



2019 seep
Annual Conference
*Building Resilience
through Market Systems*

October 21-23 | Arlington, Virginia

2019 SEEP Annual General Meeting
Monday, October 21
9:00 – 11:15 am
at the 2019 SEEP Annual Conference

List of Candidates for the Elections to the Board of Directors

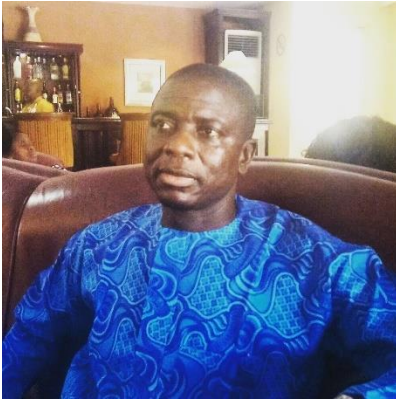
Five (5) Candidates for Four (4) Open Positions

(In alphabetical order, by last name)

Please click on the name to read the candidate's Personal Statement and Biography.

1. [Shikir Nuhu Caleb, National Association of Microfinance Banks \(NAMB\)](#)
2. [Prabhat Labh, Grameen Foundation India](#)
3. [Steve Mason, Aga Khan Foundation](#)
4. [Chris Nicoletti, iDE](#)
5. [Shareha \(Sherry\) Youssef Younes, FHI 360](#)





PERSONAL STATEMENT- Shikir Nuhu Caleb

CEO, National Association of Microfinance Banks in Nigeria (NAMB)

I, Shikir N. Caleb, present myself for Board election to serve in capacity of the Board of The SEEP Network for the period stipulated in the Board Charter of the organization. My conviction was based on my willingness to contribute in the development of the network in relation to my diverse experience in the field of microfinance practice both locally and internationally.

As the Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Office of the National Association of Microfinance Banks (NAMB) in Nigeria, I have the opportunity to supervise and interact with over 900 microfinance banks operating in Nigeria including the big microfinance banks like LAPO MFB, ACCION MFB and Nigeria Police Microfinance Bank (NPF). This has positioned me to be on the Board of the SEEP Network.

I have undertaken a study tour to Bangladesh and Ghana at various times to acquire myself with best practices around the globe.

I hereby present myself suitable for the Board of SEEP.

BIOGRAPHY

Shikir is the CEO of the National Association of Microfinance Banks in Nigeria with over 906 licensed microfinance banks in Nigeria by the Central Bank of Nigeria. His major roles include coordinating all the activities of the Association by way of advocacy, networking, developing the capacity of members, rendering membership services and self-regulating microfinance banks in Nigeria as the National Secretariat of the Association.

He has been the CEO for the past three years, and held various managerial positions before then, including Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Waila Microfinance Banks Ltd.

Shikir has a M.Sc in Business Administration, Post Graduate Diploma and Higher Diploma in Accounting. He is a seasoned banker for over 20 years both at the commercial and Microfinance Bank subsector at various managerial level. He is a Certified Microfinance Banker of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN). He has attended various Managerial and leadership training and workshop at various level. Because of his experience and expertise in the Microfinance subsector, He was appointed as the Master trainer of the Rural Business Plan a model designed by Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for MFBs in Nigeria.



PERSONAL STATEMENT- Prabhat Labh

CEO, Grameen Foundation India

Please [click here](#) to view a brief video pitch from Prabhat.

My motivation to join the SEEP Network Board of Directors is driven by four factors as below:

1. The global community today stands at a critical juncture where progress on several SDGs is not on track. SEEP, through its network of leading global organizations can play an important role in designing collaborative strategies that can combine action, advocacy and learning initiatives to accelerate progress on key SDGs around extreme poverty, Hunger, Gender Equality etc. As a board member, I will work with the SEEP Management, in re-imagining how SEEP in future may look like, playing a central role in convening stakeholders, building alliances and cross-sector partnerships and facilitate knowledge exchange for accelerated progress towards SDGs.
2. Being a practitioner from global south, and having worked in the global north and several places in between, across Asia, Africa and North America for over two decades, I not only bring a deep understanding of the socio- cultural and economic systems in different parts of the world, I also bring a deep empathy gained through my immersion in a variety of cultural settings and working closely with diverse stakeholders such as young people, Savings Groups, women entrepreneurs, and social impact organizations etc. This empathetic understanding coupled with my domain expertise in sectors such as enterprise development, inclusive finance, impact investment and digital finance across multiple countries have equipped me extremely well to guide SEEP as it looks to formulate its future strategies and deeper engagement with its membership.
3. In my current role, I have led a strategic overhaul at Grameen, building visibility and establishing it as the go to player in its priority domains, resulting in diversifying our revenue base, financial sustainability and impact. Earlier, I have designed and rolled out several large initiatives in the Savings Group space. The leadership lessons that I learnt through these experiences will be valuable as a SEEP Board member, helping in areas such as strategic re-positioning, building credibility etc.
4. In the course of my work with international organizations across continents, I have built relationship, credibility and network with international NGOs, funders, multi-lateral agencies, private sector organizations, technology companies and academia that are extremely valuable for cross-sector partnerships. These networks and relationships would be valuable for SEEP Network as it seeks to play a more effective role going forward.



