

Biographies



Valerie Guarnieri

Assistant Executive Director for the Programme and Policy Development at WFP

Valerie Newsom Guarnieri is WFP's Assistant Executive Director for Programme and Policy Development. In this role, she leads work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to provide food, cash and technical assistance that helps people and nations to meet urgent needs, build human capital and improve food security. Global partnerships to empower women, support refugees and displaced populations, combat malnutrition and ensure that all hungry children benefit from a nutritious meal in school also fall under her leadership.

Prior to her appointment in January 2018, Ms. Guarnieri served as WFP Regional Director for East and Central Africa providing supervision, strategic guidance, and support for some of WFP's largest and most complex country operations. She also served as WFP's Global Programme Director, and in a variety of country office, regional and headquarter positions since August 2000. Before WFP, she worked in the U.S. Government, at the National Security Council and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), as part of inter-disciplinary teams to save lives and help create conditions for sustainable peace, with particular focus in Africa.

Ms. Guarnieri holds a Master of Arts from the School of International Service of American University in Washington, D.C. She is married and has three children.



David Kaatrud

Director, Programme—Humanitarian & Development Division at WFP

David Kaatrud is WFP's Global Director of Programme & Policy for Humanitarian and Development action, based in WFP's headquarters in Rome. He leads the organization's work on Climate, Food Systems, Resilience, Peace & Conflict, Protection, Social Protection, Country Capacity Strengthening, South-South and Triangular Cooperation among others. David has been involved in leading humanitarian and development work for the past 30 years, having worked with CARE and OCHA in addition to WFP, with longstanding experience in coordinating operations across the globe.

Most recently, David served in Bangkok as WFP's Regional Director for Asia & the Pacific Bureau. Through various senior positions in Emergencies, Assessment & Analysis and Logistics over the years, he has held a lead role in building WFP's internal response capacity, developing key strategic partnerships and strengthening inter-agency coordination. Specifically, as Global Chief of Logistics, he deployed to numerous crises and conflict zones in ex-Yugoslavia, Somalia, Kosovo and East Timor and oversaw major logistics operations in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Later, as Director of Assessment & Analysis, he introduced new economic methodology to poverty and hunger reporting, which included co-leading the UN's efforts in GIS technologies.

Beyond WFP, David served as OCHA's Coordination & Response Director in the UN's HQ in New York, supporting UN coordination of multiple crises, including the Haiti Earthquake. In 2010, he rejoined WFP as Director of Emergencies and continued coordinating global crises responses, including Syria.

David holds two master's degrees in International Affairs/Economic Development and Urban Planning from Columbia University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is currently based in Rome, Italy, with his wife and three children.



Dr. Arif Husain

*Chief Economist & Director of Research, Assessments & Monitoring Division
at United Nations World Food at WFP*

Dr. Arif Husain is a distinguished thought leader and seasoned practitioner within the global humanitarian and development sphere. He joined the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2003 and has since held many senior positions both in the field and the headquarters, accumulating extensive experience in conflict and post-conflict settings. His missions have taken him to numerous countries worldwide, including Afghanistan, Angola, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Liberia, Northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen.

Before his tenure at WFP, Dr. Husain served as a researcher at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. Later, he transitioned to a role as an evaluator at the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group, which broadened his perspective on global development.

Currently, Dr. Husain's role involves heading the research, assessments and monitoring functions in WFP and providing strategic advice to global leaders on pressing economic issues and their impact on developing countries, guiding both humanitarian and development responses. His research interests span a wide array of topics, including the application of information technologies to enhance humanitarian and development response; understanding the intricate links between poverty, hunger, conflict, and migration; and analyzing how global economic challenges, conflicts, and climate shocks affect food security, social protection, and emergency and development assistance.

Dr. Husain holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics with a minor in Forestry, earned from the University of Minnesota. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field, he was honored with the Distinguished Leadership Award by the University of Minnesota in 2021. Currently residing in Rome with his wife and two children, Dr. Husain remains dedicated to advancing his work in the realm of humanitarian and development economics, contributing significantly to making the world a better place.



Volli Carucci

Director of Food Systems and Resilience (PRO-R)

With 29 years of experience with the U.N. focused on livelihood assets creation and resilience building, Mr. Carucci leads the Food Systems & Resilience Service of the Policy and Programme Division at the World Food Programme Headquarters in Rome. He previously led the Resilience and Livelihoods Unit in the West and Central Africa Regional Bureau from 2016 to 2021. Mr. Carucci is an agronomist by training with expertise in natural resources management, soil conservation and water harvesting, particularly in drylands and degraded ecosystems.

External Speaker



Greg Collins

Associate Vice President for Resilience and International Development and Research Professor at the University of Arizona

Before joining the University of Arizona to lead the Arizona Initiative for Resilience and International Development (AIRID), Dr. Collins served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator (Senior Executive Service) at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) where he led the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security and served as the Agency's Resilience Coordinator. In that role he provided strategic vision and oversight for the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative and USAID's efforts to build resilience in areas of recurrent crises. Collins also served as the founding Director for USAID's Center for Resilience and previously worked as an analyst and strategic advisor to several UN agencies and NGOs, including WFP. He is a globally recognized thought leader on resilience and resilience measurement and played a lead role elevating resilience in USAID and international development. He earned his PhD in Economic Sociology from the UC Davis, his MPH from Tulane University, and his BA in Anthropology from the UC Davis.



