

SHIFT ASIA LEARNING SESSION 1.0

AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN ASIA



Shamim Ara Begum
Director of Pollisree

*"Women's Platforms
Driving Inclusive
Humanitarian Action in
Bangladesh"*



Khotimun Sutanti
Director of LBH APIK

*"WLHL Consortium:
Advancing Women-Led
and Locally Driven
Humanitarian Action in
Indonesia"*



Zir Than Hnuni
Managing Director HLDO

*"Women Humanitarian
Leaders Navigating
Change in Crisis Contexts
in **Myanmar**"*



John David L. S. Dayao
Bayi, Inc.

*"Feminist Humanitarian
Leadership from Local
Communities in the
Philippines"*



*Bangladesh and Indonesia
Language Interpreters are
provided*



Thursday, 27 Nov 25



ZOOM: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/SHIFTASIA01](https://bit.ly/shiftasia01)



13:00–15:00 Dhaka Time

14:00–16:00 Jakarta Time

14:30–16:30 Naypyidaw Time

15:00–17:00 Manila Time



scan to join meeting

This session kicks off SHIFT Asia (Supporting Humanitarian Initiatives for Transformation in Asia) learning journey to amplify women's leadership and local knowledge in humanitarian action, building on Phase 1 insights and strengthening collective action for women's local humanitarian leadership

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SPEAKERS



Shamim Ara Begum
Director of Pollisree

*"Women's Platforms
Driving Inclusive
Humanitarian Action in
Bangladesh"*

Shamim Ara Begum has more than 35 years of experience in the development field. She is a founding member of organization Pollisree and has performed the role of Executive director since its creation in 1987. Shamim Ara Begum involves herself in women's empowerment; prevention of violence against women; gender justice and transformative leadership. She works at the grassroots level and has vast experience in community mobilization. She completed her bachelor's degree in Sociology and in an activist supporting many different network and campaign activities supporting ICT, participation of the women in their justice and raising awareness on women's rights and entitlement. She was an active member of BWHP.



Khotimun Sutanti
Director of LBH APIK

*"WLHL Consortium:
Advancing Women-Led
and Locally Driven
Humanitarian Action in
Indonesia"*

Khotimun Sutanti is the Executive Coordinator of Asosiasi LBH APIK Indonesia, a feminist legal aid association advancing women's rights and access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence. With extensive experience in gender-responsive legal aid and policy advocacy, she leads national efforts to challenge systemic discrimination and strengthen protections for women and vulnerable groups. As a core member of the Women in Local Humanitarian Leadership (WLHL) Consortium—a regional platform led by women's rights and local humanitarian organizations—she helps promote feminist approaches and elevate women's leadership in humanitarian preparedness and response. Her work reflects a strong commitment to ensuring women's voices and lived experiences shape more just and inclusive systems.

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SPEAKERS



Zir Than Hnuni
Managing Director HLDO

"Women Humanitarian Leaders Navigating Change in Crisis Contexts in Myanmar"

Zir Than Hnuni, Managing Director and co-founder of the Hualngo Land Development Organization (HLDO), is a committed advocate for tribal women's leadership and empowerment in Myanmar. With a Master's in Contextual Theology from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, she has translated her feminist and theological grounding into practical action, training over 1,000 women across 70 tribal communities. Her journey from lecturer to grassroots leader reflects her dedication to challenging patriarchal norms and amplifying women's voices in marginalized regions. Originally from Rihkhawdar in Chin State, she continues to guide HLDO with courage, compassion, and a vision for inclusive development.



John David L. S. Dayao
Bayi, Inc.

"Feminist Humanitarian Leadership from Local Communities in Philippines"

John David Louis Santos Dayao is a development professional grounded in human rights and feminist values, working across community development, gender justice, and inclusive governance. Since 2022, he has supported women and gender-diverse humanitarian leaders through his work with Bayi, Inc. and Oxfam, focusing on research, capacity strengthening, and government engagement. He has experience with Plan International Pilipinas and Angat Buhay, and now works with the UP Center for Women and Gender Studies on gender-transformative approaches in climate and biodiversity work while completing his master's in Community Development. He remains committed to feminist leadership, safeguarding, and inclusive systems that challenge inequality.