BIOGRAPHY – Prabhat Labh

Prabhat is a seasoned international development professional with over two decades of experience in leading livelihoods, financial inclusion and enterprise development initiatives across Asia, Africa and North America. Currently, as CEO of Grameen Foundation India, Prabhat provides strategic leadership to GF India, including Organizational strategy and performance, External relationships and representation, stewardship of resources, compliances, and program design and quality. He also serves as the CEO for GFI's subsidiary Grameen Foundation for Social Impact and Managing Trustee of Freedom from Hunger India Trust, working in health and nutrition domains.

Earlier, Prabhat worked at The MasterCard Foundation Canada where he managed a portfolio of programs to facilitate access to saving services for low income communities across eighteen countries in Africa, reaching millions of clients. Prabhat has established and managed partnership with Banks, NGOs, UN Agencies and Fintech companies towards the common objective of designing accessible, affordable and appropriate financial services to effectively serve low income populations. A key focus of his work has been to address needs of populations facing exclusion on account of being too poor or being too far from financial institutions and design strategies for their inclusion.

Prabhat has a postgraduate in Management and serves on several non-profit and Impact investment fund boards. He is a regular speaker at various global and national conferences and also serves as guest faculty at leading academic institutions.



PERSONAL STATEMENT – Steve Mason

Director of Programs, Aga Khan Foundation Canada

Please [click here](#) to view a brief video pitch from Steve.

I would be honoured to contribute to the SEEP's governance through becoming a member of its Board. I am deeply committed to SEEP's aims; I believe in the potential and promise of collaborative learning networks to spearhead innovations, enhance results and improve the way we work individually and together. I have participated in and promoted these types of networks throughout my career, including currently as part of the

Collaboration Committee for the Canadian Forum on Impact Investing and Development.

During the sixteen years that I have worked for the Aga Khan Foundation, I have been significantly engaged in all of SEEP's core thematic areas. I championed the launch of AKF's savings group program in East Africa in 2007, and was part of the team that led the global institutional shift towards a pro-poor market-based approach for our economic inclusion portfolio. At AKF Canada, I have led the expansion of our women's economic empowerment portfolio, launching new projects in Afghanistan and Pakistan and recruiting new capacity into the organization to strengthen our implementation and learning agenda.

I will bring a global perspective to the Board, having worked extensively in Asia, East Africa and West Africa, which is complemented by my deep knowledge of the Canadian international development ecosystem. I am well equipped to contribute to SEEP's strategic directions, having led several strategic planning exercises throughout my career, including developing the first strategic plan for the AKF's West Africa program. I know how to make organizational governance effective and productive, having both served on and reported to several Board of Directors.

I look forward to the chance to contribute to SEEP's evolution and future directions.

BIOGRAPHY

Steve Mason is the Director of Programs for Aga Khan Foundation Canada, where he is responsible for managing a program portfolio spanning 20 countries, developing and maintaining relationships with Canadian partners and providing intellectual and organizational leadership to the Foundation. Prior to joining AKFC, Steve was the founding Regional CEO of Aga Khan Foundation (West Africa), based in Bamako, Mali, where he oversaw an integrated portfolio of programs in economic inclusion, food security, health and education. Steve previously worked for AKF as the Manager of External Relations in Afghanistan and as the Regional Programme Manager in East Africa. Prior to joining the Foundation, he was Executive Director of the United Nations Association in Canada.

Steve has a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and a B.Sc in Bio-Math from the University of New Brunswick. He has sat on the Boards of Directors of several organizations, including the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (West Africa) and the Kenya Civil Society Competency and Standards Program. Steve recently completed Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management Executive Education program.



PERSONAL STATEMENT – Chris Nicoletti

Senior Director of Impact & Analytics, iDE

My name is Chris Nicoletti and I am the Global Evidence & Analytics Director at iDE. I have spent my career researching, evaluating and designing market-based development interventions. My job has been to understand each one's effectiveness and communicate what could be improved and how these improvements could be operationalized by digging into their nuances, contexts and challenges. I have learned how to communicate with many different types of people, and have had the privilege of contributing to strategic discussion at all levels -

from the boardroom to the field. Through all of this, I would collapse my learnings into three main buckets, which underpin my interest in serving on the board for SEEP:

1) Listen to the customer.