Zalynn Peishi

Senior Advisor for Resilience Evidence in the Resilience and Food Systems Service (PROR) at WFP

Zalynn Peishi is the Senior Advisor for Resilience Evidence in the Resilience and Food Systems Service (PROR) in WFP Headquarters. In this role, she has co-led a team – comprising colleagues from both PROR and the Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division – to develop and test WFP’s approach to resilience evidence generation in collaboration with six regional bureaux and country offices.

Prior to starting this role in November 2019, Ms. Peishi undertook qualitative research for WFP including multi-country studies on [gender and cash](#) (2018) and the [potential of food assistance for assets \(FFA\) to empower women and improve women’s nutrition](#) (2016-2017). Ms. Peishi has served as the Senior Food Security Advisor to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2013-2016). In addition, she has over ten years of experience with Oxfam, Action Contre la Faim and CARE.

Ms. Peishi holds an MA in Development Studies from Murdoch University and Bachelor of Horticultural Science from the University of Western Australian.



Dr. Jonas L. Heirman

Senior Evaluation Officer and Head of Impact Evaluation Unit at WFP

Dr. Jonas L. Heirman is a Senior Evaluation Officer and the Head of Impact Evaluation Unit in WFP’s Office of Evaluation, which is responsible for implementing WFP’s first Impact Evaluation Strategy (2019-2026). Prior to joining WFP, Jonas was the UK Adviser to the Board of Directors at the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Cote d’Ivoire. Jonas also worked for the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as a Senior Innovation Adviser and Evaluation Adviser responsible for DFID’s impact evaluations. Prior to DFID, Jonas conducted research and evaluations at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in Sussex, the University of Oxford, and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). Jonas holds a Doctor in Philosophy (DPhil) in Development Studies from the University of Oxford, an M.Sc. in Public Policy from Maastricht University, and a B.A. in Political Science from Hope College.



Delphine Dechaux

Chief of the Asset Creation, Livelihoods and Resilience Unit (PROR-L) at WFP

Delphine joined the Asset Creation, Livelihoods and resilience Unit (PRORL) in WFP headquarters, as the Chief, in 2021. As part of the Resilience and Food Systems Service (PROR), PRORL is responsible for developing corporate policy and technical guidance on integrated resilience, asset creation, and livelihoods. The unit also supports Regional Bureaux and Country Offices in applying the guidance and enhancing capacities to scale-up effective Food for Assets programmes, ensure high quality design and evidence-based programme responses. PRORL also co-leads with RAM-M WFP's resilience measurement and evidence work. Since joining WFP in 2003, she worked as Head of Programme and Programme officer in various country offices including Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Mozambique, leading both emergency and resilience portfolios. Prior to joining WFP, she worked with Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and the Red Cross in Kosovo, Burundi and Sierra Leone. Delphine is a French citizen and holds an MA in Political Sciences as well as an MA in International Law, Humanitarian and Development.



Claudios Hakuna

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer in the Livelihoods, Asset Creation and Resilience Unit of the Resilience and Food System Service at WFP

Mr Claudios Hakuna is a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer in the Livelihoods, Asset Creation and Resilience Unit of the Resilience and Food System Service. He co-leads efforts to generate resilience evidence in a systematic way consistent with broader corporate efforts to promote learning and evidence-based programming. Before joining WFP HQ, he was with WFP Sudan leading evidence generation efforts from routine monitoring data and country led evaluations. Previously, he has worked with other UN agencies such as FAO, UNDP, IOM and international NGOs such as Mercy Corps, Caritas, and Care focusing on collecting, analyzing and generative actionable insights for resilience, livelihoods, food security and nutrition, gender and youth empowerment, WASH and income generation programs. He is a firm believer in the value of utilizing different data sources and methodological approaches for a richer evidence base and most importantly, translating the evidence into action.



Federico Doehnert

Deputy Head of the Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit in the WFP Regional Bureau for Western Africa in Dakar, Senegal (RBD) at WFP

In this role, he oversees RBD's geospatial analysis workstream, as well as RAM's technical support to WFP's resilience programmes in the West Africa region, including resilience monitoring and measurement. Before joining RBD, Federico held the position of Head of VAM/M&E in Niger. He has over 10 years of experience with WFP, having previously worked as Early Warning & Risk Analyst with the African Risk Capacity (ARC) initiative and as VAM Consultant in the Somalia CO, after a stint with the Berlin Liaison Office. Federico has an expertise in vulnerability analysis and early warning, with a focus on food security analysis and monitoring in conflict settings, resilience measurement, as well as remote sensing and disaster risk modelling. He has worked in the West Africa region since 2014, first with ARC and then with the WFP Niger CO. Federico Doehnert holds an MA in Conflict, Security and Development from King's College London (UK), as well as an MA in Political Science from Sciences Po Lille (France) and an MA in European Studies from the University of Muenster (Germany).



Nicole Carn

Head of Programme for WFP Malawi office

Nicole Carn, is the Head of Programme for WFP Malawi office. In this role, she leads a dynamic programme team working across a range of WFP programmes including home grown school meals, emergency response, nutrition, resilience, and capacity strengthening.

Prior to joining the Malawi Country Office in 2020, Ms Carn was the Head of Resilience and Social Protection for the Sudan CO. She has also worked in the Darfur region of Sudan, Jordan, Pakistan and the Philippines with a short stint in HQ. From rural Australia, Ms Carn holds a MSc from Sheffield University.