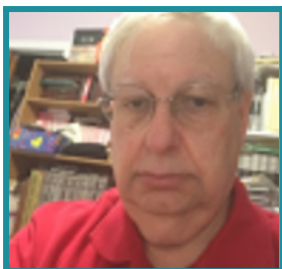
**Maya Kroitoru**  
*Foreign Service Officer*  
*USAID*  
*Nigeria*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/maya-kroitoru-7aa8604>

Maya is a Foreign Service Officer with USAID's Program Office. She has over 15 years of international program management & operations experience in MENA, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean. In her most recent capacity at JDC's Global Response and International Development department, she played a key leadership role in the department's strategy development, MEAL strategy & implementation, board relations, fundraising, marketing as well as budget management functions.

Over the course of her career, Maya specialized in emergency response & recovery as well as community-based disaster risk reduction, focusing on the integration of psychosocial support and other community-led recovery initiatives. Maya has a Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is a certified facilitator, yoga instructor and Thai massage practitioner.

**Current work:** I'm a Program Officer at USAID.



**Mitchell Benus**  
*Chair, Grants Committee*  
*Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration*  
*Bronx, New York, USA*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mitch-benus-066811/>

After 35+ years in the corporate sector, Mitchell transitioned to the nonprofit world, serving both in a consultancy function as well as hands-on administrator for an immigration and resettlement organization.

**Current work:** I facilitate the application and screening process as well as granting of funds to community based Welcome Circles.

**Neta Hanien***VP of Programs and Partnerships**Innov8**Lagos, Nigeria**Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023*<https://www.linkedin.com/in/neta-hanien-321727a5/>

Neta is a creative social impact entrepreneur who is passionate about developing innovative, out of the box changemaking projects and programs, mostly for developing, underserved, communities. Currently she lives with her family in Nigeria and is the VP Programs and Partnerships at Innov8 Hub Abuja where she is leading the design and implementations of innovation and entrepreneurship development programs for Nigerians, including the i-FAIR program - in partnership with the Israeli foreign affairs office.

Prior to moving to Africa, Neta was the co-founder of the award-winning social business - Juha's Guesthouse, a business that is known for successfully developing sustainable economy and tourism in the underserved village of Jisr a Zarka, Israel. Neta is also a lawyer and served 7 years as a criminal prosecutor in Israel.

**Current work:** I initiate, design and implement innovation and entrepreneurship programs for Nigerians, that turn ideas into viable solutions to Africa's pressing challenges. I engage both Nigerian and international experts as mentors, including many Israelis.

**Noam Assouline***Former Public Information and JOC Officer**UN Peacekeeping**Arles, France**Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023*<https://www.linkedin.com/in/noamassouline/>

Noam is a communication expert with over 20 years of experience in strategic planning and campaign building. A PR and a networker at heart, his sharp analysis enables him to target the right partners and customers for both local and EMEA markets.

With 8 years of field experience in Africa and working in emergency, post-conflict, and/or highly politicized settings, Noam can teach you to see the world under a different perspective and understand more the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

He likes to share his experience with students (high school and above) interested in the UN Common System.

**Current work:** For the UN Peacekeeping mission in Mali, I was in charge of providing integrated situational awareness through routine and incident reporting. The tasks also include supporting mission crisis management through provision of situational awareness, analytical reports, medical and casualty evacuation). As I finished 4 years of missions in CAR and Mali in remote locations, I am looking to reconnect with other professionals.



**Paul Bauman**

*Principal Geophysicist and Hydrogeologist*  
*Paul Bauman Geophysics/BGC Engineering*  
*Calgary, Canada*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/paul-bauman-52598117/>

BScE in Geological Engineering from Princeton, MSc in hydrogeology and geophysics from the University of Waterloo. 35 years experience running a group of geophysicists specializing in the near surface, with significant focus on groundwater exploration. Every year we carry out at least one pro bono water project in a refugee camp, drought or famine zone. Vast experience on water exploration projects in many countries including Yemen, Uganda, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi. Many publications and many awards including recent distinguished lectureship focused on water exploration in humanitarian crises. Personal company owns a vast array of equipment specifically suited to geophysical water exploration.

**Current work:** Managing and working with a group of about 15 geophysicists focused on challenges in the "near" surface, with water exploration being the main goal of much of our work.



**Sam Alhadeff**

*Portfolio Manager*  
*USAID*  
*Washington DC, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alhadeff>

Sam is a Portfolio Manager for USAID's Development Innovation Ventures team. In this role, he reviews and conducts diligence and manages promising innovations in international development around the world, ranging from e-motos to early childhood development in between. He likes to describe his work as "Shark Tank but for international development". Outside of USAID, he has provided freelance research and writing for international organizations and social entrepreneurs. Sam is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison twice over (master's and undergraduate). In his

free time, he likes playing soccer and ultimate frisbee, stand-up comedy, and attending musicals.

**Current work:** We are an open innovation fund that helps find, test, and bring to scale promising solutions across a broad range of sectors and all geographies around the world. In my role, I conduct diligence on promising applications to help improve their projects and determine whether we should fund them. Once funded, I manage the grants to make sure they hit predetermined development milestones.



**Sharon Meged**  
*Program Manager*  
*Social Impact*  
*Washington DC, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharon-meged-a064b934>

Sharon has spent the last 13 years in Washington, DC working in international affairs and development. She started her career at AMIDEAST where, for 8 years, she primarily worked on the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, working across 7 countries and managing grants of MENA Fulbright students to the US. With a desire to pivot to international development, Sharon transitioned to program management in monitoring and evaluation with a private consulting firm called Social Impact. In the last three years, she's worked with a variety of clients including USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Department of State. Given SI's global reach, Sharon has expanded beyond a MENA focus and gained technical skills in the realm of evaluation. She earned her BA in Middle Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley and an MA in International Affairs from GWU, and is proficient in Hebrew and Spanish.