2) Managers can only manage when they have data and evidence to do so.

3) Scaling is hard, but not impossible.

This is an important time for SEEP. SEEP has a devoted and long-standing community, but it aspires to be more inclusive, actionable and technically diverse. Furthermore, SEEP has a mission that makes it difficult to understand, and sell, its own effectiveness. Despite these challenges, important decision-makers have heard what has been discussed within the SEEP community, and I genuinely believe that SEEP has a lot more very important work to do by convening groups, catalyzing innovation, influencing stakeholders and expanding effective strategies.

It would be an honor to be part of the team to ensure that the future of SEEP is as impactful and as thought-leading as it has been thus far.

BIOGRAPHY

Chris Nicoletti leads iDE's global evidence & analytics efforts, focusing his energy on rolling out the at-scale use of dynamic custom-built ICT solutions across the portfolio of iDE's interventions to overcome operational challenges and catalyze existing business models and market facilitation programs – spanning agriculture, WASH, women's empowerment, nutrition, food security and climate-change adaptation and resilience programs. In addition, Chris brings a wealth of impact evaluation experience in researching market-based agricultural development and the impacts of irrigation, improved agricultural extension and field training on household welfare and crop production, as well as the public-health effects of municipal and rural water and sanitation infrastructure. Chris has an established background in designing and carrying out randomized, quasi-experimental and model-based impact evaluations, as well as rigorous operational research. In addition, he is well-versed in indicator development, database management, mobile tool design and development and data-collection oversight. He brings experience working on USAID, DFAT, DFID, World Bank, GAC, Sida, SDC, NZAid, Stone Family Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and MCC-funded programs in Central America, Africa and Asia – among others. Chris is an effective manager, enthusiastic and passionate public speaker and teaches graduate-level courses on Analysis of Food Systems and Impact Evaluation at the University of Colorado. He received his BS in 2008 in Economics and Psychology from Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon and in 2011 he completed his MS in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. He enjoys skiing, climbing, cycling and traveling, while residing in Boulder, CO.



PERSONAL STATEMENT- Shareha (Sherry) Youssef Younes

Director of Work, FHI 360

I believe I meet the SEEP Board Member Criteria because of my decades of experience with a broad range of international development stakeholders including host governments, multi/bilateral donors, private sector, local and international NGOs to name a few. My having lived and worked in a divers range of countries and context has made my global perspective both person and professional. I have served as advisors to other international organizations and guided global convenings providing technical guidance and visionary direction. My technical

work has been anchored in supporting resilient markets with a particular focus on women's economic empowerment. I have been in many roles requiring strategic thinking, from establishing one of DAI's Global Practice areas, working with FHI360 as they reorganized their international development business units to maximize efficiency and profitability. I have managed large teams and budgets both in home offices as well as on project's in the field giving me a broad range of governing capacity and qualifications. I am confident that my personal experiences, being a dual Egyptian and US citizen and having lived and worked in many corners of the globe, coupled with my consistent professional experience working to address some of the most pressing international development challenges, will bring a solid and unique perspective to foster the continued success of the SEEP network. I have forged public – private partnerships for decades and am an experienced fund raiser which will also be of value to the SEEP Board. Lastly, I enjoy collaborating with others working in my technical areas and supporting platforms for innovative thinking that are really where high impact program thinking and design takes place.

BIOGRAPHY

Sherry Youssef is an international development consultant with over 22 years' experience designing, implementing and managing international development programmes globally. She is currently the Director of Work at FHI360 where she manages a global team implementing projects focused on income generation, livelihoods, women's economic empowerment and local economic growth to name a few . She was previously the Technical Director the DFID-Islamic Development Bank Funded Arab Women's Enterprise Fund (AWEF) under implementation in Egypt, Jordan and Palestine. She was also a Senior Advisor to Making Cents International, providing strategic and technical inputs. Previously she established and managed DAI's Youth and Workforce Development Practice and where she was their Global Practice Lead. Sherry was also the YouthPower IDIQ Manager for DAI. Sherry was also a Program Manager for NetHope managing USAID'S Global Broadband Initiative IYCE (Innovations for Youth Capacity and Engagement) Programme where she oversaw the design, development and piloting of a one of a kind serious online social game to stimulate youth engagement. Sherry has also spent many years in the field working as DOT's Egypt Country Manager as well as in senior technical roles on a number USAID, CIDA, DFID and other international funded donor programmes. Sherry has a BA with honors from the University of Texas at Austin and an MA and Certificate in International Business Diplomacy from Georgetown University.