**Current work:** Social Impact is a private firm focusing on monitoring and evaluation in the international development field. Our work is global, across a large breadth of sectors.



**Sheryl Cowan**  
*Senior Vice President*  
*Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)*  
*Falls Church, VA, USA*  
Cohort: DC Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sherylcowan123/>

Sheryl has more than 25 years of experience in development with a special focus on advancing food security and strengthening livelihoods and a strong record of program design and management, training and capacity-building. Before joining CNFA in 2015, Sheryl served in a variety of development positions, including as director, Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems for International Relief Development, Inc.; deputy

resident country director in Mali for a \$465 million contract for the Millennium Challenge Corporation; Peace Corps country director in Benin; and country director in Niger and Mali for Africare. Sheryl began her career as an agriculture Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho.

She currently manages a \$145 million portfolio of agribusiness-focused contracts and grants in eight countries. Proficient in French, Cowan holds a Master of International and Intercultural Management with a dual concentration in sustainable development and training from the School for International Training.

**Current work:** CNFA works in agriculture, agribusiness, food security, and economic growth worldwide, promoting entrepreneurship. I manage a portfolio that currently includes 9 projects across West Africa and the Caucasus.



**Shoshana Cohen**  
*President and Educational Director*  
*Esperanzas Unidas*  
*Seattle, Washington, USA*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shoshanna-rubinstein-cohen-945081ab/>

Shoshanna is a 20 year educator, has worked in the public and private/secular and Jewish educational institutes around the world, and has supported various nonprofits to design project-based learning/hands-on k-12 curriculum. She is fluent in English and Spanish and loves writing curriculum in both.

Shoshana has volunteered with the nonprofit Esperanzas Unidas in Honduras since its inception 12 years ago.

**Current work:** I am in charge of writing and directing the English and technology curriculum we provide for the youth in Honduras through 1:1 weekly zoom lessons. I also design curriculum for other schools to learn about Honduras, bamboo, the Mayan culture, and more, and I create and teach art designs to our leadership girls.



**Shuli El-Baz**  
*Digital Product Manager*  
*Plan International UK*  
*London, UK*  
Cohort: London Circle, 2022-23

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shulamit-el-baz-331b2a90/>

Shuli has been working in the INGO sector in London for over 5 years and is experienced in website content generation and optimisation. Shuli is particularly interested in user behavior and UX testing. Before moving to London, Shuli lived in Tel

Aviv for a few years where she worked as a copywriter for Haaretz newspaper and several tech start-ups.

**Current work:** I am currently leading the website build for Plan International UK. From design to technical functionality, I have been the main point of contact for the organization and external agencies. Alongside this project, I have also been supporting the implementation of the organization's refreshed brand and anti-racism principles.



**Susan Moinester**  
*Executive Director*  
*Hands of Mothers*  
*Memphis, Tennessee, USA*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/susanmoinester/>

Susan is a dedicated professional with experience in international development, small business management and corporate consumer products marketing. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of Hands of Mothers, an organization which works to lift families out of poverty through the education and economic development of women and girls. Susan is responsible for managing staff and programs in Rwanda, fundraising, and board management.

Susan is also the Director of New Product Development at Dr. Scholl's Division/Schering Plough (now Merck). She is responsible for development and sourcing of new consumer footcare products and for creation of marketing and PR campaigns.

Susan is active in various US social justice projects. She has an MA in Social Work/Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA in Psychology from Brooklyn College.

**Current work:** I oversee all operational aspects of Hands of Mothers US and Hands of Mothers Rwanda. This includes program development, staff management, development of strategic partnerships, fundraising and board management.



**Rabbi Yafa Chase**  
*President & Rabbi*  
*Ezra's World*  
*South Hadley, Massachusetts, USA*  
Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023

Rabbi Yafa Chase is the president of Ezra's World, an organization that works to prevent children from becoming orphans by supporting programs focused on strengthening families. She is also the Director of Western MA Programs for the Harold

Grinspoon Foundation. Yafa has a Master's in International Development and has worked for 40 years developing and directing organizations.

**Current work:** I fund family-strengthening projects.



**Victoria Godik**

*Independent Consultant*

*NGO Energy Country; Vaad of Ukraine; WJC*

*Kyiv, Ukraine/Berlin, Germany*

*Cohort: Virtual Circle, 2023*

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Victoria holds a graduate degree in engineering and is a Board member of NGOs focusing on supporting community-led energy efficiency and green initiatives, educational programs for sustainability, consultant and mentor for Ukrainian and international projects related to sustainability, energy efficiency, green innovations, as well as leadership, education, advocacy, culture, charity and humanitarian support.

Victoria is the co-founder and coordinator of women's empowerment and support initiatives, both Jewish and non-Jewish. She is also a board member of the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities (Vaad) of Ukraine, WJC Jewish Diplomatic Corps Member, co-chair of working groups, Advisor and Educator at UUJS, founding member of ZFU, and UA Support Teams admin.

Native of Kyiv, from the early stages of the full-scale war in Ukraine, she was one of the point persons for the international organizations and network (including WJC and UAST) in the field.

**Current work:** Since February 2022 I have been putting a lot of effort into helping to evacuate people from Ukraine, relocate, provide with information, assist by different means, and provide humanitarian aid for those who are in Ukraine and those who fled.